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NEWS RELEASE

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IACCT HELD EVENT TO HONOR SENATOR JOHN P. “JACK” KIBBIE

DES MOINES— The man who many call “the Father of Iowa Community Colleges” – Sen. John P. “Jack” Kibbie – was honored at the statehouse Thursday, January 26, by those who have been impacted the most by his leadership in action. Some 200 Iowa Community College students, joined by Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT) Board Members, Community College Presidents and staff along with, agency boards and directors gathered with State legislators and special guest Gov. Terry Branstad. Branstad discussed Sen. Kibbie’s significant contribution to Iowa’s educational system.

In 1965, Senator Kibbie sponsored the bill to create Iowa’s Community Colleges. During his tenure as an elected official in the Iowa House of Representatives, as a member of the Iowa Lakes Community College Board of Trustees and in the Iowa Senate, Kibbie has remained a steadfast supporter of Iowa’s Community Colleges. Kibbie was first elected to the Iowa House in 1960. He served on the Iowa Lakes Community College Board beginning in 1970 and ending with his run for the Senate in 1988. Kibbie will not run for re-election in the upcoming 2012 elections.

“We owe a great deal to Senator Kibbie and this is an excellent opportunity to honor the person who effectively created Iowa’s Community Colleges by floor managing the legislation in 1966. There is no one else in the state who is so well versed with the 46 years of history of the Community Colleges,” says Janice Lund, IACCT Board Chair.

The program for the Recognition event included remarks by Governor Terry E. Branstad, Senator Mike Gronstal, and Representatives Kraig Paulson, Linda Upmeyer and Kevin McCarthy as well as IACCT Board Chair Janice Lund and members of the audience.

IACCT serves the 15 Community Colleges of Iowa, which are the largest postsecondary education system in Iowa. In the 2010-11 college academic year, they served over 155,140 credit students and over 254,000 noncredit students. Iowa’s Community Colleges are the workforce trainer of Iowa offering a wide variety of short-term and long-term credit and noncredit programs/courses to meet the needs of business and education in their local communities. Iowa’s Community Colleges serve nearly 22 percent of Iowa’s working population.