

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## Week of February 18, 2019

### HOUSE REPUBLICANS RELEASE BUDGET TARGETS

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Iowa House Republicans released their FY20 budget targets. Their plan spends \$7.668 billion or 97.45% of the General Fund's ongoing revenue. The budget total is \$9.5 million higher than Governor Reynolds's FY20 budget of \$7.658 billion, which was released after her "Condition of the State" speech.

The House plan addresses Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes and rural hospitals and provides additional resources for mental health services, worker training through the Future Ready Iowa Initiative, and funding for Iowa's higher education institutions.

Under the House plan there are more resources for Iowa's public safety, corrections, and the judicial system. The plan will allow the state to end FY20 with a balance of \$298.6 million in the General Fund.

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH LEGISLATION

Senate File (SF) 274 was voted out of the Senate Education Committee this week and requires the Regent institutions and **Community Colleges** to adopt policies regarding free speech on campuses. The bill requires that

the policies include specific provisions regarding proper function and role of the institutions of higher education, the freedoms afforded to students, and the use of public areas on the campuses for public forums. An analysis of the bill can be found at:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1037765.pdf>

### FUTURE READY IOWA APPROPRIATIONS BILL RELEASED

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the House Appropriations Committee released House Study Bill (HSB) 179, which is considered the Future Ready Iowa Initiative (FRI) appropriations bill. HSB179 appropriates funding to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Iowa Workforce Development Office, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, and the Iowa Department of Education to support the Governor's workforce training program.

A new fund called the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship Program will be created to provide annual scholarships to pay tuition and mandatory fees for eligible Iowa residents for up to a two-year degree in a program of study that leads to a high-demand job and helps the state reach its goal of having 70 percent of working age Iowans achieve postsecondary credentials by 2025.

The bill provides the following appropriations:

- FRI Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship Program - \$17.2 million
- Summer Youth Intern Program - \$250,000
- Iowa Employer Innovation Fund - \$1.2 million
- FRI Skilled Workforce Grant Program - \$1 million
- Statewide Clearinghouse to Expand Work-Based Learning - \$300,000
- Postsecondary Summer Classes for High School Students Program - \$600,000

The bill takes effect upon enactment or when the bill is signed into law by the Governor.

### LEGISLATION FILED

The following bills of importance to Community Colleges were filed during the 6th week:

**SF278** – *An act requiring **Community Colleges** and institutions of higher learning governed by the State Board of Regents to offer to certain students financial literacy programs designed to reduce student loan debt. Filed by the Senate Democrats. Referred to the Senate Education subcommittee of Rozenboom, Sweeney and Wahls.*

**SF287** – *An act relating academic eligibility standards for public*

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



*school students participating in extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests or competitions. Filed by Senator Chapman. Referred to Senate Education.*

**SF318** – *Establishes an Office of Student Loan Ombudsman within the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Filed by the Senate Democrats. Referred to the Senate Education subcommittee of Sinclair, Kraayenbrink and Quirnbach.*

**SF336** – *Makes it a serious misdemeanor for an Iowa employer to prohibit, limit, or require approval for political contributions by employees. Filed by Senator Chapman. On the Senate Regular Calendar.*

**HF385** – *An act concerning the carrying and possession of weapons and the acquiring of pistols and revolvers. Filed by Representative Windschitl. Referred to the House Public Safety Committee.*

For more information about the activity during the 2019 legislative session please contact:  
Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs

[Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu](mailto:Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu) or  
Cell: 641.485.4456  
Office: 641.844.5602