**SYNOPSIS:**

1. **General Policy:** It shall be the policy of the College to offer the broadest array of programs and services consistent with:
   - needs, wishes, and circumstances of the people of the region;
   - optimal use of available resources;
   - Section 260.C, Code of Iowa (See also Number 102)

2. **Degrees Authorized:** The College shall award the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Professional Studies, Associate of Applied Arts, and Associate in General Studies degrees. Requirements for each degree shall be approved by the Board and shall be listed in the catalog. It is intended that associate degrees shall apply only to curricula having a minimum length of four semesters or sixty (60) semester hours of credit.

3. **Diplomas Authorized:** The College shall award a diploma for the successful completion of a curriculum of less than two years’ duration. Requirements for the diploma shall be approved by the Board and shall be listed in the College catalog.

4. **Certificates Authorized:**
   - a. **Certificates of Completion:** The Certificates of Completion shall be authorized for award in a manner to be determined by the President. It is intended that Certificates of Completion be awarded for the completion of curriculums or programs, although exceptions may be allowed.
   - b. **Continuing Education Unit Certificate:** The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Certificate shall be authorized for award for participation in an organized education experience under responsible capable direction and qualified instruction in which one CEU is defined as ten (10) contact hours of such participation.
   - c. **Other Certificates Awarded:** Other certificates, such as Certificates of Appreciation, may be awarded based on criteria approved by the President.

5. **Commencement Ceremonies:** A commencement ceremony shall be held at least once each year in order to formally recognize candidates for degrees and diplomas. Recognition ceremonies are also authorized for those awarded the certificates.