



**IOWA WESTERN**  
**Civic Action Plan**

# **Civic Action Planning Committee**

Dr. Dan Kinney, President

Dr. Marjorie Welch, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Alexz Tillman, Service Learning Program Coordinator

Matt Mancuso, Dean of Distance Education, Mathematics and Technology

Reanna Heim, Director of Student Conduct and Intervention

Todd Nierman, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director

Jason Testin, Instructor of Physical Science and Pre-Engineering

Jeremy Capo, Director of Athletics

Carol Young, Instructor of Sustainable Energy

Jamie Halverson, Professor of Speech

## **Executive Summary:**

Iowa Western Community College believes that community engagement contributes to a more meaningful education, which yields both academic and personal success.

The Civic Action Planning process, led by our Service Learning Coordinator, has provided opportunities to celebrate the great work already being done, and to identify areas in need of support, improvement and growth regarding community engagement.

Our civic action plan was developed through cross-campus and community information gathering, and is complemented by other strategic documents. The resulting plan includes five overarching goals, which are supported by measures and indicators in an effort to hold the college accountable for implementing and sustaining the plan.

By signing the Campus Compact Civic Action Statement (<https://compact.org/actionstatement/>) President Dan Kinney affirmed Iowa Western Community Colleges commitment to:

1. **Empower faculty, staff, students and partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future** for communities beyond the campus.
2. **Prepare students for lives of engaged citizenship**, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.
3. **Embrace our responsibility as a place-based institution**, contributing to the health and strength of our communities – economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.
4. **Challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future** through our research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practices.
5. **Foster an environment that consistently affirms the public purpose of higher education.**

## **Vision/ Mission:**

Iowa Western Community College has an institutional commitment to serve and collaborate with its community. Educating students on service-learning and civic engagement through their curricular and co-curricular activities is a cornerstone to the commitment and provides opportunities for the college to instill the necessary tools to be an active member of the community within our students. These opportunities include empowering students to connect with their communities, engage social justice and work towards advancing human welfare.

At Iowa Western Community College, our Mission is to:

INVOLVE students in direct and indirect service opportunities that enhance classroom teaching, increase social awareness and develop within them a spirit of service to others.

ENGAGE students in the classroom, on campus, and within the community, guided by the belief that engagement yields both academic and personal success.

DEVELOP informed, compassionate citizens and leaders who are armed with the skills and knowledge necessary to make a meaningful impact on society.

## **Process:**

The Community Engagement Assessment and Civic Action planning was conducted in three one-hour meetings and individual work outside of meetings. Action planning was strategically integrated into every meeting through the method of Actions for Retrospectives. In the first meeting, every committee member completed the Self-Assessment rubric. At our next meeting, the rankings were discussed, putting specific focus on our overlapping results, the outliers we discovered, and how these results compared to an assessment that was done in previous year using the same rubric. Following our dialogue about the assessment results, team members were challenged to initiate the Actions for Retrospectives by identifying puzzles, risks, appreciations and wishes for all 16-rubric areas covered through the assessment. Team members were specifically encouraged to address what items would advance the College into a high rating on the rubric for each specific area. During our final meeting, we focused our energies on using the data we had gathered to develop a comprehensive action plan that would result in better scores on the Self-Assessment rubric, and that would enhance our community engagement efforts.

# Community Engagement Breakdown

## Faculty and Staff

Significantly integrating community-based, and civic engagement learning into their specific classroom and co-curricular programs.



## Students

Engage in meaningful community-based and civic engagement learning from curricular and co-curricular perspectives.



## College

Strive to have an on campus culture that integrates community-based and civic engagement learning throughout all programs and co-curricular activities on and off the campus.



## Community

Strive to collaborate with government, non-profit organizations and other institutions of higher education. Build relationships that contribute to improving the quality of life for individuals living in Council Bluffs and beyond.

Goals:	Who is Responsible for Goal	Measure (s)	Waypoint measures and dates set for completion	Indicator (s)
Course Designation for Community Engagement.	Faculty and Staff	<p>Anticipated Metric Goals to be set at the beginning of every semester.</p> <p>*First Week in August for Fall.</p> <p>*First Week in January for Spring.</p>	<p>Metric will be reviewed at the end of every semester</p> <p>Metrics from Faculty and Staff are due 1 week after classes end.</p> <p>Final numbers are due to the Deans no later than 2 weeks after classes end each semester.</p> <p>Compare numbers to previous years.</p>	<p>Increased number of student involvement per semester.</p> <p>Increased number of student hours completed per semester.</p>
Professional development support to faculty and staff about community engagement (i.e. workshops, conferences, training, etc.)	Faculty and Staff	<p>Set up a minimum of one professional development opportunities for faculty and staff per semester.</p> <p>Survey faculty and staff at beginning and end of every semester to help understand their community engagement wants and needs.</p>	<p>Surveys will be reviewed after completion with the Deans and discuss potential professional development opportunities.</p> <p>Contact Iowa Campus Compact- Emily Shields for assistance with professional development.</p> <p>Contact community partners to seek potential professional development collaborations.</p> <p>Create calendar with community engagement professional development events on and off campus for faculty and staff.</p>	Increased number of faculty and staff participating in workshops, trainings, etc.

Goals:	Who is Responsible for Goal	Measure (s)	Waypoint measures and dates set for completion	Indicator (s)
More established Internal campus culture of community engagement.	Students and Staff	<p>Survey faculty and staff yearly to determine community engagement involvement.</p> <p>Update IWCC community engagement classroom list yearly.</p>	<p>Inquire about including community engagement questions into the smart evaluations for students.</p> <p>Brainstorm ideas about how to recognize students with highest service learning hours per semester &amp; per year.</p> <p>Recognize all Community Engagement from students on all 3 social media sites. (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter)</p> <p>Attend all monthly SPAC (Strategic Planning and Assessment Council) meetings.</p>	<p>Number of climate surveys completed at end of spring semester.</p> <p>Increased number of classrooms and programs with community engagement involvement.</p>
Develop platform and opportunities for faculty voice and leadership	Faculty and Staff	<p>Survey Faculty on current Community Involvement – inside and outside classroom.</p> <p>Survey faculty with current community engagement to set base for reorganization.</p>	<p>Establish faculty contact per division.</p> <p>Establish how to recognize faculty for community engagement involvement yearly.</p> <p>Recognize faculty on social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter)</p>	<p>Per division: faculty and staff recognition for service learning and civic engagement Involvement.</p> <p>Increased professional development attendance.</p>

Goals:	Who is Responsible for Goal	Measure (s)	Waypoint measures and dates set for completion	Indicator (s)
Develop and sustain co and extra-curricular programs to instill and develop citizenship and leadership	Staff and Students	<p>Implement a minimum of 2 On Campus- "Service Fridays" per month.</p> <p>Better communication/ collaboration between service learning and student services with on-campus activates and events.</p>	<p>Have additional metrics for clubs/orgs., Students Life, and Athletics.</p> <p>Plan more on-campus events and activates.</p> <p>Collaborate with student life on service learning activates.</p>	<p>Division of Clubs/Orgs., Student Life, and Athletics.</p> <p>Increased number of student involvement out the classroom or required activates and events.</p>