

## Making The IOWA Challenge Real – Discussion

Please discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups. Ask someone in your group to take notes, which we will compile for use by the IOWA Challenge committee. We'll take some time to discuss themes that emerge from the small groups. You probably won't have time to discuss each question – feel free to choose those that are of most interest to you and your group members.

What does it mean to “teach” The IOWA Challenge (as opposed to “communicate” it)?

Students are swamped with information, particularly marketing messages. What strategies might make The IOWA Challenge stand out as something different?

How can we encourage faculty buy-in for The IOWA Challenge project and the expectations it emphasizes?

How can we enlist staff (and which staff) in teaching the Challenge?

Are there practical ways to present The IOWA Challenge in the classroom? Should efforts to communicate the Challenge in an academic context focus on particular classes or types of classes?

What resources might students need to meet IOWA Challenge expectations? Which of these resources already exist? Which need to be developed?

The IOWA Challenge represents expectations for undergraduates. Should the University articulate similar expectations for faculty and staff?

## The IOWA Challenge

As a University of Iowa student, you become part of the Hawkeye family—students and alumni transformed by their experiences at Iowa. The University asks you to follow their example and rise to the challenge of these five expectations:

**Excel.** Academic excellence means setting and meeting high standards for yourself as a student. Faculty, staff and other students will ask you to work hard and push yourself intellectually. We expect a lot of you; you should expect only the best from yourself and the University.

**Stretch.** At Iowa, you will find diversity of people, ideas, opportunities, and experiences. That diversity is one of the benefits of being an Iowa student. Step away from the familiar, try new ideas, experience new cultures, and learn from people different from yourself.

**Engage.** You will be a more successful student and enjoy yourself more if you spend your time and energy on activities that matter. The University of Iowa offers almost limitless opportunities and the resources to help you become a leader in and out of the classroom. Take advantage of them.

**Choose.** Every day you make decisions that affect your education and your future. Take your choices seriously and use your freedom wisely. Your Iowa education is what you make it. Make it something you and your university can be proud of.

**Serve.** As an Iowa student, you are a member of many communities, on and off the campus. You have the opportunity and responsibility to be a good neighbor and citizen and to serve the community. Make your community a great place to live.

*Adopted, 2008*