

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



*Week of January 14, 2019*

## CONDITION OF THE STATE ADDRESS

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, Governor Reynolds presented her “Condition of the State” message to legislative members, noting that “Iowa’s economy is soaring.” She also said that her state budget is not only balanced, but has a surplus.

Her address included a focus on several education proposals for the upcoming session. Her proposals include an increase of 2.3% or \$93 million for K-12 state foundation support, \$11 million in support to help rural school districts with transportation costs, \$3 million to support the training of educators on children mental health issues, and \$1 million in state support to encourage students to study STEM-related programs.

She proposed a \$20 million appropriation request to fund her administration’s *Future Ready Iowa Initiative Last Dollar Scholar* program to support new scholarships and encourage students to pursue high-demand employment in Iowa.

Other priorities highlighted included the establishment of a Center for Rural Revitalization through the Iowa Rural Empowerment Initiative created in 2018 and an investment of \$20 million to enhance Iowa’s

broadband high speed internet initiatives.

## GOVERNOR’S FY2020 STATE BUDGET RELEASED

The Governor’s Office released the FY2020 state budget immediately following the Condition of the State address. The Governor’s education budget includes an increase of \$4,661,890 or 2.3% in state support for Community College State General Aid (SGA), keeps the funding for the *Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund* at the same level as last year, increases funding for the Regent institutions by \$21,875,773, increases funding for the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC) by \$19,305,591, and increases funding for pre-K-12 support by \$93,414,167.

The Governor’s budget will be considered by the legislative members to start the budget process for the 2019 legislative session.

## LEGISLATION FILED

The following bills of importance to community colleges were filed:

**SF27** – *Establishment of tenure systems at public postsecondary educational institutions.*

**SF70** – *Prohibiting public and accredited non-public schools and postsecondary educational institutions from scheduling classes, activities, or events during*

*the presidential precinct caucuses and including additional provisions.*

**SSB1017** – *An act relating to going armed with, carrying, or transporting a firearm when transporting a person to or from a school or delivering an item to the school.*

**HF2** – *Sales tax exemptions on the sale of instructional materials at postsecondary institutions and on sales where profits are used by or donated to such institutions.*

**HF23** – *An act relating to the eligibility of certain individuals employed by educational institutions for unemployment insurance benefits between two successive academic years or terms and including additional provisions.*

**HSB2** – *Alternative project delivery contract methods for government entities.*

## CONDITION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPORT AVAILABLE

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) released two annual reports on data pertaining to Iowa’s Community Colleges and K-12 system. The reports include data for the 2017-2018 school year.

The *Annual Condition of Education* report highlights data

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for the K-12 school system and noted that there were 486,264 students who attended Iowa schools in the 2017-2018 school year.

The *Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges* report contains information on programs, services, student enrollment and demographics, student success and completion, college costs and affordability, instructional staff salaries and characteristics, and financial information. Success stories about how the colleges have impacted Iowans and the economy are also highlighted. The report can be found at:

<https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2018%20Condition%20of%20Community%20Colleges%20web.pdf>.

For more information about the activity during the 2019 legislative session please contact:  
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