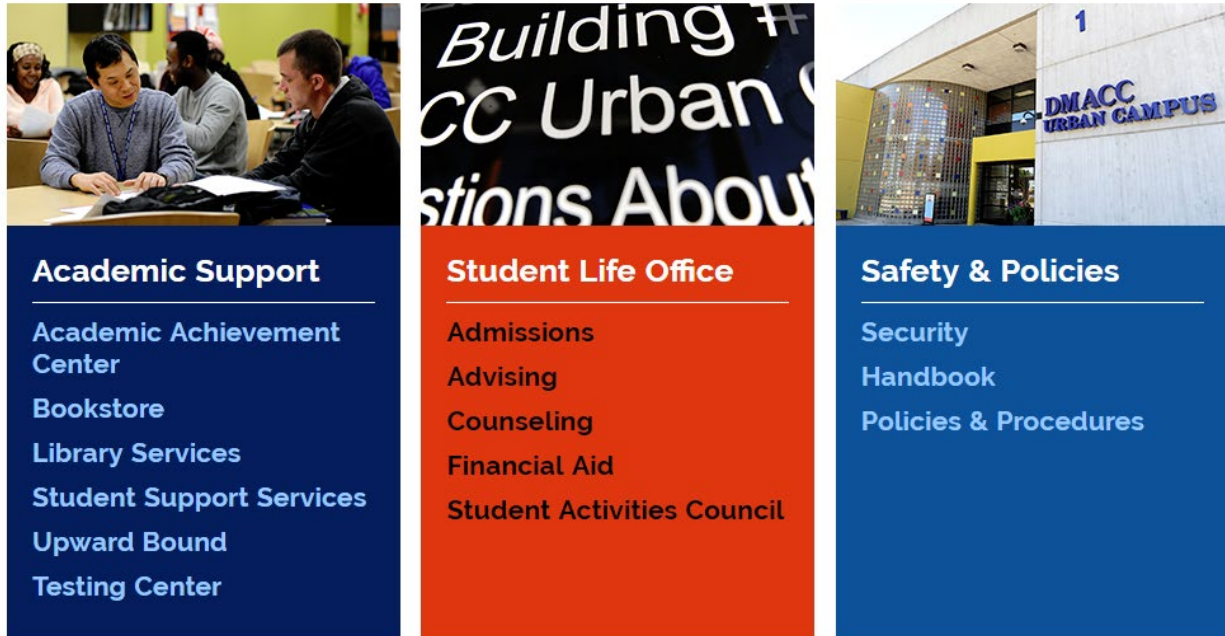


# History of Student Life Office at DMACC

Sources: Ruth Wagner and Mike Perry

Graphics: DMACC Website

Author: Judith Vogel



## Academic Support

Academic Achievement Center  
Bookstore  
Library Services  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound  
Testing Center

## Student Life Office

Admissions  
Advising  
Counseling  
Financial Aid  
Student Activities Council

## Safety & Policies

Security  
Handbook  
Policies & Procedures

<https://www.dmacc.edu/urban/Pages/stuservices.aspx>

The Student Life Office at DMACC is under the umbrella of Student Services. Other aspects of Student Services include Academic Support and Safety & Policies. (To read about the Academic Achievement Center go to <https://www.dmacc.edu/pioneers/history/Documents/AACHistory-archivebySueWickham.pdf>)

## STUDENT LIFE

In 1971, Vice President of Student Services, Leonard Bengtson, hired Mike Perry as a Guidance Consultant to develop a model program to get information out to high school students relating to jobs and the education needed for those jobs. Money for the project was provided from Washington, D.C. Perry traveled all across the state conducting interviews to gather information which he then compiled and distributed to high school counselors in Iowa. As computers became more common, that information was sent to people in those fields for corrections, and then sent to high school guidance counselors' offices. Technology and the fast transfer of information made the project even more valuable to students in Iowa.

After three years, the Model Project for Guidance was completed. Perry then became the Director of Admissions for another three years. He and his staff of six recruiters were assigned sections of the state

to visit with students to encourage them to attend the college. Sometimes high schools would host events for recruiters to come and talk to students.

Perry was then moved into the position of Director of Student Services. With that move, he was responsible for Counseling, Advising, Placement Services, Financial Aid, and Activities. He remembers working with Dorothy Thornton who was the Placement Director. Her job was to work with employers who had job openings and to help set up interviews with students for those positions. More adult students started attending the college, but it was difficult for many of them to attend day classes. Perry took on the mantle of pushing the college to provide evening classes and services. Initially, there was not any money in the budget for evening students. With the help of Perry's passion, the college decided to offer night classes. Perry was named the Dean of Evening/Weekend College and Off-campus Credit Programs, or as some called him, "The Dean of Darkness." Part of his responsibilities included recruiting teachers for the evening and weekend courses and organizing student services such as advising, counseling, placement, activities, etc. Dale Wagner was in charge of evening student activities. The college provided security officers, but Perry said they really didn't have many problems. If there was a problem, the police would show up right away. The library was open nights and weekends. Referrals were made to Academic Support, and tutoring was offered. Referrals were also made for registration and financial aid. Advisors and Counselors were available every night and weekend. Off-campus classes were held in Ames, Perry, Indianola, and South Ridge Mall.

## Student Activities



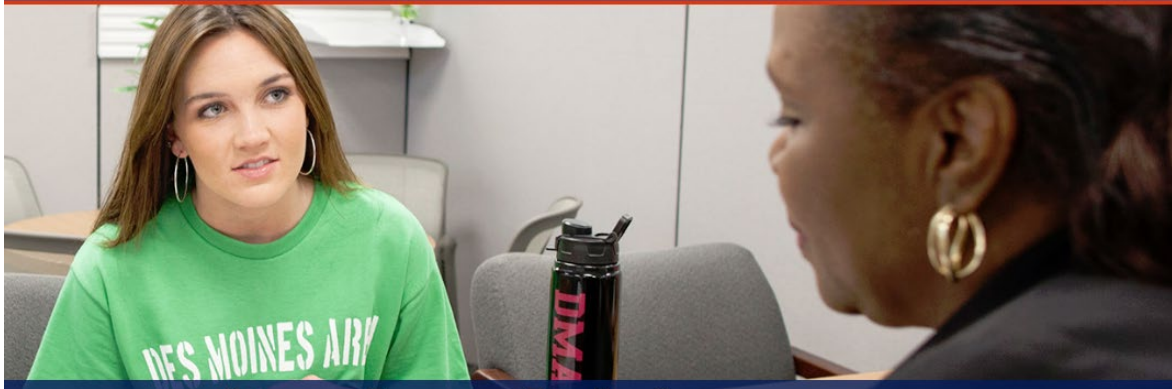
## Student Activities Council

The DMACC Student Activities Council began in 1971 when Leonard Bengston hired Dale Wagner to be the first advisor for the group. Wagner served in that capacity from 1971 to 1977 when he moved into Counseling where he stayed until his retirement in 2000. Don Kerr took over as advisor of SAC. Others who served as advisor to SAC were Mary Lonsdale and Erin (Wheat) Smith. When Dale Wagner started his position, the office was located on the lower campus. Today, SAC is located in Building 5 on the Ankeny campus. There are also SACs on other DMACC campuses.

The original purpose of SAC was to plan activities that would help students socialize with each other and that would give the students a sense of connection to DMACC beyond classes and homework assignments. Students also gained experience in leadership. Today, the DMACC website states, " SAC is the primary student representative body responsible for promoting college spirit, providing a focal point for discussions between students and the college staff, and giving students a representative voice in college affairs. This governmental body is responsible for the assessment and disbursement of student activity fees. With these funds, the SAC plans activities to enhance the social, personal and professional life of DMACC students. In addition, the SAC funds a variety of services and organizations including campus clubs, peer tutoring, intramural sports, and child care."

Students are elected by fellow students to serve on the Student Activities Council Senate. In the early years, dances were held where students would learn ballroom dancing. Events were planned for special holidays. Students enjoyed hockey games, chess, card games, and an open gym. For two years, students worked on creating year books. The big event each year was attending the National Entertainment Conference. As the advisor, Dale Wagner would select one male and one female from the Senate who would attend the Conference. Dale's wife Ruth would also attend as it was required that a female chaperone should attend. Conferences were held in many locations. Ruth Wagner remembers accompanying her husband to Kansas City, Washington D. C., Houston, and several other cities. Often they would take a train to the conference location. She remembers when the train they were on froze in Ohio in February as they were on their way to Washington D. C.

<https://www.dmacc.edu/ankeny/studentactivities/Pages/welcome.aspx>



# Academic Advising

## Counseling

DMACC has provided counseling and advising services for students from the college's beginning. Advisors have been critical to helping students get into the proper courses for their abilities, interests, and programs. They also have assisted students with transferring to another institution, planning class schedules, understanding the AA, AS, AAS, and AGS degrees, understanding admission requirements, learning more about a major or program of study, checking progress toward graduation, and understanding DMACC academic policies and procedures.

<https://www.dmacc.edu/advising/Pages/welcome.aspx>

Counselors have been available to help students with academic, career, and personal goals. Faculty, staff, and parents of students have also received assistance from the Counseling Department. The department provides resources in many areas including finance, support groups, wellness apps, and life balance. If a teacher or staff member senses a need for a student, he or she can refer the student to the Counseling Department. One of the counselors will then attempt to contact the student and assist them.

Some of the early people working in those positions as counselors and advisors besides Mike Perry and Dale Wagner were Larry Clausen, Evelyn Wright (Anderson), Vern Ostrander, Faye Winters, Faye Johnson, and Ken Clark. Originally, these offices were located on the lower campus, but, following several moves, they are now located in Building 1 on the Ankeny Campus today. Counseling and Advising are available to all students on all DMACC campuses.

<https://www.dmacc.edu/counseling/Pages/welcome.aspx>

<https://www.dmacc.edu/counseling/Documents/resourceguide.pdf>

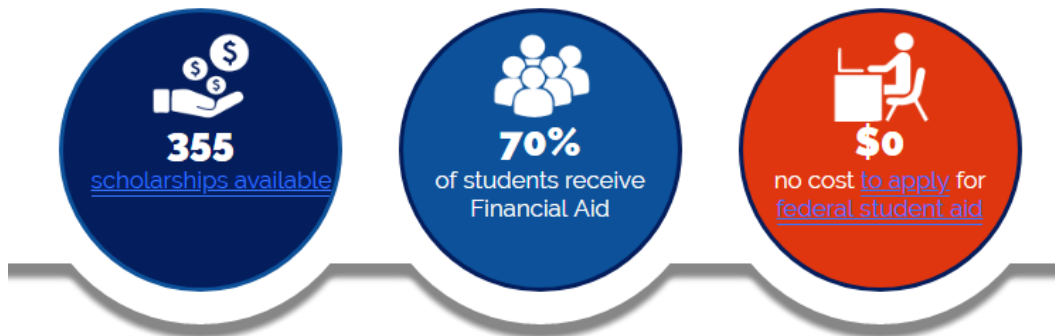
# Admissions



The Admissions staff assists students with job placement (matching employers with students), orientation to the college (helping students get off to a successful start,) registration (making sure students are in classes appropriate for the area of study), transfer of credits to DMACC (assisting students with making the move to another institution,) tuition, student accounts, reverse transfer (receiving student credits from another institution,) and residency requirements. DMACC has transfer agreements with most of the other colleges in Iowa.

<https://www.dmacc.edu/admissions/Pages/welcome.aspx>

# Financial Aid



Today, the Financial Aid Office assists more than 17,000 students each year with grants, scholarships, work-study, and low-interest loans.

[https://www.dmacc.edu/fin\\_aid/Pages/welcome.aspx](https://www.dmacc.edu/fin_aid/Pages/welcome.aspx)