

# BOARD POLICY

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Series Number 102

Title Educational Objectives, Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy and objectives of Western Iowa Tech Community College have been established through the joint effort of the local Board of Directors of Merged Area XII and the legislative action of the 61st Iowa General Assembly. It is through this combination of legislative guidelines interpreted by the local board of directors that educational opportunities may be optimally provided for the merged area served by Western Iowa Tech contingent on the principle of responsiveness to changing needs and conditions.

## **Educational Objectives**

On a state level, the philosophy and the objectives for Iowa Area Schools are mandated by legislative action found in Chapter 260C.1, Code of Iowa. Quoting from this law, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Iowa and the purpose of this chapter to provide for the establishment of not more than fifteen areas which shall include all of the area of the state and which may operate community colleges offering, to the greatest extent possible, educational opportunities and services in each of the following when applicable, but not necessarily limited to:

1. The first two years of college work including preprofessional education.
2. Vocational and technical training.
3. Programs for in-service training and retraining of workers.
4. Programs for high school completion for students of post high school age.
5. Programs for all students of high school age who may best serve themselves by enrolling for vocational and technical training while also enrolled in a high school, public or private.
6. Programs for students of high school age to provide advanced college placement courses not taught at a student's high school while the student is also enrolled in the high school.
7. Student personnel services
8. Community services.
9. Vocational education for persons who have academic, socioeconomic, or other handicaps which prevent succeeding in regular vocational education programs.
10. Training, retraining, and all necessary preparation for productive employment of all citizens.
11. Vocational and technical training for persons who are not enrolled in a high school and who have not completed high school.
12. Developmental education for persons who are academically or personally underprepared to succeed in their programs of study.

Title Educational Objectives, Philosophy and Mission (continued)

## Philosophy

The Western Iowa Tech Community College Board believes that the primary obligation of public education is to improve the quality of personal and community life and to open doors of opportunity. This belief encompasses the concepts that an educated citizen is the most important asset of any community and that opportunity for individual and societal achievement is available through lifelong learning. The foundation of this belief is the philosophy of "providing opportunity through educational excellence" to all persons seeking to expand their knowledge.

## Mission Statement

**Our mission is to provide quality education and to economically enhance the communities we serve.**

To accomplish the mission, the College will:

- Provide post-secondary occupational education leading to diplomas, certificates, and the Associate of Applied Science degree.
- Provide post-secondary general and transfer education leading to the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree.
- Provide basic education for the improvement of academic skills and/or leading to a General Educational Development (GED) diploma.
- Provide economic development programs and assistance.
- Provide lifelong community and continuing education.
- Develop partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, governmental agencies, and communities.
- Develop programs for participation in the global economy.
- Provide student development services to improve the academic success of our diverse student population.
- Provide opportunities for our students to participate in leadership development and in community, social, and recreational activities.
- Maintain a learning and working environment that is safe, clean, and comfortable.
- Provide student and employee support services to operate the College.

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## Values and Guiding Principles

**Student Learning.** We value the personal, intellectual, and occupational growth of our students.

**Quality.** We are committed to quality instruction and services to maximize student success and employer satisfaction.

**Access.** We provide access to the College by addressing student needs related to time, location, and cost.

**Diversity.** We respect individual differences and strive to meet the needs in our diverse communities.

**Lifelong Learning.** We promote lifelong learning for personal and professional development.

**Academic Freedom.** We are dedicated to the free exchange of ideas and information which promotes our growth as an educational institution.

**Shared Governance.** We believe in shared governance and encourage our employees and students to contribute to the development of the College.

**Efficiency and Effectiveness.** We are committed to continuous improvement and fiscal responsibility within our educational programs and College services.

**Dedication.** We value a workplace which promotes mutual respect and cooperation between the College and the employees.

**Professional Integrity.** We are committed to high standards of ethics and integrity in our relationships, our professional activities, and the performance of our duties.

Page 3 of 3

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Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

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Related Administrative Procedures and Cross References \_\_\_\_\_

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