



News Release

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For more information contact:
DMACC: Todd Jones, (515) 964-6242 or
Dan Ivis, (515) 965-7029
IWD: Kerry Koonce, (515) 281-9646

“NEW ERA” BEGINS TODAY FOR CENTRAL IOWA JOB TRAINING

DMACC Announces New Leader, New Initiatives and Name Change for CIETC

Executives from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and Iowa Workforce Development announced today that Michael Wilkinson will be the new executive director of Iowa Employment Solutions (IES) at DMACC.

Formerly known as the Central Iowa Employment and Training Consortium (CIETC), Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC has assumed all of CIETC’s responsibilities including federal and state programs dedicated to assisting unemployed and underemployed Central Iowans.

“This is the beginning of a new era for workforce training,” said Robert J. Denson, president of DMACC. “We will now have a more efficient and effective workforce program that focuses on the people and businesses that need our services. We will encourage a collaborative environment and begin to create one of the most successful workforce programs in the nation,” said Denson.

“Iowa Workforce Solutions has a talented and dedicated group of employees,” said David Neil, interim director of Iowa Workforce Development. “Mike Wilkinson is the right person to lead this team. IWD is eager to partner in this new organization.”

Wilkinson takes over the leadership of Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC from Doug Williams, DMACC’s Vice President of Business Services, who has served as the organization’s interim director since May.

“Mike was chosen from an outstanding field of candidates,” said Williams. “He has statewide experience collaborating with other job training agencies and serving the workforce needs of Iowans. We’re confident Mike’s leadership and vision will serve this organization well.”

Wilkinson brings 20 years of workforce training and advocacy experience to his new leadership role at IES. Most recently, he served as the Bureau Chief, Field Operations and Unemployment Insurance at Iowa Workforce Development.

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Wilkinson said his first assignment will be to evaluate the organization's programs and services, begin building stronger partnerships with business and others in the public and private sectors, and refocusing our mission to better serve Central Iowa's workforce needs.

"Iowa has many workforce challenges ahead, including a pending worker shortage," said Wilkinson. "We have an important responsibility to assist Iowa businesses and communities by addressing these workforce challenges. At the same time, there are many Central Iowans who are not working or are struggling in low wage jobs. We have a duty to help these Iowans achieve career success," said Wilkinson, who will start his new job full time on December 8, but as part of the transition period will be in the office for several hours a day beginning next week.

The Iowa Workforce Investment Alliance (formerly the CIETC board) voted on August 31st to shift the agency's management, fiscal and program services to DMACC. The change became effective on November 1 when the organization's personnel and responsibilities became part of DMACC.

Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC will provide job training services to an eight county area and the city of Des Moines. IES staff will continue to provide assessment and counseling to underemployed and unemployed Iowans. The IES staff will also find the training or education solution that gives each client the best chance of finding career success.

The IES executive director will be a shared position with DMACC and Iowa Workforce Development, supervising both IES and IWD staff working at 430 E. Grand and throughout Area 11.

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DMACC is committed to educating, training and encouraging success for students of all ages. DMACC is Iowa's largest community college, annually serving nearly 28,000 students enrolled in credit classes and over 32,000 students in non-credit programs on six campuses and many other locations across Central Iowa.