

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.

Iowa Valley Continuing Education History

The adult and continuing education program of Merged Area VI District gained enrollment and stature quickly in the early years. In its infancy, the staff included one Director (Conrad DeJardin), one secretary and 1,500 students. By 1968 more than 5,000 adults were enrolled, in 1970 enrollment was up to 8,729, and it peaked at 40,000 in 1995. The adult and continuing education program has subtly altered its name over the years, but is currently known as Iowa Valley Continuing Education.

Hazel Price was the first Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor for Iowa Valley, teaching high school classes for adults who wanted to earn a high school equivalency diploma. Within the District's boundaries, only Marshalltown High School has a bigger annual graduating class than IVCE, both then and now. The adult high school graduation ceremony each May recognizes graduates of the Alternative High School program as well as adults who have taken coursework, passed tests and earned a high school equivalency diploma.

The Veterans Farm Cooperative Program was established in the early- to mid-1970s to provide educational benefits to veterans engaged in farming. More than 200 participants attended the Iowa Valley classes held in various locations with the District.

IVCE's Travel & Adventure Series was popular in the 1970s, when attendees filled the Miller Junior High School auditorium to watch travelogue programs about exotic locations around the world. That transitioned into the Viewpoint lecture series in the 1980s.

In 1978 IVCE established its Career Development Programs to serve adults with developmental disabilities through community-based pre-vocational training. IVCE subsequently developed the Individualized Resource Program (IRP) and Community-Based Vocational Training (CBVT) program, plus SEALS at the Marshall County Care Facility. Those beloved programs were a hallmark of IVCE until 2013, when they were transitioned to other providers due to changes in Medicare funding streams.

Other popular IVCE programming has included Elderhostel, College for Kids and the Community Speakers Bureau.

In 1983, following the final phase of construction on the Marshalltown Community College/Iowa Valley campus, the IVCE offices and classrooms were moved to 3700 S. Center Street in Marshalltown.

Iowa Valley Leadership, co-sponsored with the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, was established in 1986. IVL continues to be a vital community development and leadership engine. With that as a model, IVCE also developed Leadership Iowa Falls Experience (LIFE), Poweshiek Leadership Program (PLP) and Tama Leadership Program for residents in the surrounding counties.

In the fall of 1989, IVCCD voters approved a \$7.5 million bond issue to finance facility and infrastructure improvements in Marshalltown and Iowa Falls. On the Marshalltown campus, the Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center was constructed at the west end of the Continuing Education wing. The IVCE Conference Center in Marshalltown is utilized for mid-sized conferences and conventions. Area businesses use the Conference Center extensively for meetings and training sessions, often co-sponsored by IVCE.

In addition to that, a one-of-a-kind in Iowa challenge course on the Iowa Valley campus, known as Iowa Valley Adventures, includes a 50-foot climbing tower and ropes course. The course provides experiential learning for problem-solving, communication skills, trust development, and leadership training.

By 1991, IVCE had an enrollment of 30,508 students. In the 1991 annual report it was noted that IVCE was providing an extensive program of credit-free courses, seminars, workshops and other community education and community service activities to area residents. Instruction was offered in the vocational areas of health, trade and industry, business and office, distributive education, agriculture, home economics, and technical and management courses. General continuing education courses included a myriad of topics relating to hobbies, personal interests and self-improvement. IVCE oversaw adult high school completion, programs for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled individuals, and employment and training services related to the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). IVCE also operated EXCEL Alternative High School for qualifying HS dropouts ages 16-21. Instructional and cultural activities were offered for adults. Learning Centers in Marshalltown, Iowa Falls, Toledo and Grinnell offered career counseling and individualized instruction in adult basic education, high school completion, and pre-career education. Career Development Centers in Marshalltown, Tama and Grinnell offered pre-vocational training programs to train developmentally disabled individuals for competitive jobs. A Career Assessment Center was opened in Marshalltown, and continuing education for professional relicensure and recertification were offered.

In 1996, Bettie Bolar was promoted to Dean of Continuing Education replacing Dejardin, who retired. At this time, IVCE operated four Alternative High Schools in partnership with high schools within and outside of its service area. In addition to EXCEL High School in Marshalltown, IVCE operated Green Belt HS in Iowa Falls, New Horizons HS in Grinnell, and Partnership HS in Tama. A change in the K-12 funding formula in later years forced the closure of all but Green Belt High School, which is operated today by the Iowa Falls-Alden School District on the ECC campus in Iowa Falls.

Creative Retirement, initiated in 1997, is programming for and by seniors, in which members have access to all IVCE programs at reduced prices, special courses designed for members, luncheons, and educational trips.

The Iowa Valley Education & Training Center at 208 E. Church Street in Marshalltown was opened in 2003 with a focus on language acquisition services, GED preparation, family literacy programs, citizenship preparation, and pre-employment skills for area residents. Services have expanded over the years to accommodate the growing number of immigrants and non-English speaking residents in Marshall County.

IVCE also operates a local access educational cable channel which provides community service to area residents; in addition, video production services are available for training videos for business, industry and other organizations.

A longtime partnership for Iowa Valley, administered by IVCE, is the one-stop Workforce Center located at 3405 S. Center Street in Marshalltown. Partners in the Center include Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Manpower, the Workforce Investment Act and Promise Jobs programs. These agencies serve unemployed and underemployed individuals, often referring them to Iowa Valley or MCC/ECC for additional training.

In 2010 Jacque Goodman was promoted to Vice Chancellor of Continuing Education, replacing Bolar, who retired.

Today, IVCE continues to educate thousands annually through adult and continuing education general interest courses, short-term career training programs, and training partnerships with local businesses and industries.