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PRESS RELEASE: IACCT Welcomes New Executive Director, Emily Shields

DES MOINES—Iowa Association of Community College Trustees has chosen the current Executive Director of Iowa and Minnesota Campus Compact, Emily Shields, as its new Executive Director. Shields will be taking over MJ Dolan’s role following her retirement at the end of December 2020, after serving as IACCT’s Executive Director since 2007.

In 2011, Shields began her role as the Executive Director of Iowa Campus Compact—an organization that supports its member colleges and universities in fulfilling the public purposes of higher education. She also became the Executive Director of Minnesota Campus Compact in 2018.

“We are very pleased with our selection,” said Alan Jensen, current chair of IACCT and Kirkwood Community College trustee. “After a thorough search and interviewing process, the Search Committee and IACCT Board spent a great deal of time making the final decision. With Emily’s extensive background and knowledge, we know she will make a great and lasting impact leading IACCT. We all are looking forward to working with her.”

Prior to her roles with Campus Compact, Shields served as Chief of Staff of the Rebuild Iowa Office, providing strategic planning for Iowa’s disaster recovery programs and policies. She also served as the Senate Liaison and Policy Advisor to Chet Culver.

“We are extremely excited to have Emily join our team,” said Terry Murrell, President of Western Iowa Tech Community College and current chair of the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents. “She brings energy and expertise that will help all the community colleges continue to serve our students, community, and state to the best of our ability.”

As the Executive Director of IACCT, Shields’ key responsibilities will be to lead the 15-member IACCT board, guide and provide support to Iowa community college lobbying and legislative efforts, and foster relationships with government agencies and non-profits.

Shields will begin her role as Executive Director in January 2021.

About IACCT: IACCT is a nonprofit corporation serving Iowa’s 15 Community Colleges and their locally elected Boards by providing educational opportunities for trustees, students, presidents and staff through conferences, webinars and regional meetings; and by coordinating the Iowa Community Colleges’ One Voice advocacy program that respects the preservation of each Community College’s unique strengths, local governance, and educational programs to meet their communities and business partners’ worker training and economic development needs.