
From:

[REDACTED]

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Subject:

please add

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please add me to your email distribution list. Also, I would like to attend the September 6th meeting at Noon.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: Chris Cournoyer
<chris.cournoyer@legis.iowa.gov>; Determann, Tom [LEGIS]
<tom.determann@legis.iowa.gov>; Norlin Mommsen
<norlin.mommsen@legis.iowa.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: Line 193 Reorganization of LWDA Boards
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 11:40:17 CDT
Attachments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I want you to be aware that no authority of reorganization of the LWDB, like 193, rest with any agency within the State of Iowa. The funding is from the Federal Government through the Department of Labor. I am not sure if the State Workforce Board listed on line 192 would not fall under similar guidelines. Your committee will see communication from Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board with the verbiage and guidance in code. Even the code states the Governor must consult with the chief elected official (CEO). The CEO in Iowa are the County Supervisor from each county appointed to the LWDB.

Please be sure to fully understand the roll of the LWDB prior to making any recommendations to try to force reorganization on the five remaining, active and functioning boards. IWD tried to force all counties into four LWDB during the summer of 2019. The former Workforce Region Boards filed an appeal to the DOL and were granted a cease order to IWD. It is a very long a sorted story depending upon who you speak, bottom line, it is not a function of State Government. It is local control. IWD has oversight that the LWDB are meeting the standards for their constituents and the employers in their Workforce Areas. Then, and only then can IWD have input to corrective actions.

If you feel the need for a conversation, please do not hesitate to reach out via my cell:

563-340-4025

I let the original communication of this discussion to push my buttons last night. I am frustrated that Director Townsend would not have communicated the above information to this committee so it could be removed prior to it being communicated to everyone. I would have hoped that the committee also had communications with the organizations associated with the boards, commissions and committees before posting this communication to everyone in the State of Iowa.

Sincerely,



Get Outlook for iOS

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Boards and Commissions Review Committee, - Public Comment
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:28:49 CDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

To the Members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

My name is [REDACTED], Executive Director of the Mississippi Valley Workforce Area and I am submitting this public comment on behalf of the Local Workforce Development Board. I can be reached at director@mississippivalleyworkforce.org

Public Comment Reference: The Boards & Commissions Review Committee Subcommittee recommendation document released on August 29, 2023, specifically in regard to line 193 Cabinet – IWD Workforce Development Boards, Local § 84A.4 * Consolidate/Merge

This public comment is to ensure the Boards and Commissions Review Committee recommendations are in line with federal law. The press release stated, “for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of all boards, commissions, and other similar entities created in Iowa law”. Line 193 local workforce development boards are created and governed by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), federal legislation passed in 2014, not the state of Iowa.

The State Workforce Development Board held a virtual meeting on May 15, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and unanimously approved the voluntary consolidation of local areas as follows

- * Regions 1, 2, 7 = Northeast Iowa
- * Regions 8, 12, 13 = Western Iowa
- * Regions 6, 15 = South Central Iowa
- * Regions 9, 16 = Mississippi Valley Iowa

In accordance with Iowa Code 84A.4 which aligns with the Federal Code of Regulations a workforce area can only be reorganized by the Governor if any of the following occur:

- * Failure of a local board to achieve certification.
- * Failure to meet the local performance accountability measures for the local workforce development area in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §3141(c) for two consecutive program years.
- * Failure to sustain fiscal integrity.

Code of Federal Regulations References

§ 679.220 What is the purpose of the local area?

The purpose of a local area is to serve as a jurisdiction for the administration of workforce development activities and execution of adult, dislocated worker, and youth funds allocated by the State. Such areas may be aligned with a region identified in WIOA sec. 106(a)(1) or may be components of a planning region, each with its own Local WDB. Also, significantly, local areas are the areas within which Local WDBs oversee their functions, including strategic planning, operational alignment and service delivery design, and a jurisdiction where partners align resources at a sub-State level to design and implement overall service delivery strategies.

(b) The Governor must designate local areas (local areas) in order for the State to receive adult, dislocated worker, and youth funding under title I, subtitle B of WIOA.

20 CFR § 679.310 What are the local workforce development boards?

The Local WDB is appointed by the chief elected official(s) in each local area in accordance with State criteria established under WIOA sec. 107(b), and is certified by the Governor every 2 years, in accordance with WIOA sec. 107(c)(2).

§ 679.260 What do the terms “performed successfully” and “sustained fiscal integrity” mean for purposes of designating local areas?

2) For subsequent designation determinations made at the conclusion of PY 2018, or at any point thereafter, a finding of whether a local area performed successfully must be based on all six of the WIOA indicators of performance as described at § 677.155(a)(1)(i) through (vi) of this chapter for the 2 most recently completed program years.

(c) For the purpose of determining initial and subsequent local area designation under § 679.250(a) and (b), the term “sustained fiscal integrity” means that the Secretary has not made a formal determination that either the grant recipient or the administrative entity of the area misexpended funds due to willful disregard of the requirements of the provision involved, gross negligence, or failure to comply with accepted standards of administration for the 2-year period preceding the determination.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 16:28:49 CDT 2023



image
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 Item

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments - Boards & Commissions Review Committee - East Central Iowa
Workforce Board
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 09:23:14 CDT
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning – as the Executive Director of the East Central Iowa (Local) Workforce Development Board, I have the following comments on behalf of the local workforce area I represent:

1) In the “BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AUGUST 29, 2023”

Document, page 9, line 193. We are requesting:

- A. clarification on what the recommendation “consolidate/merge” means and
- B. some explanation about the thought process behind it.

2) Additionally, general personal comments I will make, speaking from my past and current experiences working with and for executive level decision making teams/groups in and outside of government:

A. Page 1 –Recommendation 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 are GREAT! More flexibility, incentives for more/better public involvement and clarity.... all improvements that need to be made to react to the very fast way our environments change and we as public citizens need to be more agile to react to.

B. Page 1 – Recommendation 5 – not great. We do not need to take away requirements for gender balance as this helps ensure our boards are representative of those we serve. We DO need to change the way we see/treat women and make it priority to develop them as leaders in

our local governments by providing a means for child care, more flexible policies around joining meetings from home, etc. Workplaces are having to shift their policies and culture in order to attract and retain women in the workforce, or local boards and commissions should be no different, in fact, they should do better to lead the way in this regard. THIS will help shift culture into the direction we need to go to create more equitable policies, decisions, impacts in our communities.

3) QUESTION: Will this meeting be accessible via zoom/teams or other virtual platform because I would very much like to attend!

Very respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ECIWDB is STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS in EAST CENTRAL IOWA and is a proud partner of the American Job Centers, IowaWORKS

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 09:23:14 CDT 2023



EAST CENTRAL IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ECIWDB

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments Boards and Commissions Review Committee preliminary results
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 17:36:01 CDT
Attachments: image.png

Good evening,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express a significant concern regarding the Boards and Commissions Review Committees recent recommendation to consolidate/merge the Local Workforce Development Boards. As the Executive Director for the Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Board I have huge concerns over this recommendation. I believe it is crucial to address the lack of understanding by the review committee of the WIOA federal regulations for which we abide by along with the strengths that the current Local Workforce Development Board's provide in each of their communities for which they are located.

Below is the Press Release received yesterday afternoon. If you click on the document link in the below email and look at line 193 you will find the recommendations I am referencing. I have provided a snippet of what is listed as well:

While I understand that the intention behind this recommendation may stem from a desire to streamline resources and enhance program effectiveness, we must carefully consider the potential consequences of merging local areas and the federal regulations that are in place around the Local Workforce Development Boards.

The Local Workforce Development Boards that are currently in place around the State provide support for individuals seeking employment, training, and education opportunities. They play a crucial role in enhancing the economic competitiveness of their communities by aligning workforce development efforts with local business needs and job seekers' skills. Each local board is tailored to the unique strengths and needs of their communities. The Local Workforce Development Board's in the State of Iowa are well-positioned to address the workforce needs of their communities due to their local focus, industry alignment, collaboration, customization, data-driven practices, and adaptability. These strengths enable each LWDB to foster economic growth, support individuals in their career journeys, and contribute to the overall vitality of the local economy.

The concerns that we have is that the Governor can only force consolidation or merger if

certain conditions are met. I have copied the text from the Iowa code below that does reflect what the federal code says as well.

Iowa Code 84A.4 (page 12)

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/84A.pdf>

3. Certification procedures.

b. Failure to achieve certification. Failure of a local workforce development board to achieve certification shall result in appointment and certification of a new local workforce development board for the local workforce development area pursuant to the process described in subsection 2 and this subsection.

c. Decertification.

(1) Notwithstanding paragraph “a”, the department of workforce development may decertify a local workforce development board for any of the following reasons at any time after providing notice and an opportunity for comment:

(a) Fraud or abuse.

(b) Failure to carry out the functions specified for the local workforce development board in subsection 4.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph “a”, the department of workforce development may decertify a local workforce development board if the local workforce development area fails to meet the local performance accountability measures for the local workforce development area in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §3141(c) for two consecutive program years.

(3) If the department of workforce development decertifies a local workforce development board for a local workforce development area, the department of workforce development may require that a new local workforce development board be appointed and certified for the local workforce development area pursuant to a reorganization plan developed by the governor, in consultation with the chief elected official in the local workforce development area and in accordance with the criteria established under this section and Tit. I of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128.

Some additional feedback I would like addressed:

1. How did you determine this recommendation? Please show your supporting documentation that was included.
2. Does this consolidate/merge include all local areas or just some? If so, which ones?
3. Who did you interview or ask for clarification on the LWDB's role? As an Executive Director of a local area I was never asked to provide feedback nor was my Chair or CLEO.
4. How do you make a recommendation without involving key stakeholders and partners within the local area?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am more than willing to provide further insights or participate in discussions on this matter. Together, we can ensure that any changes made to our workforce development infrastructure maintain the high standards of support that our

constituents deserve. I am asking you all to voice your opinions, comments, and concerns regarding this recent recommendation. Members of the public and interested stakeholders can submit comments on the Committee's preliminary recommendations by sending an email to BCRCcomments@iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 17:36:01 CDT 2023

188	Cabinet – IFA	Homelessness, Iowa Council on	§ 16.2D	Eliminate
190	Cabinet – IFA	Title Guaranty Board, Iowa	§ 16.2A *	Continue (as is)
191	Cabinet – IWD	Iowa Apprenticeship Council	§ 84D.5 *	Continue (as is)
192	Cabinet – IWD	Workforce Development Board, Iowa	§ 84A.1A-.1B *	Reorganize/Other Changes
193	Cabinet – IWD	Workforce Development Boards, Local	§ 84A.4 *	Consolidate/Merge

image.png for Printed Item: 7 (Attachment 1 of 1)

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Boards and Commissions Review Committee
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 17:51:45 CDT
Attachments: image001.jpg
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Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

As part of the Mississippi Valley Workforce Development board, I was given access to the preliminary recommendations of the committee.

I want to express my full support for the work of this committee. It is critical that our state deliver the necessary resources to lowans in the most efficient way possible. As a member of the local workforce board representing business, I can express my first-hand experience with duplicative services. There are multiple opportunities to do things in a better way across many agencies especially as things change so dynamically in the world today. It is common for business to evaluate our resourcing regularly to meet and exceed customer expectations, it is very refreshing to see the state now do the same.

Likely this will make some uncomfortable. You will likely get lots of negative comments, mostly from those with their self-interest primarily at hand. I hope however, that as lowan's we all can see the bigger picture about doing the best we can in the most efficient way we can. Iowa is about opportunity; let's make the opportunities easier to get going!

Again, I want to put forth my full support for this work and its outcomes. I am happy to provide further comment if needed.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

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Page 22 of 93

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Owner:

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Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 17:51:45 CDT 2023



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Item Attachment 2

MANAGED

COMPANIES

Page 24 of 93

Recognizing private company success

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments to Boards and Commissions Preliminary Recommendations Cont.d
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 18:10:52 CDT
Attachments:

Good evening,
I wanted to share some additional concerns that I have about a possible merging/consolidation of local workforce development boards.

Different Priorities and Needs: The needs across each local area varies from one area to another due to differences in local industries, economic conditions, and demographic factors. If merging with another local area that might dilute the focus on addressing those specific needs.

Local Expertise: In our local area we have a deep understanding and connections within our communities. Adding more counties might lead to a loss of this local expertise, making it harder to effectively serve those in our local area. I feel we did that when we realigned old regions 1, 2 and 7 already (currently we have 20 counties in our area).

Resource Allocation: We rely on funding to carry out our programs. If we merge I am concerned about how resources would be distributed and whether the merged entity would adequately fund the needs of both areas involved. Community colleges often collaborate with local workforce development boards to provide training programs that align with the needs of local industries. A merger could result in a shift in resource allocation, potentially reducing the funding available for these programs. This could lead to a decrease in the quality and quantity of training opportunities offered by the community colleges.

Stakeholder Relationships: As a local board we build relationships with employers, community organizations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders. Merging would disrupt these relationships, potentially affecting the effectiveness of the programs that we already have in place. This would be the same concern I would have working in a community college. Those current relationships and partnerships that you have developed already might be disrupted, which would lead to challenges in engaging and collaborating with these stakeholders effectively.

Program Alignment: Community colleges work closely with the LWDBs to design programs that address the specific skills gaps in the local job market. A merger might lead to a loss of focus on the unique needs of each area, resulting in less tailored programs that don't align well with local industries.

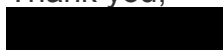
Reduced Local Input: Our partners rely on LWDBs to provide insight into local industry trends

and skills needs. A merger might lead to a more centralized decision-making structure, diminishing the influence of local stakeholders in shaping education and training programs.

Lack of Specialization: If each area has unique industries or specialized training needs, a merged workforce development board might struggle to provide the same level of specialization and expertise that separate local boards could offer. This could result in less effective training programs for specific fields.

1. Cultural Mismatch: LWDBs might have different organizational cultures and priorities within our local area. A merger could lead to clashes in these aspects, potentially affecting how effectively they can work together to serve students and job seekers.

Thank you,



From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Workforce Development Board Realignment
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 07:38:19 CDT
Attachments:

Hello

I am writing as an active member of the NEIWDB as well as a community college representative. I have many concerns related to the proposed consolidation recommendation of the NEIWBD.

The needs of each local area vary by region due to different industries, economic factors, and demographics. If boards are merged across broad regions we would lose the ability to provide focus efforts to help address the needs of each region. Currently our local board has autonomy and a merger could lead to a loss of that autonomy that ultimately impacts the progress of workforce needs specific to our region. The allocation of resources across a larger region would also have an impact as it would be concerning as to how the funds will be equitably dispersed. As a community college, we rely on our boards to help us provide up to date information on local workforce needs in order to help provide the appropriate in demand training and programs to support and align programming directly impacting the region.

I can fully understand the intention behind the recommendation to streamline resources, I would advocate that the decision is mindful of the varying needs across regions and the impact to our communities, businesses, and educational institutions by expanding the regions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

--

RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please note that while you may have received this email outside of working hours, it was sent

at a time that worked best for me. Please do not feel the need to reply during your personal time.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: Public hearing
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:15:08 CDT
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

I would like to speak on behalf of Community Colleges for Iowa.

All my best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:15:08 CDT 2023

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

for IOWA

Page 32 of 93

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Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:15:08 CDT 2023



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[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:15:08 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:15:08 CDT 2023

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Item

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From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRComments@iowa.gov
<bcrcomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Iowa Public Broadcasting Board
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 14:09:42 CDT
Attachments:

Nancy [REDACTED], representing self

Comment:

Iowa PBS is a news and information organization that has special requirements to keep its editorial content separate from the State Government. The Iowa Public Broadcasting Board helps with that separation. We can't have political interference, or that television service will become a potential propaganda network.

I believe that the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board should remain independent as it currently is.

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Subject:

Midwestern Higher Education Compact

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my hope that the State of Iowa does not end its participation in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, as was recently reported based on recommendations by the committee reviewing the efficacy of the State's boards and commissions. I have been an alternate commissioner of MHEC for a number of years and know well the monetary benefit to the State through its membership in the Compact. According to MHEC, in 2022, the State saved over \$4 million in goods and services purchased through the Compact's contracts. While I believe the estimated savings are accurate, they could be inflated by 400 percent and the State's return on investment of its \$115,000 annual dues would still be nearly 10-to-1.

Please accept this note as a recommendation that the State remain a member of this 12-state compact.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 09:55:58 CDT 2023

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Attachment 1 of 1)

**1st FIRST
NATIONAL**

BANK

Page 43 of 93

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:49:34 CDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

I am submitting comments in support of retaining a separate Iowa College Student Aid Commission for two distinct reasons:

1. The Commission serves as a bank in administering in excess of \$90 Million Dollars of scholarships and grants to Iowa students each year. In doing so, it acts in a fiduciary capacity to see that the funds are properly disbursed in accordance with the Iowa Code. It is assessing applicant qualifications. When the State introduced Future Ready Iowa, the agency tapped to oversee the disbursement of those funds was Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The Department of Education does not have the same experience. The independent check and balance provided by the Commission ensures resources are appropriately delivered to support Iowa students.

2. The Commission oversees the licensure of Iowa post-secondary institutions in accordance with the Iowa Code. The Commission pursues entities that have failed to file and ensures students are protected in both the transfer of credits from unlicensed institutions. Additionally, the Commission ensures that scholarships and grants remain available to Iowa students when the institution they attend undergoes licensure changes. These, again, are functions align with consumer protection for Iowa students.

In order to fulfill these obligations, it is critical the Commission remains separate and distinct from the Department of Education.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with additional questions or concerns.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 10:49:34 CDT 2023

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Banquets Trust

Member FDIC

of 1)
Page 47 of 93

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: State Board of Education & Comm. College Council
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:23:27 CDT
Attachments:

Dear Committee Members:

First of all thank you for your service on this important task, it is very much appreciated.

The Boards and Commissions Review Committee has recommended that the State Board of Education "Reorganize/Other Changes" and that the Community College Council "Consolidate/Merge".

While I'm not necessarily in favor of, or opposed to, the proposed recommendations, it would be helpful to know what the recommended changes actually entail. Please advise me, and others, of such details.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: Mcnertney, Michelle
<michelle.mcnertney@iwd.iowa.gov>
Subject: Iowa Workforce Development Board

I look forward to helping assist with the reformation of the State Workforce Development Board. I am chairman of the group and have hundreds of ideas on how to change it up and I'm happy to shoulder the responsibility for doing so. Some basic thoughts:

1. We struggle to bring enough constituents together for a quorum. We tried three times this past summer trying to decide on items with a July 1 deadline. We have a difficult time with a hybrid meeting design - we only meet four times per year but it's a very mixed bag of individuals who participate in person and those that are virtual - rarely paying attention.
2. As I have met other state board chairs, most have a significant decision-making body that is competency based - i.e. professionals in each area of expertise. Our board should look more like an ABI board with strong business leaders from many facets of business.
3. We have far too many ex-officio members. We struggle a bit with this because many of them are very good participants in our meeting progress but are not able to vote.
4. Most of this should be up to the governor and IWD director, but a new composition could really help facilitate necessary changes and run the board as a robust top leadership team with a strong strategic plan.

I can add much more to this when it's appropriate, but I'm very excited for this and many other changes that are on the list. Many greatly affect our construction industry and housing affordability - but that's a different conversation.

In the association world, we've been doing this for many years. After the book Race for Relevance came out, I personally teamed up with the author Harrison Coerver and key leaders in the American Nurses Association, developed our plan in Austin, TX, and then proceed to take that board of directors from 2,300 members to nine. I helped do the same thing with the National Association of Home Builders - not quite as dramatic, but from 3,500 to 300ish.

Call me anytime Governor Reynolds, Director Paulsen or any committee members.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Legal * Legislative * Regulatory

As regulations grow...freedoms die.

NAHB Member Advantage Discount Program

LOWE'S, GM, Office Depot, Dell, American Express, Avis, Budget discounts and more!

Get all of the details online by [clicking here](#).

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Response from Midwestern Higher Education Compact to Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:44:15 CDT
Attachments: 2021221A_techuser.pdf
2021221Ahighlights.pdf
202307_IA_current_program_participation.pdf
20230905-MHEC-Ltr-Heegaard-IA-Boards&Commissions-Review-Cmte.pdf
image001.png

My name is [REDACTED], and I am the chief operating officer and general counsel of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). I am writing in response to the Boards and Commissions Review Committee's recommendation to eliminate MHEC and would welcome the opportunity to testify about Iowa's participation in MHEC at the committee's September 6, 2023, hearing if permitted to do so remotely. If remote testimony is permitted, please provide me with the appropriate link and time.

MHEC is an interstate compact consisting of 12 Midwestern states established for the purpose of furthering education across the region through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Iowa became a member of MHEC in 2005 when it passed Iowa statute 261D.2. Since joining MHEC, Iowa entities have saved a total of \$20.53 million through participation in MHEC contracts and programs.

Please see MHEC president Susan Heegaard's letter below and attached, along with the other three attachments, for further details regarding Iowa's membership in MHEC.

Thank you for your review of this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

September 5, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the president of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and I'm writing in response to the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee report which lists our organization for elimination. MHEC is an interstate compact consisting of 12 Midwestern states, including Iowa, established for the purpose of furthering higher education across the region through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Iowa became a member of the Compact when it passed Iowa statute 261D.2 in 2005: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/261d.pdf>. MHEC shares Iowa's commitment to cost savings and efficiency, having those important tenets as part of our founding principles and mission. Since joining MHEC, Iowa entities have saved a total of \$20.53 million through participation in MHEC contracts and programs.

Membership in the Compact gives Iowa access to all of MHEC's cost saving contracts, programs, policy, research, and convenings. This past year Iowa higher education institutions, K-12 districts and schools, state and local governments utilized MHEC technology contracts to save more than \$656,000 on their purchase of technology hardware, software, and services. (See attached Iowa Tech Contract Usage document for a listing of the Iowa entities that utilized a MHEC technology contract this past year). Additionally, almost every public and not-for-profit higher education institution in Iowa participates in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) to reduce their costs and increase efficiency in the delivery of distance education. Through participation in M-SARA, these institutions jointly saved an estimated \$3.47 million. (See attached Iowa Program Participation document for a listing of all the Iowa higher education institutions that participate in M-SARA).

Collectively, Iowa entities saved \$4.13 million in 2022 through participation in MHEC's contracts and programs, thereby receiving a 36-fold return on its \$115,000 annual Compact membership commitment. (Please see the attached Iowa Highlights document). We are constantly exploring different ways to bring additional value, return on investment, and efficiency to Iowa. Some examples of additional MHEC programs include a student health insurance program, a property insurance program (sunsetted), a program to increase the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER), and research on improving postsecondary opportunities and outcomes, including reporting on key performance indicators for evaluating Iowa's educational system available online through MHEC's Interactive

Dashboard.

MHEC has a governing body of 60 appointed commissioners, five from each member state of the Compact. Pursuant to Iowa statute 261D.3, Iowa's appointments to MHEC's governing body is a shared responsibility with the governor having one appointment, the legislature having two appointments, and the Board of Regents and the Association of Community College Trustees each getting one appointment. Additionally, Iowa statute 261D.3 provides for commissioner alternates with the governor getting one alternate appointment, the legislature two alternate appointments, and the Iowa Association of Independent colleges and Universities, and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission each getting one alternate appointment.

As outlined above, we believe Iowa derives benefit through its membership in the Compact. As one of the 12 Midwestern states of the U.S. Census Region, MHEC values the perspective Iowa brings to the Compact. I would therefore respectfully ask the Boards and Commissions Review Committee to reverse its decision to eliminate the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

Please contact me (susanh@mhec.org) or Rob Trembath (robt@mhec.org), chief operating officer and general counsel, if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Attachments:

Iowa Highlights, Iowa Tech Contract Usage, and Iowa Program Participation

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

202122IA_techuser.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 15:44:15 CDT 2023

Iowa

Technology Contract Usage 2021-2022



MHEC **CONTRACTS** leverage the potential volume of the region's purchasing power while saving institutions time and money by simplifying the procurement process. The contracts provide competitive solutions established in accordance with public procurement laws thereby negating the institution's need to conduct a competitive sourcing event. By offering a ready-to-use solution with the ability to tailor the already negotiated contract to match the institution's specific needs and requirements, MHEC contracts shift some of the negotiating power

back to the institutions. Additionally, because of MHEC's statutory status, many of these contracts can also be adopted for use by K-12 districts and schools, as well as cities, states, and local governments. An added benefit for smaller institutions is that these contracts allow these institutions to negotiate from the same pricing and terms normally reserved for larger institutions. MHEC relies on institutional experts to participate in the negotiations, sharing strategies and tactics on dealing with specific contractual issues and vendors.

HIGHER EDUCATION

	Kirkwood Community College	Belle Plaine Community School District	Colfax-Mingo Community Schools
Buena Vista University	Loras College	Bettendorf Community School District	College Community School
Central College	Luther College	Bondurant-Farrar Consolidated School District	Danville Community School District
Cornell College - Business Office	Maharishi University of Management	Boone Community School District	Denison Community School District 1701
Des Moines Area Community College	Morningside University	Carlisle Community School District	East Marshall Community School District
Divine Word College	Mount Mercy University	Cedar Falls Community School District	Eastern Allamakee School District
Dordt University	North Iowa Area Community College	Cedar Rapids Community School District	Fort Dodge Community Schools
Drake University	Northeast Iowa Community College	Center Point-Urbana Public Schools	Fort Madison Community School District
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	Palmer College of Chiropractic	Centerville Community School District	Fremont Community School District
Graceland University	Southeastern Community College	Central Decatur Community	Fremont-Mills Community School District
Grinnell College	University of Iowa	Charles City Community School District	Gilmore City-Bradgate Community School
Hawkeye Community College	University of Northern Iowa	Clarke Community School District	Grundy Center Community School
Indian Hills Community College	Upper Iowa University	Clarksville Community School District	Guthrie Center High School
Iowa Central Community College	K-12		Highland Community School District
Iowa Lakes Community College	ADM Community School District		
Iowa State University	Anamosa Community School District		
Iowa Valley Community College			
Iowa Wesleyan College			

Note: The entities on this list are as provided by MHEC's contracted vendors. Please email us at mhec@mhec.org should you find any errors in naming convention.

Holy Family Catholic Schools	Saint Luke the Evangelist School	GOVERNMENT/OTHER	City of Marion
Hudson Community School District	Saint Paul Lutheran School	Ames Public Library	City of Muscatine
Indianola Community School District	Saint Pius X School	Appanoose County - Secondary Roads	City of Newton
Iowa Mennonite School	Schleswig Community Schools	Audubon County Memorial Hospital	City of North Liberty
Iowa School For the Deaf	Shenandoah Community School District	Black Hawk County - Health Department	City of Waterloo
John F. Kennedy Catholic School	Sigourney Community School District	Black Hawk County - 911 Service	City of Waterloo - Police Department
Johnston Community School District	Siouxland Christian Schools	Carroll County	City of West Des Moines
Keokuk Community School District	Spirit Lake Community Schools	Cass County	City of West Liberty
Lamoni Community Schools	Springville School District	Children's Imagination Station	City of Windsor Heights - Police Department
Laurens-Marathon Community School	Storm Lake Community School District	City of Altoona	Clinton Township - Police Department
Louisa-Muscatine Community School District	Storm Lake St. Mary's School	City of Ames	Crawford County
Lourdes Catholic School	Summit Schools	City of Ankeny	Dallas County - Data Processing
Marion Independent School District	Tri-County Community School	City of Bettendorf	Decorah Public Library
Mediapolis Community School District	Tripoli Community Schools	City of Burlington	Des Moines County - Information Technology Department
Muscatine Community School District	Twin Valley Schools	City of Burlington - Police Department	Dubuque County
North Cedar Community School	Union Community School District	City of Carroll	Evansdale Police Department
North Polk Community School	Urbandale Community School District	City of Cedar Rapids	Grantwood Area Education Agency
North Scott Community School District	Waco Consolidated School District	City of Clinton	Great Prairie Area Education Agency
North-Linn Community School District	Wapello County School District	City of Clinton - Fire Department	Grimes Public Library
Northwood-Kensett Community Schools	Waterloo Community School District	City of Clive	Grundy County
Ogden Community School District	Waukee Community School District	City of Coralville	Hamilton County
Pekin Community School District	Waverly Shell Rock Community Schools	City of Council Bluffs	Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Perry Community School District	Wayne Community School District	City of Decorah	Johnson County - Emergency Management
Pleasant Valley Community School District	West Delaware County Community School District	City of Dewitt	Johnston Public Library
Roland-Story Community School District	West Monona Community School District	City of Dubuque - Finance	Keokuk Police Department
	Western Christian High School	City of Durant	Keystone Area Education Agency 1
		City of Grimes	Laurens Public Library
		City of Hawarden	Lee County - County Health Department
		City of Humeston - Public Library	Marion County
		City of Indianola	Marshall County - Information Systems
		City of Johnston	
		City of Le Mars - Wastewater Department	

Note: The entities on this list are as provided by MHEC's contracted vendors. Please email us at mhec@mhec.org should you find any errors in naming convention.

Mississippi Bend Area
Education Agency

Muscatine County -
Information Services

Osage Public Library

Oskaloosa Public Library

Pecos County Memorial
Hospital

Plymouth County - Courthouse

Pottawattamie County

Poweshiek County - County
Assessor

Prairie Lakes Area Education
Agency

Sac County - County Assessor

Upper Des Moines Opportunity

Victor Public Library

Warren County - Information
Technology

Waukon Police Department

Winneshiek County

*Note: The entities on this list are as provided by MHEC's contracted vendors.
Please email us at mhec@mhec.org should you find any errors in naming convention.*

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

202122IAhighlights.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 15:44:15 CDT 2023



Iowa Highlights 2021-2022

Iowa's Engagement

- 18-Year Partnership.** Iowa enacted authorizing legislation in 2005 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
- About MHEC.** MHEC brings together higher education leaders and policymakers from Iowa and 11 other Midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-saving opportunities. Through these efforts, it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.
- Iowa Leadership.** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide direction for MHEC programs and services.

How the Compact Benefits Iowa

- \$4.13M in Savings.** In 2022 Iowa colleges, universities, school districts, and state and local governments realized more than \$4.13M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs.
- Return on Iowa's Investment.** The State of Iowa received a 36-fold return on its annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000.
 - » **Technology Contracts.** Iowa institutions saved more than \$656,000 by purchasing \$7.29M in technology hardware, software, and services through MHEC-negotiated contracts.
 - » **Distance Education.** By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Iowa saved approximately \$3.47M. Without M-SARA, institutions must undertake a costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
- Insurance.** MHEC's Master Property Program (MPP) has insured dozens of campuses nationwide, including the University of Northern Iowa, with competitive property insurance options. While the MPP is winding down, new options are currently under development.
- Credential Transparency.** Iowa joined MHEC's initiative to map its state's credential data with a national registry that makes information on credentials leading to careers that are more transparent, accessible, and consistent. MHEC has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iowa Community College System and the Board of Regents, which will begin publishing credentials soon.
- Open Educational Resources.** Iowa is working on developing statewide training modules for OER, adapting existing materials, updating their platform and organization, and developing an updated 6-month timeline and set of new goals for OER across the state.

Commissioners



Jacob Bossman
State Representative
Iowa Legislature
(Alternate)



Joanna Hofer
Past Board Chair
Iowa Association of
Community College
Trustees



Olivia Madison
Professor Emerita and
Dean Emerita of
Library Services
Iowa State University



Greta Rouse
Regent
Board of Regents
State of Iowa



Cindy Winckler
State Senator; Ranking
Member, Education
Appropriations Subcmt.,
IA Legislature (Alternate)



Andrew Baumert
VP Marketing & Outreach
Iowa Association of
Independent Colleges
and Univs. (Alternate)



Timothy Fitzgibbon
Senior Vice President
First National Bank
(Alternate)



Sharon Steckman
State Representative;
Ranking Member,
Education Committee
Iowa Legislature



Jeff Taylor
State Senator;
Chair, Education
Appropriations
Subcmt., IA Legislature



Vacancy
Iowa College Aid
(Alternate)

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Priorities

INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & EFFECTIVENESS

The Compact serves as an incubator, providing a platform to discuss opportunities and pilot potential solutions.

- 1. Innovative Best Practices.** MHEC shares effective solutions to challenges identified by policymakers and higher education leaders. Discussion topics have included rebounding from the pandemic, federal relief, and campus mental health.
- 2. Open Educational Resources.** MHEC coordinates efforts to expand access to openly licensed textbooks and learning materials accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students.
- 3. Credential Transparency.** MHEC is bringing states together to create an online, standardized clearinghouse of credentials linked to career pathways to better serve students, educators, and employers.
- 4. Timely Research & Policy.** Member states direct and receive high-priority access to research on pressing topics such as college readiness, affordability and finance, and student success.
- 5. Interactive Dashboard.** MHEC's online tool provides state-by-state data on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL PROBLEMS

MHEC takes on projects and issues that are too cumbersome or expensive for one state to do alone, working jointly to make the Midwest region stronger and more competitive.

- 1. Convenings.** MHEC convenes diverse leaders to discuss and identify critical issues in higher education. MHEC also brings together campus experts including CIOs, risk managers, and campus health leaders to address shared challenges and opportunities.
- 2. State Visits.** MHEC leaders visit each state annually during its legislative session to learn more about and address key issues affecting the state's economy and higher education.
- 3. Military Credit.** MHEC serves as a regional resource to campuses who serve veterans in their efforts to translate competencies acquired through military service into meaningful credit toward a college degree, certificate, or license.
- 4. Dual and Concurrent Enrollment.** MHEC helps Midwestern states navigate requirements by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for qualifying high school teachers to teach concurrent enrollment courses. This work is accomplished through consistent communication with HLC and a regional online tool, Graduate Credit Quest, to help teachers find and take the graduate courses they need to qualify to teach concurrent enrollment courses.
- 5. Tuition Reciprocity.** MHEC provides a Midwest tuition reciprocity program whereby public institutions agree to charge students in participating states no more than 150 percent of their in-state resident tuition and private institutions offer a 10 percent reduction in their tuition rates. This program saves families money and keeps students in the Midwest.
- 6. Distance Education.** MHEC manages a regional approach to authorizing Midwestern states and institutions to regulate, approve, and oversee the delivery of interstate online education. This approach, part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), provides a streamlined process that results in cost savings for postsecondary institutions and improved access to online education for students.

DRIVING COST SAVINGS & BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

MHEC programs and contracts result in tremendous cost savings for institutions, states, and students. The Compact solves key business problems and protects investment in higher education by collaborating and reducing risk.

- 1. Competitive Sourcing.** MHEC leads extensive competitive bidding and RFP processes that save members time and money while making it easier to purchase insurance, technology, and other goods and services. Institutions can tailor these negotiated contracts to their needs.
- 2. Technology Contracts.** MHEC leverages the combined hardware, software, and services volume of campuses and local governments in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors. In FY22, member states saved an estimated \$33.73M through technology purchasing contracts.
- 3. Student Health Solutions.** MHEC offers institutions options for fully insured, school-sponsored health plans. MHEC's responsive approach resulted in the recent addition of virtual mental health services for students.
- 4. Property Insurance.** For many years MHEC has offered comprehensive property coverage tailored to the needs of specific college campuses. While the Master Property Program is winding down, new options are currently in development.
- 5. Cyber Insurance.** MHEC offers institutions cyber security insurance and assesses vulnerabilities in security controls, threats, and financial exposure.

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

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Iowa

Program Participation as of 7/1/2023



MHEC **PROGRAMS** are initiated in response to identified needs in one or more of the member states. Bringing together expertise from across the region, MHEC explores activities needed to address the identified needs. Solutions best solved through ongoing interstate cooperation are then developed into MHEC programs. Each MHEC program provides the program participants with governance and leadership structures to guide and maintain programmatic outcomes, often there is a cost savings component.

**MIDWESTERN-STATE
AUTHORIZATION
RECIPROCIITY
AGREEMENT (M-SARA)**

Hawkeye Community College	Shiloh University
Indian Hills Community College	Simpson College
Iowa Central Community College	Southeastern Community College
Allen College	Southwestern Community College
Iowa Lakes Community College	St. Luke's College
Iowa State University	The Art of Education University
Iowa Valley Community College District	University of Dubuque
Iowa Western Community College	University of Iowa
Kirkwood Community College	University of Northern Iowa
Loras College	Upper Iowa University
Maharishi International University	Waldorf University
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Wartburg College
Morningside University	Wartburg Theological Seminary
Mount Mercy University	Western Iowa Tech Community College
North Iowa Area Community College	William Penn University
Northeast Iowa Community College	<i>*Approved SARA Institutions in Iowa per https://www.nc-sara.org/directory.</i>
Northwest Iowa Community College	
Northwestern College	
Orion Technical College	
Palmer College of Chiropractic	
Saint Ambrose University	

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

20230905-MHEC-Ltr-Heegaard-IA-Boards&Commissions-Review-Cmte.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 15:44:15 CDT 2023



September 5, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the president of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and I'm writing in response to the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee report which lists our organization for elimination. MHEC is an interstate compact consisting of 12 Midwestern states, including Iowa, established for the purpose of furthering higher education across the region through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Iowa became a member of the Compact when it passed Iowa statute 261D.2 in 2005: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/261d.pdf>. MHEC shares Iowa's commitment to cost savings and efficiency, having those important tenets as part of our founding principles and mission. Since joining MHEC, Iowa entities have saved a total of \$20.53 million through participation in MHEC contracts and programs.

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As outlined above, we believe Iowa derives benefit through its membership in the Compact. As one of the 12 Midwestern states of the U.S. Census Region, MHEC values the perspective Iowa brings to the Compact. I would therefore respectfully ask the Boards and Commissions Review Committee to reverse its decision to eliminate the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

Please contact me [REDACTED], chief operating officer and general counsel, if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attachments:

Iowa Highlights, Iowa Tech Contract Usage, and Iowa Program Participation

Owner:

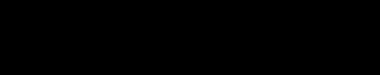
[REDACTED]

Filename:

image001.png

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 15:44:15 CDT 2023



Page 68 of 93

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Iowa Autism Council
[REDACTED]

Hello,

I see the Iowa Autism Council is listed as Autism Council is listed as "Reorganize/Other Changes" in the plans for boards/commissions. It is important that any reorganization specifically includes autism, and it doesn't get lost in the shuffle. The Iowa Autism Council's annual report recognizes that autism prevalence continues to increase, the needs of autistic individuals and their families are unique, and many individuals living with ASD need services and support now and throughout their lifespan. I have attached a one page summary of the Council's priorities and the full report can be found at <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/iowa-autism-council-2023-priorities>.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: 2023 IAC Priorites - Summary Page.pdf

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 09:32:16 CDT 2023

Iowa Autism Council

2023 Legislative Priorities



The Iowa Autism Council proposes the following **priorities** for 2023:

1. Continued funding of the ASP and consideration of modifications to address unintended consequences of insurance reform by providing for flexibility in program benefit limits.
2. Continuation of the work to assure statewide access to ABA through telehealth, including championing for the addition of ABA billing codes to the approved list provided by CMS.

The Council also makes the following **recommendations** to continue to support progress in Iowa:

3. Continued funding for the Regional Autism Assistance Program to support families and strengthen early identification of ASD.
4. Support of the Legislative Priorities established by the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council for 2023:
 - a. Fully fund healthcare services and community-based supports to address the workforce crisis in both rural and urban areas.
 - b. Support an inclusive and accessible community for all Iowans.
 - c. Reduce and eliminate ALL Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiting lists.
5. Continued support for implementation of *Iowa's Autism Strategic Plan – 2022 - 2027: To Improve Services and Supports for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their Families*. The plan identifies the following focus areas:
 - a. Get a good start
 - b. Have access to and obtain needed services
 - c. Have well informed, empowered, and supported families and caregivers
 - d. Successfully transition to adult life
 - e. Be assured of ongoing coordination of systems of care and support
6. Explore the gaps in adult services for individuals with autism and consider innovative ways to expand services for adults.

For additional information regarding these identified priorities, please refer to the [full report](#) found on the [Iowa Department of Education website](#).

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 09:32:16 CDT 2023

image001.png for Printed Item: 32 (

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Attachment 2 of 2

Stead Family

Children's Hospital
Page 74 of 93



From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Illadvised merger/reorganization of Iowa's Local Workforce Development Boards
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 11:55:22 CDT
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Boards and Commissions Review Committee's recent recommendation to consolidate/merge the Local Workforce Development Boards. As a Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Board member, I believe it is crucial to address the Review Committee's apparent lack of understanding of federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations, specifically, the law requiring the existence of Local Workforce Development Boards(LWDB). Beyond the compliance issue of this merger is the damage caused by ignoring the spirit of WIOA, which is to strengthen area workforces with local oversight, representation, and collaboration.

In this case, less is not more; streamlining Iowa's workforce development boards will not lead to a more robust state workforce; instead, it will be damaged.

Iowa's Local Workforce Development Boards support individuals seeking employment, training, and education opportunities. These local bodies enhance community economic growth and align workforce development with local business needs and job seekers' skills.

Our local workforce development board members live and prosper in our communities. We make decisions based on our community experiences, our passion, our knowledge of what works in our neck of the woods, and local data.

NEIA LWDB Executive Director Taylor Williams points out that the proposed merger conflicts with Iowa State Law, which is derived from federal Department of Labor regulations. The conditions for a governor-ordered LWDB reorganization are as follows:

Iowa Code 84A.4 (page 12)

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/84A.pdf>

3. Certification procedures.

b. Failure to achieve certification. Failure of a local workforce development board to achieve certification shall result in appointment and certification of a new local workforce development board for the local workforce development area pursuant to the process described in subsection 2 and this subsection.

c. Decertification.

(1) Notwithstanding paragraph "a", the department of workforce development may decertify a local workforce development board for any of the following reasons at any time after providing notice and an opportunity for comment:

(a) Fraud or abuse.

(b) Failure to carry out the functions specified for the local workforce development board in subsection 4.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph "a", the department of workforce development may decertify a local workforce development board if the local workforce development area fails to meet the local performance accountability measures for the local workforce development area in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §3141(c) for two consecutive program years.

(3) If the department of workforce development decertifies a local workforce development board for a local workforce development area, the department of workforce development may require that a new local workforce development board be appointed and certified for the local workforce development area pursuant to a reorganization plan developed by the governor, in consultation with the chief elected official in the local workforce development area and in accordance with the criteria established under this section and Tit. I of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128.

Therefore, this proposal does not comply with state law, and more importantly, it would weaken our communities and not strengthen them.

I ask for the good of Iowans that you do not consider merging and reorganizing Iowa's Local Workforce Development Board.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: Public input on proposed recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions.
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:12:31 CDT
Attachments:

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

I am writing to comment on the Boards and Commissions Review Committee preliminary recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions that were made public on August 29, 2023. I respectfully request that the committee reconsider the recommendation to eliminate Iowa's participation in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

I serve as the interim president for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) which is a private nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)]. In partnership with the four regional compacts, NC-SARA helps states, institutions, policymakers, and students understand the purpose and benefits of participating in The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA).

SARA provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating postsecondary institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in SARA member states without individually applying to each state for such approval, subject to certain limitations. Institutions approved by their home states to participate in SARA must be appropriately accredited and meet academic and financial requirements designed to protect and benefit students. Today, more than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all voluntarily participate in SARA.

For institutions to participate in SARA, the state must first be a member or affiliate of a regional compact. The state of Iowa has been a member of SARA through MHEC since 2015.

* Iowa currently has 52 institutions participating in SARA – including 19 public institutions.

* In Fall 2022, these Iowa institutions served 9,992 students in 51 other states / territories through SARA.

* In 2022, 12,607 Iowa students were able to attend their out-of-state institution of choice via distance education through SARA.

* Through their participation in SARA, institutions do not pay out-of-state authorization fees. Therefore, it is estimated that participating in SARA saves these Iowa institutions more than \$3 million in their out-of-state authorization renewal costs annually.

Iowa's membership in MHEC allows institutions to voluntarily participate in SARA, ultimately saving money for both institutions and students, but also serving to broaden access to distance learning, which includes learning placements for education, health care, and other programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions. Again, I request that you reconsider the committee's recommendation to eliminate Iowa's participation in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Boards & Commissions Meeting - Speaker List
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 15:49:13 CDT
Attachments: Boards_and_Commissions CCforIowa Comments.docx
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Attached are our comments.

All my best,

[REDACTED]

Community Colleges for Iowa

www.ccfriowa.org

Sign up for our newsletter!

From: Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:57 PM
Subject: Boards & Commissions Meeting - Speaker List

Thank you for submitting your request to speak at the next meeting of the Boards & Commissions Review Committee, scheduled to begin at 12:00 on Wednesday, September 6, in Room 103 of the State Capitol.

To ensure that all requests can be accommodated, speakers will be limited to no more than 2 minutes each. You can deliver your remarks either in person or virtually. The Committee will proceed in the order below. The Chair will use this list and will call the name listed below.

Finally, for those participating virtually, the Zoom credentials for the meeting are as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

or call (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 859 4631 0673

Passcode: 754045

Please reply with any additional questions. Thank you.

Name

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

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Filename: Boards_and_Commissions CCforlowa Comments.docx

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 15:49:13 CDT 2023

Iowa Board and Commissions Review Community Colleges for Iowa Comments September 5, 2023

We appreciate the committee's work to streamline government operations. We look forward to engaging in future discussions on recommendations such as recommendation 8 on licensing standards. Iowa's Community Colleges are well-positioned to offer ideas and context to Iowa's licensing where it intersects with our educational programming.

Here are our specific comments on board and commissions.

To be eliminated entirely:

Community College Faculty Advisory Committee

- This committee provides the only direct avenue for faculty voice in state education processes.
- We request further discussion on how to preserve that role.

Postsecondary Course Audit Committee

- This committee is a part of the state's requirement that colleges receive National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) accreditation for concurrent enrollment courses.
- Without this committee, NACEP cannot be required.
- We request further discussion on how concurrent enrollment quality assurance will occur without this committee.

Midwest Higher Education Compact

- Iowa is one member of 12-state Midwest compact. The compact provides the benefit of discounted pricing on student health care and property insurance that are only for member states. Colleges have used these contracts to save more than \$656,000 on purchase of hardware, software, and services.
- Most importantly, however, membership in MHEC is necessary for participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). This agreement saves the colleges of Iowa, including all 15 community colleges, millions of dollars in time and fees necessary to be able to offer online instruction to students in other states.
- Every college that delivers online instruction is required by states where students reside to be approved to deliver online instruction. Without SARA, each college would spend months of time each year seeking approval from all states and territories. Besides the extensive labor costs, there are fees associated with approval.
- We request further discussion and analysis on the significant fiscal impact of leaving this compact.

To be reorganized:

State Board of Education (see below)

To be consolidated/merged:

Community College Council

- As a state with a unique P-14 education approach, it's critical that the State Board of Education maintains voice and focus on Iowa's community colleges. If not through the council.
- We request further discussion on the best means of continuing to achieve this goal.

To continue as is:

Ad Hoc Accreditation Quality Faculty Plan Protocol Committee

- This committee is inactive and should be eliminated.

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Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 15:49:13 CDT 2023



Owner:

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Filename: image002.png

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Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 15:49:13 CDT 2023

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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Remarks from Senator Herman Quirnbach on Board & Commission Reviews

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 2:40 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Boards & Commissions Review Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on September 6. What follows is a review and extension of my remarks.

I offer the following observations as a member of the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Commission (Tobacco Commission) and of the College Student Aid Commission (CSAC). I have served on both these commissions for approximately twenty years as an ex-officio non-voting member. Both commissions oversee the implementation and administration of critical state programs to protect the public health (Tobacco) and enhance educational opportunities and workforce development (CSAC). Beyond the functioning of existing programs, members of the commissions provide exceptionally valuable expertise to help guide the development of public policy for the future.

On the Tobacco Commission I have served with medical doctors, pharmacists, academic public health experts, frontline addiction recovery workers, youth service agency administrators, and youth representatives. The youth representation is especially important because the vast majority of tobacco addicts start as teenagers or before. If the state had to hire consultants to provide comparable expertise, it would cost many tens of thousands of dollars each year. Currently we get the profound benefit of such expertise for little more than carfare.

The proposed recommendation for the Tobacco Commission is "Consolidate/Merge." Consolidate with whom? Merge with whom? No detail is provided. No rationale is offered. I have yet to find even a single member of the Tobacco Commission who has been consulted by your Review Committee.

The Tobacco Commission already consults and coordinates with many partner agencies. For the record, the Tobacco Commission by law has (non-voting) representatives from the Drug Policy Coordinator, the Attorney General's office, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services and regularly works with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division. It is hard for me to imagine any agency that does a better job at working with other related elements of state government.

It is critical to the health of Iowa and especially of its youth that we not blur the focus on tobacco and tobacco-related products. Tobacco is and is likely to remain the single biggest preventable cause of death in Iowa and throughout the nation. The challenges of tobacco are dynamic (e.g., vaping), and the Tobacco Commission has shown a ready ability to adapt to new threats. Other public health problems certainly exist, but to bury the mission of the Tobacco Commission in a larger bureaucracy will inevitably cause that mission to lose emphasis in state priorities. That would be a tragic mistake, one with quite literally life and death consequences.

The College Student Aid Commission plays an equally valuable role in the area of education. Statutorily designated members have included presidents of private and community colleges, members of the Board of Regents, students and parents of students, and licensed K-12 teachers and administrators. All of these voices are crucial, and none should be eliminated. In addition, we have had financial management executives to provide guidance on financing of college expenses and related matters. If anything, we need more members, especially from the business community to advise on workforce development issues.

The tentative recommendation for CSAC is "Reorganize/Other Changes." How to reorganize? What other changes? Again, no detail is provided and no rationale offered. Little if any consultation has been done with the board members.

One thing I can tell you for sure is that the CSAC is and has been a highly adaptive and dynamic organization over many years and has been led by highly competent administrators. Its role in student loan administration has changed dramatically in response to major federal policy changes, and it has acted with great foresight in managing and ultimately divesting its student loan portfolio at great financial savings to the state. At the same time CSAC has undertaken the shaping and administration of a variety of workforce development programs, including the Future Ready Iowa initiatives, the Last Dollar Scholarship program, and several loan forgiveness and incentive programs designed to secure more health care professionals and teachers for the state, especially in rural areas. Based on its expertise, CSAC

is currently providing critical guidance to the federal government regarding changes in the FAFSA procedure for determining student financial need. All of this is being done on top of administering the Iowa Tuition Grant, National Guard educational financial aid, and a variety of other educational scholarship and grant programs.

CSAC and its governing board have done an outstanding job in its areas of responsibility in higher education. I am very skeptical of any significant—and currently undefined—changes. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” And it sure ain’t broke.

Finally, I must offer some general comments on the current board and commission review process. Let me first acknowledge that the Board & Commission Review Committee has been given a gargantuan task with an impossibly short deadline. The fault for that lies not with you but with those who drafted the mandates in the Legislature. I appreciate your efforts, but the enterprise will of necessity ultimately fall short of what is needed and entails significant risk of great damage to the government and people of Iowa.

I am not opposed to reform. I am sure that there are some boards and commissions that have consistently fallen short of their intended goals and should be dropped and at the same time other boards and commissions that have achieved their specific goals and are no longer needed. Boards and commissions, as well as all other entities of state government, must adapt to the changing needs of the people of Iowa. Many have done that quite well—like the Tobacco Commission and the CSAC—but others may need some reorientation.

That said, the process of reform must proceed far more carefully and judiciously than the current legislative mandate allows. Within the examples given above, and as evidenced by much of the public testimony on September 6, there has been precious little consultation with commission members, staff, and constituency groups with regard to many of the boards and commissions affected. The “Recommendations” listed in the August 29 Subcommittee Recommendations document are often superficial in the extreme, and in no case is any evidence or rationale offered to justify the recommendation. That document provides no basis whatsoever for any legislation.

The superficiality of the analysis so far is no better illustrated than in the case of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. The recommendation is “Eliminate.” Just one problem: the State of Iowa has no power to do that! The Midwestern Higher Education Compact and the Commission it operates are created by an interstate agreement among twelve states in the Midwest region. The Iowa Legislature can’t abolish that group without the consent of the other eleven compacting states. The BCRC subcommittee making the recommendation apparently did so little investigation as even to learn that simple fact.

The Boards and Commissions authorized by the Code of Iowa play vital roles in implementing existing public programs and in advising the development of future public policies. They are some of the most important avenues by which residents of our state participate in the self-government of Iowa and express their hopes and desires for public policy. The expertise of the volunteers who serve is often irreplaceable and obtained at a de minimis cost.

Any reform must proceed far more carefully than in the current process. I would humbly suggest that your final report not try to address all 259 of the boards in your laundry list. It would be far more helpful if you could pick out, say, a dozen of the most obvious cases for immediate sunset. (Do we have a Buggy Whip Commission?) Then your report could lay out and recommend to the Legislature a more systematic and judicious review process, picking out groups of, say, 15-20 related boards for review each year over the next decade. To do in-depth reviews of even that many in a year would be a substantial workload for a group such as yours but would result in much more thoughtful and useful recommendations than in the current document.

I recognize that there is a politically advantageous short-term reward for an elected official being able to tout a massive reduction in “bureaucracy” at election time. Good public policy, however, goes in a distinctly different direction. Please choose prudence over politics, pruning over clearcutting.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Herman C. Quirmbach

District 25 - Ames



Board & Comm Review Comments.docx
18K



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

MHEC feedback

1 message

[Redacted]

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 8:53 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To the Boards and Commissions Review Committee,
The Board of Regents was unable to participate in the public meeting held on September 6 but would like to submit some feedback regarding the recommendation to end participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact.

There are several benefits to Iowa's public universities that are available to them because of MHEC membership. The most important is that the state's membership in MHEC makes Iowa postsecondary institutions (both public and private) eligible to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). By participating in NC-SARA, Iowa colleges and universities can receive authorization to offer distance education courses and programs to individuals who reside in other member states. Currently, 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands all participate in NC-SARA. The savings and efficiency gains to each Iowa college and university are significant as rather than individually applying to each state, and paying varying fees on varying timelines, institutions can submit information one time annually through the Iowa College Aid Commission's Postsecondary Authorization staff. It is estimated that using the NC-SARA process saves Iowa colleges and universities a combined total of nearly \$3.5m annually.

Other MHEC programs provide smaller scale benefits to Iowa's postsecondary institutions. In previous years, Iowa participated in a MHEC grant program to improve the articulation of military training into college credits at Iowa institutions. MHEC provided financial support that resulted in real college-level policy changes that benefit students who are active duty or veterans. Since 2018, public and private institutions across the state have received support from MHEC to expand Open Education Resources (free textbooks and other learning resources for college students). Growth in OER across institutions in Iowa results in immediate and direct savings to students and their families (see [this annual report archive](#) for documentation of OER impact in Iowa). Finally, the University of Northern Iowa participates in fine arts and terrorism insurance programs available through MHEC that provide discounts above what the university might receive on the open market.

If you have additional questions about the impact on eliminating Iowa's MHEC membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or others in the Board of Regents office.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--
[Redacted signature]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Midwest Higher Education Compact.

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 2:18 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

To: Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

From: [REDACTED] President, Des Moines Area Community College

I am writing to urge you to retain the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) affiliation.

Because of Iowa's MHEC membership every institution of higher education in Iowa who chooses to participate is authorized to offer online classes to out-of-state students. It is an amazing service called NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements).

NC-SARA helps states, institutions, policymakers, and students understand the purpose and benefits of participating in SARA. Today, more than 2,200 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all voluntarily participate in SARA.

Why NC-SARA Matters:

- Improves distance education program quality nationwide.
- Makes it easier for students to access distance education programs across state lines.
- Reduces costs and bureaucracy for states and institutions.
- Improves coordination between states on higher education opportunities.
- Provides valuable oversight of distance education programs.
- Shares out-of-state learning experience data like clinical hours and practice teaching.

At DMACC:

- a. In 2022-2023 there were 1,772 total online students from outside of Iowa who took 9,198 credits from DMACC.
- b. These students were from all States and Territories.
- c. Their enrollment generated \$1,977,570 in gross revenue to DMACC.
- d. One group of our online engagement includes DMACC's national contract with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). We are the SOLE contractor for the TSA nationally to provide online Homeland Security Training for the TSA's 440 airports and 43,000 Agents across the Country. This is a great achievement, honor, and is available ONLY because of our MHEC ability to offer online classes in all States and Territories.

Last year, just for our TSA program:

- i. 994 TSA student employees were served by DMACC
- ii. Students enrolled from all 50 States and Territories
- iii. 2,982 College credits were generated.
- iv. \$620,256 in tuition and \$38,791.37 in eBooks was received

This year: We expect 1,600 – 2,000 TSA student employees to generate 4,908 credits and more than \$1,000,000 in tuition.

As stated, we are now the only institution of higher learning offering these TSA education programs in the United States and its Territories. The TSA Associates Degree Program, where student TSA employees earn the DMACC Homeland Security Certificate Credential and the TSA Associates Expansion Degree Program, results in students earning a DMACC Criminal Justice AAS Degree.

If it wasn't for Iowa's MHEC participation, DMACC and each of the other participating Iowa colleges and universities would have to go to extensive time and significant expense to register and pay fees in each of the other States and Territories.

- a. This would be such an unreasonable financial and staff burden that many Iowa colleges and universities would likely have to drop their online classes to most out-of-state students.

- b. This would create an annual or bi-annual process and expense to maintain registration in each State and Territory.

- c. It is almost impossible to envision that DMACC would be able to secure licenses in all these States and Territories and we would likely lose this coveted TSA contract and revenue.

I sincerely request that the State of Iowa maintain its engagement in MHEC.

Thanks.

September 13, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Through the preliminary work of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee, it has recommended the elimination of Iowa's participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact. We strongly urge the Committee to reconsider its recommendation and offer the following to inform the Committee about the benefits provided by Iowa's participation in MHEC and the potential negative consequences to Iowa residents and students of Iowa's higher education institutions.

The State of Iowa is a member of the 12-state Midwest Higher Education Compact, one of four regional compacts nationally. MHEC provides the benefit of discounted pricing on student health care and technology for institutions in member states. These cost savings translate to reduced operating expenses and reduced tuition. Most importantly, however, membership in MHEC is necessary for participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

State authorization is required for higher education institutions to operate in compliance with US Department of Education program integrity rules related to Title IV funding. Distance learning includes providing instruction for online-only students (and we all saw how important distance learning modalities were during the COVID-19 pandemic) and instruction received by students who travel out of the "home" state to complete elements of their educational programs through practicums, internships, clinical rotations, etc.

Prior to SARA, institutions seeking to serve students through distance education had to engage directly with regulators in each state to seek authorization and subsequently serve residents of the state or allow their students to engage in off-campus, out-of-state learning opportunities. Seeking approval on a state by state basis was inefficient and expensive. Costs to obtain and maintain state approvals would necessarily be borne by all students through tuition.

Academic and governmental leaders recognized that the ability to provide distance education is highly valued by students today and collaborated to create a more uniform and streamlined process through the existing regional higher education compacts by promoting a pathway to authorization through reciprocity between states. The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity was created as a private nonprofit organization. NC-SARA provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in states that have voluntarily affiliated with SARA through their participation in the regional higher education compacts. Today, more than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states and territories voluntarily participate in SARA.

For institutions to participate in SARA, the state must first be a member or affiliate with a regional compact. The State of Iowa has been a participating member in SARA through MHEC since 2015; 52 higher education institutions (both public and private) currently participate in NC-SARA. State education agencies, regional compacts, and NC-SARA work together to foster high-quality and consumer focused

distance education. SARA also levels the playing field for institutions to enroll students and provide distance learning and a greater choice for lowans to enroll in the institution of their choice that best meets their educational goals, even if that institution is out of state.

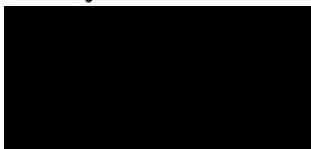
The Data

- 52 institutions from Iowa, including 19 public institutions
- Fall 2022 – these Iowa schools served 9,992 students in 51 other states/territories through SARA
- 2022 – 12,607 lowans attended their out-of-state school of choice via distance education through SARA
- More than \$3M (estimated by MHEC) in fees saved by these Iowa institutions that would otherwise be required to serve students in other states or Iowa residents to attend out-of-state schools via distance education

The ability to provide distance learning through out of state internships and clinical rotations is imperative for Des Moines University as there are not sufficient opportunities within our state to meet the experiential training needs for the more than 350 health care professionals we graduate annually. Last year, our students completed more than 2,300 rotations out of state. We continue to take pride in having health care alumni providing care in Iowa's 99 counties and bringing students from 48 states to Iowa for their education either at our campus or through online learning.

We recognize change as necessary to meet continuing and emerging needs in our communities and applaud the efforts of the Committee to evaluate and streamline portions of our state government. However, we respectfully request that the Committee remove its recommendation to eliminate the State's involvement with MHEC and preserve the current process for which schools in Iowa can provide high educational quality and consumer protection through state authorization in SARA.

Sincerely,





September 13, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

Via BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee's preliminary recommendations include the elimination of Iowa's participation in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). We strongly urge the Committee to reconsider its recommendation, which if implemented would have substantial negative consequences for postsecondary institutions in Iowa, their students, and Iowa taxpayers.

Chapter 261D of the Iowa Code is the legal authority for Iowa's membership in the MHEC, but it does not outline the benefits of membership in the MHEC. In particular, Chapter 261D does not mention that membership in MHEC is necessary for Iowa institutions of higher education to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

State authorization refers to the requirement that an institution be authorized by each state in which it plans to offer educational programming (including the institution's home state). Authorization is, in turn, required by the US Department of Education consumer protection rules related to Title IV (financial aid) funding. The key matter at stake here is the ability of institutions to offer programming by distance education (e.g., online courses). For example, a student in Virginia would not be able to enroll in online coursework offered by Grand View University unless Grand View was authorized by Virginia to offer programming to its residents. In addition, a Grand View student would be unable to engage in a learning opportunity like an internship in Virginia without authorization. In the absence of SARA, each institution needed to engage directly with regulators in each state to seek and maintain authorization, which was expensive and highly inefficient. Ultimately, students and taxpayers bore the cost.

SARA provides reciprocity, allowing an institution to offer programming in participating states without the burden of pursuing authorization in those states. SARA is administered by the National Council on State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), a non-governmental not-for-profit organization. NC-SARA establishes national standards for interstate postsecondary distance education and supports consumer protection through its policies. A significant advantage of participating in NC-SARA is that Iowa can focus on Iowa institutions without concerning itself with regulating institutions elsewhere.

Institutions, 2,400 across the US and 52 in Iowa, pay modest dues to NC-SARA, and receive, in return, authorization to offer educational programming in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Grand View pays \$2,000/year to Iowa College Aid and \$2,000/year to NC-SARA, which is far less than the cost of maintaining authorization with those states and territories individually.

1200

Grandview
Avenue

Des Moines
Iowa

50316-1599

515-263-2800

www.grandview.edu



NC-SARA requires participating states to be a member of one of the four interstate regional higher education compacts. The State of Iowa is a member of the 12-state Midwestern Higher Education Compact, which in addition to the benefits of participating in SARA, provides discounted pricing on student health care and technology for institutions in member states. These cost savings translate to reduced operating expenses and reduced upward pressure on tuition.

In Fall 2022, participating Iowa schools served 9,992 students in 51 other states and territories through SARA, and 12,607 Iowans attended their out-of-state school of choice via distance education through SARA. MHEC estimates that Iowa institutions saved more than \$3M in per-state authorization fees that would otherwise be required to serve students in other states or for Iowa residents to attend out-of-state schools via distance education. Those savings have helped institutions contain costs, which benefits students and taxpayers.

SARA was essential to Grand View's continued operation during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we served students via distance learning in their home states until we were able to re-open our campus in Fall 2020. Even then, students with medical complications continued to attend classes remotely. We currently have over 100 students in our graduate Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, all of whom attend remotely and many of whom are out-of-state residents. Some of our Athletic Training students complete their immersive clinical experience outside of Iowa, and we have had Education students do their student teaching in other states. SARA is the only way we can serve out-of-state students or give our students opportunities in other states, and we are eager, in fact, to expand our reach beyond Iowa.

At Grand View, we recognize change as necessary to meet continuing and emerging needs in our communities, and we look forward to the benefits of streamlining segments of the state government. Institutions of higher education in Iowa are committed to providing access and opportunity to students but are also facing tremendous pressure to control costs. Eliminating membership in the MHEC would increase overhead costs for Iowa institutions of all sizes and all types and could drive some institutions out of the distance education market. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee remove its recommendation to eliminate the State's membership in MHEC so Iowa postsecondary institutions, students, and taxpayers can continue to receive the benefits of that membership, including our participation in NC-SARA.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

A solid black rectangular box redacting the contact information of the sender.



To: Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Date: 13 September 2023

Re: Concerns from Buena Vista University about the proposed elimination of Iowa's participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC)

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Thank you for the work you are doing to streamline our state's operations, something that is both necessary and overdue.

As the President of Buena Vista University (BVU) in Storm Lake, Iowa, I am writing to voice concern regarding the proposed elimination of Iowa's participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). On a state-wide level, this \$115,000 investment helped 52 higher education institutions save more than \$4.13 million last year. Some of that savings is in technology contracts (\$656,000), but much of the savings is in fees (\$3,470,000) institutions would have to pay on a state-by-state basis to serve students from other states because we no longer would have access to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). In addition to the cost savings in fees, the number of personnel hours necessary across the Iowa Higher Education sector to file paperwork in every state for every out-of-state student or experience would create a significant increase in costs for every college or graduate student in the State of Iowa.

Specific to BVU, the students in the licensure programs we offer in Accounting, K-12 Education, Special Education, Social Work, Professional School Counseling, and Clinical Mental Health Counseling would be negatively impacted by this decision. BVU, where more than 75% of our students stay in Iowa after graduation, prides itself in providing training for students to fill the professional needs of the State of Iowa, especially in rural communities. Every county in Iowa contains BVU graduates teaching in K-12 school districts. For many years Buena Vista University has been a net importer of out-of-state talent to Iowa in the above-listed programs, all areas of critical need for the state.

Elimination of membership in the MHEC would mean 60-70 BVU students each year would lose the ability to gain professional training placements outside of the state, which is sometimes necessary in state areas of need because in-state placements are not possible due to access issues. Additionally, more than 150 students this fall who came from other states to study in the above licensure programs through Buena Vista University would lose access to these programs unless we pay exorbitant state-by-state fees due to not having access to NC-SARA. This would drive up the costs for all students, including Iowa state residents. Having non-residents in these programs, which are run completely without Iowa state tax-payer funding (we are a private not-for-profit entity), helps keep the cost of attendance lower for our Iowa residents.

I hope you will reconsider eliminating the State of Iowa's participation in the MHEC. Eliminating the State of Iowa's participation would dramatically increase the cost of attendance for all students at every higher education entity in Iowa and reduce student access to these licensure programs. I would be happy to visit with any of you at any point regarding this situation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

support for the Iowa Autism Council

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 3:29 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

To The Governor's Boards & Commissions Review Committee:

It is important that the Iowa Autism Council continues going forward. It is vital to have intentional representation of individuals with autism on some council, preferably in such a way that voices are actually heard by the governor and legislators, people who have the power to do something about the recommendations provided. The recommendations from the Iowa Autism Council have been important and trusted in the Autism community and by providers like myself in furthering research based programming for those with autism and their families.

Thank you for your help and support to continue this long-standing council and supporting the work they provide to our community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Public Comment on Proposal to Eliminate Iowa's Participation in MHEC

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 11:09 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The preliminary work of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee recommended the elimination of Iowa's participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). We strongly urge the Committee to reconsider its recommendation and offer the following to inform the Committee about the benefits provided by Iowa's participation in MHEC and the potential negative consequences to Iowa residents and students of Iowa's higher education institutions.

In 2022/2023 academic year, Drake pharmacy and health science students completed more than 332 clinical rotations outside the State of Iowa. The MHEC ensures Drake students the opportunity for distance learning through out of state internships and clinical rotations.

The State of Iowa is a member of the 12-state MHEC, one of four regional compacts nationally. Membership in MHEC is necessary for participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). State authorization is required for higher education institutions to operate in compliance with US Department of Education program integrity rules related to Title IV funding. Distance learning includes providing instruction for online-only students and instruction received by students who travel out of the "home" state to complete elements of their educational programs through practicums, internships, clinical rotations, etc.

Prior to SARA, institutions seeking to serve students through distance education had to engage directly with regulators in each state to seek authorization and subsequently serve residents of the state or allow their students to engage in off-campus, out-of-state learning opportunities. Seeking approval on a state-by-state basis was inefficient and expensive. Costs to obtain and maintain state approvals would necessarily be borne by all students through tuition or fees.

Academic and governmental leaders recognized that the ability to provide distance education is highly valued by students today and collaborated to create a more uniform and streamlined process through the existing regional higher education compacts by promoting a pathway to authorization through reciprocity between states. The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in states that have voluntarily affiliated with SARA through their participation in the regional higher education compacts. Today, more than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states and territories voluntarily participate in SARA.

For institutions to participate in SARA, the state must first be a member or affiliate with a regional compact. The State of Iowa has been a member in SARA through MHEC since 2015 with 52 higher education institutions (both public and private) currently participating. State education agencies, regional compacts, and NC-SARA work together to foster high-quality and consumer focused distance education.

The data:

- 52 institutions from Iowa, including 19 public institutions
- Fall 2022 – these Iowa schools served 9,992 students in 51 other states/territories through SARA
- 2022 – 12,607 Iowans attended their out-of-state school of choice via distance education through SARA
- More than \$3M (estimated by MHEC) in fees saved by these Iowa institutions that would otherwise be required to serve students in other states or Iowa residents to attend out-of-state schools via distance education

We recognize change as necessary to meet continuing and emerging needs in our communities and applaud the efforts of the Committee to evaluate and streamline portions of our state government. However, we respectfully request that the Committee remove its recommendation to eliminate the State's involvement with MHEC and preserve the current process for which schools in Iowa including Drake University can provide high educational quality and consumer protection through state authorization in SARA.

Sincerely,



Together we transform lives and strengthen communities



*Drake's campaign
for the brave & bold*



EDUCATION BUILT FOR LIFE

September 14, 2023

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee's recommendations to reform Iowa's boards and commissions. I am sure that this is a complex and challenging responsibility.

As Interim President of Upper Iowa University, it is important for me to share my significant concerns about the current recommendation to remove Iowa as a participating member in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). MHEC is an interstate compact consisting of 12 Midwestern states, Iowa included, that facilitates interstate cooperation and sharing that results in cost savings for Iowa education institutions. According to information provided by the MHEC, Iowa entities have saved a total of \$20.53 million through participation in MHEC contracts and programs since 2005.

Particularly important to Upper Iowa University is the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) facilitated by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. SARA provides a reciprocity-based process for participating postsecondary institutions to streamline approval processes necessary to offer interstate distance education. Participating institutions must be appropriately accredited and meet requirements designed to protect and benefit students.

Upper Iowa is one of 52 Iowa institutions participating in SARA, and collectively these schools provide education to thousands of students in states and territories outside of Iowa. These student enrollments generate revenue that directly supports and lifts up Iowa institutions that are critically important to the state and local economies. Participation in SARA saves institutions resources and money while also serving as a consumer protection for students.

The inability to participate in reciprocity-based processes would result in fewer students earning an Iowa-based education. Many of these students enrolled at UIU are active-duty military, veterans, or members of the Total Military Family. In addition, less revenue generated by students outside of Iowa, would reduce the financial impact that benefits the State of Iowa.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on your Committee's recommendations, and for being mindful of this input. While there is little question there are opportunities to streamline state government, removing Iowa as a participating member in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact would almost certainly result in higher costs, lower enrollments, and financial distress for many Iowa education institutions.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Office of the President

605 Washington Street – PO Box 1857 – Fayette, IA 52142 – 563.425.5868 – frankenk@uiu.edu – uiu.edu



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:23 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Cc: [Redacted]

September 15, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Central College respectfully requests the Boards and Commissions Review Committee reconsider the recommendation to eliminate Iowa's participation in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). The State of Iowa's continued membership in MHEC allows its institutions of higher education to have access to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). NC-SARA provides a reciprocity-based process for postsecondary institutions to gain approval and offer quality interstate distance education, including internship placements and online courses, in member states. Without this membership, colleges and universities will need to apply individually to each state for approval to offer distance education options. Membership in MHEC gives all Iowa colleges and universities access to NC-SARA ultimately saving money for students and our institutions of higher education.

The ability to offer robust distance education options helps institutions, such as Central College, better serve their students who in turn are better prepared to join our workforce upon graduation. Students greatly benefit from experiential learning through internships and the flexibility of online courses. Without participating in MHEC and access to NC-SARA, online course offerings and internship placements will be limited and expensive, and could delay graduation for students, thereby increasing their costs. Central College utilizes online courses during the summer to support students who may need to repeat a course or who may require additional course work to complete a second major. This limitation will negatively impact our out-of-state students. In addition, Central's vibrant internship program will not be able to place students in out-of-state locations.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment on the proposed recommendations to reform Iowa's boards and commissions. I urgently request the committee not eliminate Iowa's participation in MHEC in order for Iowa's colleges and universities to serve their students through quality distance education.

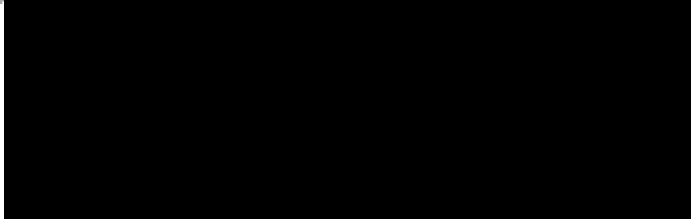
Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Title]

Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty





September 15, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The preliminary work of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee has led to the recommendation that the state of Iowa withdraw from participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact. As the Provost of a member institution of the Midwest Higher Education Compact, I implore the Committee to reconsider its recommendation. I offer the following points to inform the Committee about the benefits provided by Iowa's participation in MHEC as they relate to St. Ambrose University, as well as the potential negative consequences posed by the elimination of Iowa's participation.

- The State of Iowa is a member of the 12-state Midwest Higher Education Compact, one of four regional compacts nationally. This **membership is necessary for St. Ambrose University's** participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).
- State authorization is required for higher education institutions to operate in compliance with US Department of Education program integrity rules related to Title IV funding. Specifically, compliance with SARA (provided through MHEC membership) affords St. Ambrose University the ability to serve distance education students through both online-only programs and out-of-state practicums, internships, clinical rotations, preceptorships, and so forth. For example, **St. Ambrose University is home to the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing. This program was established specifically to serve students living in educational deserts throughout the Midwest in an effort to address the severe shortage of nurses prevalent in many rural communities across the state and the region.**
- The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity (NC-SARA) was created as a private nonprofit organization. NC-SARA provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in states that have voluntarily affiliated with SARA through their participation in the regional higher education compacts. **Today, more than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states and territories voluntarily participate in SARA.** NC-SARA also serves to protect students as consumers of distance education by working with state educational agencies to provide transparency with regards to educational access and complaint resolution.
- Prior to NC-SARA, institutions seeking to serve students through distance education had to engage directly with regulators in each, individual state to seek authorization and, subsequently—if granted authorization, to serve residents of that state and/or to allow students enrolled at their home campus to engage in off-campus, out-of-state learning opportunities. **Seeking approval on a state by state basis was inefficient and expensive.** A return to this inefficient and costly process will result, at best, in these costs being passed along to St. Ambrose University or, at worst, the necessitated closure of the sort of programs

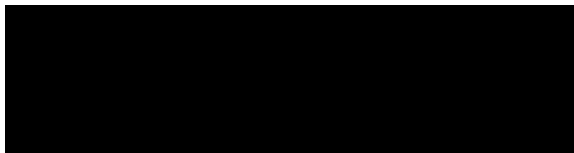
that can make a significant difference in the quality of life of members of rural communities in our state and across the Midwest.

The Data

- Currently, 52 institutions from Iowa, including 19 public institutions are members of the MHEC/NC-SARA.
- MHEC estimates that its partnership with higher education institutions in Iowa has saved an estimated \$3M in fees and expenses associated with SARA compliance requirements. More importantly, however, it saved an estimated \$3M from being passed on to students via distance education fees.
- In 2023, St. Ambrose University leveraged its membership with the MHEC/NC-SARA to fulfill **671 out of state learning placements (OOSLPs) across 26 states in high-need nursing and allied healthcare professions.** The ability to provide distance learning through out of state internships and clinical rotations is imperative for St. Ambrose University as there are not sufficient opportunities within our state to meet the experiential training needs for the health care professionals that we graduate annually.
- In 2023, St. Ambrose University also leveraged its membership with MHEC/NC-SARA to provide high quality, fully online educational programs to over **150 students across 12 states in rural Iowa and beyond.**

I recognize that change is necessary to meet continuing and emerging needs in our communities and applaud the efforts of the Committee to evaluate and streamline portions of our state government. We are engaging in similar work at St. Ambrose University. While this work frequently poses challenges, it is important work. As such, the potential consequences of such change must be weighed carefully. Thus, I respectfully request that the Committee **remove its recommendation** to eliminate the State's involvement with MHEC, thereby preserving the current process for which schools in Iowa can provide high educational quality and consumer protection through state authorization in SARA.

Sincerely,





September 13, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

On behalf of Loras College, I am writing in response to the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee report which lists the elimination of the Midwest Higher Education Compact. Loras College, through the state of Iowa, is a member of the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which has a direct impact on clinical education and distance education for students in Iowa or students who want to pursue education in Iowa.

All students, regardless of their home state, will be limited in their ability to pursue out-of-state internships that provide them with exceptional experience for their chosen field. Loras College has had Media Studies students do internships in New York City, Sports Management students do internships with the Chicago Bulls, and Politics majors do internships in Washington, D.C., as just a few examples. These opportunities will be harder for students to pursue without Iowa's membership in MHEC and much more costly for higher educational institutions to provide.

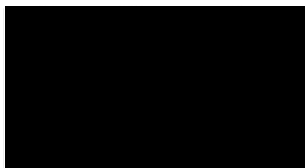
In addition, students who are enrolled in Loras College's education or clinical programs, such as Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Social Work, School Counseling, or Athletic Training, are required to complete at least one internship, practicum, or clinical education experience. These experiences commonly occur in the Dubuque region, but students often request experiences in their home states of Illinois or Wisconsin. Iowa's participation in the MHEC allows these students to have opportunities in their home states where they can obtain employment beyond graduation. Additionally, students from programs in Wisconsin, Illinois, and any other state, can enter the state of Iowa bringing a potential workforce to Iowa's schools, hospitals, and clinics.

The MHEC allows students from across the country to have easier access to distance education programs. Loras College offers three distance education master's degrees that attract students from at least five different states, beyond Iowa. Without participation in MHEC, these students would not have been able to access Iowa's higher education opportunities and learn from some of Iowa's top educators. Without these students, Loras College loses an important revenue stream.

If membership in MHEC is suspended, colleges and universities across the state will be required to spend upwards of \$100,000 annually per institution to allow students to have the educational experiences that best meet their needs or to allow students from out-of-state to complete an online degree in Iowa. Colleges and universities in Iowa cannot afford to incur additional expenses or lost revenue, particularly at a time when enrollment is declining. Furthermore, if colleges and universities elect not to complete the process to allow these opportunities, Iowa loses out on a potential workforce and funds from students throughout the country who choose to seek a distance education program in another state.

Both Loras College and the state of Iowa benefit from membership in MHEC. I respectfully implore the Boards and Commissions Review Committee to reverse its decision to eliminate the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

Sincerely,



SIMPSON COLLEGE



September 13, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Through the preliminary work of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee, it has been recommended to eliminate Iowa's participation in the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). We strongly urge the Committee to reconsider its recommendation and offer the following to inform the Committee about the benefits provided by Iowa's participation in MHEC and the potential negative consequences to Iowa residents and students of Iowa's higher education institutions.

The State of Iowa is a member of the 12-state Midwest Higher Education Compact, one of four regional compacts nationally. MHEC provides the benefit of discounted pricing on student health care and technology for institutions in member states. These cost savings translate to reduced operating expenses and reduced tuition. Most importantly, membership in MHEC is necessary for participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

State authorization is required for higher education institutions to operate in compliance with US Department of Education program integrity rules related to Title IV funding. Distance learning includes providing instruction for online-only students, and we all saw how important distance learning modalities were during the COVID-19 pandemic, and instruction received by students who travel out of the "home" state to complete elements of their educational programs through practicums, internships, clinical rotations, etc.

Prior to SARA, institutions seeking to serve students through distance education had to engage directly with regulators in each state to seek authorization and subsequently serve residents of the state or allow their students to engage in off-campus, out-of-state learning opportunities. Seeking approval on a state-by-state basis was inefficient and expensive. Costs to obtain and maintain state approvals would necessarily be borne by all students through tuition.

Academic and governmental leaders recognized that the ability to provide distance education is highly valued by students today and collaborated to create a more uniform and streamlined process through the existing regional higher education compacts by promoting a pathway to authorization through reciprocity between states. The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity was created as a private nonprofit organization. NC-SARA provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in states that have voluntarily affiliated with SARA through their participation in the regional higher education compacts. Today, more than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states and territories voluntarily participate in SARA.

For institutions to participate in SARA, the state must first be a member or affiliate with a regional compact. The State of Iowa has been a participating member in SARA through MHEC since 2015; 52 higher education institutions (both public and private, in the state of Iowa) currently participate in NC-SARA. State education agencies, regional compacts, and NC-SARA work together to foster

Office of the President

SIMPSON COLLEGE



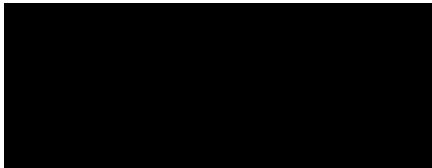
high-quality and consumer focused distance education. SARA also levels the playing field for institutions to enroll students and provide distance learning and a greater choice for Iowans to enroll in the institution of their choice that best meets their educational goals, even if that institution is out of state.

The Data

- 52 institutions from Iowa, including 19 public institutions
- Fall 2022 – these Iowa schools served 9,992 students in 51 other states/territories through SARA
- 2022 – 12,607 Iowans attended their out-of-state school of choice via distance education through SARA
- More than \$3M (estimated by MHEC) in fees saved by these Iowa institutions that would otherwise be required to serve students in other states or Iowa residents to attend out-of-state schools via distance education

We recognize change as necessary to meet continuing and emerging needs in our communities and applaud the efforts of the Committee to evaluate and streamline portions of our state government. However, we respectfully request that the Committee remove its recommendation to eliminate the State's involvement with MHEC and preserve the current process for which schools in Iowa can provide high educational quality and consumer protection through state authorization in SARA.

Sincerely,



Office of the President



September 15, 2023

To the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The Iowa Autism Council was formed in 2008 to serve in an advisory capacity in developing and implementing a comprehensive, coordinated system to provide appropriate diagnostic, intervention, and support services for children with autism and to meet the unique needs of adults with autism.” (Iowa Code §256.35A)

In the Committee’s preliminary recommendations, the Iowa Autism Council is recommended for “reorganization/other changes.” Absent more specific information about what reorganization or other changes would include, we would like to encourage the Committee to support the important mission of the Iowa Autism Council.

In Iowa there are 20,472 children and 54,520 adults with autism. These Iowans face challenges with access to education and health care to meet their unique needs. Iowans with autism who are transitioning to adulthood meet challenges in securing meaningful employment and achieving self-sufficiency. The Iowa Autism Council convenes key stakeholders to make recommendations that include education, health care, employment, and community support that are important to the state systems that support individuals with autism.

Autism Speaks would be happy to discuss any recommendations that would allow the Council to function more efficiently and effectively to meet the mission, but would not support any changes that eliminate the autism-specific advisory role the Iowa Autism Council fulfills.

Respectfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]



WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY

201 Trueblood Avenue
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

September 15, 2023

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

At William Penn University, our focus is on developing leadership abilities and capacities in our students, with the expectation that they will, in turn, be better able to contribute to our communities. One researcher defined leadership simply as “the ability to *influence* others to achieve a worthy goal.”

Under this definition, Iowa has been for many years a national leader, a recognized and respected *influencer* of educational standards and trends. Other states have looked to Iowa in part because government and educational leaders have understood what elected and educational officials in other states did not; that education is a critical element of cultural and economic progress; and that at its core, education is a process by which we *influence* future generations.

The Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) is one important way to maintain our influential role nationally. Each year Iowa colleges educate (*influence*) hundreds of thousands of students who arrive on our campuses both from within the boundaries of our state and from other States and even other nations. The Midwest Higher Education Compact is a national success, an impressive manifestation of effective collaboration between states to achieve an important goal – education that supports economic progress.

The MHEC is important to William Penn University (WPU) especially because of our “distance learning” education program that allows us to train teachers anywhere in the state via video conferencing technology such as Zoom or Teams. Importantly, some of our students arrive from other states. They choose WPU in part because they can compete athletically while also gaining an education. Some of our teacher education students want to return home to *student teach* in their local communities.

Importantly, this option – teacher prep training to students not from Iowa – likely disappears if you eliminate state support for MHEC. Without MHEC, our collective influence over the next generation of teachers, especially teacher education students from other states, is diminished.

Another reason we heartily encourage you to continue state support for MHEC, is because students often face unexpected challenges – a broken leg, an urgent surgery, a death of a family member - for which they need to return home for a few weeks or a semester. We deal with this situation frequently with students who live within Iowa and those who arrive here from other states.

For example, Kameron (real name) is a student from Oklahoma who arrived at William Penn University this semester. He chose WPU both to wrestle on the college level, and also because he felt here a welcoming community. During his very first week of practice he injured his knee and now needs surgery set for early October. Because of MHEC, Kameron can remain enrolled and remain current in his studies by attending classes via Zoom. If the MHEC is eliminated, students like Kameron would have to withdraw from the semester, which, based on many years of data, suggests he will be less likely to return to Iowa later to complete his education.

In economic terms, each student who chooses not to return to our campus, in this case because we are unable to support him during an important need, represents a budgetary reduction of between \$10,000 - \$15,000 to our campus and our community (annually). The impact of the loss of MHEC might be small on our campus and on Oskaloosa, but multiply that effect across all Iowa campuses, and surely the loss of student tuition, housing, discretionary spending, and more, far exceeds the \$150,000 investment currently covered, wisely I might add, by thoughtful Iowa leaders.

To be sure, we know well that at regular intervals government, business, and education must review their policies and practices, to determine which still are relevant and valuable. From our perspective in SE Iowa, MHEC remains an *important mechanism* to support the economic vitality of rural Iowa towns, like Oskaloosa, and also to allow us to continue influencing the next generation as they prepare, not merely for employment, but ideally employment in Iowa as Iowans.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Autism Council

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 8:48 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Board and Commissions Review,

The Governor's Autism Council was formed in 2008 to serve in an advisory capacity in developing and implementing a comprehensive, coordinated system to provide appropriate diagnostic, intervention, and support services for children with autism and to meet the unique needs of adults with autism." (Iowa Code §256.35A) In the committee's preliminary recommendations the Iowa Autism Council is recommended for "reorganization/other changes."

The Governor's Autism Council convenes key stakeholders to make recommendations that include education, health care, employment, and community support that is important to the state systems that support individuals with autism.

The Autism Society of Iowa fully supports the current configuration and functioning of the Council. Although we would be happy to discuss any recommendations that would allow the Council to function more efficiently and effectively to meet the mission, we do not support any changes that eliminate the autism-specific advisory role the Iowa Autism Council fulfills. It is vital to have the voices of adults with Autism and the family members of individuals with Autism on an advisory council and for the legislators and Governor to act on the recommendations made by the Council.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]