



Anyone with doubts about the future success of Black Hawk County should spend some time with Hawkeye Community College students and teachers. Investing in community colleges is a proven way to encourage economic growth and job creation.

HAWKEYE CUTS HURT JOB CREATION, REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES

[Senate File 2117](#) calls for immediately cutting \$5.4 million from Iowa's community colleges, when the budget year is more than half over.

What's the reason businesses aren't moving to Iowa or expanding in our communities? We don't have enough skilled workers to do the jobs they need to fill.

Forcing community colleges to drop classes, cut programs, increase tuition and lay off staff will make creating better-paying jobs and boosting economic growth even more difficult.

Hawkeye Community College is involved in so much that is going right in our economy. The college, the teachers and especially the students generate and attract economic activity in communities, large

and small. We must support them and invest in them, not cut their resources.

Under the Senate proposal, Hawkeye will have to cut \$366,934 from its budget in the next few months. That works out to \$91,734 per month from March through the end of the fiscal year on June 30. It's estimated that tuition would have to go up 5 to 10 percent to make up the difference.

These cuts put people's lives and careers—our whole economy—on hold. For example:

- Community colleges won't be able to implement regional Career & Technical Education Centers—joint projects with K-12 schools—throughout the state.
- The Governor just signed into law [SF 512](#), addressing water quality. Community colleges were set to train Iowans for work in this field, but these cuts will prevent them from developing their water-quality programs.



Panther pride at the Statehouse: Tristan Bernhard, vice-president of Northern Iowa Student Government, and Maggie Miller, student director of Governmental Relations.

UNIVERSITY CUTS ARE BAD FOR ECONOMY, STUDENTS' POCKETBOOKS

Iowans pride themselves on our state's high-quality education, from preschool through college.

That's why [SF 2117](#), a Senate proposal that cuts funding from education this school year, is so worrisome. I do not support this funding cut, which was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on a party-line vote of 13-8.

This cut includes \$19.3 million from our three state universities (\$8.7 million from the UI, \$6.9 million from ISU and \$3.7 million from UNI). Funding for the universities makes up only about 7 percent of the state budget, but they are facing a whopping 38.6 percent of all mid-year budget cuts proposed in [SF 2117](#).

This is on top of the nearly \$30 million in cuts they've already been hit with in recent months. [SF 2117](#) would bring cuts to Iowa's state universities up to nearly \$50 million in just the last year, a reduction of almost 10 percent. That would make 2018 funding for our state universities less than it was 20 years ago.

Our state universities serve as engines for growth by educating our workforce, advancing research and development, and providing businesses with services that help them grow and be innovative.

For example, the Legislature provided \$8.7 million in funding for economic development,

technology transfer and commercialization of research at our state universities in the current fiscal year. This type of investment is key to keeping Iowa on the cutting edge.

Today, 66 percent of firms with employees are owned by Baby Boomers. With their retirement, it's estimated that 75 percent of small companies will be for sale in the next five to 10 years. We count on Iowa, Iowa State and UNI to foster our next generation of entrepreneurs.

After years of budget shortfalls, we are already past the point where we can keep slashing without causing real harm to Iowans, our state and our future prosperity. Cuts will have real consequences.

Learn more in this [Economic Development & Technology Transfer Report](#).

MID-YEAR CUTS WILL CRIPPLE IOWA COURTS

We can't be tough on crime or smart on crime if we don't ensure justice is served. Failure to properly manage the state budget has us in exactly that position, as we face mid-year cuts of \$4.8 million to our Courts.

Proposed cuts in [Senate File 2117](#) are sure to hurt all Iowans. Cuts will force court house closures and staff layoffs and furloughs. Trials will be postponed and justice delayed. In counties that lose

their court houses, citizens—including crime victims—will have to travel to another county designated to handle their court business.

Judicial Branch services are just one way Iowans will feel the impact. [SF 2117](#) proposes numerous other Justice System budget cuts, including cuts to the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety, which could make our prisons and streets more dangerous.

TAKE PART IN IOWA CAUCUSES: FEB. 5

Iowa's Democratic and Republican 2018 precinct caucuses will be February 5. For those who are new to caucusing, Iowans gather with others from their neighborhood to organize for the elections ahead, elect representatives to their county committee and share ideas.

The Democratic and Republican parties hold separate caucus events on the same day, at the same time. You can only participate in one or the other, not both. You must be registered with the party to participate in their caucus. You can, however, register to vote or change your registration at your precinct caucus.

If you plan to caucus as a Democrat, find your location and additional information at www.iowademocrats.org/caucus. If you will be caucusing as a Republican, get location and details at www.iowagop.org/caucus.

WHAT LOCAL JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

New interactive [maps](#) released by Iowa Workforce Development show demand for different jobs in our area. This information can help you see what local work might be available to you or even help you plan your career training. The maps also will be valuable to communities looking for solutions to their skilled labor needs.

You can see change in demand for jobs from 2010 to 2018, as well as estimated jobs openings for 2018. The maps include jobs that require some training beyond a high school diploma and have a median hourly wage of at least \$15 per hour. Learn more on the [IWD website](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH IOWA TAX RETURNS THIS YEAR?

The Iowa Department of Revenue has a new webpage, [2017 Filing Made Easy](#), designed to answer the most common questions Iowans ask about their income taxes, including:

- Once I file my return, what happens?
- When will I get my refund?
- What can I do to receive my refund sooner?

The page explains the filing process in simple steps, along with tips and tricks to avoid pitfalls and get what you're owed as quickly as possible. Check it out on the [DOR website](#).

Contact information

State Senator Jeff Danielson serves Hudson, Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He can be reached at 319-231-7192. E-mail him at jeffdanielson@gmail.com.

Senator Danielson is ranking member on the Education Budget. He also serves on the Appropriations, Education, State Government and Transportation committees.

For further information, go to www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson and www.jeffdanielson.org.