

# Iowa Valley Community College District

## IVCCD History

1965 – ECC enrollment is 830; MCC enrollment is 867  
1966 – Robert Horsfall is named Superintendent  
1968 – Donald Skinner is named Superintendent  
1970 – ECC enrollment is 1,045; MCC enrollment is 925  
1973 – Dr. John Prihoda is named Superintendent  
1980 – ECC enrollment is 959; MCC enrollment is 1,211  
1990 – ECC enrollment is 909; MCC enrollment is 1,415  
1991 – Dr. Paul Tambrino is named President  
2000 – ECC enrollment is 892; MCC enrollment is 1,134  
2002 – Tim Wynes is named President  
2010 – Dr. Chris Duree is named Chancellor. ECC enrollment is 1,078; MCC enrollment is 2,078.  
2019 – Dr. Kristie Fisher is named Chancellor. ECC enrollment is 710; MCC enrollment is 1,726.

## Ellsworth Community College History

Ellsworth College was established as an academy in 1890 by Professor Thomas (John) Tobin; the institution was named after benefactor Eugene Ellsworth of Iowa Falls. The College's first building, the first three-story section of Old Main, was completed and dedicated on the area known as Seminary Hill north of downtown Iowa Falls in September 1890. Two wings and a bell tower were then added to Old Main, completed in 1892. The Ellsworth Conservatory of Music was founded in 1894 by Dr. Artemus Bullock a few years later, and it became one of the foremost schools of music in the country (the Conservatory lasted until 1956). Also in 1894 the College was incorporated with a Board of Trustees. Ellsworth fielded a football team in 1895, and C.W Lyon became President in 1896.

John Stout became President of Ellsworth in 1899, followed by George Forest in 1901, A.J. Aavana in 1902 and Ido F. Meyer in 1905. In 1900 the College built North Hall (a men's dormitory), and in 1906 it began construction of Caroline Hall (a four-story women's dormitory), and the three-story Carnegie-Ellsworth Library (now known as Bullock Jones Hall). By this time in 1906, just a year before Eugene Ellsworth's death, the College employed several young faculty members from leading universities and offered a bachelor's degree. Eugene Ellsworth's daughter, Caroline, taught English and French.

In 1908 the academy formally became Ellsworth College. A women's basketball team was in place by 1904, and a baseball team at about the same time. The first volume of the College yearbook, *The Web*, was published in 1914; the publication reported that College faculty numbered 15, with an enrollment of 50 students. Professor Sheridan Jones was named Dean of the College in 1923.

The Iowa Falls newspaper reported that, "The high year was 1924-25, when the total enrollment in all departments (unduplicated) was 563. Of these, 262 did regular college course work, either during the regular college year or during summer school, 53 were in the commerce department, 211 in music, and 236 in the summer school." In 1924 a group of women formed Chi Delta Kappa sorority. The following year a group of men formed Chi Pi Theta fraternity and moved

into a home at 1104 Main Street; later that winter a second fraternity, Alpha Tau Epsilon, was formed. A basketball team was formed in 1925. A second sorority, Mu Sigma Chi, was organized by music students in 1926 and a third fraternity, Alpha Kappa Pi, was formed in 1927.

Following several years of financial hardship leading up to the Depression, the Trustees entered into agreement with the Iowa Falls Community School District in March 1928, and Ellsworth College became the public Ellsworth Junior College under the auspices of the Iowa Falls Board of Education.

At this time the College buildings, grounds and equipment were leased from the Ellsworth College Board of Trustees, a unique and mutually-beneficial public-private partnership that continues to the present time. The Trustees manage farm property bequeathed by the College's founder, Eugene Ellsworth, as well as owning and maintaining several buildings on the campus, which are leased to IVCCD. Darwin Miller serves as the Trustees' current president.

In 1929 Lester Dooley was named EJC Dean; enrollments had dropped to less than 70. The following year Professor Sheridan Jones was re-named Dean.

In 1932 Ellsworth discontinued Home Economics courses and established Pre-Agriculture and Pre-Farm Management courses. During the 1930s many high school courses and programs were conducted on the College campus. In 1939 Arthur Williams was named Dean. In the spring of 1940 the high school students were separated from the College facilities, and both dormitories were vacant. Renovations were made to Old Main and a two-year Commercial course was added to the curriculum. At this same time, with an eye toward the war in Europe, the Civil Aeronautics Authority approached Ellsworth officials about a student pilot training program sponsored by the federal government. There was great student interest, and the college began training 10 pilots ... thus began what was later referred to as "The Ellsworth Airforce."

In 1941 Orlando Kreider was named Dean, followed by E.E. Brand in 1943.

In 1945, following the death of Eugene Ellsworth's son, E.O. Ellsworth, Iowa Falls residents conducted a campaign to upgrade College facilities. In 1946 J.H. Hill was named Dean. After three years, Caroline and North Halls were renovated and converted into apartments, and endowments were bolstered sufficiently to afford insurance for the College buildings. Four days after the start of Fall Term, on Sept. 3, 1949, lightning struck the tower of Old Main and burned all but the west wing of the 60-year-old building to the ground. Following the fire, enrollment was 129. Some classes were moved to local churches and efforts to replace Old Main began almost immediately. Caroline Hall was converted to offices and classrooms.

Private and community support once again saved the College. In a series of leadership changes, V.A. Gunn Jr. was named Dean in 1952, followed by Edwin Aalberts in 1954 and Verle Stucker in 1958. That year, the Ellsworth College Foundation was established to facilitate the receipt and disbursement of private funds. The impetus was to provide an organization to spearhead fundraising for the replacement of Old Main, and the Foundation has since been involved in a number of successful fund drives. The Foundation supports an extensive scholarship program and the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs.

Ten years after the devastating lightning strike, a groundbreaking was held on Sept. 8, 1959. New Main (renamed Kruse Main in 1996) and Caroline Hall were ready for occupancy by fall semester of 1961, the same year that intercollegiate football was reinstated.

Following the construction of New Main in 1961, more changes occurred on campus. North Hall, a men's residence hall located southeast of where the water tower now stands, was demolished in the summer of 1962. With enrollment on the rise, the Ellsworth College Board of Trustees began construction of a residence hall for women, to be named Wall Hall in honor of Florence Wall, a 1918 alumna and 31-year member of the College Trustees. Wall Hall was opened for occupancy in 1964.

Following Dean Stucker's promotion to District administration, Glennon Warford was hired as EJC Dean in 1967.

In 1968 Ellsworth Junior College became Ellsworth Community College under the auspices of Merged Area VI, now known as Iowa Valley Community College District. That same year, a two-story expansion was added to New Main, providing space for offices and a library. The new Osgood Learning Resource Center was named in honor of Sumner and Effie Osgood, longtime Trustees and benefactors of the College. New vocational programs included Electronics, Radio & Television Service and Repair, Retail Marketing, Fashion Merchandising, Petroleum Marketing, Cooperative Clerical and Cooperative Secretarial.

In 1969 the Trustees built McClure Hall, named for Ralph McClure, a local businessman and former Trustee. At that time, McClure housed the vocational programs that started in 1968 as well as the soon-to-be-developed Agribusiness, Farm Operation & Management and Swine Confinement Management programs. Today it houses the College's health occupations programs (Nursing and Medical Assisting).

The first career-option program in the state, Human Services, was developed in 1971. That Spring the Panther basketball squad won the NJCAA National Championship. The College also achieved an all-time high enrollment of 1,123 that year. As a result of the large student population, the Trustees constructed a new men's residence hall honoring Otis Thompson, a 1918 graduate of Ellsworth College and a longtime Trustee; Thompson Hall was completed in 1972. In 1973 the College dedicated its new Mathematics & Science building, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

In 1976 the Panther football team won the National Championship, earning a trip to the Junior Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, CA. Duane Lloyd was appointed Acting Dean upon the retirement of Dean Warford in January 1978; he was formally appointed Dean in May. Also in 1977, the Panther softball team posted a 37-6 season record and won the NJCAA National Championship. The College initiated a Carpentry program that year, and added Swine Confinement Management in 1978 and Masonry in 1980. Students in the two building trades programs constructed many quality residential homes in Iowa Falls during the years, until the programs were closed in 2010 (Masonry) and 2012 (Construction Technology).

Construction was completed on a 24,000 square foot physical education facility in early 1978. An Olympic-sized swimming pool was added in 1979 with financing from a private fund drive; the pool was then gifted to Iowa Valley.

In 1981 Homer and Ruth Calkins donated to the Trustees 76 acres of land southwest of Iowa Falls, to be used as an outdoor conservation education area. Calkins Nature Center remains the primary outdoor classroom space for ECC's Conservation Technology program, and also serves thousands of visitors and students each year.

In 1982 the Trades & Industries building was opened, housing classrooms and offices for the Agriculture, Carpentry and Masonry programs. In 1984 the College's long-range planning committee submitted a blueprint for growth, which included several facility improvements and additions. The Biotechnology program was also initiated that year; in 1985 the College added a Criminal & Juvenile Justice program. In 1986 the Trustees voted to spend \$250,000 to restore Bullock Jones Hall to its original splendor. Bullock Jones Hall has received additional façade and energy improvements in 2014; it is the only one of the original Ellsworth College buildings that is standing today.

ECC's Swine Confinement Management program was recognized in 1985 by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the R.J. Reynolds Corporation with an Award for Excellence in Agriculture Technology Instruction for the Midwest Region. In 1986 the U.S. Department of Education recognized the program as one of the 10 Best Vocational Programs in the nation.

The Panther football team won its second NJCAA National Championship in 1987. The Equine Management program also began that year following the 1986 purchase of the Ellsworth Stables and Arena on Cadet Road in Iowa Falls.

In October 1988 the Trustees and Foundation Board embarked on a \$1.712 million Second Century Challenge capital campaign to raise funds for restoration of Bullock Jones Hall; remodeling of New Main, McClure Hall and the Trades and Industries building; construction of outdoor basketball and tennis courts; and a natural history museum. A second goal to establish a \$1 million endowed scholarship fund for future ECC students was also part of that campaign. This private fundraising complemented Iowa Valley's public \$7.5 million bond issue, approved in 1989. The Second Century Challenge goal was met in 1992.

In 1989 ECC established a one-year Licensed Practical Nursing program and a two-year Associate Degree Nursing program.

By 1991, ECC employed 47 full-time professional staff. ECC supported a choir and band, jazz band and swing choir, which met and performed regularly. Intramural athletics consisted of co-ed bowling, flag football, softball, basketball, volleyball, and other activities. Intercollegiate athletics included football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, and softball. The Physical Education/recreation facilities provided space for a variety of activities, including two handball courts. Campus clubs included the Wildlife Club, Fashion Merchandising, D.E.C.A., Retail Marketing, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, Campus Bible Fellowship, Ag-Business, Ag-Science, Art Club, Farm Operations, Human Services, Campus Newspaper, Cheerleaders, and Non-Traditional Students Club. Also, the Delta Psi Omega campus drama club presented theater productions. The overall governing and coordination body was the Student Senate. Student activities were financed primarily by student activity fees. Academic programs included Agricultural Supplies/Services, Agricultural Production, Associate Degree Nursing, Bookkeeping, Care and Guidance of Handicapped Children, Carpentry, Accounting, Commercial Art Occupations, Human Services: Institutional Child Care, Laboratory Technology for Industry, Legal Secretarial, Medical Secretarial, Secretarial, Criminal Justice, Fashion Merchandising, General Merchandise Specialist, Masonry Construction, Practical Nursing, Swine Production, and Swine Confinement Management.

With funds from Iowa Valley's bond issue, ECC was able to construct Reg Johnson Hall (dedicated in 1991) and Gentle Student Center (dedicated in 1993), named for former students and benefactors Reg Johnson and Tony (Angela) Gentle. The bond issue also financed a maintenance and weightlifting addition to the Physical Education building, and instructional equipment. Also in 1993, the Physical Education building was renamed the Martin Ellsworth Dittmer Gymnasium.

In 1994 remodeling began in New Main; the restoration of Hamilton Auditorium (named after Carl Hamilton) was particularly impressive. Restoration included new seating, sound system, lighting and expansion of the stage. The former student lounge was converted into a Music classroom and part of the former cafeteria into Art classrooms. Kruse Main (formerly New Main) was renamed in honor of alumni and benefactors Tom and LaVonne Kruse and dedicated in 1996.

Dean Lloyd retired in 1995, replaced by Dr. Edith Jones. In 2001 Mollie Teckenburg was named ECC Dean. In 2003 the College Apartments were opened for occupancy.

In August 2009 a ribbon cutting was held for the Dale Howard Family Activity Center, and in May 2010 the Ellsworth Equestrian Center and Agriculture & Renewable Energy Center were dedicated for use on the new Robert and Arlene Hamilton Campus at the south side of Iowa Falls. Also in 2010, Dr. Nancy Muecke was hired as ECC Provost and the new College Suites were opened for occupancy.

In July 2011 the Don Henrichs Athletic Building was dedicated as the new headquarters for ECC's football coaching offices, meeting room and locker room. That same year, ECC alum Joseph Gomer (Ellsworth Airforce, Class of 1940) was recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges and the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees as an outstanding alumni. A statue of Gomer was placed on the ECC campus (west of Bullock Jones Hall) in 2014; Gomer died a few months later.

The Trustees again financed remodeling of Kruse Main in 2013, renovating the west side of the lower level (which had been a cafeteria years earlier) into The Hub, where the College now offers academic support and counseling services. Also in 2013, the College used Accelerated Career Education (ACE) state funding for extensive remodeling in McClure Hall.

In 2014, in celebration of the College's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Trustees and Foundation Board embarked on 125<sup>th</sup> Continuing the Vision Scholarship Campaign to generate 125 endowed scholarships and raise an additional \$1.25 million for student scholarships.

Dr. Martin Reimer was named ECC Provost in August 2015. The 125<sup>th</sup> Continuing the Vision Scholarship Campaign Committee announced that its goal was met and then exceeded in 2017.