

**NIACC Signs American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment
and Energy Star Participation Certificate**

Dr. Deb Derr, North Iowa Area Community College president, signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and the Energy Star participation certificate on behalf of NIACC today.

"We are excited to make this historical step as NIACC officially commits to pursuing climate neutrality and improving building energy efficiency," Derr said. "Through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and participation in the Energy Star program, we continue our work to reduce our environmental impact and educate our students on the importance of doing so."

As the fight against global warming shapes the 21st century, colleges and universities must exercise leadership by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, NIACC will initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible; initiate tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed; make the action plan, inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

As a partner with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program, NIACC commits to protecting the environment through energy efficiency and improving building energy efficiency by ten percent or more. This partnership strives to implement and promote energy efficiency improvements that lower energy costs and reduce the risks of global warming.

"As part of our work to move these new initiatives forward, we're forming a committee made up of faculty, staff, students and potentially community members to focus on our sustainability efforts," Tony Pappas, NIACC director of facilities management, said. "We are fully committed to minimizing our carbon footprint and continuing to do our part through energy efficiency."

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and Energy Star partnership mark the latest efforts by NIACC to reduce environmental impacts. NIACC will implement the use of environmentally friendly food service disposables such as plates, bowls, cups and silverware when fall semester classes begin. The College currently realizes energy savings through the new Recreation Center design as well as a multitude of other energy efficiency savings across campus. The two new initiatives signed today will build upon current efforts.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: NIACC president Dr. Deb Derr signs American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and Energy Star participation certificate.