# RETAINING IOWA'S TALENT

Post-Graduation Location & Employment Plans



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# Iowa College Student Survey Analysis

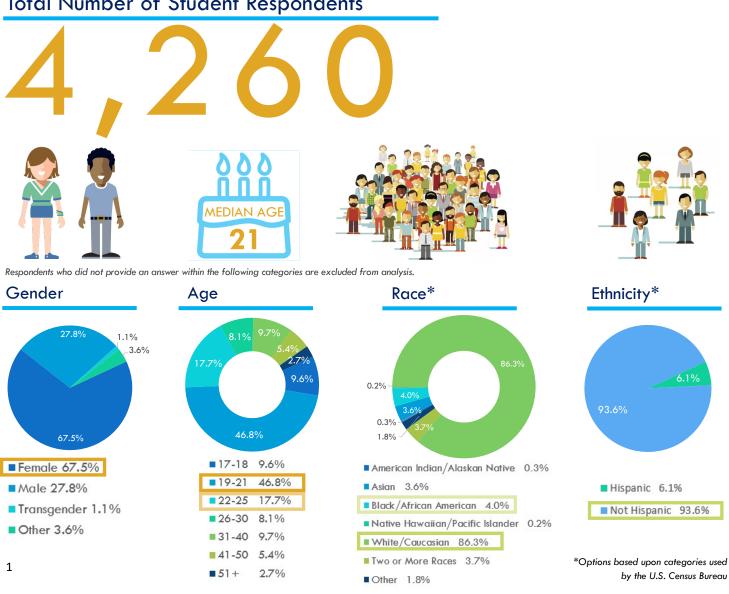
# **OVERVIEW**

From February through April 2023, Iowa Workforce Development collected data through an online survey that was given to college students across the State of Iowa. Surveys were distributed to students enrolled in community colleges, state universities, and private institutions (both for-profit and non-profit) including career/technical schools that had one or more physical locations in lowa. See the methodology section (p.42) for a list of participating schools.

The purpose of the survey was to gather information regarding students' intentions to either remain in lowa or locate outside of lowa following graduation or upon program completion. In addition, the survey asked students to rate what factors were most important to them when deciding where to locate and then provide their perception of lowa when it came to those same factors.

The following is a breakdown by demographics and student status of the overall sample collected.

# Total Number of Student Respondents



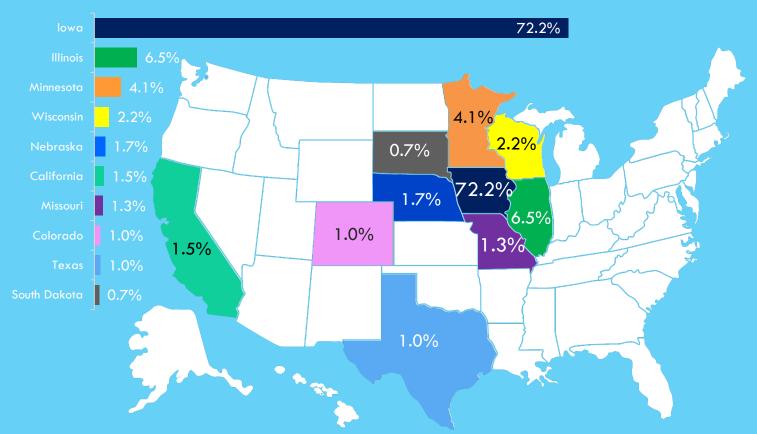
# Country of Origin (top reported)



### \*Democratic Republic of Congo

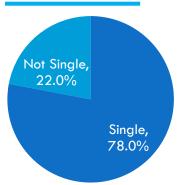
# State of Origin\* (top reported)

\*Among those reporting the United States as their country of origin



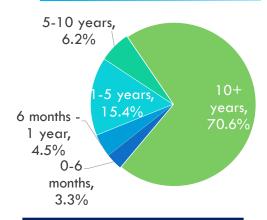
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENT RESPONDENTS

### Marital Status

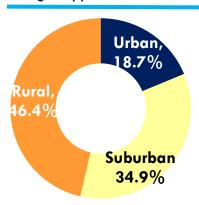


90.5% currently live in lowa

### Length of Time Living in Iowa



### Origin Type



Top states for students residing outside of lowa:

Illinois 24.4%

Minnesota 16.5%

Nebraska 13.1%

76.8%

have family in lowa



17.1% have dependents



89.0% of those dependents

live in lowa

Rural (the county and small towns/ communities not considered metropolitan)

Suburban (suburbs, communities near a larger city)

Urban (large metropolitan cities such as: Des Moines, Chicago, Kansas City, etc.)

# **EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENT RESPONDENTS**

# **Education Level Currently Seeking**

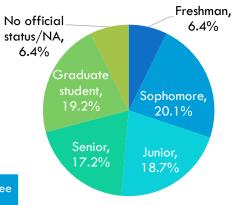


Associate Degree 22.1%

Bachelor's Degree 53.7%

Master's/Doctorate/ Professional Degree 19.7%

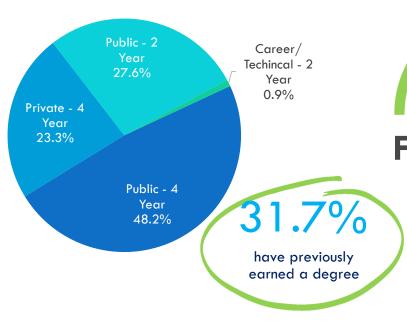
### Student Classification



# **EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENT RESPONDENTS**

Percentage of Students by Institution Type

Student Status







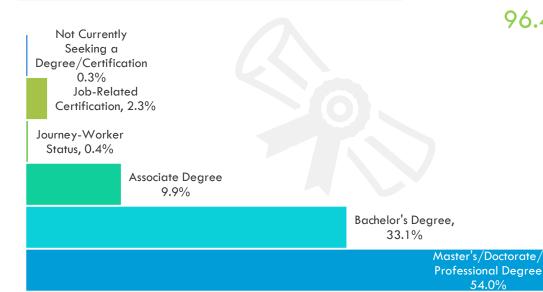
### **Highest Education Level Seeking**

**Education Status** 

96.4% college/university student

2.4% taking a single course

1.2% technical/vocational



### **How Students Take Courses**

**57.2**% attend class in-person



10.3% online classes only



32.0% combination of in-person &



# **EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENT RESPONDENTS**

Top Fields of Study by Education Level

# Job Related Certification

33.3% Personal Services (cosmetology, daycare, funeral, repair)

20.5% Medical/Healthcare Services

14.5% Business/Admin Support



# **Associates**

35.3% Medical/Health Studies
10.8% General/Liberal Arts
9.1% Business/Public Admin



# Journey Worker

40.0% Medical/Healthcare Services
13.3% HVAC
13.3% IT/Systems Admin



**Bachelors** 

16.7% Social Sciences
16.2% Business/Public Admin
14.9% Medical/Health Studies





# Masters/Doctorate/Professional

23.9% Medical/Health Studies
19.9% Social Sciences
13.7% Education

77.1%

OF STUDENTS REPORT THAT THEY HAVE BEGUN TO CONSIDER WHERE THEY WILL LOCATE FOLLOWING GRADUATION OR UPON PROGRAM COMPLETION.

# WILL THEY STAY/LOCATE IN IOWA?

40.8% are likely to STAY



38.0% are likely to LEAVE



**21.2%** are UNSURE



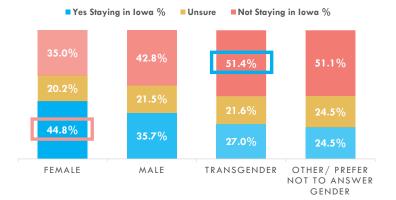
# **DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON**

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

# Likely to Stay in lowa

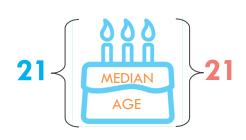
# Likely to Leave lowa

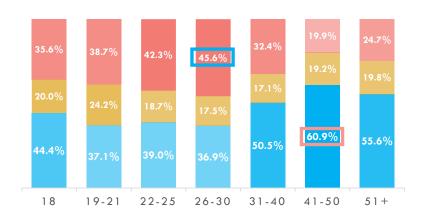






### **AGE**





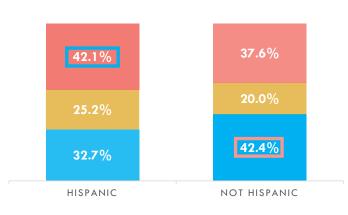
# ASIAN 28.6% 23.4% 48.1% BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN 42.2% 18.6% 39.2% NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER 60.0% 40.0% WHITE/CAUCASIAN 42.7% 20.4% 36.9% TWO OR MORE RACES 31.7% 16.3% 51.9% OTHER/ PREFER NOT TO ANSWER GENDER 28.8% 30.4% 40.8%



RACE\*

## ETHNICITY\*





# DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON (CONTINUED)

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

# Likely to Stay in Iowa

Likely to Leave lowa



Relationship Status

38.6%

OF SINGLES ARE LIKELY TO STAY

51.5%

OF THOSE THAT ARE NOT SINGLE ARE LIKELY TO STAY 40.2%

29.5%

OF SINGLES ARE

Relationship Status

LIKELY TO LEAVE

OF THOSE THAT ARE NOT SINGLE ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

**Dependents** 

59.4%

OF THOSE WITH DEPENDENTS ARE LIKELY TO STAY

AMONG THOSE
WHOSE DEPENDENTS
LIVE IN IOWA:

63.9%
ARE LIKELY
TO STAY

18.6% ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

**Dependents** 

22.9%

OF THOSE WITH DEPENDENTS ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

Family in lowa

48.8%

OF THOSE WITH FAMILY IN IOWA ARE LIKELY TO STAY



Family in lowa

**29.0**%

OF THOSE WITH FAMILY IN IOWA ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

**Origins** 

41.8%

ARE LIKELY TO STAY

FROM THE U.S. OF THOSE

Origins

**37.7**%

ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

51.8% OF THOSE

ARE LIKELY TO STAY

FROM IOWA

OF THOSE

**27.5**%

ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

50.4% ARE LIKELY TO STAY

17.1%





29.8 % ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

**29.4**%

ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE

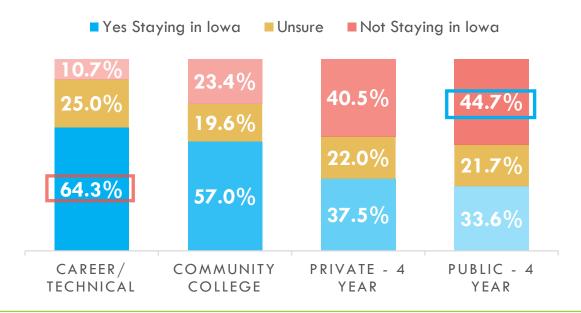
8 ARE LIKELY TO STAY

# **ENROLLMENT COMPARISON**

# Likely to Stay or Leave by Institution Type







Within each school-type a **similar** percentage of students are **UNSURE** of where they would locate following graduation or upon program completion.



PUBLIC 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES HAVE THE GREATEST

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS (COMPARED TO THE OTHER INSTITUTION TYPES) THAT ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA, AT

44.7%

CAREER/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS HAVE THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO

**STAY IN** IOWA, AT **64.3%** 

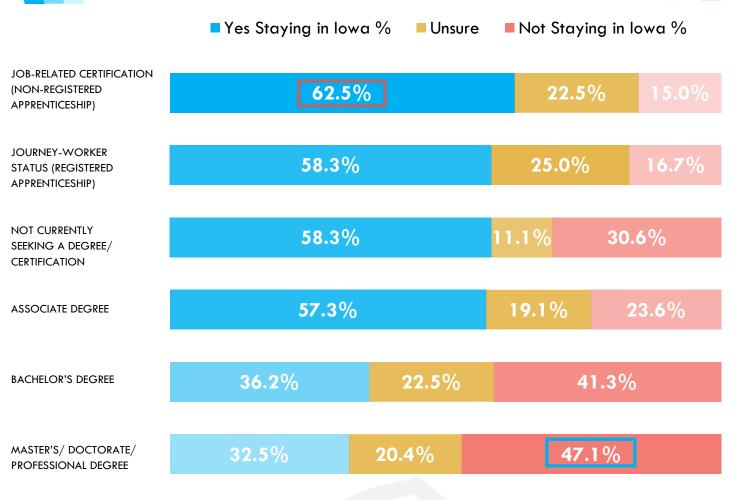


# STUDENT STUDIES COMPARISON

# Likely to Stay or Leave by Education Level Sought

Likely to Stay in Iowa





The likelihood of staying or leaving lowa following graduation or upon program completion varies by the education level sought by the student.



AMONG THOSE SEEKING A JOB-RELATED CERTIFICATION (NON-APPRENTICESHIP), 62.5% ARE LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA.

FOR THOSE STUDENTS INDICATING THEY ARE PURSUING A MASTERS/ DOCTORATE/ PROFESSIONAL DEGREE, 47.1% REPORTED THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA.



# STUDENT STUDIES COMPARISON (CONTINUED)

Likely to Stay or Leave by Field of Study by Education Level Sought

# Likely to Stay in Iowa

Likely to Leave lowa

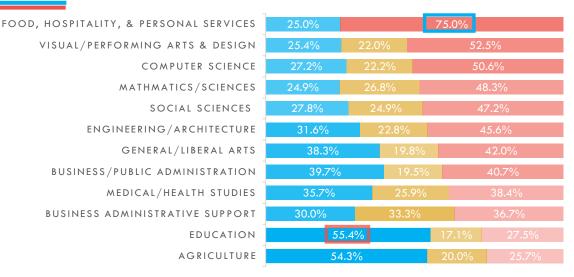
ciate Degree	Yes Staying in Iowa %	Unsure	Not Sto	ying in low	a %	
VISUA	L/PERFORMING ARTS & DESIGN	35.0%		25.0%	40.0%	%
	MATHEMATICS/SCIENCES	37.9%	6	24.1%	37.9	%
	ENGINEERING/ARCHITECTURE		60.0%	5.0	35.0	0%
	COMPUTER SCIENCE	36.7%		30.0%	33.	3%
	GENERAL/LIBERAL ARTS	5	3.7%	16.4	1% 29	9.9%
BUSI	NESS/ PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION		57.4%	13	.1% 29	9.5%
FOOD, HOSE	PITALITY, & PERSONAL SERVICES	50	0.0%	21.4	% 28	8.6%
	VOCATIONAL TRADES		55.9%	2	0.6%	23.5%
	SOCIAL SCIENCES		58.2%		20.0%	21.8%
	MEDICAL/HEALTH STUDIES		60.8%		18.0%	21.2%
	EDUCATION		64.7%		17.6%	17.6%
	AGRICULTURE		69.4%		22.20	% 8.3
BUSI	NESS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT		67.9%		25.09	% 7.1
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		62.5%		37.5	%

The transportation field of study category is not included in the chart above due to insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.



69.4% OF THOSE PURSUING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD ARE LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA AFTER THEY GRADUATE.

# Bachelor's Degree

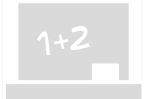


The information technology field of study category is not included in the chart above due to insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.

55.4%

OF THOSE PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN THE

**EDUCATION** FIELD ARE **LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA** AFTER THEY GRADUATE.



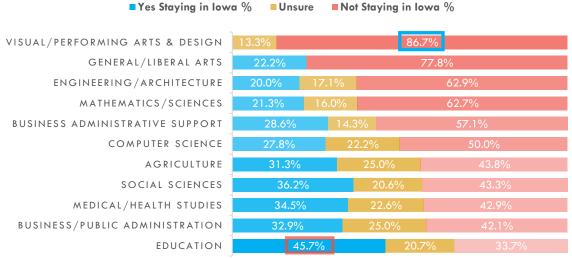
# STUDENT STUDIES COMPARISON (CONTINUED)

Likely to Stay or Leave by Field of Study by Education Level Sought



Likely to Leave lowa

Masters/Doctorate/Professional Degree



The food, hospitality, & personal services field of study category is not included due to insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.

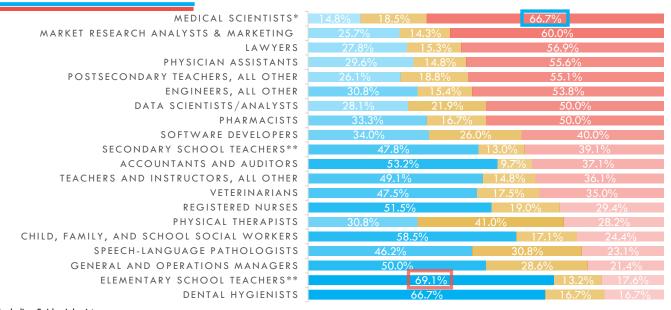


45.7%

OF THOSE PURSUING A MASTERS/DOCTORATE/

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IN THE **EDUCATION** FIELD ARE **LIKELY**TO STAY IN IOWA AFTER THEY GRADUATE.

# Likely to Stay or Leave by Top Reported Occupation Intending to Pursue Top Occupations Reported



<sup>\*</sup>Excluding Epidemiologists

<sup>\*\*</sup>Excluding Special Education and Career/Technical Education



69.1% OF THOSE THAT IDENTIFY AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AS THEIR JOB OF CHOICE PLAN ON STAYING IN IOWA

# STUDENT JOB SEARCH & EMPLOYMENT



# Likely to Leave lowa

Top Websites Used for Job Searches

ADDITIONALLY, THOSE LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA WILL OFTEN USE:

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION WEBSITES

TOP WEBSITES USED FOR BOTH LIKELY TO STAY OR LEAVE:

INDEED.COM

LINKEDIN.COM

JOINHANDSHAKE.COM

**EDUCATION WEBSITES** 

GLASSDOOR.COM

ADDITIONALLY, THOSE LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA WILL OFTEN USE:

PROFESSIONAL/TRADE ASSOCIATION WEBSITES

Top Job Search Resources



TOP RESOURCES USED FOR BOTH LIKELY TO STAY OR LEAVE:

INTERNET

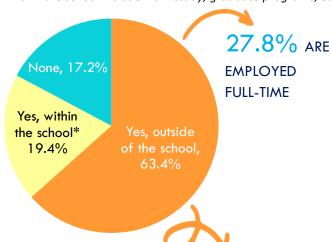
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTERS

JOB/CAREER FAIRS

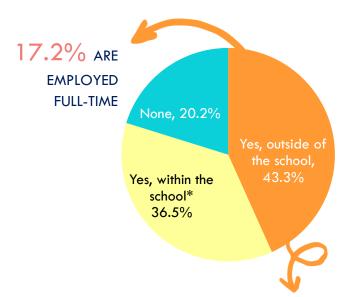
**NETWORKING** 

### **Current Employment**

\*Within the school include work study, graduate programs, etc.



5.4% OF THOSE EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL WHO ARE LIKELY TO STAY ARE SELF-EMPLOYED



3.4% OF THOSE EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL WHO ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE ARE SELF-EMPLOYED

# STUDENT JOB SEARCH & EMPLOYMENT



# Likely to Leave lowa

Self-Employment

10.6% OF THOSE LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA PLAN TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED OR START A BUSINESS AFTER GRADUATION



13.5% OF THOSE LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA PLAN TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED OR START A BUSINESS AFTER GRADUATION

### Internships



38.4% of students that are likely to leave

IOWA HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNSHIP, **74.1%** OF THOSE WERE **PAID INTERNSHIPS**.

TOP FIELDS OF THE INTERNSHIPS ARE:

BUSINESS/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

HEALTH SCIENCE/MEDICINE

ENGINEERING/ARCHITECTURE

32.1% OF STUDENTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNSHIP, 67.8% OF THOSE WERE PAID INTERNSHIPS.





TOP FIELDS OF THE INTERNSHIPS ARE:

BUSINESS/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

HEALTH SCIENCE/MEDICINE

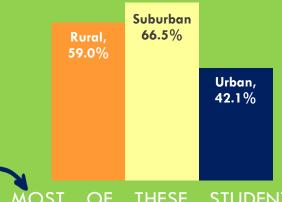
AGRICULTURE

SOCIAL SCIENCES

40.8%

OF STUDENTS WHO INDICATED THEY HAVE STARTED TO CONSIDER WHERE TO LOCATE FOLLOWING GRADUATION OR UPON PROGRAM COMPLETION STATE THAT THEY WILL "PROBABLY" OR "DEFINITELY" CHOOSE TO STAY IN IOWA.

21.2% are unsure of their location plans following graduation or upon program completion.



MOST OF THESE STUDENTS PREFER TO LIVE IN A SUBURBAN OR RURAL AREA.

"BORN AND RAISED IN IOWA AND EXPECT TO STAY HERE.

I FEEL CONFIDENT MY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE
REASONABLY SAFE HERE. I APPRECIATE IOWA'S MORE
CONSERVATIVE VALUES. OUR TOWN HAS PARKS,
GROCERY, A HOSPITAL, FITNESS CENTER, A THEATER,
PHARMACIES, A LIBRARY, A POST OFFICE, A COUPLE OF
STORES AND RESTAURANTS. ALL THAT AND THE ABILITY
TO BE SO CLOSE TO FAMILY MAKES LIVING HERE
WONDERFUL."

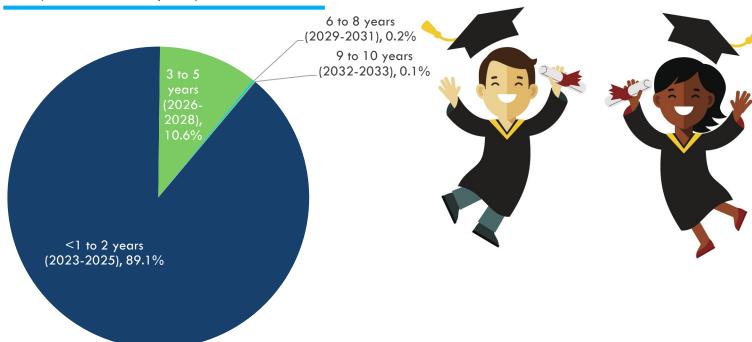
~ 39-YEAR-OLD IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT

The following section provides characteristics of this group of students who are likely to locate in lowa. This includes, defining what motivates their career decision, the importance of work/life balance, wages, and benefits. It also shows how they rank certain factors that may influence a location decision (such as financial considerations, quality of life, and entertainment options) along with their opinion as to whether or not lowa possesses these qualities and/or opportunities.

# LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

### Anticipated Graduation/Completion Dates



Following Graduation/Completion, When Do They Intend to Become Employed?

% Timeline for Employment

21.6% Currently Employed/ No Plans to Change

58.0% Immediately/ Currently Seeking

12.0% 1 to 2 Months

3.5% 3 to 6 Months

1.0% 7 to 12 Months

2.9% Greater than 1 Year

1.0% Do Not Plan to Seek Employment

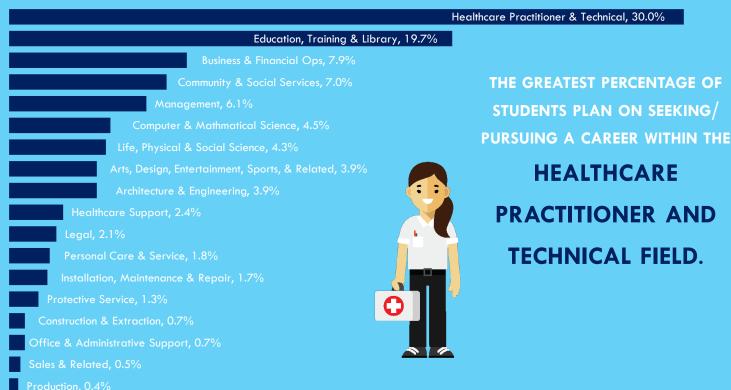
82.2%

Have Decided What Occupation They Want to Pursue





### Top Occupational Groupings of Intended Careers



%	Industry	%	Industry
31.8%	Healthcare	4.0%	Legal
24.5%	Education	3.4%	Construction
12.3%	Social Service	3.4%	Entertainment/Recreation
10.6%	Agriculture, Fo	3.1%	Real Estate
10.4%	Finance, Insurc	2.5%	Military/Law Enforcement
7.0%	Information Te	echnology 2.2%	Transportation
7.0%	Public Adminis Government	stration & 1.6%	Professional Services
5.8%	Personal Servi	ices 1.4%	Retail Trade
5.3%	Communicatio	ns 1.3%	Business/Admin Support
5.0%	Manufacturing		<b>O</b> *

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.



### Current Job Offer in Place?



# IN ADDITION, 97.9% REPORT THAT THIS JOB OFFER IS LOCATED IN IOWA.

Top Motivators For Making a Career Decision (respondent was allowed to select more than one)

49.6% Personal Interest 36.4% **Earnings Potential** 36.3% Location 33.4% Feel It Is Meant to Be 27.7% **Benefits Offered Job Security** Aptitude for/Ability to Perform Job 15.9% **Family Reasons** 1.2% **Humanitarian Reasons** 

Physicality of Job

18 8.1%

How Important is Work/Life Balance? (Importance rating scale options available on p. 32)

Just over half

(50.6%) said it has absolute importance regarding their career decision.

Followed by

34.7%

state it is very important.





48.1% & 30.6%

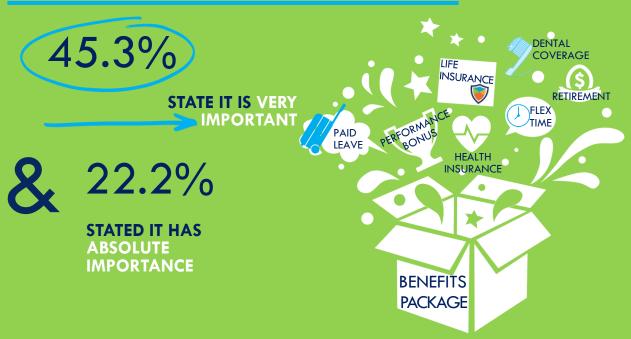


**STATE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** 

**STATE IT** HAS **ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE** 



How Important are Benefits When Considering a Job Offer?



Which Has Greater Importance When Considering a Job Offer?

# WAGES VS BENEFITS

**WHILE 25.0% STATE SALARY/WAGES HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANCE WHEN** CONSIDERING A JOB OFFER, MORE THAN 2/3 (70.8%) **FEEL THAT SALARY/WAGES** AND BENEFITS ARE O F EQUAL IMPORTANCE.



Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

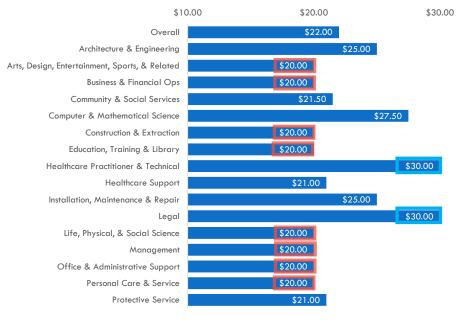
### Expected Median Starting Wages/Salary



Among all students likely to stay in lowa, the overall median annual salary expected is \$55,000. The occupational category with the highest expected salary is healthcare practitioner & technical at \$73,500. The lowest expected salary is in the education, training, & library category at \$40,750.

Among all students likely to stay in lowa, the overall median hourly wage expected is \$22.00. The occupational categories with the highest expected wage are healthcare practitioner & technical and legal at \$30.00 per hour.

The lowest expected wages are seen in 8 of the 16 categories at \$20.00 per hour.



<sup>\*</sup>Occupational groupings not included in the tables above have insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.



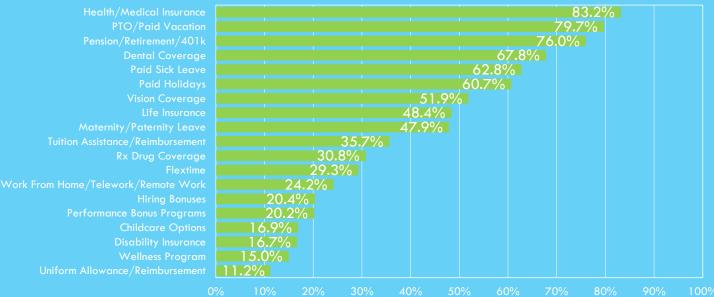




Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

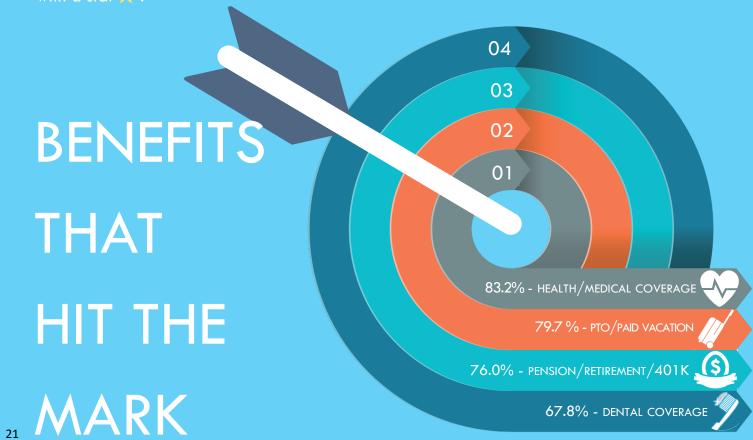
Desired Benefits (respondent was allowed to select more than one)





Overall, those students who are likely to stay in lowa following graduation/upon program completion report that health/medical insurance is the most desired benefit an employer could offer, with 83.2% selecting it. PTO/paid vacation follows closely with nearly four-fifths (79.7%) reporting it as a desired benefit of employment.

The tables on the following page illustrate how desired benefits differ based on the intended occupational grouping of the student. The top five benefits reported above are broken out by each occupational grouping. The benefit with the greatest percentage of responses is denoted with a star .



Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

### Desired Benefits by Occupational Grouping\* (respondent was allowed to select more than one)

	Architecture & Engineering	Arts, Design, Entertainment, & Sports	Business & Financial Ops	Community & Social Services	Computer & Mathematical Science	Construction & Extraction	Education, Training, & Library	Healthcare Practicioner & Technical
Health/Medical Insurance	66.7%	76.2%	74.1%	78.4%	83.0%	100%	83.9%	89.3%
PTO/Paid Vacation	90.5% ★	78.6%	83.5% ★	89.2% ★	85.1%	28.6%	73.2%	81.8%
Pension/Retirement/401k	88.1%	88.1% ★	74.1%	77.0%	89.4%	71.4%	80.0%	74.5%
Dental Coverage	78.6%	61.9%	60.0%	68.9%	72.3%	85.7%	69.3%	68.9%
Paid Holidays	76.2%	61.9%	67.1%	60.8%	74.5%	42.9%	52.7%	58.5%
	Healthcare Support	Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	Legal	Life, Physical, & Social Science	Management	Office & Administrative Support	Personal Care & Service	Protective Service
Health/Medical Insurance	84.0% ★	93.3% ★	91.3% ★	84.1%	82.8% ★	85.7% 🛨	70.6% ★	92.9%
PTO/Paid Vacation	80.0%	80.0%	82.6%	84.1% ★	70.3%	71.4%	52.9%	85.7%
Pension/Retirement/401k	52.0%	66.7%	78.3%	81.8%	79.7%	71.4%	41.2%	92.9%
Dental Coverage	60.0%	53.3%	65.2%	79.5%	59.4%	71.4%	52.9%	78.6%
Paid Holidays	68.0%	60.0%	60.9%	70.5%	64.1%	85.7%	35.3%	57.1%

<sup>\*</sup>Occupational groupings not included in the tables above have insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.

For 11 out of the 16 occupational groupings listed above, health/medical insurance coverage is the number one desired benefit reported among survey respondents. However, for five categories it was not number one. Those students intending to pursue a career in architecture or engineering, business or financial ops, or community or social services report PTO/paid vacation as their most desired benefits. In addition, those interested in an arts, design, entertainment or sports, computer or mathematical science, and protective services career report pension/retirement/401K as their top benefit.

Within the life physical & social science; office & administrative support; and protective service groupings the health/medical coverage benefit tie for first place as the most desired benefit among students. The PTO/paid vacation benefit is the most commonly selected choice after

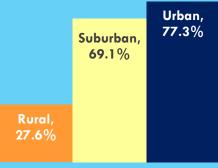


38.0%

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21.2% are unsure of their location plans following graduation or upon program completion.





MOST OF THESE STUDENTS PREFER TO LIVE IN AN URBAN OR SUBURBAN AREA.

"IT IS DISAPPOINTING BEING AN EDUCATION MAJOR AND KNOWING I WILL NOT EARN A DECENT WAGE UPON GRADUATION. THERE ARE TEACHER SHORTAGES AND LESS PEOPLE GOING INTO EDUCATION. CHILDREN ARE 100% OUR FUTURE AND WE NEED TO COMPENSATE EDUCATORS, FOR THEY ARE MOLDING THE MIND OF TOMORROW'S CITIZENS. TEACHERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEEL AS THOUGH THEY NEED TO WORK A PART-TIME JOB IN ORDER TO GET BY FINANCIALLY."

~ 22-YEAR-OLD UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA STUDENT

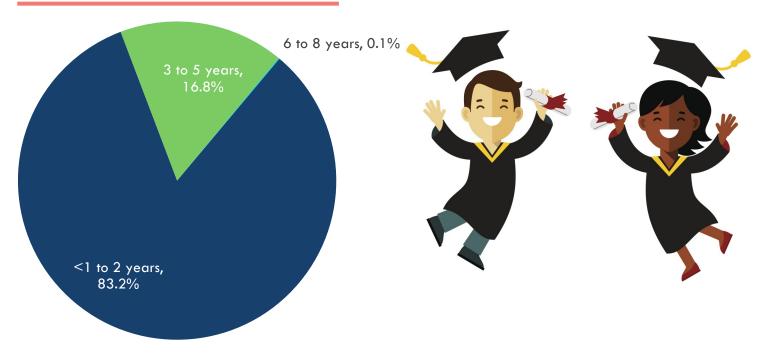
The following section provides characteristics of this group of students who are likely to leave lowa. This includes, defining what motivates their career decision, the importance of work/life balance, wages, and benefits. It also shows how they rank certain factors that may influence a location decision (such as financial considerations, quality of life, and entertainment options) along with their opinion as to whether or not lowa possesses these qualities and/or opportunities.

# LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

### Anticipated Graduation/Completion Dates





Following Graduation/Completion, When Do They Intend to Become Employed?

### **Timeline for Employment**

11.6% Currently Employed/ No Plans to Change

61.2% Immediately/Currently Seeking

14.6% 1 to 2 Months

4.8% 3 to 6 Months

1.5% 7 to 12 Months

4.4% Greater than 1 Year

1.9% Do Not Plan to Seek Employment

4.8%

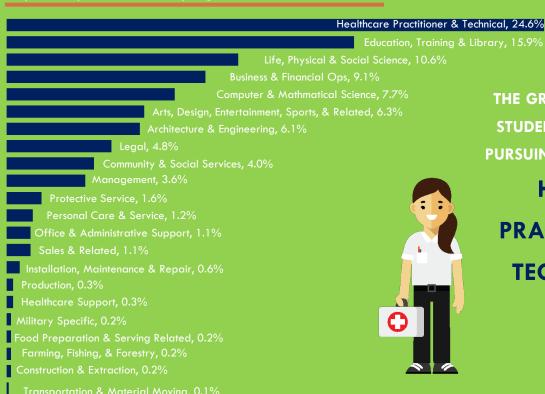
Have Decided What Occupation They Want to Pursue



Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis



### Top Occupational Groupings of Intended Careers



THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PLAN ON SEEKING/PURSUING A CAREER WITHIN THE

HEALTHCARE
PRACTITIONER AND
TECHNICAL FIELD.

Industries of Interest for Future Employment (respondent was allowed to select more than one)

%	Industry	%	Industry
28.9%	Healthcare	4.8%	Manufacturing
22.2%	Education U	4.6%	Personal Services
14.4%	Public Administration & Government	3.3%	Professional Services
12.2%	Social Services	3.0%	Real Estate
10.5%	Entertainment & Rec.	2.9%	Military/Law Enforcement
9.8%	Communications	2.9%	Academia/Research
8.7%	Information Technology	2.6%	Transportation
8.0%	Finance & Insurance	1.8%	Construction
7.6%	Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	1.8%	Retail Trade
7.5%	Legal	1.8%	Visual/Fine Arts

Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.



### Current Job Offer in Place?

18.5% REPORT THAT THEY HAVE A CURRENT JOB OFFER

TELEWORK PART OF THE TIME TO 100% OF THE TIME

**AMONG** 

THESE

IN ADDITION, 72.8% REPORT THAT THIS JOB OFFER IS NOT LOCATED IN IOWA.

(Most job offers outside Iowa are in Minnesota, Illinois, & Nebraska)

Top Motivators For Making a Career Decision

Personal Interest

43.7% **Earnings Potential** 

42.8% Location

53.2%

30.5% Feel It Is Meant to Be

23.8% **Job Security** 

**Benefits Offered** 

Aptitude for/Ability to Perform Job

16.9% **Humanitarian Reasons** 

Environmental/ 8.2% Conservation/Protection

26 6.1% Potential for Innovation How Important is Work/Life Balance? (Importance rating scale options available on p. 32)

Nearly

(45.0%) said it has absolute importance regarding their



In addition,

36.8%

said it is very important.





43.6%

35.0%

STATE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT

STATE IT HAS **ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE** 



How Important are Benefits When Considering a Job Offer?

43.9%

**STATE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** 

18.9%

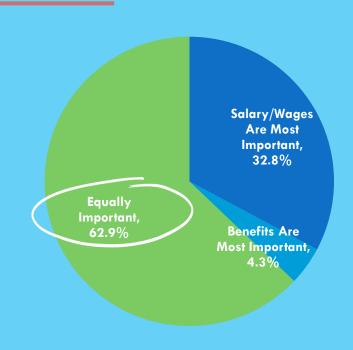
STATE IT HAS **ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE** 



Which Has Greater Importance When Considering a Job Offer?

# WAGES VS BENEFITS

WHILE 32.8% STATE **SALARY/WAGES HAS THE MOST IMPORTANCE WHEN CONSIDERING A JOB OFFER,** NEARLY 2/3 (62.9%) FEEL THAT SALARY/WAGES AND BENEFITS ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE.



Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.

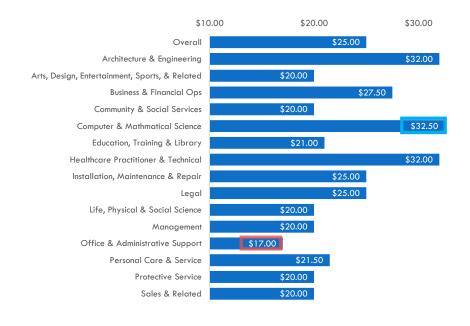
### **Expected Median Starting Wages/Salary**



Among all students likely to leave lowa, the overall median annual salary expected is \$62,286. The occupational category with the highest expected salary is management at \$90,000. The lowest expected salary is in the office & administrative support category at \$45,000.

Among all students likely to leave lowa, the overall median hourly wage expected is \$25.00. The occupational category with the highest expected wage is c o m p u t e r & mathematical science at \$32.50 per hour.

The lowest expected wage is in the office & administrative support category at \$17.00 per hour.









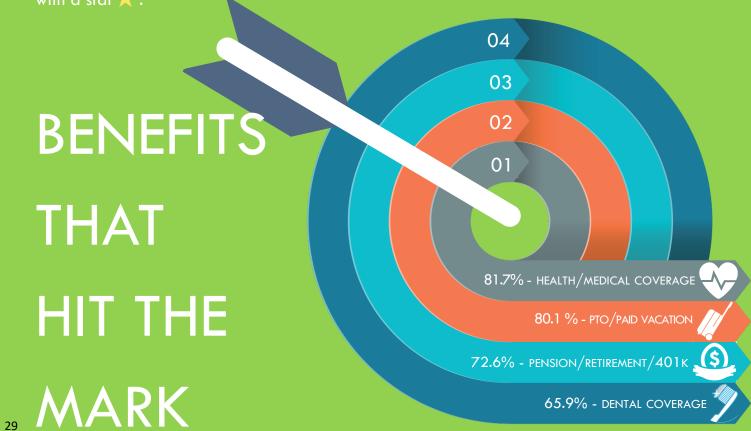
Desired Benefits (respondent was allowed to select more than one)





Overall, those students who are likely to leave lowa following graduation/upon program completion report that health/medical insurance is the most desired benefit an employer could offer, with 81.7% selecting it. PTO/Paid vacation follows closely with over four-fifths, 80.1% reporting it as a desired benefit of employment.

The tables on the following page illustrate how desired benefits differ based on the intended occupational grouping of the student. The top five benefits reported above are broken out by each occupational grouping. The benefit with the greatest percentage of responses is indicated with a star \*\*.



Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis.



### Desired Benefits by Occupational Grouping\* (respondent was allowed to select more than one)

	Architecture & Engineering	Arts, Design, Entertainment, & Sports	Business & Financial Ops	Community & Social Services	Computer & Mathematical Science	Education, Training, &	Healthcare Practitioner & Technical
Health/Medical Insurance	86.8%	76.9%	77.8%	88.6%	85.3%	77.4%	85.0%
PTO/Paid Vacation	92.5%	75.0%	74.1%	85.7%	86.8%	68.6%	85.5%
Pension/Retirement/401k	84.9%	69.2%	77.8%	88.6%	82.4%	74.5%	70.1%
Dental Coverage	66.0%	73.1%	65.4%	77.1%	64.7%	68.6%	71.0%
Paid Sick Leave	67.9%	65.4%	54.3%	68.6%	60.3%	65.0%	67.8%
	Legal	Life, Physical, & Socia Science	l Management	Office & Administrative Support	Personal Care & Service	Protective Service	Sales & Related
Health/Medical Insurance	85.7%	84.0%	62.5%	66.7%	63.6%	78.6%	80.0%
PTO/Paid Vacation	88.1%	79.8%	84.4%	66.7%	72.7%	78.6%	90.0%
Pension/Retirement/401k	73.8%	71.3%	75.0%	77.8%	36.4%	85.7%	70.0%
Dental Coverage	71.4%	67.0%	59.4%	77.8%	54.5%	78.6%	50.0%
Paid Sick Leave	78.6%	64 9%	53.1%	55.6%	45.5%	78.6%	50.0%

<sup>\*</sup>Occupational groupings not included in the tables above have insufficient survey data for reporting purposes.

For 7 out of the 14 occupational groupings listed above, PTO/paid vacation is the number one desired benefit reported among survey respondents. However, for seven categories it is not number one. Those students intending to pursue a career in arts, design, entertainment & sports; business & financial ops; community & social services; education, training & library; and life, physical & social science report health/medical coverage as their most desired benefit. In addition, those interested in business & financial ops; community & social services; office & administrative support; and protective services career also report pension/retirement/401K as a top benefit.







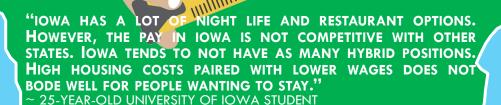
WHAT DO STUDENTS FIND IMPORTANT WHEN DECIDING WHERE TO LOCATE?



# HOW DOES IOWA MEASURE UP?

"I HAVE ONLY EVER LIVED IN IOWA BECAUSE I LOVE THIS STATE AND AM SO CLOSE TO FAMILY. LIVING IN A RURAL AREA DOES CREATE SOME LIMITATIONS SUCH AS NIGHTLIFE AND RESTAURANT VARIETY, BUT THAT IS PART OF LIVING IN RURAL IOWA. I CHOOSE TO LIVE HERE DUE TO MY FAMILY, BUT I ALSO ENJOY SEEING LIVESTOCK AND TRACTORS ON MY WAY TO CLASSES."

 $\sim 26$ -year-old des mones area community college student



# LOCATION CONSIDERATION FACTORS

Students were given a set of factors to consider within four different categories: employment considerations, financial situation, quality of life, and entertainment options. They were asked to rate the importance of each factor in regards to how it affects their decision on where to locate following graduation or upon program completion. They were given the following options to select from:

- No Importance
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Absolute Importance

They were then given the same factors and asked to what level they agree that lowa has those factors, characteristics, or opportunities. They were given the following options to select from:

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

The following section provides the results of these questions by percentage of students who rated the factors as having absolute importance or being very important; the percentage of students that strongly agree or agree that lowa provides for these factors; and the differences between the two. The results are provided for two groups: those likely to stay in lowa and those likely to leave.

# . EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

. FINANCIAL SITUATION

. QUALITY OF LIFE

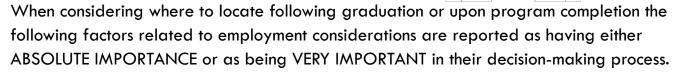


. ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

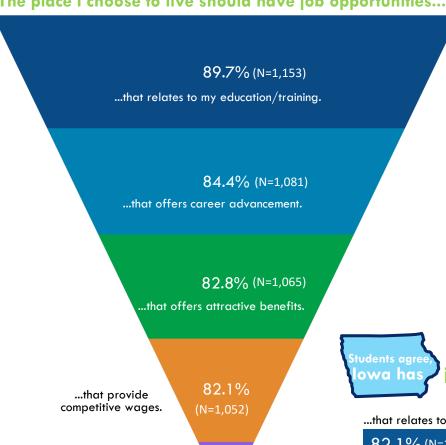
# LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*

### **Employment Considerations**



The place I choose to live should have job opportunities...



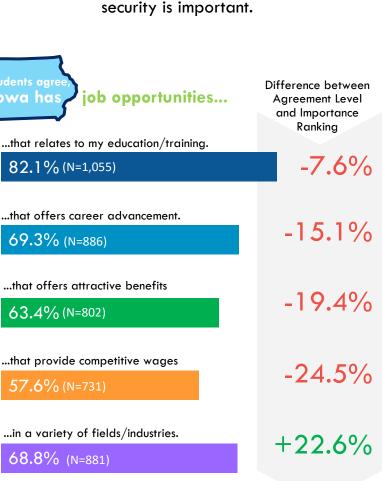
46.2% (N=576)

Among the employment consideration factors rated, the largest portion of students (89.7%) responded that the availability of job opportunities that relate to their education or training has absolute importance or is very important. Job opportunities that offer career advancement is second, at 84.4 percent. In addition to these options to the left, two common responses were written in by surveytakers: 29 individuals indicated a work-life balance is havina important in their employment considerations and 6 wrote-in that job security is important.

Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa provides these opportunities. The bar chart to the right shows the cumulative percentage of those who strongly agree or employment aaree that lowa has the opportunities they require in the place they percentage choose live. The to difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that strongly agree or agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far right.

...in a wide variety of fields/industries.

"Competitive wages" has the largest percentage point difference between importance ranking and agreement ranking.



# LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*
Employment Considerations



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to employment considerations are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.

The place I choose to live should have job opportunities...

90.1% (N=1,082)
...that relates to my education/training.

84.5% (N=1,012)
...that provide competitive wages.

83.6% (N=1,002)
...that offers career advancement.

Among the employment consideration factors rated, the largest portion of students (90.1%) responded that the availability of job opportunities that relate to their education/training has absolute importance or is very important. Job opportunities that provide competitive wages is second, with 84.5 percent.

In addition to these options to the left, two common responses were written in by survey-takers: 22 individuals indicated having a work-life balance is important in their employment considerations and 6 wrote-in that job security is important.

...that offers attractive benefits.

81.7% (N=979)

...in a wide variety of fields/industries.

Students agree, lowa has

job opportunities...

...that relates to my education/training.

49.0% (N=576)

...that provide competitive wages.

22.7%

(N=262)

...that offers career advancement.

34.9% (N=401)

...that offers attractive benefits.

29.8% (N=338)

...in a variety of fields/industries.

33.3% (N=389)

Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa provides these opportunities. The bar chart to the right shows the cumulative percentage of those who strongly agree or agree that lowa has the employment opportunities they require in the place they choose to live. The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor as

difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that strongly agree or agree lowa offers the factor

s shown in the chart at the far right.

"Competitive wages" has the largest percentage point difference between importance ranking and agreement ranking.

Difference between Agreement Level and Importance Ranking
-41.1%
-61.8%
-48.7%
-51.9%

-15.6%

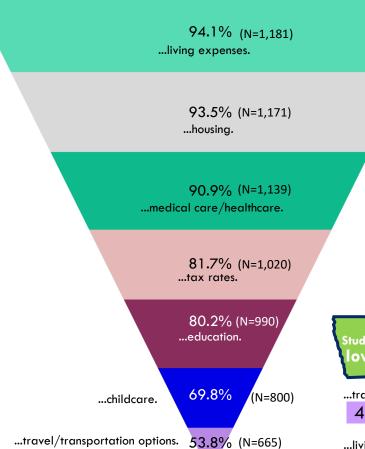
# LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*
Finances



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to finances are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.





The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far right.

The greatest discrepancy is found within the "medical care/healthcare" factor. In this instance, 90.9 percent of students found affordable medical care to be important in deciding where to locate; however, only 47.8 percent agree that lowa provides affordable medical care, a difference of 40.6 percentage points.

Among the financial factors rated, the largest portion of students (94.1%) responded that affordable living expenses has absolute importance or is very important. Affordable housing is second, with 93.5 percent of students rating it as having absolute importance or being very important. Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa is an affordable place to live. The bar chart below shows the cumulative percentage of those that either strongly agree or agree that lowa is an affordable place to live regarding this set of financial factors.

Students agree, lowa has affordable	Difference between Agreement Level and Importance
travel/	Ranking
41.7% (N=497)	-9.0%
living expenses. 70.5% (N=878)	-20.0%
education.	00.50/
<b>56.5%</b> (N=699)	-23.1%
tax rates.	00.70/
<b>56.0%</b> (N=679)	-23.7%
childcare.	-26.2%
<b>36.2</b> % (N=372)	20.270
housing.	-35.9%
55.3% (N=684)	
medical care/healthcare.	-40.6%

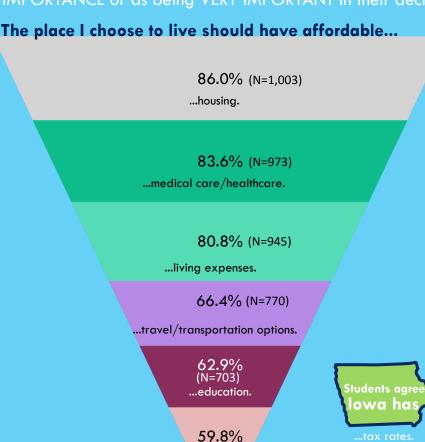
**47.8**% (N=575)

# LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*\*\*
Finances



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to finances are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.



(N=694)

...child care. 51.4% (N=524)

Among the financial factors rated, the largest portion of students (86.0%) responded that affordable housing has absolute importance or is very important. Affordable medical care/healthcare is second, with 83.6 percent of students rating it as having absolute importance or being very important. Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa is an affordable place to live. The bar chart below shows the cumulative percentage of those that either strongly agree or agree that lowa is an affordable place to live regarding this set of financial factors.

The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far right.

...tax rates.

Within the "medical care/healthcare" factor there is a significant discrepancy between the importance ranking and the agreement level. In this instance, 83.6 percent of students find affordable housing options to be important in deciding where to locate; however, only 33.7 percent agree that lowa provides affordable housing, a difference of 49.9 percent points.

Difference between Agreement Level and Importance Ranking
-7.3%
-12.8%
-21.6%
-28.1%
-34.0%
-41.8%
-49.9%

# LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA

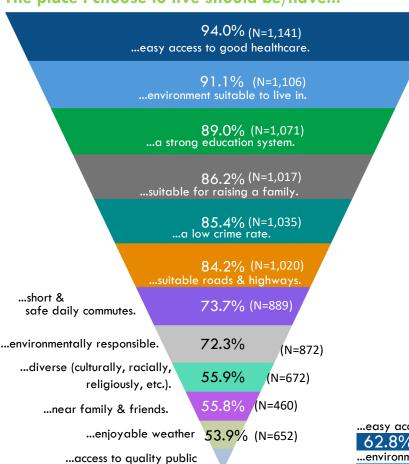
\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*

### Quality of Life



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to quality of life are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.

### The place I choose to live should be/have...



Among the quality of life factors rated, the largest portion of students (94.0%) responded that easy access to good healthcare is of absolute importance or is very important. An environmental that is suitable to live in was second with 91.1 percent.

In addition to these options to the left, two common responses were written in by survey-takers: 12 individuals indicated having good political representation/values is important in their employment considerations and 5 wrote-in that walkability/public spaces is important.

transportation. 41.9% (N=498) Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa provides these quality of life factors. The bar chart to the right shows the cumulative percentage of those who strongly agree or agree that lowa has the quality of life they require in the place they choose to live. The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that strongly agree or agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far right.

"Closeness of friends and family" has the percentage difference largest point importance ranking between agreement ranking.

Students agree, lowa is/has	Difference between Agreement Level and Importance Ranking
easy access to good healthcare.	
62.8% (N=748)	-31.2%
environment suitable to live in.	
67.9% (N=823)	-23.2%
a strong education system.	07.70/
<b>61.3</b> % (N=739)	-27.7%
suitable for raising a family.	0.00/
85.9% (N=1,030)	-0.3%
a low crime rate.	07 40/
58.0% (N=698)	-27.4%
suitable roads &	00 10/
55.1% (N=667)	-29.1%
short & safe daily commutes.	1000/
60.7% (N=731)	-13.0%
environmentally responsible.	05 10/
<b>47.2</b> % (N=565)	-25.1%
diverse (culturally, racially, religiously, etc.)	22.70/
33.2% (N=401)	-22.7%
near friends & family.	122 20/
88.0% (N=1,062)	+32.2%
enjoyable weather	1 5 00/
<b>38.9%</b> (N=469)	-15.0%
access to quality public transportation.	10 50/
<b>29.4</b> % (N=343)	-12.5%

# LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\* Quality of Life



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to quality of life are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.

### The place I choose to live should be/have...

89.2% (N=1,004) ...environment suitable to live in. 88.2% (N=992) ...easy access to good healthcare. 77.8% (N=869) ...environmentally responsible. 72.5% (N=797) ...a strong education system. 71.9% (N=807) ...suitable roads & highways. 70.0% (N=785) ...diverse (culturally, racially, religiously, etc.) 65.3% (N=498) ...near family & friends. 64.6% (N=725) ...short and safe commute. 63.3% (N=705) ...a low crime rate. ...enjoyable weather. 62.6% (N=703)

Students also reported if they agree that the State of Iowa provides these quality of the cumulative percentage of those who strongly agree or agree that lowa has the choose to live. The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor that strongly agree or agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far

...suitable for raising a family. 59.3% (N=633)

...access to quality public transportation. 59.8% (N=667)

"Diversity" has the largest percentage point difference between importance ranking and rated, the largest portion of students (89.2%) responded that environment suitable to live in has absolute importance or are very important. Having easy access to good healthcare is second, with 88.2

In addition to these options to the left, two common responses were written in indicated having good political representation/values is important in

lowa (is/has...

...environment suitable to live in. 45.3% (N=503) ...easy access to good healthcare. 34.4% (N=363) ...environmentally responsible 22.6% (N=246) ...a strong education system. 31.2% (N=342) ...suitable roads & highways. 40.1% (N=445) ...diverse (culturally, racially, religiously, etc.) 10.7% (N=118) ...near family & friends. 54.3% (N=601) ...short & safe commutes. 45.7% (N=503) ...a low crime rate. 49.2% (N=535) ...enjoyable weather. 17.3% (N=193) ...access to quality public transportation. 18.2% (N=197)

...suitable for raising a family.

50.0% (N=535)

Difference between Agreement Level and Importance Rankina -43.9% -53.8% -55.2% -41.3% -31.8% -59.3% -11.0% -18.9% -14.1% -45.3% -41.6% -9.3%

# LIKELY TO STAY IN IOWA

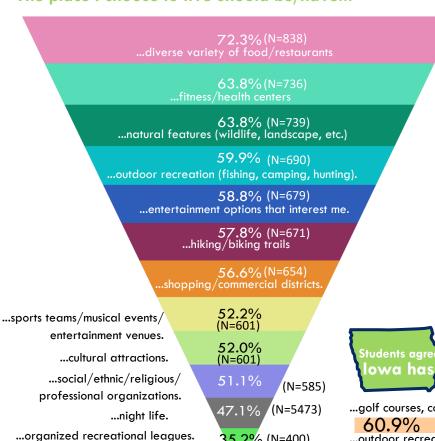
\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\*\*\*

### **Entertainment Options**



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to entertainment options are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.

The place I choose to live should be/have...



35.2% (N=400)

27.2% (N=311)

The percentage point difference between those that rank a factor as absolutely or very important and those that agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the far right.

...golf courses, country clubs, resorts,

The factor that the largest portion of students rank as having absolute importance or being very important is the "outdoor recreation" factor. Likewise, the largest portion of students (79.7%) agree that lowa has adequate outdoor recreation. This results in a positive difference of 19.8 percentage points.

Among the entertainment options factors rated, the largest portion of students (72.3%) respond that diverse variety of foods/restaurants has absolute importance or is very important. Fitness and health centers are second, with 63.8 percent of students rating it as having absolute importance or being very important. Students also reported if they agree that the State of lowa has the entertainment options they value. The bar chart below shows the cumulative percentage of those that either strongly agree or agree that lowa has the entertainment options they prefer.

Students agree, lowa has adequate	Difference between Agreement Level and Importance Ranking
golf courses, country clubs,	
60.9% (N=663)	+33.7%
outdoor recreation (fishing, camping, hunting, etc.).	
79.7% (N=911	+19.8%
hiking/biking trails.	
77.3% (N=894)	+19.5%
organized recreational	+14.8%
<b>50.0%</b> (N=537)	1 14.0 /0
night life.	+12.4%
59.5% (N=673)shopping/commercial districts.	1 1 2 1 7 0
59.7% (N=685)	+3.1%
fitness/health centers.	(
64.9% (N=744)	+1.1%
natural features (wildlife, landscape, etc.).	10 50/
64.3% (N=740)	+0.5%
social/ethnic/religious/professional organizations.	+0.1%
51.2% (N=565)	10.1 /0
entertainment options that interest me.	-3.7%
55.1% (N=638)	-3.7 /0
sports teams/musical events/entertainment venues.	-4.1%
48.1% (N=548)cultural attractions.	-4.1 /0
45.8% (N=526)	-6.2%
diverse variety of food/restaurants.	
61.8% (N=711)	-10.5%
011070	

# LIKELY TO LEAVE IOWA

\*\*Respondents who did not provide an answer within the following categories are excluded from analysis. Number of responses represented shown as, (N=#)\*\* **Entertainment Options** 



When considering where to locate following graduation or upon program completion the following factors related to entertainment options are reported as having either ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE or as being VERY IMPORTANT in their decision-making process.

The place I choose to live should be/have... 73.5% (N=781) .diverse variety of food/restaurants 71.4% (N=759) ...entertainment options that interest me. 67.9% (N=723) ...natural features (wildlife, landscape, etc.) 64.3% (N=687) ...cultural attractions. 61.1% (N=649) ...hiking/biking trails 59.7% (N=635) ...night life ...sports teams/musical 56.5% (N=603)events/entertainment venues. 56.1% ...shopping/commercial districts. (N=597)...outdoor recreation (fishing, 53.8% (N=569) hunting, camping, etc.. ...social/ethnic/religious/professional 45.3% (N=480) organizations... 27.6% (N=290) ...organized recreation league.

The percentage point difference between very important and those that agree lowa offers the factor is shown in the chart at the

...golf courses, country clubs, resorts, etc.

16.4% (N=173)

The greatest discrepancy is found within the "entertainment options that interest me" 71.4 percent of factor. In this instance, in general, the interest them to be important in deciding where to locate; yet only 19.4 percent agree that lowa has adequate options, a difference of 52.0 percentage points.

Among the entertainment options factors rated, the largest portion of students (73.5%) respond that, in general, a diverse variety of food/ restaurants that interest them has absolute importance or is very important. "Entertainment options that interest me" is second, with 71.4 percent of students rating it as having absolute importance or being very they agree that the State of Iowa has the entertainment options they value. The bar chart below shows the cumulative percentage of those that either strongly agree or agree that they prefer.

Students agre lowa has

adequate...

auoqua.o	and Importance Ranking
golf courses, country clubs, resorts, etc.  35.8% (N=331)	+19.4%
outdoor recreation (fishing, camping, hunting, etc.). $57.5\%$ (N=593)	+3.7%
organized recreation league.  29.2%(N=264)	+1.6%
hiking/biking trails. 52.2%(N=541)	-8.9%
social/ethnic/religious/professional organizations. 20.8% (N=203)	-24.5%
night life. (N=345)	-26.4%
shopping/commercial districts.	-26.8%
fitness/health centers.  40.5% (N=422)	-28.5%
sports teams/musical events/entertainment venues. $24.0\%$ (N=249)	-32.5%
natural features of interest.  (N=332)	-36.3%
diverse variety of food/restaurants. (N=359)	-38.8%
cultural attractions. 20.2% (N=212)	-44.1%
entertainment options that interest me. $19.4\%$ (N=206)	-52.0%
\'.' = - · /	

7% 6% 9% 5% 4% 8%

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

40.8%

38.0%

of students reported they are **likely to stay in lowa** following graduation or upon program completion.

of students reported they are **likely to leave lowa** following graduation or upon program completion.

### LIKELY TO STAY:

- 13.4% of those likely to stay in lowa are minorities
- 38.6% of singles are likely to stay in lowa
- 48.8% with family in lowa are likely to stay
- 51.8% of those that are from lowa are likely to stay
- 64.3% of those attending a career/technical school are
   likely to stay in lowa
- 28.3% of those likely to stay in lowa have a job offer in place and 97.9% of those offers are in lowa
- The median annual salary expected for those likely to stay in lowa is \$55,000 while the median hourly wage expected is \$22.00

### LIKELY TO LEAVE:

- 9.7% of those likely to leave lowa are minorities
- 40.2% of singles are likely to leave lowa
- 29.0% with family in lowa are likely to leave
- 27.5% of those that are from lowa are likely to leave
- 44.7% of those attending a public 4-year school are likely to leave lowa
- 18.5% of those likely to leave lowa have a job offer in place and only 27.2% of those offers are in lowa
- The overall median annual salary expected for those likely to leave lowa is \$62,286 while the median hourly wage expected is \$25.00

### **EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS (p.33-34):**

Both groups, those likely to stay in lowa and those likely leave lowa, have similar percentages of students rank the employment consideration factors as absolutely or very important. However, those likely to leave lowa are much less likely to agree that lowa possesses those factors. For example, 82.1 percent of those likely to stay report "job opportunities with competitive wages" as absolutely or very important in their location-decision; likewise, 84.5 percent of those likely to leave feel that way. However, 57.6 percent of those likely to stay agree that lowa provides competitive wages, while only 22.7 percent of those likely to leave agree.

### FINANCIAL FACTORS (p.35-36):

Overall, those within the likely to stay group have a higher percentage of students that find the financial factors as having absolute importance or being very important regarding their location decision than among those in the likely to leave group. The factor that has the highest proportion of students, within each group, rank it as absolutely or very important regarding their location-decision is the "affordable housing" factor. Among those likely to stay in lowa, 93.5 percent find it to have absolute importance or to be very important. Yet, only 55.3 percent of those likely to stay agree that lowa has affordable housing. Among those likely to leave lowa, 86.0 percent state that affordable housing is absolutely or very important regarding their decision of where to locate following graduation or upon program completion. However, only 52.0 percent of those likely to leave agree that lowa has affordable housing options, a difference of 34.0 percent.

### QUALITY OF LIFE (p.37-38):

The students were asked to rank, by level of importance concerning their location-decision, a set of quality of life factors. Students ranked both "good political representation/values" and "walkability/public spaces" as absolutely or very important. 100 percent of students who are likely to stay in lowa and likely to leave lowa chose these quality of life factors. However, only 10.0% of students intending to stay in lowa responded that lowa has good political representation/values while 23.1 percent of those likely to leave find that lowa has these qualities.

### **ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS (p.39-40):**

In comparison to all of the sets of factors analyzed, the entertainment options factors have the lowest proportion of students that rank them as absolutely or very important regarding their location-decision following graduation or upon program completion. For this category, between those students likely to stay in lowa and those likely to leave lowa the "entertainment options that interest me" factor has the greatest discrepancy, in terms of importance. Among those likely to stay, 58.8 percent find entertainment options that interest me to be absolutely or very important while 71.4 percent of those likely to leave find it so. The availability of cultural attractions has the next highest difference: 64.3 percent of those likely to leave lowa find this factor absolutely or very important and only 52.0 percent of those likely to stay find it to be.

# **METHODOLOGY**

In February 2023, lowa Workforce Development sent the 2023 College Student Survey to representatives of all of the community colleges, state universities, and private institutions (both for-profit and non-profit) including career/technical schools, with one or more physical location in the State of lowa. The contacts at each of these establishments were asked to electronically distribute the online survey to their student body via email.

The survey was open from mid-February through the end of April 2023. A total of 43 institutions participated in this survey and a total of 4,260 responses were used for analysis in this report. The number of responses per institution varied greatly and, therefore, the data in this report reflects those variances. The following is a list of the participating schools:

- American College of Hairstyling
- Body Wisdom Massage Therapy School
- Briar Cliff University
- Buena Vista University
- Capri College
- Central College
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Dordt College
- Drake University
- Eastern Iowa Community College
- Ellsworth Community College
- Graceland University
- Grinnell College
- Hawkeye Community College
- Indian Hills Community College
- lowa Central Community College

- lowa School of Beauty
- Iowa State University
- lowa Valley Community College District
- lowa Western Community College
- Kirkwood Community College
- La'James International College
- Loras College
- Marshalltown Community College
- Mercy College of Health Sciences
- Morningside College
- Mount Mercy University
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northeast lowa Community College
- Northwestern College
- PCI Academy Iowa
- Ross College

- Simpson College
- Southwestern Community College
- St. Ambrose University
- St. Luke's College
- University of lowa
- University of Northern lowa
- Upper Iowa University
- Waldorf University
- Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Western lowa Tech Community College
  - William Penn University

Responses from the survey were collected and analyzed by lowa Workforce Development. The analysis does not weigh the importance of each variable against one another, but instead represents how many students answered a question in a particular way or rated a feature at a certain level.

Prior to analysis of the data, efforts were made to ensure data quality. These steps included:

- Identifying and removing duplicate records
- Identifying and removing records of those respondents who do not live in lowa nor are from lowa and indicated taking online-classes only
- If the respondent did not answer how they attend classes but indicated they are not from lowa nor live in lowa, this record was removed from analysis
- If no "rating" questions were answered (those questions that determine what the student values in their location decision and their opinion as to if lowa has those qualities) the record was removed from analysis
- Records of respondents that indicated they were less than 18-years-old were removed
- · Records of respondents currently in high school and taking college credit courses were removed

The bulk of analysis in this report is upon two groups: those that indicated they are likely to stay in lowa following graduation or upon program completion and those that indicated they are likely to leave. The responses of students that reported they are "unsure" about where they will locate were not analyzed at length in this report.

For those questions relating to "agreement level" (analysis found on p.33-39), the options given to the respondent were: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. The cumulative percentage of those that agree or strongly agree are reported in this publication. The percentage that disagree cannot be reached by subtracting this cumulative percentage from 100 as it would not account for those that indicated neutral as their response.

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# **Iowa Workforce**

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