

"Northeast Iowa Community College provides in-demand education and training focused on improving lives, driving business success and advancing community vitality." NICC Mission Statement

**Northeast Iowa Community College
Agriculture Business
Advisory Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2021, 4 p.m.**

**Dairy Center Robotic Conference Room R100
OR**

**Zoom: <https://nicc.zoom.us/j/86303470375>
Phone: 301.715.8592 Meeting ID: 863 0347 0375**

***This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes only.**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Voting Members Present: John Finley - Iowa Corn Growers, Alex McCabe-CUSB Bank
 - b. Non-Voting Members Present: Melissa Hageman - South Winneshiek High School, Tad Mueller - NICC Agriculture Instructor, Bruce Bearinger - NICC Dean, Agriculture, Animal Science and Transportation, Kristi Creek-NICC Academic Assistant, Agriculture, Animal Science and Transportation, Sherry Massman-NICC Academic Assistant
 - c. Members Absent: Jack Rechkemmer-Innovative Ag, Jerome Fulsaa-J&J Farms, Kent Ulwelling-A&K Feed & Grain, Randee Hemeseth, Bob Sobolik-Five Star Cooperative, Jeff Henry - NICC Science Instructor, Jessica Reis-NICC Center Director
- II. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Tad called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.
- III. Advisory Committee Charter Review: Tad reviewed the charter and highlighted the key roles of the committee.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: Tad reviewed the minutes from the March 24, 2021 meeting.
- V. Old Business: NA
- VI. Program Assessment and Statistical Data
 - a. Program Dashboards: NA
 - b. Current Enrollment Data: Currently there are 44 students who have Ag Business as their primary major and another 9 students who have it as their second major. There are a total of 104 students enrolled in agriculture and animal science programs, and NICC has met their enrollment goal for the fall term.
 - c. Annual Key Program Indicator Report: This data was reviewed at the spring meeting, and new data will be available for the spring 2022 meeting.
 - d. Board/Certification Pass Rates: There are no required certifications in the program, but students are prepared to take the drone license, applicator license, and CCA certification upon program completion.

- VII. Employer Updates

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- a. John Finley: Iowa Corn has a lot going on in DC. Currently they are working on the Next Generation of Fuels act. This will give automakers another option than having to switch to all electric vehicles. Locally they are still working with the governor on the Iowa Fuel Standard. Harvest is coming on and it looks like it will be a good crop. John will be retiring at the end of the month.
 - b. Alex McCabe: Over the last year and a half banks have been busy and have been expanding on the lending side, and there are still quite a few job openings. Cresco added a credit analyst position to put together the numbers and presentation, and the loan officer takes on more of a sales role and approves the final numbers.
 - c. Melissa Hageman: At the high school level, they are just getting back into the swing of things, and trying to do as much hands-on work as they can do at the high school level.
- VIII. Sector and Regional Planning Board Reports: NA
- IX. New Business
- a. Curriculum
 - i. Education Plan: Tad reviewed the education plan with the committee.
 - ii. Curriculum Map: NA
 - iii. Guided Pathways: NA
 - b. Course Guide Review: Bruce gave an overview of the changes that were made to all course guides. All courses were put onto a new course guide form, which now includes a 6.3 Blooms Domain Level. All of the 8.0's were updated with appropriate Bloom's verbs. All competencies were kept the same. John Finley is in agreement with the changes made.
 - c. Policies and Procedure Changes: NA
 - d. Technology and Equipment: Tad shared that the program was approved to purchase iPads that will have a GPS chip, so students can use them with the drones and other precision agriculture applications. These will be shared among all agriculture programs to advance the technology within the programs.
 - e. Student/Industry Engagement (Internships, Job shadows, etc.): Internships went well, COVID interfered a little bit, but they were better than last year.
 - f. Other (Accreditation, etc.): NA
- X. College Updates
- a. The college continues to manage COVID cases as they arise on campus.
 - b. Through C2A3 the college has applied for the CIG grant through the NRCS. With the grant, the college will be working with the Dairy Center to put two automated water testing units on the creek. This will provide continuous water monitoring year round. The first year will provide a baseline, and in the second year the Dairy Center will change things to see if the concentration of nitrogen phosphorus changes.
 - a. Dr. Wee is retiring in June, and a hiring committee has started the process to bring on a new president.
 - c. Sherry shared that there are 22 Ag Business students receiving funds this fall. They are receiving anywhere from \$2050 to \$3500. There are a total of 35 agriculture students, and

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448 total NICC students overall receiving the scholarship, with the majority being in a health related program. With a total of \$758,834 being disbursed. The state has given every indication that this scholarship will continue.

- XI. Good of the Order: NA
- XII. Next Meeting Date: March 2022
- XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. Since a quorum was not present at the meeting curriculum items will be emailed out for a vote from the committee.