

# Community Colleges of Iowa

Training more high skilled workers can change Iowa's ranking of 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation in labor supply by Forbes' *2011 Best States For Business*. Iowa Community Colleges are the economic engine growing Iowa's economy through skilled worker training that attracts business, increases worker income, adds tax revenue to the State, improves the lives of the workers' families, and provides a 10.4% return on government support of Iowa's Community Colleges.

## *...an Investment in Iowa's Future*

The Community Colleges provided nearly 10 million hours of education in FY2011 to its 409,695 credit and noncredit students.

- ◆ Iowa Community College students pay the 8th highest tuition in the nation, which is over 33% higher than the national average.
- ◆ GED recipients are more likely to have better health, a savings/retirement account, literate children and a \$3-4,000 annual income increase. Adult Literacy programs reach only 8.9% of eligible Iowans.
- ◆ High school concurrent enrollment students are 43% more likely to graduate and nearly 8% more likely to attend college as well as be successful college completers.
- ◆ Merely 2.4% of all Iowa property tax reaches the Community Colleges providing local boards with little discretion to meet unique regional/local worker training and student needs.



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**State General Aid:** Supports funding state general aid at a minimum of \$186 million, to meet the growing demands of Community College students and businesses.

**Workforce Training:** Supports a \$16 million state commitment for skilled worker training as well as remedial, developmental, GED, and Adult Literacy programs through the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund and other funding streams available to maintain and build capacity for skilled worker training.

**Infrastructure:** Supports a continuing state commitment of \$11 million for worker training program related infrastructure and other major and equipment maintenance needs of the Community Colleges.

**Career Technical Training:** Supports expanding K12 concurrent enrollment career technical training.

**Local Governance:** Supports the 15 Iowa Community College Boards' local governance flexibility to access local tax support to meet the needs of local workforce training and their local communities.