

2021 Community College Board of Trustees Candidate Question List

ONLINE RETENTION

Online classes have some of the lowest completion rates of any classes offered by community colleges, but they are close to if not the largest share of all community classes taken by students in the state of Iowa even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

- What do you think the community college should do to improve the completion rates of these courses?

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Since the concurrent enrollment program was originally established by the state of Iowa, funding has been allocated to K12 districts to cover the full cost of tuition for courses at the community colleges taken by high school students. Now, according to the Iowa Department of Education, concurrent enrollment funding is the largest state aid program for high school students taking community college classes. It should also be noted, concurrent enrollment and online enrollment combined account for at least half of all credit hours taken by students at most if not all of Iowa's community colleges.

- What percentage of tuition should the community college charge K12 districts for concurrent enrollment classes?
- Many community college faculty have expressed concern about placing high school students in college courses – content may not be age appropriate, students may not be prepared, etc.
 - What requirements do you think the districts and colleges should set for placing high school students in college courses with older students?

COMPENSATION

Compared to their peers in neighboring states, Iowa community college faculty are among the lowest paid.

- What do you think the district / community college should be doing to see that high quality fulltime faculty are attracted and retained?

CHAPTER 20

Since the 2017 changes to Chapter 20, rights for public employees to collectively bargain many workplace issues now require management to agree to bring employees and their association to the table.

- How do you think the district should interact with its faculty association?
- What are your opinions about moving those elements of the contract and bargaining deemed “permissive” or “forbidden” to board policy or the employee handbook?

COVID-19

- What did our community college do to support staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 school year? What changes or modifications would you have made to the community college’s response to the pandemic?
- As we look to the future, do you support following CDC recommendations for students and staff health and safety for in-person learning environments?
- How will our district utilize the resources available to community colleges in both state and federal COVID-19 relief packages? How should the community college ensure faculty and their union are engaged in these decisions?

CAMPAIGN

- Tell us about the current status of your campaign and strategy to win your election?
- Why do you think our association should support you?