

BOARD POLICY

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Series Number 101

Title Brief History of Western Iowa Tech (Merged Area XII)

Western Iowa Tech Community College was organized in August 1966 when the Iowa State Board of Public Instruction accepted a plan submitted by the counties of Ida, Monona, Plymouth, and Woodbury to merge for the creation of an Area Vocational-Technical School. A special school election was held on November 3, 1966, to determine the members of the Board of Directors. The Board selected Dr. Robert H. Kiser as the Chief Administrator and named the school Western Iowa Tech. In 1991 Dr. Kiser retired from the presidency after 25 years of service. Dr. Robert E. Dunker was selected by the Board of Directors as the second president to lead the College. Dr. Dunker is an alumnus of WITCC, graduating with the very first class on June 1, 1967.

Classes began on January 27, 1967, when the College assumed operation of three vocational-technical programs from the Sioux City Community Schools. When the next school year began on August 28, 1967, seventeen full-time programs were in operation. At the same time, all of the adult basic, high school completion, high school equivalency certificate, and occupationally oriented adult education programs were under the College's direction.

Western Iowa Tech's boundaries were expanded on July 1, 1969 with the inclusion of Crawford County, and again in April 1971, when the community school districts of Willow, Aurelia, and Cherokee were added.

In 1973 the College received approval to offer liberal arts courses in Denison and was thus designated a community college. At that time the College changed its name from Western Iowa Tech to Western Iowa Tech Community College. In 1987 the College received permission to offer a two-year associate of arts degree at the Sioux City campus and throughout Merged Area XII. Thus the college became a comprehensive community college. From 1990 through 1997, fall enrollment in credit classes grew 110% from 1,687 to 3,539.

Construction of facilities at the main campus began in 1969 with the Trades and Industries Building and has continued as the needs of the College and its constituents required. A major addition was completed in 1994 to form the Dr. Robert H. Kiser Building. The Denison campus, begun in 1989 and fully completed in 1993, was a significant addition to the College's outreach. Land was donated by the City of Denison, and the majority of construction was accomplished by students in the College's building trades programs. Construction of the Cherokee Campus and Conference Center was completed in 1996. This facility was made possible through a partnership between the College and the people of the Cherokee region.

The College is a member of and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Date of Adoption _____

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Date of Last Revision 1/8/96

Date of Current Revision 01/12/98

Related Administrative Procedures and Cross References _____