

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

currents

COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY EDITION
WITH ANNUAL REPORT

Fall 2015

Celebrating
50
YEARS *of* GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITIES







Dear friends,

Each year students embark on a journey to fulfill their hopes and dreams. It's a time of self-discovery and new beginnings; when aspirations become milestones. These aspirations frame our college and also become our milestones. This year marks a major milestone. Kirkwood Community College turns 50. We are proud to celebrate 50 years of golden opportunities: identifying community needs, providing accessible, quality education and training, and promoting opportunities for lifelong learning—our mission.

In the following pages you will take a glimpse at the past, present and future of Kirkwood. We reflect upon lifetimes of dedication to meeting needs and opportunities, forged by pioneering diligence and evolutionary change. Through four college presidents, generations of faculty and staff, and more than 70,000 alumni later, you will see that our mission continues to serve the residents in Kirkwood's seven-county region.



This issue features photos and tidbits about the times. Two brothers share their story that predates the formalization of the community college. See how enrollment has changed over the years. Learn how one program has transformed the life of a Moroccan immigrant, empowering her to achieve goals she never thought possible. Read about our expansion and the ever-changing University of Iowa partnership with the grand opening of The Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa. Through the generosity of our alumni and friends, meet the first recipients of the Golden Opportunity Scholarship.

From cornfield to college, we have evolved. And although times have changed, the spirit of Kirkwood remains steadfast. The dedication to our students, business and the communities we serve is unwavering. Looking forward to the next 50 years of opportunities.

Enjoy *Currents*,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Starcevich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mick" and last name "Starcevich" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Mick Starcevich
President
Kirkwood Community College



past

“ The past is our definition. We may strive, with good reason, to escape it, or to escape what is bad in it, but we will escape it only by adding something better to it. ”

American Author, Wendell Berry

LARRY & ROSS WILEY

Community college pioneers

Spend even a few minutes with Larry and Ross Wiley and you will probably hear about their formative times with Kirkwood. Truth be told, their enrollments even predate the college itself. The northern Benton County brothers were part of an early vocational training program that was folded into the brand-new Area X College that began in the summer of 1966.

The Wileys grew up in the country north of Cedar Rapids, and both served in the Iowa National Guard. Larry recalls seeing a newspaper article about an “Area X vocational machinist” class. “I decided to check it out, ended up enrolling and I went on to work from there. I didn’t realize then this was the first vocational class they had,” Larry said.

That was the 1964-65 academic year. The training began in the machine shop of Cedar Rapids Washington High School. Mid-term, the training was moved to a facility on Rockford Road SW, as the new two-year college sought out places to begin programs.

Ross enrolled the next year, 1965-66. “I was working for our dad on the farm and we weren’t generating enough revenue to support two families. So I looked at the program Larry was in and thought I could do that, too. My goal was to farm. There are a lot of ways you can use a machinist education on the farm, so I enrolled there, too,” Ross said.

Both brothers excelled in the training, to the point that Ross was named Outstanding Student in the

machinist program for 1965-66.

With a wry smile, Ross held up the diploma-like award that announced the honor, dated May 3, 1966. That was several weeks away from the official first day of Area X’s existence.

Both brothers soon found solid employment that put their machinist skills to good use. Younger brother Larry moved from a tire shop job in Vinton to an entry-level position in the new printing press manufacturer Miehle-Goss-Dexter, later known as Rockwell Goss. He worked his way up the company ladder, serving as a foreman, general foreman and manufacturing engineer during a career that lasted more than 35 years.

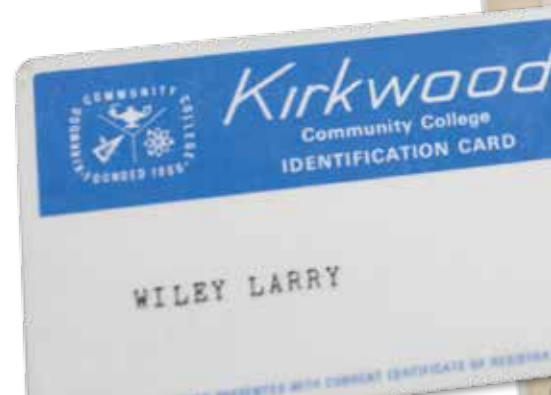
Ross also enrolled in several Kirkwood classes, including one memorable winter when he and his father both learned welding in the same shop. Ross applied his skills not only to the family farm, but also several years at Kwik-Way and in the Cedar Rapids Quaker Oats plant. He remembers one day that showcased his machinist training.

“The plant staff had a part that had broken, and they were wondering how long it would take to get it replaced. I told them, ‘You know, I could make that for you.’ They didn’t believe me, but I knew they had the index head tool to make it, right there in the plant.” He cracks a wry Iowa farmer smile. “I showed them how, and I did it.” In 1968 Ross realized his long-time goal of full-time farming. He continues that role on the family farm to this day.

Over the years the Wiley brothers have kept a keen eye on Kirkwood’s development and growth. Larry served several years on Kirkwood’s machinist training advisory board, bringing his Goss knowledge to Jones Hall’s programs. His son, Landis, was also a Kirkwood student who went on to Coe College and received honors there. Landis Wiley is now a financial advisor with Principal Financial Group. Ross’s grandson, Nikolas Wiley, also attended Kirkwood in recent years, and now does mechanical drafting and design for Colony Heating in Cedar Rapids.

When it comes to their college alma mater, both men look with admiration on the school’s accomplishments and where it’s going. “Kirkwood has really kept up with the times and keeps doing it,” Larry adds. “The wind turbine and the Kirkwood Hotel are two great examples. Kirkwood addresses just about any interest a person might have.”

Ross Wiley listens, nods and pauses. “Go take a look. If you’re wondering what to do, go take a look at Kirkwood,” he adds. “I bet you’ll find something good there.”





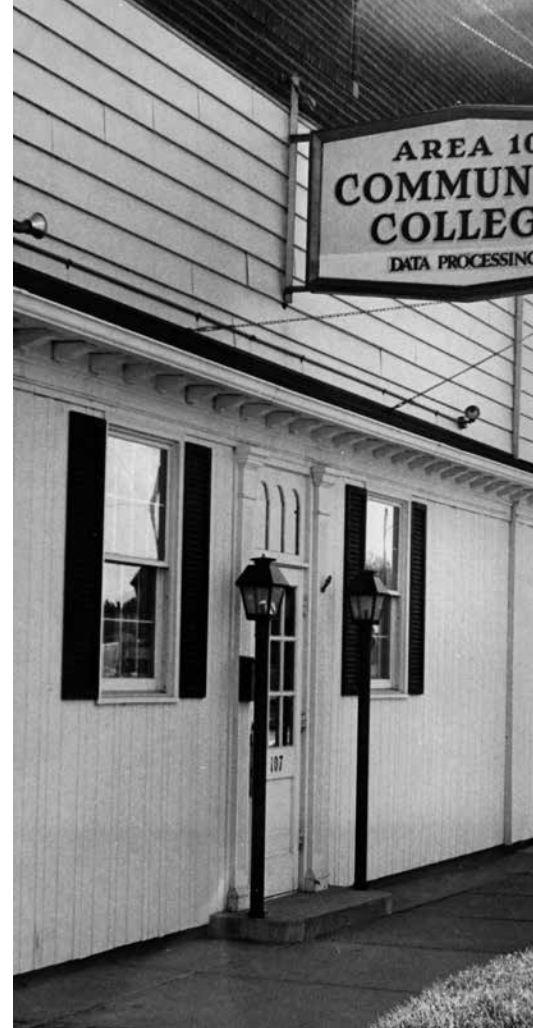
K.C.C.



CARDS will be re-
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ed to cover replacement.
TRANSFERABLE

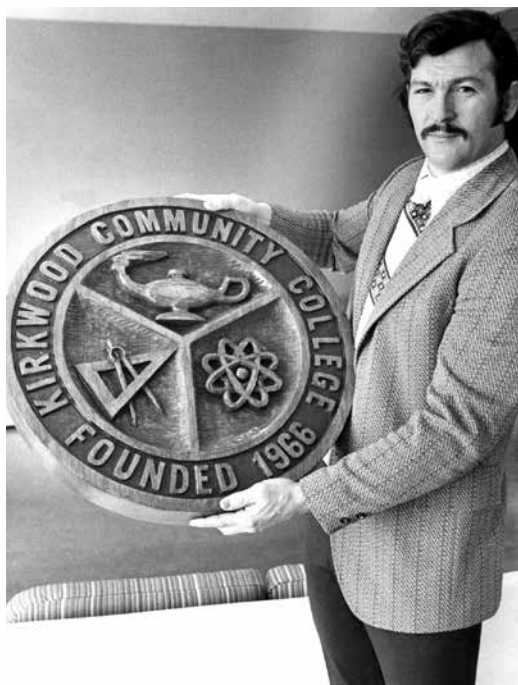
"I decided to check it out, ended up enrolling and I went on to work from there. I didn't realize then this was the first vocational class they had."

—Larry Wiley



► 1966

The college's first president, Dr. Selby Ballantyne, designed Kirkwood's first logo. The elements were symbolic of the college in 1966 representing knowledge, electronics and technology, and the trades. Its colors, red, white and blue, respectively stood for the medical, nursing and dental fields.





Kirkwood Community College Construction and Facility Expansion

1968

- East Campus

1969

- Linn Hall

1972

- Heritage Area Agency on Aging

1975

- Iowa Hall

1977

- Benton Hall (Library)

1978

- Jones Hall
- Washington Hall

1981

- Environmental Training Center

1982

- Johnson Hall
- Cedar Hall

1983

- Ballantyne Auditorium

1987

- Automotive Collision Center

1988

- Kirkwood Hall
- Marion Center
- Raptor Center

1990

- Automotive Technology
- Tipton Center
- Iowa City Campus
- Iowa City Learning Center

1991

- Vinton Center
- Environmental Training Center (2nd)
- Williamsburg Center
- Kirkwood Kids

1992

- Transportation and Safety Training Center
- Horticulture-Floriculture
- Monticello Center

1993

- Mansfield Swine Education Center
- Iowa State University Outreach Center

1994

- Belle Plaine Center

1996

- Heritage Area Agency on Aging Relocation

1997

- Animal Health Technology
- Bluestem Solid Waste Agency

1998

- Resource Center (Cedar Rapids)
- Tippi Beef Education Center
- Cedar County Resource Center

1999

- Iowa City Annex

2000

- Iowa Equestrian Center

2001

- Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services
- Iowa Hall Addition
- Nielsen Hall

2004

- Michael J Gould Recreation Center

2005

- Benton Hall Addition/Bookstore
- Iowa City Campus Expansion

2006

- Community Training and Response Center

2008

- Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education
- Horticulture/Floriculture

2009

- Cedar Hall Academic
- Jones Hall Addition
- Jones County Regional Center
- Katz Family Healthcare Simulation Center

2010

- The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

2012

- Wind Turbine
- EagleTech

2013

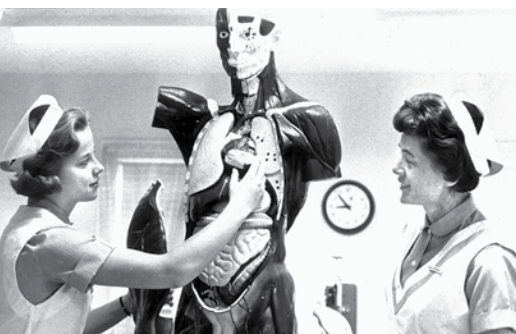
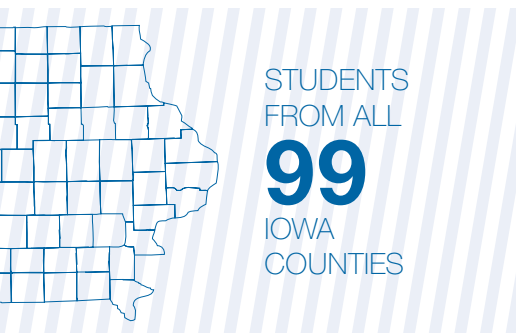
- Kirkwood Continuing Education and Training Center
- Linn County Regional Center
- Facilities and Security
- Iowa Sustainability Village

2014

- Ballantyne Auditorium Remodel
- Cedar Rapids Animal Care and Control
- Linn Hall Remodel
- Washington County Regional Center

2015

- Kirkwood Center for Lifelong Learning
- Iowa Hall Remodel
- The Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa



► 1969

Area X Community College became known as Kirkwood Community College, named after former Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood.

Students submitted more than 150 names including Kennedy Brothers, Tallcorn, Wilderness and Grant Wood.

Evolution of the Kirkwood
Community College logo





► 1979

A new student opportunity center provided student peer counseling and tutoring service.



Visionary KIRKWOOD'S

Innovative. A word that describes each of Kirkwood's presidents. In its 50-year history the college has been led by four men. Their vision and leadership has made an impact locally and nationally, transforming the community college into what it is today.

vies: PRESIDENTS



1966-1977

In 1966 Kirkwood was known as Area X Community College. The evolution of the college during this time was as revolutionary as the '60s themselves. Dr. Selby Ballantyne laid the foundation for the community college system.

Dr. B, his typical reference, was appointed after serving 11 years as superintendent of the Bettendorf, Iowa school system. The Iowa boy from Albia understood the value of education. After years of backbreaking work on the railroad he earned his GED; attended the University of Northern Iowa for his bachelors; Drake University for his masters; and the University of Iowa for his doctorate in Education.

At this time of war and social evolution, the community college legislation combined trade and liberal arts education with noncredit education classes. Dr. B and the Board of Directors worked closely with area business to fulfill the educational needs for jobs in Cedar Rapids and its surrounding communities. Although many classes were held throughout the corridor, the "college in the cornfield" quickly grew to a

campus with five buildings. In 1969 the college changed its name to Kirkwood Community College through a campaign led by students.

During Dr. B's tenure, enrollment grew from 199 to over 4,000 students. More than 40,000 registered in non-credit community education courses. He kept a pulse on the wants and needs of students through frequent interaction. This jovial man made it known that student success was paramount. The college established one of the first high school correspondence programs in the nation and the local jazz radio station, KCCK.

Dr. B's foresight and power of persuasion formed legislation, created the doctrine of "open door" education, and designed innovative curricula that brought national recognition and accreditation to the college. He served on the Commission on Governmental Affairs of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and chaired ACCTion, a national program for technical assistance to community colleges.

In 1977 Dr. Ballantyne passed away suddenly, survived by his wife, Florence, and their five children. To honor him, the college's auditorium was named Ballantyne Auditorium in 1983.

1978–1985

The advancements initiated at Kirkwood in the first decade accelerated under the leadership of second president, Dr. Bill Stewart. A native of Oregon, Dr. Stewart came to Kirkwood as an experienced teacher, principal and superintendent. He and his wife, Martha, left the cold winters of Alaska for the cold winters of Iowa.

Dr. Stewart commanded the room. He directed his energies, intellect and decisiveness into forging new directions. During his term, Kirkwood deepened and expanded service in Benton, Cedar, Johnson, Jones, Iowa and Washington counties. A key project was the system of two-way audio/video communication to the county centers. It allowed students in remote locations the ability to earn college credit close to home. This microwave system was the first of its kind in the nation.

Although fiscally conservative, Dr. Stewart was committed to making Kirkwood's offerings as comprehensive as possible. Programs were expanded in the areas of agricultural science, fine arts, industrial technology and music. International education also became accessible.

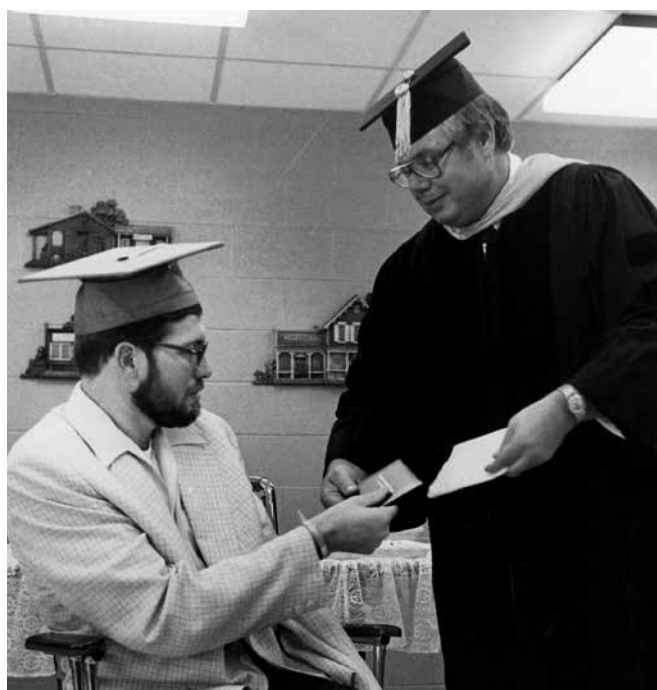
As the concept of community college developed during Dr. Stewart's term, schools took notice of Kirkwood's educational model. In turn the college was invited to join the prestigious League for Innovation. The League for Innovation was founded in 1968 with the intention of providing direction for experimentation and innovation in community college education. Dr. Stewart served on its Board of Directors for three years.

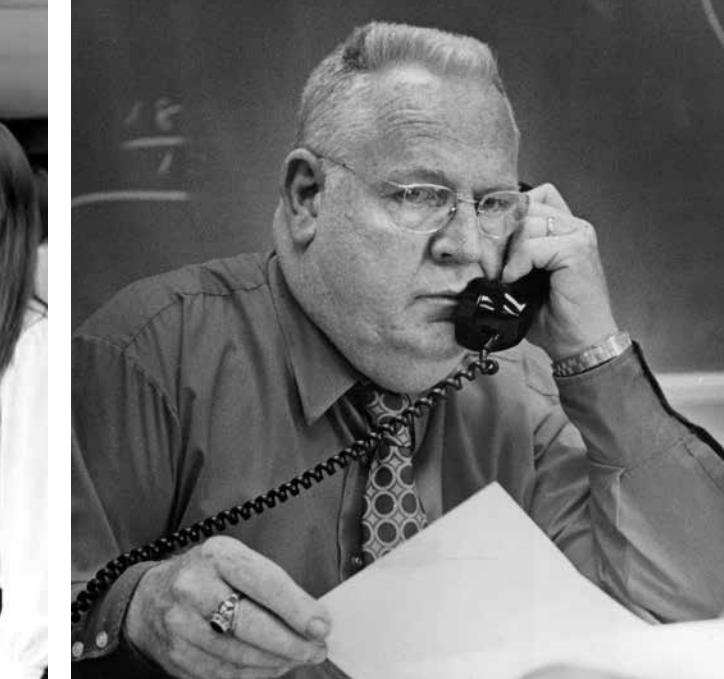
Dr. Stewart resigned in 1985. Before he left he offered this perspective on Kirkwood: "A lot of people come here and they are amazed just by the general feeling clear across campus of people trying to make things better for students. That is the spirit of Kirkwood. We've got a great Board and a great staff. We've got a lot of things. But it's the combination, the synergy that makes it work. It can move a mountain, and it has."

Dr. Stewart helped move the mountain and contributed to the education process with bold, imaginative actions. His imprint remains a part of Kirkwood forever.

1985–2005

Dr. "Norm" Nielsen captured the attention of Kirkwood's Board of Trustees as part of the Stewart administration. The former high school teacher climbed the ranks in secondary education as a precursor to his 26-year career at Kirkwood. For more than two decades Norm molded the college into an economic tool for the region





and strengthened Kirkwood's offerings.

On and off campus this charismatic, energetic man with his distinctive, powerful, gravelly voice nurtured relationships that impacted the college. At the beginning of his term Norm vowed to maintain a quality level in his staffing and promote good morale. Staff that worked with him unequivocally say that he was true to his word. This in part was reflected in the large increase in both credit and continuing education enrollments. Credit student counts advanced from 6,500 in 1985 to over 15,000 by his final year.

Norm embraced the concept of business and industry partnerships, affording students the opportunity for hands-on learning that could lead to future employment. Under his leadership and collaboration with the trustees, cooperative efforts ensued. During his tenure the college partnered with St. Luke's Hospital. This enabled students to work with healthcare professionals on main campus as well as Tipton and Monticello, Iowa. In 1997 Diamond V Mills, a producer of animal nutrition products, built a dual-purpose facility on the Agricultural Science campus. Most notably, Kirkwood worked diligently with AEGON USA, building a corporate data center on the Cedar Rapids campus. The center housed a student computer lab. When changing business needs led AEGON to reclaim the building in 1999, the company funded \$1.7 million in seed money to construct a new Business and Information Technology building on main campus. AEGON also donated use of their building during this time period in Marion, Iowa that still houses the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services center. Perhaps it was Norm's competitive nature that persuaded the marketing and fundraising firm RuffaloCODY to build its offices on campus rather than relocate to another part of the country. To this day the firm hires Kirkwood students and enables the college's customer service training.

Overall, campus construction and improvements were evident all over the Cedar Rapids campus and surrounding counties under Norm's leadership. Construction of Kirkwood Hall and expansions to Washington Hall, the Mansfield Swine and Tippie Beef Centers preceded the construction of the Iowa Equestrian Center. This major addition to the Agricultural Science campus supported student activities during the week and major equestrian and other events nearly every weekend since 2000. During his 20 years as president, Norm worked in earnest with the Kirkwood Foundation and community donors to garner well over \$60 million in donations and in-kind support to the college. For this and all of the contributions he and his late wife, Marian, made to the college, the Business and Information Technology building was dedicated as Nielsen Hall in 2004.

Upon his retirement the Kirkwood Board of Trustees honored Dr. Norm Nielsen as President Emeritus for providing outstanding and distinguished service. In a recent interview he stated, "The growth Kirkwood experienced was only possible because of an outstanding Board, staff, faculty and administration to whom I will always be indebted."

2005–present

It's not uncommon to see Kirkwood's fourth president jogging around campus or cheering for one of the college's athletic teams. Dr. "Mick" Starcevich's pride in the college and students shines through. Mick came to the college in 2003 working under President Nielsen. In 2005 the Board of Trustees appointed this approachable and driven man to the presidency. A former math teacher, principal and superintendent of nearby College Community Schools, Mick lends his talents advocating creative and innovative methods in education.

Mick's focus on student success is reflected in current, college-wide initiatives to prepare for the rigors of emerging jobs and careers. Some examples of this priority include a more in-depth and comprehensive orientation program for incoming students that often includes other family members. Support continues through a student's first year with College 101 classes and awareness of tutoring, mentorship and other avenues to successful completion of their first college courses.

With Mick's leadership and support from the Board of Trustees over the past decade, Kirkwood has also diligently built a culture of improvement and learning within the ranks of faculty and staff. The college dedicated a section of the expanded Cedar Hall to the Kirkwood Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Here, both new and veteran faculty and staff have the opportunity to keep up on skills and methods in teaching, software and interpersonal wisdom.

As a result of Mick's commitment to growing community relationships, the college received strong and literal votes of support from across the seven-county region. In 2005 voters approved an initial \$25 million bond issue, and renewed a \$46.5 million measure in 2011. These were the first bonds approved by area voters in the history of the college, reflecting the value they placed on Kirkwood services across the region. The college returned that vote of confidence by launching the first of four Regional Center facilities. The Jones County Regional Center in Monticello, Iowa, is a wide-ranging partnership of nine area school districts, local business and private support joining with Kirkwood. The concept grew with the Linn County





Regional Center opening in 2013 and the Washington County Regional Center in 2014. These facilities allow high school students to take college classes, provide training for area trades like welding, and are venues for building basic educational skills.

The fall of 2015 brought the opening of the Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa. This marked a first for Iowa as a community college builds a shared facility on the campus of a major research university. Area high school students will have top-level facilities for shared career academy programs like Laboratory Science, plus teaching and learning opportunities for university students and faculty as well.

In an effort to improve the college's carbon footprint, Kirkwood has gone green during Mick's administration by earning state and national awards. Multiple buildings use geothermal heating and cooling, energy efficient lighting and other modern techniques. The prestigious Four Diamond-rated Hotel at Kirkwood Center, which opened in 2010, is no exception. This 71-room hotel is also a teaching facility preparing students entering the hospitality industry. Its energy efficient design saves the college about \$140,000 per year.

Another initiative commands the southern Cedar Rapids skyline. In 2012 Kirkwood put a wind turbine into operation on the north side of the main campus. Students in the Energy Production and Distribution program can work with professional technicians on a working turbine without leaving the campus. The turbine also helps the college's bottom line. In the spring of 2015, Kirkwood's turbine passed the \$1 million mark in electricity value generated, lowering costs for the college.

Mick's vision for environmental education came to fruition with the building of the Iowa Sustainable Village. The three-cabin village immerses students in hands-on training and serves as a real-time laboratory to test developing technologies. The buildings are constructed with industry standard eco-friendly materials using environmentally conscious tools and techniques. Local builders and energy companies collaborate with the college to learn more about materials and techniques.

In addition to providing innovative education, Mick's administration strives to make it accessible. In 2015 the Kirkwood Foundation will award over \$3 million in scholarships. Students from all walks of life: county center students, adult learners or young people straight from high school, are all eligible.

"We are the community's college" is Mick's mantra. With this instrument of thought, his commitment to the college's mission—to identify community needs; provide accessible, quality education and training; and promote opportunities for lifelong learning—will be felt for years to come.





When the college was founded, students could enroll in the following programs:

Auto Mechanics
Data Processing
Drafting Technology

Electronic Technology
Floriculture
Machine Shop

Mechanical Technology
Practical Nursing
Welding



Today, Kirkwood offers 115 program degrees, diplomas and certificates.



present

“ Yesterday's the past,
tomorrow's the future,
but today is a gift.
That's why it's called
the present. ”

American Cartoonist, Bil Keane

"When I became a part of KPACE, I felt like someone was watching over me and helping. I felt so empowered and independent to take control of my life and move forward."
—Yasmine

YASMINE

Nothing could stop this Kirkwood grad

Fifteen years ago, two Moroccan immigrants arrived in the United States. They had entered the Diversity Immigrant Visa program sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs, and by some stroke of luck, their numbers had been drawn. Excited, the young couple saw coming to the U.S. as an incredible opportunity. So incredible, they left behind their families and everything they knew for the American Dream.

Yasmine and her husband, Hamza, subsequently raised three sons in Iowa City. He attended the University of Iowa and earned a degree in engineering. Neither knew a word of English, so Yasmine spent days with her children teaching herself to speak the language, mostly by watching television. When the children were old enough for grade school, Yasmine decided it was her turn.

"I was inspired by my husband. He

was working so hard learning English and earning his degree," she said.

"He told me, 'when I'm done, you go (to school)' but, even though I had been a good student in school, I was sometimes scared and not confident."

Last August, Yasmine was connected with Kirkwood Pathways for Academic Career Education and Employment (KPACE), a personalized educational pathway program that offers academic, social and financial support.

"I felt so dependent, like I was leaning too much on my husband, and I felt alone not knowing anyone or the language," Yasmine said. "When I became a part of KPACE, I felt like someone was watching over me and helping. I felt so empowered and independent to take control of my life and move forward."

Yasmine started off earning a diploma in medical coding. Her

self-taught English paid off, and she was placed in level four (out of five) English as a Second Language classes. Her determination and confidence grew. KPACE pathway navigators encouraged Yasmine to take advantage of counseling and life coaching workshops offered through the program that help students overcome obstacles.

"I had difficulties to overcome in life that should have stopped me," she said. "But I pushed to move forward. Many of my classes were online, which takes more willpower, but I've learned each day if you push yourself, you can do it. Financially, emotionally, you can do it."

In May 2015, Yasmine proudly graduated from Kirkwood Community College with an associate degree in Health Information Technology. She already had a job lined up. Her supervisors were so





Alumni Leadership Council

impressed with Yasmine's skills during her internship, they offered her a job before she even graduated.

Yasmine's inspirational strength and perseverance, which she hadn't given herself credit for until she went to college, carried her to the success she experiences today. "It's like a dream, to come to the United States and earn a degree," Yasmine said. "We wanted to come here and change ourselves. And we did."

Editor's Note: To respect the privacy of the student and her husband, names were altered for this story.

'99 Chad Bosch
Bosch Financial

'01 Melanie Abu-Nameh
Kirkwood Community College

'86 Shawn Gallagher
Ladco, Inc.

'83 Deborah Gertsen
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

'11 Stephen Hanisch
Kirkwood Community College

'88 Michael Ivester
ITC Midwest

'89 Dennis Jordan
Mortenson Construction

'07 Patrick Kettmann
Rockwell Collins, Inc.

'88 Mary Klinger
St. Luke's Foundation

'90 Brad Marcus
US Bank

'90 Melanne Miller
Retired, Transamerica

'72 Brenda Moore
Retired, UIHC

'75 Craig Mrkvicka
Kirkwood Community College

'03 Andy Petersen
KISS Country FM

'92 Robyn Rieckhoff
Freedom Festival

'95 Stephanie Roberts
Rockwell Collins, Inc.

'82 Mary Schneekloth
Kirkwood Community College

'86 Chris Wheeler
Point Builders, Inc.

'84 Virginia Wilts
Guaranty Bank & Trust

Kirkwood's 2014–2015 Annual Report

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
20,398
STUDENTS

67%

LIBERAL ARTS

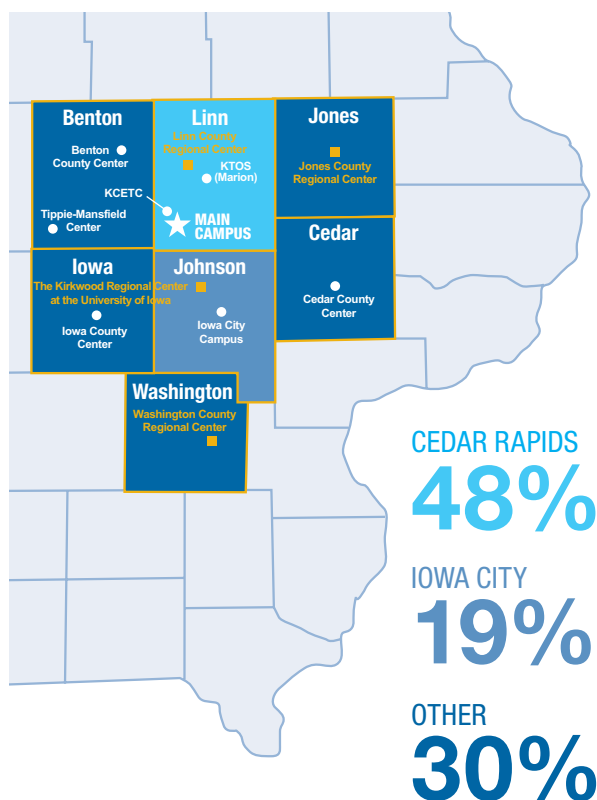
33%

CAREER & TECHNICAL

1966 INAUGURAL ENROLLMENT:

199 STUDENTS

GEOGRAPHICAL ENROLLMENT



#1

COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN IOWA FOR THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE DEGREES AWARDED



TUITION/CREDIT HOUR

\$148

RESIDENT

\$6

RESIDENT

\$178

NON-RESIDENT

\$9

NON-RESIDENT

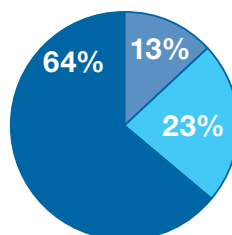
231,861

CREDIT HOURS EARNED



115 DEGREES, DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES OFFERED

ENROLLMENT BY AGE



- ▶ 17 & UNDER
- ▶ 18 – 26
- ▶ 27 – 55+

ENROLLMENT BY GENDER



51%
FEMALE



49%
MALE

1966



34%



66%

COLLEGE CREDIT
IN HIGH SCHOOL**4,548**

STUDENTS

30,440

CREDIT HOURS EARNED



FAMILIES SAVE:
\$4.4
MILLION

DISTANCE LEARNING

**8,736**

STUDENTS

CONTINUING
EDUCATION CLASSES**67,717**

STUDENTS ENROLLED

558,555

CONTACT HOURS EARNED

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

Includes: Adult Basic Education, High School
Equivalency, English as a Second Language**3,628**

STUDENTS

↑ 8%
FROM 2014**232** DIPLOMAS
EARNEDTUITION ASSISTANCE FOR
TRAINING CERTIFICATES**163** > AWARDED
STUDENTS **\$360k****\$3,000,000+** RAISED FOR
SCHOLARSHIPSPATHWAYS FOR ACADEMIC
CAREER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT (KPACE)Program Goal: To increase the number of
financially stable households in Iowa's Creative
Corridor through training and education.**170** STUDENTS
ENROLLED**86%** COMPLETION
RATE**250** CREDENTIALS
EARNEDIncluding high school equivalency
diploma, certificate, diploma or degree**1:21** FACULTY TO
STUDENT RATIOIOWA NEW JOBS TRAINING
PROGRAM (260E)**1,644**JOBS CREATED IN
EASTERN IOWA**\$13,585,000**

INVESTED IN TRAINING

TRAINING &
OUTREACH
SERVICES**169** 

COMPANIES TRAINED

19,188INCUMBENT WORKERS
TRAINEDENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP**\$1,000,000+**WORTH OF ENERGY PRODUCED
BY WIND TURBINE**2,000+**
TRANSFER
TO 4-YEAR
COLLEGES
ANNUALLY



THE KIRKWOOD REGIONAL CENTER

When students entered the futuristic new building in the Oakdale neighborhood of Coralville this past August, they became part of a bold new cooperative way of learning.

The Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa is the fourth multi-purpose regional facility in the Kirkwood system. College officials believe the partnership with the University of Iowa (UI) is the first time a community college has built a shared facility on the campus of a major university in Iowa. The center began operations with fall classes in August. A community-wide open house will be on October 8.

This partnership connects resources across the educational spectrum and will involve educators

from K-12 districts, Kirkwood and UI departments as they collaborate on teaching and learning. Students from eight area school districts will build awareness in careers while earning high school credits through 16 Career Academy programs at the center. Many of these classes will earn both high school and college credit at no cost to their families.

The regional center partnership also welcomed the Iowa City office of Grant Wood Area Education Agency. Teacher in-service programs and other professional development will happen in the midst of a strong focus on science, technology,

engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum.

That focus is key to the purpose of the new regional center.

According to regional center Director Jon Weih, “STEM learning

“For Kirkwood and all of us, the relationship building should be never-ending.”

*—Jon Weih
Director*

and development is at the heart of so much that we have going here. One key reason that’s happening is the center is headquarters for our STEM Hub, not only for our area but the entire southeast quadrant of Iowa. Our faculty, area teachers and Iowa technical and science-based industries are all going to be working together, right here.”

Students have several coursework and career exploration choices



TER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

A pinnacle of partnership

through the new regional center, plus several research reminders in close proximity to the new facility. The 100,000 square foot, five-story building sits in the midst of the UI's Research Park Campus about a mile north of Coral Ridge Mall. The State Hygienic Laboratory, National Advanced Driving Simulator and other research centers, are just a few minutes' walk away. Plus, the University Research Park is home to more than 30 start-up companies and educational support groups. Many of these young companies are in STEM-intensive fields such as biochemistry, software development and Internet marketing.

All that research and entrepreneurial energy will also find a helpful conduit to students and the community

through the Workplace Learning Connection (WLC). WLC is a Kirkwood department that serves schools, students, employers and our community. The program communicating business and careers is housed at the new regional center. WLC school visits, job-shadows and internships with area employers reached 34 school districts and thousands of students in the past year alone.

The Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) is also located at the facility. Students can take advantage of this free service that helps them plan for college. ICAN educates students and their parents about the college-going process, specifically surrounding the financial aid process.

These programs, projects and partnerships have Jon Weih excited about the possibilities for the new regional center's university, school district and community partnerships.

"I see this as all about impressions and relationships," Weih mused. "It comes down to helping the next generation see all the possibilities and all the great things they can do. Our faculty, staff and the high school students will get to work with university faculty and grad students. Our business leaders will get involved, too. The more we talk and share ideas, the better everything gets. For Kirkwood and all of us, the relationship building should be never-ending."

► 2001

Business and IT building dedicated; named Nielsen Hall in honor of Kirkwood's third president.



FIRST

AND ONLY TEACHING
HOTEL IN THE COUNTRY





► 2008

More than 1,000 animals rescued during Cedar Rapids' historic flood found refuge at the college and were housed in the Iowa Equestrian Center for shelter. The federal courthouse was also relocated temporarily at The Hotel prior to its opening.

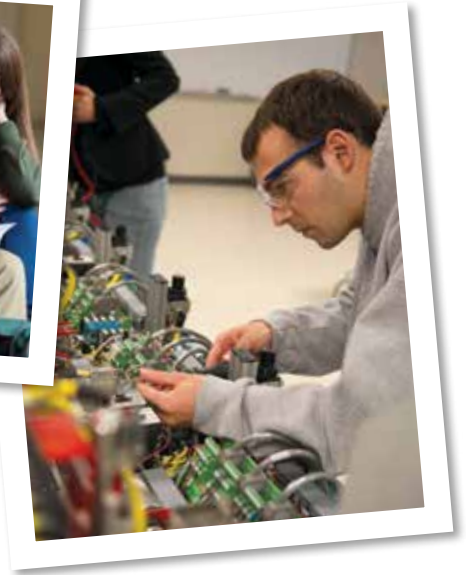


STUDENTS
FROM 100
DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES



► 2015
One of nine
community colleges
in the country to be
honored by the United
States Department
of Education as a
Green Ribbon School
for our commitment
to environmental
preservation.





future

“ Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. ”

Malcolm X

OPPORTUNITIES *for incoming freshmen*

This year we celebrate providing students with 50 years of opportunities. Opportunities to learn, explore and grow. Affording these opportunities to people from all walks of life is the principal mission of the Kirkwood Foundation. To commemorate Kirkwood's 50th Anniversary, the Foundation has established the Golden Opportunity Scholarship.

"The Golden Opportunity

Scholarship is a gift to the seven-county community Kirkwood serves. It's our way of saying thank you,"

said Kathy Hall, vice

president of development. "Most of our graduates build their lives in this area of the state, and this scholarship will provide support for their children and families as well."

The Foundation and area donors have consistently risen to meet the evolving needs of students and our community. In the last ten years alone, more than \$17.5 million in scholarships have been awarded. The Golden Opportunity Scholarship is aimed at eliminating the first financial barrier for students—the cost of tuition.

Many high school graduates considering Kirkwood are just beyond the income threshold to receive full federal Pell grants, but still have financial need. Combined with state and federal grants, the Golden

Opportunity Scholarship will fill the remaining gap to cover the cost of tuition.

The scholarship is available to incoming freshmen in Benton, Cedar, Linn, Jones, Johnson, Iowa and Washington counties who apply for financial aid. It is awarded on a first come, first serve basis. This spring 54 high school students were notified that they had been awarded the Golden Opportunity Scholarship

to attend Kirkwood in the fall.

Amanda Newman, a graduate of Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa, is a recipient who wants to be a speech pathologist. Her parents wanted her to have the experience of applying

and paying for college on her own to get a sense of what it means to be independent. "I've been working and saving money. This helps me to get a good start my first year," said Newman. "I'll keep saving money along the way."

For Cory Mueller, a graduate of Tipton High School, the Golden Opportunity Scholarship is his financial ladder as a pre-pharmacology major. "Seeing the large expense attached to the degree I want to pursue, I chose Kirkwood as an affordable option to get started," said Mueller. "With this scholarship I won't have to work as much. I'll have more time to study."

Creating opportunity. That's what Kirkwood is all about. It's been happening for 50 golden years.







2ND

IN THE NATION
AG PROGRAM
GRADUATES



SIX

CHAMPIONSHIP
ATHLETIC TEAMS



A Foundation of Strategic Partnerships

Kirkwood has a longstanding history promoting economic development by offering career and technical programs to fulfill workforce needs. The college is also a conduit for Liberal Arts students to four-year institutions. This wouldn't be possible without the formation of strong community partnerships. Throughout the years, Kirkwood's partnerships with private and public entities have funded state of the art facilities, training programs and scholarships for students.

For nearly a quarter century Kirkwood has partnered with Transamerica, formerly AEGON USA; Diamond V, formerly Diamond V Mills; and UnityPoint Health, formerly St. Luke's Hospital. (See *Visionaries: Kirkwood's Presidents*)

Major employers such as Rockwell Collins, ACT, Inc. as well as hundreds of area employers, foundations and individuals have provided long-standing support for scholarships and academic programs. (See *A Pinnacle of Partnership, RuffaloCODY and Kirkwood*)

The Longstanding Partnership

KIRKWOOD



"Being right on campus gave our employees a great opportunity to tap into Kirkwood (education) and it gave our company ready access to Kirkwood students to hire."

*—Al Ruffalo
Executive Chairman*

The scope of Kirkwood's collaboration with Ruffalo Noel Levitz (formerly RuffaloCODY) over the past 24 years has remained strong, multifaceted and an integral part of Kirkwood's remarkable growth. It's a partnership that makes sense. Both are dedicated to the success of students and believe in the promise of higher education.

Kirkwood provides educational pathways for students to fulfill their dreams. Ruffalo Noel Levitz offers marketing and fundraising expertise to improve student experiences across the country. A chance conversation in 1991 about student educational needs between then-Kirkwood President Norm Nielsen and Ruffalo Noel Levitz Executive Chairman Al Ruffalo led to a partnership that impacted the future of both entities.

The former RuffaloCODY consolidated and relocated to Kirkwood's main campus in 2004. While there wasn't any particular program that prompted interest in a new building on Kirkwood Parkway, the relocation was viewed as a win for both. Kirkwood has long believed in hands-on training, which is the foundation of its 69 career and technical programs, and this move afforded Kirkwood students the opportunity to learn customer service skills...hands-on. The company made its state of the art customer call center a training facility for workforce

training. In return, the college provided applicants to conduct market research and administer fundraising campaigns.

"Being right on campus gave our employees a great opportunity to tap into Kirkwood (education) and it gave our company ready access to Kirkwood students to hire," Ruffalo explains. "It's been a great relationship and it continues to grow."

Ever-promoting post-secondary education, Ruffalo Noel Levitz has provided more than \$100,000 in cash gifts and in-kind donations



Partnership continues WOOD & RUFFALO NOEL LEVITZ

valued over \$550,000 to the college. The Ruffalo Noel Levitz Endowed Faculty Chair provides an opportunity for outstanding faculty to undertake professional development projects in their disciplines or in instructional pedagogy.

The firm has provided consistent annual support not only in financial gifts, but also through events such as conducting Kirkwood's alumni phonathon and, since 2005, sponsoring and participating in the Kirkwood Eagles Golf Classic.

Most recently the company contributed \$50,000 to the Golden Opportunity Scholarship fund. The scholarship was created in honor of Kirkwood's 50th Anniversary and aims to help recent high school graduates from Kirkwood's seven-county service area.

According to Ruffalo, the acquisition of Noel Levitz in 2014

will not change the company's dedication to Kirkwood.

"Ruffalo Noel Levitz stands ready to help Kirkwood do what it does best: provide a quality education in diverse disciplines, preparing students for tomorrow," said Ruffalo. "I don't see our relationship changing; it will just keep growing."



- ▶ 2015
Ruffalo Noel Levitz (formerly RuffaloCODY) has employed more than 2,000 Kirkwood students since their relocation in 2004 to the college's Cedar Rapids campus.



OCTOBER

- 8 Kirkwood Regional Center
at the University of Iowa
Grand Opening
- 14 Volleyball
Kirkwood vs. DMACC
Johnson Hall

NOVEMBER

- 14 Instrumental Jazz Ensembles
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 20 Jazz Transit
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 26 Thanksgiving Dinner
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

DECEMBER

- 4 Concert Choir and RSVP
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 12 Concert Band
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Dinner
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
- 31 New Years Eve Celebration
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

JANUARY

- 7-11 KCKC's Cuba Getaway*
- 13 Basketball
Kirkwood vs. DMACC
Johnson Hall
Women play at 5:30 p.m.
Men play at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 9 50th Anniversary Celebration
Iowa City Campus and
Washington County
Regional Center
- 12-14 Valentine's Day Dinner
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
- 18-21 Winter Musical
Quilters by Molly Newman
and Barbara Dameshek
Ballantyne Auditorium
Thursday - Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday matinee 2 p.m.

*For reservations, call KCKC at 319-398-5446

For more information on events at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, visit www.thehotelatkirkwood.com



MARCH

- 3 Vocal Jazz Festival
Ballantyne Auditorium
8 p.m.
- 27 Easter Campaign Brunch
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
- 28-29 Corridor Jazz Project Concert*
Scottish Rite Temple
Cedar Rapids

APRIL

- 4 50th Anniversary Celebration
Linn County Regional Center
- 7-10 Spring Play
The Menaechmi by Plautus
Ballantyne Auditorium
Thursday - Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday matinee 2 p.m.
- 8 Celebration of Success
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

- 14 50th Anniversary Celebration
Jones County Regional Center
- 16 Instrumental Jazz
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 17 Honors Recital
Ballantyne Auditorium
2 p.m.
- 22 Vocal Jazz
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 29 Concert Choir and RSVP
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 29 Taste of Jazz*
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

MAY

- 5 50th Anniversary Celebration
Cedar County Center
- 14 Commencement
- 19 50th Anniversary Celebration
Main Campus

JUNE

- 2 50th Anniversary Celebration
Benton County Center

AUGUST

- 26 50th Anniversary Celebration
Iowa County Center and
Tippie-Mansfield Center





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