Opportunities to Leverage Education and Outreach Programs through Partnerships Between Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa’s Community Colleges

Abstract submitted by Ray Hansen, 10/24/17

Situation:

The state of Iowa is uniquely blessed with two strong state-wide educational entities that place a special emphasis on serving the needs of its citizens. The first is Iowa’s land-grant university, Iowa State University, along with its Extension and Outreach services. The second is the Iowa Community College network.

Although their core missions are unique, they do share a few commonalities. The most prevalent commonality is that funding limitations often stretch both systems’ resources. Recruiting and retaining top-notch professional educators capable of providing meaningful programs and developing long-term relationship with students and clients also equally challenge both entities.

Given these commonalities, there are likely untapped opportunities for collaboratively developing educational strategies to benefit both groups.

Proposal:

The opportunities and challenges of developing meaningful collaborative relationships between ISU Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Community College network must begin with a dedicated and focused effort to foster a culture of cooperation. Such an effort must begin with a comprehensive needs assessment and survey of potential areas of collaboration. From this assessment, we can begin to develop and implement strategies and long-term plans.

The over-arching goal of the project is to foster an atmosphere of collaboration with a focus on educational outreach and professional development. This project would not deal with student articulation agreements or student recruitment.

Primary Tasks:

- Conduct comprehensive needs assessment survey (ISU departments, field specialists, extension administration, regional directors, community college administrators, staff, students, adult learners, industry, and legislators).
- Develop and foster collaborative relationships between the groups.
- Develop strategic plan for improved relationships and sharing opportunities.
- Leverage funds both internally and externally to support plans.
- Foster and broker agreements for collaboration.
- Monitor and evaluate agreements.