# IOWAWESTERN A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

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100

### 2023 OUTSTANDING **ALUM** Elaine Armstrong

n this issue

Fall 2023

2023 Outstanding Alum Clarinda 100th Celebration

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The beginning of a new academic year is always a special time here at Iowa Western. But this year, we have something even more to celebrate-the 100th anniversary of our Clarinda Center!

Built in 1923 as Clarinda Junior College, the campus became the Clarinda Center of Iowa Western Community College in 1966. The Clarinda Center has educated thousands of students over the years through diverse and quality educational programs like nursing and tool and die. The Center also has a significant history of college athletics, attracting student athletes from across the nation to compete in football, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Currently, the Clarinda Center offers students a variety of educational opportunities including: traditional credit courses, non-credit workforce training programs and high school joint enrollment courses.

The celebration of this important milestone has already begun and will continue throughout the year. Whether it's a class reunion, a baseball scrimmage or a parade, there is an anniversary activity for everyone. We are excited to dedicate this edition of the annual Alumni and Friends magazine to our Clarinda Center and the 100th anniversary. I invite each of you to read the stories, learn more about the Clarinda Center and join us at one of the many upcoming anniversary activities.

Over the last 100 years, the Clarinda Center has educated thousands of students and positively impacted communities throughout Southwest Iowa and beyond. I am proud of the Center's storied history and excited to lead it into the future. 100 years in Clarinda-this calls for a celebration!

#### Dr. Dan Kinney, President, Iowa Western Community College



September 1 All-School Reunion Cruise Night | 4 PM - 10 PM October 1

September 2 Outstanding Alum Reception | 10 AM - 11 AM September 2 BBQ Open House | 11 AM - 2 PM September 18 Chamber After Hours | 4 PM - 6 PM Reiver Baseball Scrimmage vs. NW Missouri St. | 1 PM **October 14** Spirits for Scholarships | 4 PM - 6 PM

For more information, call the Clarinda Center at 712.542.5117 or scan the QR Code to visit the 100th celebration page.



**SAVE THE DATE** 











#### Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

Editor Sarah Saar

#### Contributors

Artistic Images by Heather Marsh, Carrie Chambers, Don Kohler, Travis Jacobson, Kara Schweiss, Mike Watkins

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#### Fall 2023

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oint enrollment is a state funded program designed to provide high school students with opportunities to complete community college credit coursework. At Iowa Western's Clarinda Center, the joint enrollment program is a win-win. For high school students, it's a paid opportunity to take college classes and graduate with college credit hours when they accept their high school diplomas.

For the college, the program is an introduction for students to get a head start on their college experience and another way to positively impact the community.

The state of Iowa is a national leader in the percentage of high school students participating in joint enrollment.

The program has been available for several years to students at Clarinda High School as well as to high school students in Shenandoah, South Page and across the state.

"The cultural and social capital students receive from taking college courses outweighs the credits they earn,"



ENROLLED

**CLARINDA HIGH SCHOOL** 

The average number of credit hours taken per student in Iowa was 8.5.

Iowa Western served 2,615 jointly enrolled students during the 2022 academic year.



50,082 high school students in the state of Iowa were jointly enrolled during the 2022 academic year.



Joint enrollment in Iowa increased by 6% from 2021 to 2022.

## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET** THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A **COLLEGE STUDENT.**

- Dr. Thomas Gilmore

said Dr. Thomas Gilmore, IWCC Dean of High School Partnerships.

"They get the opportunity to learn what it means to be a college student. They gain insight into the expectations from a college instructor and truly know what it means to handle their own schedule and time management. The learning goes beyond the earned credit."

Gilmore said that any student in grades 9-12 can participate in concurrent enrollment courses according to state legislation, Senior Year Plus (SYP).

Students are not required to pay for any course or textbook according to the SYP guidelines. Most programs at the center are only scheduled for half the day so the students can complete the rest of their high school curriculum.

"The programs can give them different levels of a head start," Gilmore said. "For arts and science classes, it can help knock out some of their general education coursework that they may be required to take at another 2- or 4-year college."

"In cases where they earn a certificate, they can be ready to join the workforce with a credentialed skill immediately upon graduation. So, a lot depends on what they choose to do, but it can give them both experience and/or a marketable skill by the time they graduate high school."

He said many parents look at joint enrollment as a fantastic opportunity for their children to earn college credit or credentials at no cost to the student, and they love the advantages that come with it. u

### **Celebrating the Clarinda Center** by Mike Watkins

IOWA IN

century ago, King Tut's sarcophagus is seen for the first time. Insulin is used in Canada to treat diabetes. In the United States, the first issue of Time magazine is published.

Meanwhile, in the southwest Iowa town of Clarinda, a small junior college is born - offering a two-year liberal arts education to high school graduates of Clarinda and other communities in the area.

With a yearly proposed tuition of \$100 and a minimum enrollment of 30 students, the college operated in Clarinda High School under the direction of the Clarinda Board of Education.

100 years later, Clarinda Junior College - now part of the Iowa Western family - is celebrating its centennial birthday.

#### A year of celebrating

The year-long party began in January and runs through the end of 2023 - with special events throughout the year, including a big birthday celebration during its founding month of September.

"Planning started in late 2022 into early 2023 by a committee made up of the Clarinda Center and the Institutional Advancement office in Council Bluffs," said Kristin Smith, director of the Clarinda and Page Fremont County Centers.

"We talked about what events made sense and what to highlight in Clarinda. For example, we have a strong Practical Nursing program and Associate Degree of Nursing program,

EG

so it made sense to have a nursing reunion."

The Clarinda Center has celebrated two events as of August. The first, with sponsorship from the Icehouse Restaurant, celebrated the 2022 National Champion Reiver Football Team. The second focused on a nursing program reunion.

"The nursing reunion was fabulous," Smith said. "We had an alum who graduated from Clarinda Junior College in the mid 60s. We also had a 95-year-old lady who was one of the first graduates of IWCC in the mid-60s. And finally, our speaker, Helene Neville, was also a graduate of our nursing program."

#### More Celebrations to come

"Still to come this year will be root beer floats at the Clarinda All-School Reunion Cruise Night on September 1 followed by a BBQ open house on September 2."

The community picnic runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 2. Before the BBQ picnic begins, there will be a reception at 10 a.m. in honor of the IWCC 2023 Outstanding Alum who is from Clarinda, Iowa.

On Sept. 18, the Clarinda Chamber will host an afterhours gathering at the Center, and on October 14, the Center will celebrate Spirits for

Scholarships – a whiskey tasting fundraiser for local IWCC scholarships. Local distillers will provide spirit

#### Continued on the next page

sampling at the event from 4 - 6 p.m.

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**Clarinda Center** 

YEAR CELEBRATION

1923-2023

#### **The History**

"Over the years, the Iowa Western Community College Clarinda Center has continued to serve as an educational resource to thousands of residents of Southwest Iowa," Smith said. "Because our history is long and the lives we touched are many, we want the Clarinda community to be a part of our 100-year celebration."

Smith said she is amazed to have a college in a town the size of Clarinda for 100 years. Although the services offered have changed over time, the school still provides exceptional

Clarinda THROUGH

the Years

education to the communities of southwest Iowa.

"The Clarinda Center offers an opportunity for local residents to take college credits, participate in continuing education and adult education classes and our state-of-the-art manufacturing program," Smith added.

"We have many high school students attend here to get a solid start to their future college career. We provide many of the same services as the Council Bluffs location and can support students with advising, registration, financial aid and test proctoring, among other services."

Clarinda Junior College was founded in 1923 as a two-year

In 1939, a two-year teacher education program was started

Clarinda Junior College survived the Great Depression but

and was one of the strongest in the state until it was phased

was forced to close from 1943-1946 because of the heavy

college for students from Clarinda High School and other

community schools.

out in 1960.



demands of war on personnel.

In 1955, the one-year Practical Nursing program began, with the addition of the Associate Degree of Nursing program in 2008. Both programs are still active today.

In 1962, a two-year mechanical technology program began, adding more career and technical education to the area. From 1962 to 1965, dormitories were built, and classroom space was acquired.



1923

First students

Student study group



1946



Student Senate

1960

**1967** Blue Jay Flyer Team (school newspaper)

1931

1931-32 Men's Basketball Team







In 2017, the Lisle Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (CEAM) was established with a two-year noncredit program focused on mechanical technology. In 1966, the community college system began, and Clarinda Junior College became Iowa Western Community College.

The 1998-99 season was the last for the IWCC Clarinda Bluejays. Clarinda student athletes competed in football, basketball, baseball and volleyball over the years.







## **REIVERS MAKING AN IMPACT By Kara Schwiess**

# **Brandon Juon**

Proprietor of the Ice House in Clarinda

fter earning an associate degree from Iowa Western Community College in 2001 and going on to earn a marketing management degree from Northwest Missouri State University in 2003, Brandon Juon could have gone into business anywhere. But after spending a few years in the banking sector following graduation, Juon opened a

business in Council Bluffs, Glory Days sports bar, in 2008and that was just his first step into the food and beverage industry.

"With my partners, we now own I-80 Liquor, 712 Eat + Drink (both in Council Bluffs), 402 Eat + Drink (Omaha), The Porch (Council Bluffs), and the Ice House (Clarinda), where I spend most of my days and nights," Juon said. Juon has long been active in the community of Council Bluffs, serving many organizations and boards including Iowa Western Alumni Association, Jaycees, the zoning board, Elks and YMCA; he also coached youth basketball for 20 years. He put down some new roots southeast in 2020 when he purchased the Ice House from the original owners, who established it in Clarinda in 1977.

"I am a very hands-on owner and will do whatever it takes to get the job done. This business has a large impact on many people-and I never want to forget that-from the kids' first job, to how people feed their families," he explained. "I have seen a lot of growth in several employees over the years, and some move on to bigger careers. It makes me smile seeing success in others if it's with one of our restaurants such as becoming a manager, GM, or head chef."

The Ice House means something to its local patrons, too, Juon said, in a different way than a restaurant in a larger community might.

"The business has an impact on customers who are celebrating something special, a night out, or even a first date. The goal is to make everyone happy and make the experience great so they want to come back," he said. "I believe restaurants bring people to communities and keep people living there as well. It's important to have several great dining options in communities and that's one thing Clarinda has. It's not just the Ice House; there are several great choices in this town." It's easy to see that Juon's business has been good for the community, but Juon might argue that the community has been just as good for him.

"I love this business because it's a fast-paced environment, and you get to meet new people every day and see familiar faces every day. I can't say enough about this great community of Clarinda. I was welcomed from day one. This town has pride, they support local (businesses), and it is a clean, well-maintained city," he said. "I spend 90 percent of my time in Clarinda by choice and see that happening for the foreseeable future... I have gained so many lifetime friendships here and am looking forward to many more years here."

# **Theresa Rope Miller** International Art Collection Housed at Clarinda Center

ormer World Health Organization nurse educator Theresa Rope Miller traveled all over the world for her work, but her first journeys were on and around the southwest Iowa farm she grew up on. She left the area for her education and the incredible career that followed, but in 2012 chose to donate her impressive international art collection to Iowa Western Community College's Clarinda Center.

The collection represents the places, people, cultures and experiences Miller encountered as she visited and worked in countries served by WHO on nearly every continent, assessing needs and developing health programs for remote and underserved areas.

"In public health, we study people passing through the various the jewelry or refer to how stages of life; it is our responsibility to study and learn about birth, the point of the arrows growing up, life and death. Our responsibility is to observe, care carry poisons. Already through their observations, I learn so much for, and love people on their journey. Through art we learn how about the people I worked with. Sharing art is like planting seeds much of our life experiences are the same-we are all connected. I into a community: the seeds grow into understanding the wealth of want to promote public health nursing by sharing the tremendous wisdom one can gain from other cultures." learning opportunities I had working in a diversity of cultures Miller, an artist herself, said preserving the art produced around the world. For example, I gained inspiration from the art of by various cultures is especially important in an increasingly people in remote villages/communities in Papua New Guinea and interconnected world. Irian Java through their masks, carvings and how they painted their "As technology develops, our world seems to be becoming bodies and dances," Miller said. "By putting art into CCC Depot, all one color; people in the jungles of Guyana are wearing the the spirit of my adventures is not lost but gives me an opportunity same shorts made in China we buy on Amazon. The beautiful to share a vision of my work in public health with Clarinda youth, tribal weavings are becoming less available and chances to live in isolated areas and understand their beliefs are being changed by friends and family." the intrusion of large mining and lumber companies," she said. The artworks on display at the Clarinda Center are not only beautiful, Miller said, but will hopefully also prove inspirational in "Therefore, the preservation of traditions through art is vital to understanding the past."

an educational sense.

"Now, in my 80s, I don't have the time and energy to study the

detail of these artifacts. But perhaps in the future, some student will be inspired by the art and will travel to a place where they can study ancient cultures even deeper," Miller explained. "When local Clarinda folks look at the works, they point out artistic design in the textiles, delicate work of





I THINK JUST HAVING A SERVANT'S HEART IS SO IMPORTANT. IT'S NOT **ALWAYS WHAT YOU WANT FIRST, BUT** WHAT'S GOING TO BE GOOD FOR THE **PEOPLE YOU'RE SERVING."** 

-Elaine Armstrong

# Clarinda Native Elaine Armstrong 2023 OUTSTANDING ALUM

By Kara Schweiss

n her first day on the job at the Clarinda Herald-Journal many years ago, Elaine Armstrong opened a desk drawer to find a little paper that said, "Service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy." It's a quote with several similar versions and unclear attribution, but the sentiment spoke to Armstrong.

"I started trying to live that way at that job," she said. "And I think it has been a good model for me."

Armstrong, who was named 2023 Iowa Western Community College Outstanding Alum, has a long history of service to Clarinda, most recently as an elected official. In 1996, she was elected as a Page County Supervisor, becoming the first woman to fill that position. She served for 20 years, retiring in 2016. Prior to holding public office, Armstrong had worked for the Herald-Journal a total of 27 years as a photographer and reporter interrupted only by a two-year stint as an administrative assistant for the community's Chamber of Commerce.

Armstrong, who grew up on a farm just outside of town, originally envisioned a teaching career. After graduating from

Clarinda High School, Armstrong (Freudenburg until she married between her first and second years of college) began taking general studies classes at Iowa Western's Clarinda facility.

"When I graduated in 1965, that fall nearly a third of my class stayed in Clarinda and attended Iowa Western; it was just the thing to do," she said. "So, we had 36 out of 115 choose to stay here and go to Iowa Western."

In her second year at Iowa Western, Armstrong shifted course. She earned a two-year degree in secretarial studies with the goal of gaining skills that would appeal to employers in town, and hit the pavement right away after her studies were completed.



pretty good at English and writing," she said. "Next thing I knew, they said, 'Would you like to try your hand at reporting and news writing?' And I did. I also picked up photography, so I was actually a reporter/photographer for most of my time at the newspaper."

Looking back, Armstrong said her 27 years in the field of journalism and other experience helped her meet numerous people and learn many new things.

"It was a good background. I picked up management skills, business skills, people skills. Each thing kind of







builds on the next... At the Chamber of Commerce, that helped me learn a lot about the business community," she said. "It just kind of all fit together, and it was a good way to have a practical education here at home. And over the years, I took some adult ed courses at the college."

Armstrong went to night school in Clarinda to earn a bachelor's degree in business from Buena Vista University, graduating in 1992 at the age of 45. Her daughter Melinda earned

a bachelor's degree the same year. "I could work all day,

and then go to class in the evening," she said. "It was a relatively inexpensive, not-too-difficult way to finish my bachelor's degree."

Continued on the next page





In 1996, Armstrong was covering the government beat for the newspaper and had reported on the Page County Board of Supervisors for several years. More than one person suggested she run for an open position created after one of the members of the Board of Supervisors resigned in the midst of his term. Armstrong felt her education and work experience—along with her community-centered, outgoing personality and spirit of service—made her solidly qualified.

"I had a management degree. I'd taken courses, like Analysis of Financial Statements, that really were helpful. And I knew a lot of people; I had name recognition in the county, in the newspaper and through my volunteer activities. I think that helped greatly to get me elected," she said. "People knew that if they called me, I would call back and I would try to help them."

She won the election, as a write-in candidate, by nine votes, and even served her turn as president a couple of times before retiring in 2016.

"I knew how important it is to look a person in the eye, shake their hands, be interested in a person," she said. "I think that helped me a lot during the years as a Supervisor, because I really tried to meet people, help them if I could in any way. And I think just having a servant's heart is so important. It's not always what you want first, but what's going to be good for the people you're serving."

Although it was hard to leave her long career with the newspaper (in the interest of avoiding potential conflict of interest as an elected official), Armstrong found public service to be a rewarding experience.

"I met so many interesting people and political candidates. We would go to the legislature in Des Moines at least once a year; I would go to meetings in Des Moines and serve on state committees. I even got to go to Washington, D.C., one year with one of my committee assignments, which was West Central Community Action, and we did some lobbying," she said. "I got to do some really neat things. I was invited to go to Japan to Clarinda's sister city. I was in the official delegation that went and that started my international travel. In later years, I got to go on three or four more international trips."

As much as Armstrong enjoyed traveling, it was always good to come home to Clarinda. It was a choice, she said, to make her life, career and now retirement in her hometown.

"It was just the most practical thing to do; my family is here and my friends. And I always was able to get work here," she said. "I just enjoy being here."

Armstrong not only served the community professionally, she's served community organizations including Kiwanis Club,

Judy Clark swears in Elaine as Page County supervisor in February 1996.



where she was Lieutenant Governor for six Southwest Iowa clubs for five years; the Waubonsie Mental Health Center board of directors; the Clarinda Foundation, as its first president; the Southwest Iowa Foundation; the chamber of commerce's Ambassadors; Corner Counties Early Childhood;



and other boards, committees and organizations over the years. "I'm a strong Christian, it's always my Christian values. I felt i was something I was called to do," she explained.

Armstrong became interested in starting a local public child proud to be n care facility after her daughter was born in 1969. Now Armstrong Clarinda Cent is a grandmother (to twin granddaughters Kenzie and Kylie), "I was total and in the early 2000s, she realized her long-held goal when she helped establish Grandma's House Daycare and Preschool. It now provides services to more than 100 children.

I was totally shocked and honored ... this was a real *swrprise*. — Elaine Armstrong

	Armstrong has several family ties to Iowa Western: Her
t	daughter earned associate degrees from the institution and her
	sister Thelma is also a graduate. Armstrong said she's especially
	proud to be named Outstanding Alum in the same year that
ng	Clarinda Center celebrates 100 years.
	"I was totally shocked and honored" she said "This was a real



# Clarinda NURSING

**Celebrating Nearly Seven Decades of Nursing Excellence** 

by Carrie Chambers

isit a medical facility across Southwest Iowa and you'll likely see the ripples of care and professionalism generated from IWCC Clarinda Center's nursing program. The Clarinda Center paves the way for a variety of roles from RNs and LPNs to certified nursing assistants and administrators.

"We have alumni in nursing homes. We have alumni in local clinics and hospitals. Some go on to Omaha, Maryville, or St. Joseph-it just depends," explained Clarinda Center Director Kristin Smith. "You'd be hard pressed to not find Iowa Western nursing alumni in our medical facilities around here."

The Clarinda Center's Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program started in 1955 and its Registered Nursing program started in 2008. To date, the program has approximately 1,040 nursing alumni.

In May, the facility hosted an all-nursing reunion as part of the Clarinda Center's 100-year Anniversary celebration. Clarinda nursing alum, Helene Neville, was the featured guest speaker.

"It was a really nice event," recalled Smith. "They had a lot of fun looking through old pictures and talking about what it was



e Clarinda Community College practical nursing flye



IWCC Clarinda Center's LPN program began in 1955. Featured above are st from its first graduating class in 1958.





Sheryl Vorm being capped by her mother.

like then compared to what it's like now."

One thing that has stayed consistent throughout the program's history is the quality of professionals it sends into the workforce. Angela Sherlock, a graduate and current nursing instructor at the Clarinda Center, says the program's students are highly sought after.

"They're professional, they're proactive, and by and large, they [medical providers] just love having us in their facilities. They'll tell us they're really impressed with the quality of students that they have when they're doing clinicals," said Sherlock.

Roberta Kokenge worked at the Clarinda Center from 1970 to 2000. She agrees that the program's students are an important investment for the community.

"We taught a lot of wonderful people," recalled Kokenge. At the time of this interview, she had just returned home from Clarinda Hospital after having knee surgery. Some of the nurses who cared for her were former students and graduates of the Clarinda Center.

"There are many of them that are still out there working, and they're doing a very good job," she said.

One of Kokenge's past students no longer works in Southwest Iowa, but to this day Helene Neville still uses many of the lessons Kokenge taught her – the power of a care plan.

"It means to look at the whole picture, but then break it down in little bite sizes. How you're going to implement that and what strategies are you going to use to get there," explained Neville, who graduated from the Clarinda Center in 1984.

"Like a short-term goal would be, 'Hey, this week you'll go from the couch to the bed, back to the couch.' Kokenge drilled it into our heads, and I've used the basic structure of a care plan throughout my career and definitely through my illness."

The traveling nurse and four-time author hopes to put three more years into her career but is currently taking some time

#### "I JUMP STARTED MY DESIRE (TO BE A NURSE) **BECAUSE I WANTED TO GO AND MAKE SURE PEOPLE KNEW THAT THEY MATTERED".**

-Helene Neville

off while undergoing chemo to treat stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Neville used the same goalsetting methodology when she became the first woman to run across the country in 2010 for 2.5 thousand miles after her first diagnosis. She made several stops along the way to greet fellow nurses and patients in hospitals and long-term care facilities. They're the reason she became a nurse in the first place.

"All they want is just a smile or a squeeze their hand. That goes a long way. And that kind of kicked me off for becoming a nurse. I jump started my desire because I wanted to go and make sure people knew that they mattered," said Neville.

Neville credits a big part of her success to the guidance and coaching of IWCC Clarinda Center and instructors like Roberta

(left): Helene Nevile, alum and guest speaker (right): Nursing Alumni Reunion on May 7 at the Edith Lisle Library in Clarinda



1992 Clarinda nursing students working together in establishing the correct "Nursing Diagnosis' during a section of the Foundations of Nursing class.

Kokenge.

"She was amazing," recalled Neville. "She was going to make sure we were the best out there."

That passion for excellence in nursing still exists at the center today

"Our instructors know each student on a personal level," said Smith. "The ratio of instructor to student is small and there's lots of one-on-one time."

It's the reason Angela Sherlock, who graduated in 2014, came back to teach.

"I just very distinctly remember how helpful they were. How kind and genuine they were. They seemed to want to help us get there, get through it, and offer us advice along the way," recalled Sherlock. "And I wanted to be able to give that back to nursing."

#### High School Student Prep Courses

The Clarinda Center's nursing program also allows local high school students to kick start their careers with a series of prep courses. "Students can work hard to get those requirements done in high school, so they're ready to go into our program as soon as they graduate," said Clarinda Center Director Kristin Smith. 💵

# **REIVER ATHLETICS**

2022-23 was another great season for the Iowa Western Athletic Department. The Reivers brought home five team national championships as well as 15 individual titles. IWCC also finished as the NATYCCA (National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators) Cup winners for the NJCAA Scholarship division for the second year in a row.

The department got it done in the classroom as well. 343 student-athletes earned ICCAC Academic All-Region honors in the Fall semester and another 319 finished the Spring semester with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

#### **WOMEN'S SOCCER**

Iowa Western Women's Soccer claimed the program's second NJCAA national championship with a 1-0 victory over Salt Lake CC at Blanchard Woods Park in Evans, GA.

The Reivers rolled through their opening matches in group play, defeating Polk State, 2-1 and Seminole State 3-1 to set up a match with the defending champions, Eastern Florida State, in the semi-final. IWCC handily defeated the Titans 4-2 to earn a trip to the title game.

Freshman forward Marta Llopis scored the game's only goal in the championship match on a penalty kick in the 36th minute. Freshman Goalkeeper Bella Washington faced and saved five shots on goal, earning her 5th shutout of the season. Council Bluffs native Hanna Schimmer was

named the MVP of the Tournament after tallying three goals and an assist during the week.

After starting the season 1-3-1, including a loss to Eastern Florida State, the Reivers rattled off 18 straight victories in a row, one shy of the school record of 19 set

during the 2007 campaign.

Head Coach Adam Sanchez's record in eight seasons at the helm of the program now stands at 120-26-7, passing Brad Silvey as the winningest coach in program history.

#### FOOTBALL

Defense wins championships. Iowa Western rode the backs of the nation's top defensive unit enroute to the program's second national title. The Reivers dominated the Hutchinson Blue Dragons, shutting out the #1 offense in a 31-0 victory at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock,

#### GoReivers.com

AR. The Blue Dragons, who averaged 408 yards of total offense, were held to just 159 total offensive yards, including just 12 on the ground. Defensive Tackle Quientrail Jamison-Travis was named the game's MVP after recording four tackles, 2.5 sacks, and 2 fumble recoveries. Iowa Western ended the campaign with a 10-2 record, holding every opponent under 100 yards rushing for a school record 40.9 yards per game. They also record a program best 56 sacks, breaking the mark set in 2015.

Defensive End Jackson Filer set multiple records throughout the year, sacks in a season (15.5), sacks in a career (27), tackles for loss in a career (46), TFL's in a game (5), and career fumble recoveries (5)



helped earn the Des Moines native the NJCAA Defensive Player of the Year and the 2022-23 David Rowlands Male Athlete of the Year awards. Filer was also named a finalist for the inaugural Walter Jones Trophy and was the only defensive player on the short list. Head Coach Scott Strohmeier's record over 14 seasons with IWCC is now 130-27 and 146-41 in his NJCAA head coaching career. He is currently 2nd on the active wins list and 20th all-time in the history of NJCAA football.

#### **MEN'S SOCCER**

Head Coach Mike Brown's 4th season saw the Reivers get back to the NJCAA national tournament as the defending champions. Iowa Western went 1-1 in pool play and finished the season 17-3-1. Luka Nedic and Jesus De Vicente earned NJCAA All-American honors. Coach Brown ran his regular season record to and incredible 53-1-3 during his tenure with IWCC.

Defender Moise Bombito (2020-22) was selected 3rd overall in the 2023 MLS SuperDraft by the Colorado Rapids. Bombito is the highest former NJCAA Men's Soccer player to be selected in the history of Major League Soccer. On June 10th, 2023, Bombito was called up to the Canadian National Team for the CONCACAF Nations League Finals and made his first CAP and start on June 27th vs Guadeloupe in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

#### VOLLEYBALL



During head Coach Korie Tetzlaff's first season leading the Reivers, the team posted a record of 20-17; the 34th consecutive season finishing .500 or better. Madison Havermann and Duru Ozkan earned ICCAC All-Region honors.



#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Head Coach Jillian Flores Bennett led the team to a 26-5 record. The Reivers finished as the ICCAC Region XI tournament runner-up. Sophomore guard Aleshia Jones earned NJCAA All-American honors.

Flores Bennett accepted the head coaching position at NCAA DII Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. Mitch Rolls was hired as the 8th

women's basketball head coach in program history. Rolls comes to Council Bluffs after spending eight seasons as the head coach at Labette Community College, where he led the Cardinals to a 159-66 record and a pair of KJCCC titles.

#### **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

2022-23 was Chad Van Riessen's final season as head coach of the men's basketball program. Max Polk and Rob Sanders earned ICCAC All-Region honors.

Andy Shaw was hired as the 9th head coach in program history. Shaw comes to IWCC after 11 years at Allen County Community College. Last season saw Shaw lead the Red Devils to a 28-7 record and their first KJCCC title since 1989, going 13-1 in conference play.

#### WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Iowa Western Women's Wrestling completed the program's second season and the first under the NJCAA as an emerging sport. The Women's National Invitational saw eight Reivers earn All-American status and freshman Ferny Hernandez won the national championship at 155 lbs. after pinning her opponent in the second period. The team finished 3rd overall with 150.5 points. Monica Mendoza was hired as the Associate Head Coach of Women's Wrestling after spending the past two seasons as an assistant coach at Waldorf University.

#### **MEN'S WRESTLING**

Josh Watts entered his 12th season as the Director of Wrestling. His team again qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament in all 10 weight classes. The tournament was held at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. Six wrestlers earned NJCAA All-American



Fabian Padilla (157 lbs.) and Brett Mower (197 lbs.) each won national championships. The team finished in third place with 106.5 points.

status.

#### **CHEER AND DANCE**

In her fifth season as Spirit Coordinator and Head Cheer Coach, Raven Gau guided her team to the program's first national championship. The team outscored Jones College and Shelton State CC with a first-place



score of 87.8. They also competed in the Premier Open Large Coed division in the University World Cup, earning first place versus Tecnologico de Monterrey-Borregos Ciudad de Mexico.

In her second season at the helm of the Iowa Western Dance program, Head Coach Michaela Patterson and her squad competed at the DTU National Championships in Orlando, FL. The team finished as national champions in Open Pom with a score

of 87.98, just 1.2 points ahead of Trinity Valley. The Reivers also finished second in Open Hip Hop and third in Open Jazz.

#### BOWLING

The men's and women's bowling teams both made the NJCAA National Tournament. Iowa Western earned its highest finish in program history on the women's side, finishing as the national runner-up. The men earned a third-place finish with Mason Sterkel earning All-American status.

#### SHOTGUN SPORTS

After seven days and thousands of targets, Iowa Western Shotgun Sports Claimed the Division V title at the National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association National Championships in Las Vegas.

The Reivers topped the nine-team standings in five of the six disciplines over a week of competition. Iowa Western won Doubles Skeet, Doubles Trap, Super Sporting, American Skeet, and Sporting Clays enroute to the victory. Their lone loss was a second-place finish in American Trap, by just two targets. The team also won the High Overall with a total score of 1394.

Sophomore Shane Manyik won the Doubles Skeet competition with a score of 97, Sophomore Nathan Schulte won Doubles Trap, breaking 97 targets, and Freshman Zane Lilly and five others scored a perfect 100/100 in American Trap. Lilly defeated all of them with an additional 18 broken targets. Finally, Redshirt Sophomore John DeFord defeated three others in a break-off with 98 targets with an additional two in American Skeet.

On the women's side, Freshman Kelly Holt won in a break-off in American Skeet with 94 broken targets and an additional four and Freshman Janice Tejeda defeated two others in a break-off after being tied at 99/100 targets to win American Trap.

#### **CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD**

During Head Coach Marc Bierbaum's first season as Director of Cross Country / Track & Field, the Reivers placed in the top five in both the men's and women's indoor and outdoor national championships.

Sophomore Miracle Ailes became the schools most highly decorated field athlete, winning the indoor and outdoor long

Continued on the next page

jump and high jump, giving her six national titles in her two years at

IWCC. She also broke the NJCAA indoor high jump record with a mark of 1.87m (6'1.5") at the Bearcat Invite.

Mohammed Kowa and Jazmyn James also took home national titles in the indoor mile and outdoor discus respectively. Cross Country's Mercy Biwott finished as the national runner-up at the NJCAA Cross Country Championships with a time of 18:05.8.

#### BASEBALL

In Ryan Cougill's first season leading the baseball program. The

Ryan Cougi

team started the year 19-0, breaking the previous record of 18 wins to begin the season, set in 2012. The Reivers finished the season 38-14 and were the ICCAC regular season champions. Ten players earned ICCAC All-Region honors.

Former Reiver Keaton Winn (2016-18) made his MLB debut on June 13th, 2023, for the San Francisco Giants. The right-hander from Ollie, IA gave up just one hit in four innings while striking out a pair of St. Louis Cardinals to earn the save.

#### SOFTBALL

Heidi Jordan's first season saw the Reivers finish with a 23-18 record despite having 14 contests cancelled throughout the season. Iowa Western finished as the ICCAC regular season runner-up. Freshman Catcher Cydnee Schneider was named the ICCAC Defensive Player of the Year and earned All-Region honors along with four other Reivers.

#### GOLF

Iowa Western Men's and Women's Golf both earned trips to the NJCAA National Tournament. The women placed in the top ten as a team led by Freshman Baylie Pyke who placed 28th overall.

On the men's side, the team ended their tournament in the top 20. Freshman Ethan Smith earned All-American status finishing in the top 18.

Ryan Norman was hired as Assistant Coach. Norman was previously the Head Coach at Nebraska Wesleyan and is currently the Director of Instruction of the Ryan Norman Golf Academy at Council Bluffs Country Club.

#### **ESPORTS**

The second year of Iowa Western Esports saw the Reivers win national championships in Call of Duty: Gunfight for the second year in a row as well as their first championship in Mario Kart. 💵



Jackson Filer Football NJCAA Junior College Division I Defensive Player of the Year



**National Player** of the yea

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS





W. Soccel



## Team Titles

FOOTBALL NJCAA Division WOMEN'S SOCCER NJCAA **CHEER** UCA Nationals & Worlds DANCE College Classic National Champions SHOTGUN NCSSAA Division V Champions



Marta Llopis Women's Soccer **United Soccer Coaches Player** of the Year

The Iowa Western alumni office aims to reconnect alumni with the college. Follow the Iowa Western Alumni Association Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest news, events and information.

### ALUMNI BOARD

Pam Beall-Hill (President), '88 Community Volunteer

Diane Osbahr (Vice President), '90 Iowa Western Community College

Brandon Green (Secretary/Treasurer), '07 Collins Consulting

Emily O'Rourke (Alumni Director), '02 Iowa Western Community College

Jeannie Aldredge, '88 SilverStone Group

Rhea Eitmann, '00 Doll Distributing

Chris LaFerla, '98 **CBCSD** Foundation Bailey McQueen-Jones, '10 Avenue Scholars SWI Carol Robertson, '84 Mills County Auditor's Office

# **Individual** Titles

#### **MEN'S TRACK & FIELD**

Mohammed Kowa Indoor mile

#### **WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD**

Miracle Ailes Indoor High Jump and Long Jump Miracle Ailes Outdoor High Jump and Long Jump Jazmyn James Outdoor Discus

#### MEN'S WRESTLING

Brett Mower Men's Wrestling 197 lbs Fabian Padilla Men's Wrestling 157 lbs

#### WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Ferny Hernandez Women's Wrestling 155 lbs

#### **MEN'S SHOTGUN SPORTS**

John DeFord American Skeet Nathan Schulte Doubles Trap Shane Manyik Skeet Doubles Zane Lilly American Trap

#### **WOMEN'S SHOTGUN SPORTS**

Janice Tejeda American Trap Kelly Holt American Skeet

#### E-SPORTS

Ethan Stewart, Hagen Shonka, Alex Cook Call of Duty (Fall) Ethan Stewart, Hagen Shonka, Caden Todd Call of Duty (Spring) Keller Cannon Mario Kart 8

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