

Iowa Western Community College



Tom Johnson, Vice President of Finance and Operations at Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on August 24. Tom has been with IWCC for 20 years.

Tom has two daughters. One has been in Spain for 4 ½ months, majoring in Marketing, Public Relations, and Spanish.

Tom handles legal issues and contracts at IWCC. In the past 15 years, IWCC has added over 600,000 square feet of building space, which has kept him very busy on contracts. The college now has 7200 students, with over 6200 in Council Bluffs. They also have campuses in Clarinda, Shenandoah, Atlantic, and Harlan.

IWCC just finished the repairs from the August 2011 hail storm. They sustained \$6 million in damage to roofs.

They also rebuilt the main road through campus and added storm sewers to the road.

The campus had 144 dorm room beds finished in May. They now have 1350 residences in three buildings. The new suites cost \$2600 per semester. Apartments cost \$1700 and the old dorms are \$1300 per semester. Some of the plans include meals. For security, there are 650 to 700 security cameras on campus.

A credit hour costs \$142 at IWCC. You can also take Buena Vista University classes on the IWCC campus. Buena Vista rents space from IWCC and has classes on evenings and weekends.

About 60% of the students at IWCC take classes that will transfer to other schools. The others are classes where students complete their degree at IWCC, such as Nursing.

There are two IWCC initiatives on the ballot this year. They are to fund the power plant (\$1.8M) and for instructional technology (\$200K). These initiatives have to be renewed every two years.

Community colleges started when World War II veterans were coming home. Iowa law created the community college system in 1966 and IWCC held its first classes in 1967.

IWCC has been very successful in sports. Some larger schools send youth here who are non-qualifiers in larger schools. These youth must graduate to go to a full college. Other athletes come just to compete. They can transfer to larger schools any time.