

THE FUTURE IN FOCUS
2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Western Iowa Tech
Community College**

VISION STATEMENT

Unwavering commitment to the
personalized success of
every student, every employee, every time.

MISSION STATEMENT

We elevate our diverse learners and
strengthen our communities through
inclusive and innovative education.

OUR VALUES

Transformation, Engagement,
Community, and Harmony.

Western Iowa Tech Community College

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year at Western Iowa Tech Community College has been one of bold steps and meaningful progress. With our new vision statement and strategic initiatives guiding the way, we're focused on preparing every student for a fast-changing world. We are integrating artificial intelligence across campus to enrich learning and enhance student success.

Our campus came alive with the launch of our athletics program, uniting students and the community in new ways. At the same time, we're working to make our campus feel like home—from vibrant residence life and supportive events for students with special needs, to summer camps that inspire young learners.

We're especially proud of our mass communication program, which continues to produce outstanding student outcomes, and our new Denison Career Academy, where high school students will gain college experience and career skills.

Western Iowa Tech is a place where learners thrive and futures are built—and we're just getting started.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry Murrell
President, Western Iowa Tech Community College

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Terry Murrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a dark blue background.

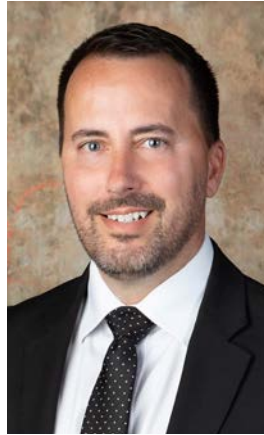
CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Linnea Fletcher
District IV
Sioux City, IA



Tricia Sutherland
Board Vice President
District V
Sioux City, IA



Micah Lang
District I
Le Mars, IA



Brad Griffin
District II
Cherokee, IA



Hanna Reinders
District III
Sioux City, IA



Mary Parker
District VI
Sioux City, IA



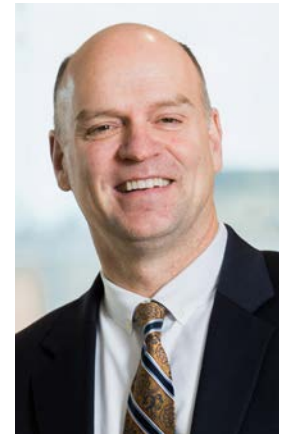
Jeremy Ogle
District VII
Sioux City, IA



Russell Wray
District VIII
Mapleton, IA



Erin Muck
District IX
Denison, IA



Dr. Terry Murrell
President
Western Iowa Tech
Community College

NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION



Jason Thiele
Computer Networking



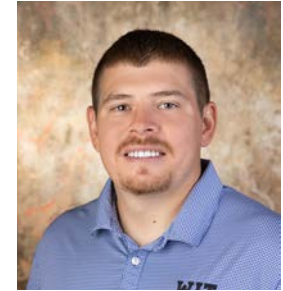
Darren Bruck
Auto Collision
Repair Technology



Kyle Lesline
Auto Collision
Repair Technology



Debbie Guerra
Nursing



Kodi Urquidi
Carpentry



Dr. Tatiana Ballion
Psychology



Dr. Alexander Plendl
Biology



Philip Kleinberg
Cyber Security/Digital
Crime



Lexli Rocha
Culinary Arts



Elisa Lorenzen
Dental Assisting



Korey Smith
Small Business
Development Center
Director



Michael Gasaway
Administrative
Program Coordinator
Culinary Arts



Allison Nohava
Administrative
Program Coordinator
Nursing



Kemi Brown
Counseling
Services Coordinator



Sydnee Sanchez
Administrative
Program Coordinator
Health Sciences



Kevin Criddle
Safety and Security
Supervisor

OUR STUDENTS

5,484
Students

13:1
Student to Faculty Ratio

STUDENT AGE

38%
Under 18

33%
18–20

18%
21–30

7%
31–40

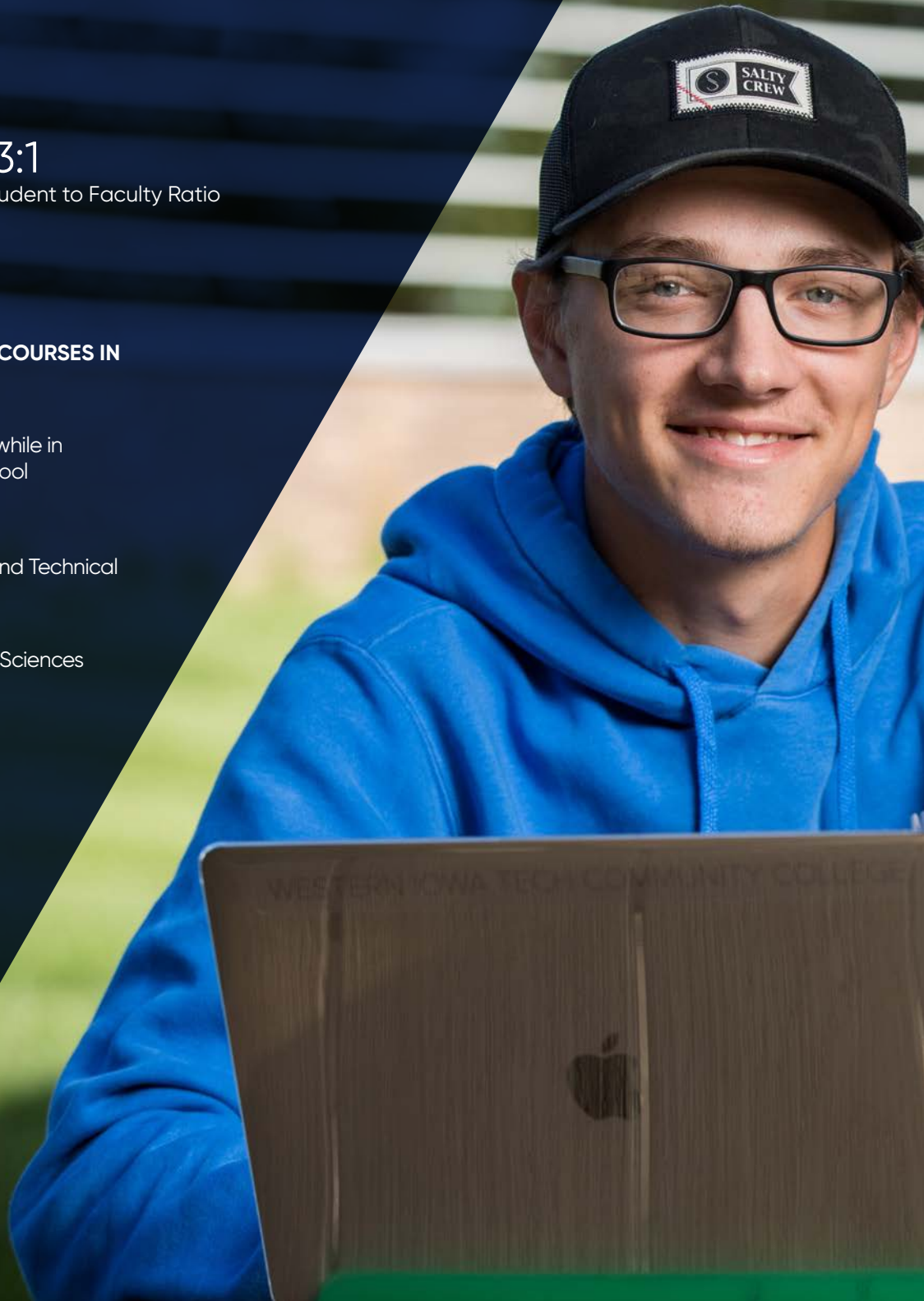
4%
41+

TAKING COURSES IN

50%
College while in
High School

31%
Career and Technical

19%
Arts and Sciences



STUDENT RACE

58.1%

White

24%

Hispanic/Latino

8.3%

Black/African American

2.8%

Non Disclosed/Unknown

2.6%

Asian

3.0%

Two or More Races

0.9%

Native American

0.3%

Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

We serve the highest percentage of students in poverty and provide the third lowest cost of attendance in the state of Iowa.

44% of our students are first generation; they are the first in their family to attend college.

OUR OUTCOMES

2023-2024

1,474
Graduates

1,783
Degrees Earned

957
Certificates

423
Diplomas

403
Associate Degrees



COMPARED TO ALL IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

#1
in Diplomas Awarded

#1
in Recertifications

#2
in Certificates Awarded

#5
in AAS Degrees Awarded

AFTER GRADUATION OUTCOMES 2022 Graduates

93%
Employed

57%
Continuing Education



VISION STATEMENT

Unwavering commitment to the
personalized success of
every student, every employee, every time.

WESTERN IOWA TECH UNVEILS ITS FIRST INSTITUTIONAL VISION STATEMENT

Western Iowa Tech Community College officially established its first institutional vision statement, deepening its commitment to the success and well-being of students and employees. This vision statement serves as a foundational guide for the College's strategic direction, emphasizing a personalized approach to education and a culture where every individual feels seen, supported, and empowered.

The development of the vision statement was the result of a year-long, collaborative effort involving a cross-departmental team. The team conducted research and held listening sessions with stakeholders across the College, inviting them to reflect upon the institution's existing mission and values. The final vision statement is a shared outcome built from the voices of faculty and staff.

To celebrate this significant milestone, Western Iowa Tech hosted launch events across all campuses, fostering a sense of pride and collective ownership. Additionally, the College introduced mini-grants to support employee professional development initiatives aligned with the new vision. These grants provide opportunities for innovation, growth, and leadership, helping staff and faculty bring the vision to life in meaningful and practical ways.



***"The final vision statement is
a shared outcome built from
the voices of faculty and staff."***

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC VISION IN MOTION: COLLEGE ADOPTS NEW THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Western Iowa Tech Community College has taken a bold step toward the future with the launch of its 2024–2027 Strategic Plan. Developed through a collaborative, cross-departmental effort, the plan builds on past successes while addressing key opportunities for growth.

After reviewing the previous plan's impact, the planning team identified areas where the College could further support student success and strengthen its campus culture. Their work resulted in three measurable goals to guide institutional efforts over the next three years:

Strategic Goals for 2024–2027

Advance Completion: Elevate Western Iowa Tech's completion rate into the top four among Iowa's community colleges.

Close the Gap: Narrow the completion gap for at-risk student populations, including first-time, part-time, and online learners.

Transform the Culture: Foster a stronger culture of belonging for employees through meaningful communication, engagement, and institutional support.

To promote campus-wide engagement, the College launched an interactive online course introducing employees to the plan and gathering their input. As a result, 23 initiative teams were formed, each tasked with advancing a specific area of the plan. This employee-driven approach empowers staff to turn strategic goals into real, lasting change across the College.



LEADING IN TECH

EMBRACING THE FUTURE WITH AI INTEGRATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming how we live, work, and learn, and Western Iowa Tech Community College is rising to the challenge. The College's approach to AI is about keeping pace with technology and preparing students to succeed in a digital world.

At Western Iowa Tech, AI integration goes beyond tech classrooms. Faculty and staff are encouraged to embrace AI tools to streamline tasks, gain insights, and improve efficiency. This approach allows employees to focus more on mentoring and creativity.

AI-powered tools help students better understand complex subjects, receive feedback, and progress at their own pace. These technologies support different learning styles, leading to a more equitable classroom environment.

The college ensures students are workforce-ready by teaching them how to use AI across industries like healthcare, finance, and education.

With a commitment to innovation, Western Iowa Tech is creating a future-ready campus where AI empowers learning, work, and community.

INAUGURAL YEAR OF ATHLETICS

PROGRAM SETS A HIGH BAR – ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Western Iowa Tech Community College proudly celebrated the launch of its athletic department, marking a remarkable first year of competition, achievement, and community impact.

The College brought in 125 student-athletes from across the globe, showcasing Western Iowa Tech as a competitive destination for sports talent. Notably, 100% of men's soccer and women's volleyball players are continuing their athletic careers at NAIA or NCAA Division II colleges or universities.

Student-athletes demonstrated strong academic commitment. Twenty-five athletes earned Academic All-Region First Team honors with GPAs of 3.5 or higher, while 26 others made the Academic All-Region Second Team by achieving GPAs between 3.0 and 3.49. These achievements reflect the College's emphasis on balancing athletic performance with academic success.

The athletic department also focused on leadership and community service. Athletes participated in volunteer efforts across Siouxland, including serving breakfast to veterans at Hy-Vee and assembling survival kits with the Siouxland Red Cross. Department staff also took part in Leadership Siouxland, reinforcing the College's commitment to community engagement and character development.

To support its growing athletics program, the College constructed a regulation-sized soccer field on campus, laying the groundwork for future home games. Thanks to a generous donation from a local business, admission to all home games was free, making it easy for the public to attend and support Comet athletics. The games have quickly become a hub of campus energy, with fans in Comet gear creating a dynamic and welcoming atmosphere.

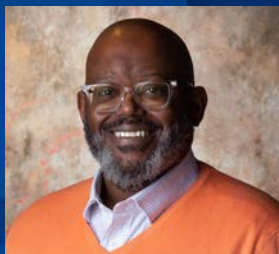
The inaugural year laid a powerful foundation for the future of Comet athletics, driven by discipline, service, and pride.



ATHLETIC STAFF



Roberto Amaro
Men's Soccer
Assistant Coach



Mike Brown
Athletic Director



Ann Chartier
Athletic Department
Secretary



Bailey Clapper
Athletic Trainer



Harvis "CoCo" Cofield
Men's Basketball
Head Coach and Assistant
Athletic Director



Cale Conner
Esports Head Coach



Laurel Durst
Volleyball Head Coach



Caleb Luckow
Men's Basketball
Assistant Coach



Alex Scheuler
Men's Soccer
Head Coach



Eddie Vongsiprasom
Women's Soccer
Head Coach

OUR CAMPUS

MAKING OUR CAMPUS FEEL LIKE HOME

At our community college, the campus grounds create a space that supports learning, well-being, and community pride. Guided by a thoughtful 10-year plan, our grounds crew steadily builds a landscape that welcomes both people and wildlife.

The landscaping features a careful ratio of perennials and annuals, with half of the perennials being sustainable native species like dogwood, ninebark, native grasses, juniper, cypress, honey locust, and viburnums.

Rather than a manicured, high-maintenance look, the grounds showcase organic, flowing designs that invite students and employees to recharge and find peaceful moments outdoors.

Supporting pollinators and wildlife is also key. The landscape intentionally attracts beneficial insects and pollinators like praying mantises, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Our campus has become a vibrant ecosystem, home to a beaver family, herons, turkeys, deer, and the occasional bald eagle – a living reminder that we are part of a larger natural community.

Another highlight is our community garden, where vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees grow alongside chickens, ducks, and geese. Culinary students harvest produce for their dishes, but the garden is open to anyone who wants to enjoy fresh produce.

First impressions matter. When parents drop off their students, a beautiful, welcoming campus landscape builds trust and pride. Our outdoor spaces show that we value not just academics, but the whole student experience. Every native plant, every butterfly, every shared harvest from the garden tells the story of a community growing toward a stronger, more beautiful future.

"Our outdoor space shows we value not just academics, but the whole student experience."



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

BUILDING COMMUNITY IN STUDENT HOUSING

Western Iowa Tech Community College student housing events are doing more than filling calendars. They're creating a sense of belonging and community. Through a variety of fun, interactive, and educational events, students are forming connections, reducing isolation, and making the most of their college experience.

Housing staff created a slate of entertaining events including carnival nights, trivia, karaoke, themed parties, and cooking workshops. Students report a positive impact, saying the events help them meet new people, support mental health, and make campus life more enjoyable.

Resident Assistants (RAs) gain valuable experience by leading these events such as how to budget, manage time, communicate, and coordinate with departments. These leadership skills help prepare them for life beyond college.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

Western Iowa Tech Community College's Project SUCCESS program hosted its first Special Services Fair, connecting students with special needs and their families to valuable campus and community resources. Thirteen community agencies and five college departments participated, helping families begin planning for life after graduation. The fair created a welcoming environment, reduced the challenges of future planning, and strengthened relationships among students, families, and educators, all working together to support diverse learners in taking their next steps.



SUMMER CAMPS: INSPIRING FUTURE STUDENTS

Western Iowa Tech Community College's summer camps provide middle and high school students with hands-on learning experiences and career exploration. This year, the College offered a record number of camps, with over 250 students participating in STEM, culinary arts, babysitting certification, video game design, welding, Esports, basketball, and volleyball. The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers program alone brought in 150 students from regional schools. Additional camps were held in partnership with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) and TRIO Upward Bound, strengthening the College's mission to support youth education and career readiness.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MASS COMMUNICATION: REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE, REAL RESULTS

Western Iowa Tech Community College's Mass Communication program has grown into one of the region's most impactful and innovative media training grounds. With a 90% job placement rate, the program delivers real-world experience and outstanding outcomes for its students.

Graduates of the program can be found in nearly every corner of the local and regional media landscape as anchors, reporters, directors, technical media producers, and creative services. Alumni provide stage and tech support to houses of worship and entertainment venues and some found gainful employment in larger markets nationwide.

The department also plays a vital role on campus. Students produce TEDx events, weekly newscasts, sports broadcasts, commencement and staff development livestreams, as well as the music festival WITStock. They support audio visual needs for other departments and collaborate on creative, interdisciplinary projects. Mass Communication was awarded a permit for a Low Power FM (LPFM) radio station. This upgrade will take the station over the airwaves, expanding its audience and creating opportunities for students to host shows and share their voices.

The program's influence also reaches into the broader Siouxland community. Students produced award-winning documentaries for the Sioux City Railroad Museum, and Sioux City Human Rights Commission, and supported live performances at the Conservatory of Music and League of Women Voters candidate forums.

Through hands-on instruction in a state-of-the-art lab that mirrors professional environments, students in the Mass Communication program graduate with the skills, confidence, and professionalism needed to succeed in the industry.

***"With a 90% job placement rate
the program delivers real-world
experience and outstanding outcomes."***

FOUNDATION UPDATE

WESTERN IOWA TECH FOUNDATION: INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

The Western Iowa Tech Foundation remains dedicated to helping students achieve their academic goals and dreams. Thanks to the generosity of community partners, donors, and employees, the Foundation awarded scholarships to over 1,500 students this past year. Among them is Jatzumy, a Biology major who dreams of becoming a doctor. Stories like hers show the powerful, lasting impact of scholarship support. With 92% of graduates staying in Siouxland, these investments directly strengthen the region's social and economic future.

Your support truly changes lives. Thank you for making a difference.



1,500+

Scholarships awarded in 2023-2024

92%

Of students stay in Siouxland after graduation

Matt Pfister
Executive Director of
College Development



Dear WIT Foundation,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Foundation Scholarship for Fall 2024. I am deeply honored to receive this scholarship, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your generous support.

This scholarship will significantly help me pay my tuition to continue my education. As a biology student at WIT, I am committed to excelling in my academic responsibilities. My goal for the future is to transfer to a four-year university, then enter med school and become a doctor later on.

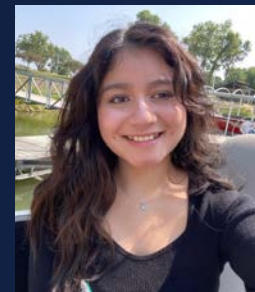
This scholarship not only provides the financial assistance that I need to start my path as a future doctor but also motivates me to continue striving for excellence. Your generosity has inspired me to give back to the community in the future, just as you have done for me.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. I will work hard to make the most of it.

Sincerely,

Jatzummy Castillo

Biology Major
Future 2025 Graduate



DENISON CAREER ACADEMY

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES TO MORE STUDENTS

Western Iowa Tech Community College is expanding access to career and technical education for rural students through the Denison Career Academy. In partnership with five local school districts—Denison, MVAO-COU, Boyer Valley, OABCIG, and Woodbine—the College is building a new career-focused center at its Denison campus to boost workforce readiness and educational opportunities in western Iowa.

Launched in 2022 with a \$1 million Career Academy Incentive Fund grant from the Iowa Department of Education, the project supports collaboration between school districts in underserved areas. A second \$1 million grant allowed Western Iowa Tech to expand its offerings.

Initial career pathways include Agriculture, Autobody, Business, and Education, with new additions in Health Sciences, Welding, and HVAC. Construction is underway, with the academy set to open in Fall 2025.

Through this shared investment, Western Iowa Tech and its K–12 partners aim to transform education in rural Iowa by bringing hands-on, industry-relevant learning closer to home.



CHEROKEE CAMPUS STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Western Iowa Tech Community College's Cherokee Campus had a vibrant year, hosting events that connected students, schools, and the community. The Nursing Club led a Fall Festival with over 400 visitors, organized a holiday stocking drive for 182 long-term care, assisted-living residents, and taught heart-healthy habits to 4th graders. The campus piloted ACT Prep Days, a FAFSA Completion Night, and hosted a Future Ready Day for high school students. It also offered a Mental Health First Aid Certification training and a Human Library event to promote understanding and challenge stereotypes.



CORPORATE COLLEGE STREAMLINES NON-CREDIT REGISTRATION WITH ONLINE SYSTEM

Western Iowa Tech Community College's Corporate College improved access and efficiency by launching an online registration and payment system for non-credit classes. Developed in partnership with the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCO), the system streamlined enrollment, especially for high-demand courses like Teen Driver's Education, Motorcycle Safety, and DUI classes. Since launch, it processed 336 transactions, cutting down on phone calls and after-hours communication challenges. Online payment has simplified transactions, saving time for both staff and students. Corporate College plans to expand online registration to additional non-credit offerings.

FISCAL SECURITY

Western Iowa Tech continues to be a good steward of the finances entrusted to carry out its mission. WIT received an unmodified opinion during its most recent audit, the highest rating possible with no internal control issues. (Audit conducted by Henjes, Conner & Williams, P.C., Certified Public Accountants.)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

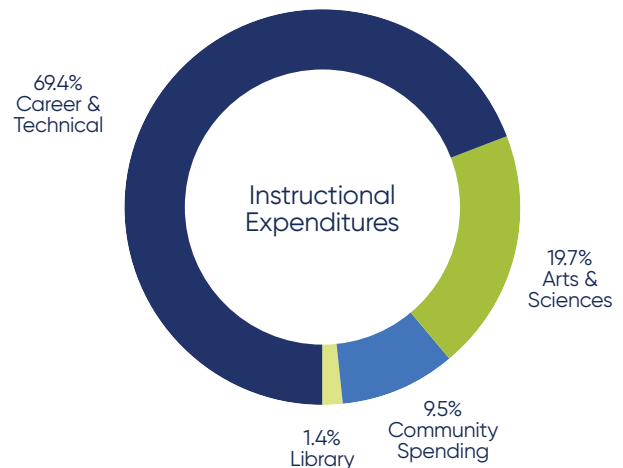
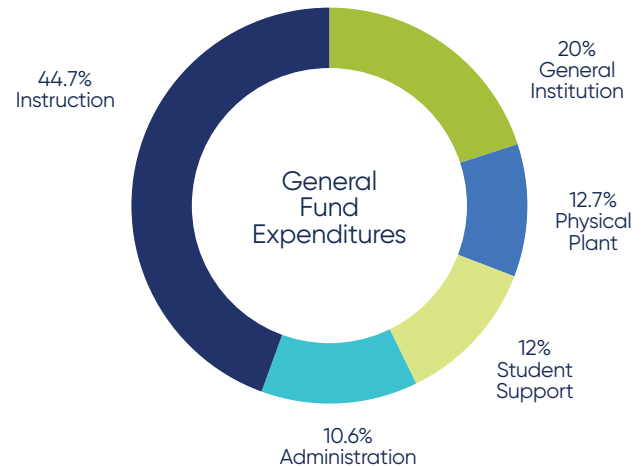
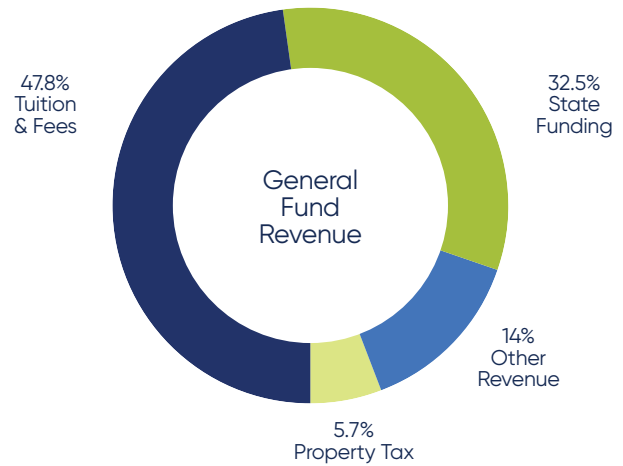
Tuition & Fees	\$18,778,786
State Funding	12,762,859
Other Revenue	5,524,384
Property Tax	2,233,217
Total Revenue	\$39,299,246

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$24,268,594
Services	8,587,868
Materials & Supplies	3,401,840
Other Expenses	2,972,145
Total Expenditures	\$39,230,447
Change in Fund Balance	\$68,799

COLLEGE ASSETS

Current Assets	\$73,146,474
Capital Assets	
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	55,254,549
Other Assets	9,647,629
Deferred Outflows	2,480,126
Total Assets	\$140,528,778





*Thank
You*



Western Iowa Tech Community College

Western Iowa Tech Community College
4647 Stone Ave. PO Box 5199
Sioux City, IA 51102-5199

800.352.4649
witcc.edu



It is the policy of Western Iowa Tech Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, actual or potential parent, family or marital status, or other characteristic protected by law in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by state and federal civil rights regulation. If you have questions or complaints, please contact Dean of Human Resources (employees) 4647 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, IA 51106; 712.274.6400 ext. 1406; equity@witcc.edu or Dean of Opportunity and Engagement (students) 4647 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, IA 51106; 712.274.6400 ext. 2887; equity@witcc.edu.