

SOE Weekly Newsletter

6/13/14

From the Dean:

Today, two healthy baby girls joined the Tigges family. Our Major Gift Officer Meaghan delivered 5 lb. 2 oz Mairin Kassie and 6 lb. 5 oz. Sloan Michelle. Congratulations to all.

Opportunities exist for faculty, student and adjunct instructors to attend one or more of the Character Counts summer workshops. For more information about grant funding to cover your registration contact Georgia Sheriff. (Check with Kerwin for the link to the classes if I can't find it for you)

Congratulations to Anne Murr for ANOTHER grant awarded for Adult Literacy. Thanks to Dollar General stores for their \$10,000 award and their continued commitment to literacy.

Jan McM

Here is are pictures of Mairin and Sloan:





Announcement about subscriptions to the Chronicle of Higher Ed:

You may have recently received an advertisement to subscribe to the “Chronicle”. Don’t! Cowles Library maintains a site license for all faculty, students and staff. You can access the full e-version at: <http://chronicle.com/section/Home/5>

AND, by clicking on the “Log In” tab, you can create your own individual subscription. You’ll get a prompt to enter your Drake email, and a password set-up. This will get you the daily version direct to your email inbox.

“Best price match” at the **University Bookstore**: If students bring a print out from a vendor such as Amazon (not their 3rd party vendors, it has to be a named store such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble), for the book they need at a lower price than what the bookstore is offering, and the print the bookstore will match the price

Possible presentation opportunity for faculty: **2015 AERA Annual Meeting** to be held Thursday, April 16 – Monday, April 20 in Chicago, IL. Joyce King, AERA President and Beverly Gordon, Chair, 2015 Program Committee, are pleased to announce this year’s Annual Meeting Theme: “Toward Justice: Culture, Language, and Heritage in Education

Research and Praxis". Now is the time to advance a paper or session submission for consideration by a division, special interest group, or committee and to volunteer as a chair or discussant. **Deadline for Paper and Session Submissions is July 22, 2014.**

Praxis II information

Background: Two Praxis II passing test scores (one in pedagogy one in content) are required for all initial teacher licensure candidates – elementary and secondary.

Current issue: The Praxis II test scores must be set at the first score above the 25th percentile every year, according to the legislature. Attached are the new scores, effective August 1, 2014. Note that there are changes in tests as well as an overall increase in scores. If a score goes up (as they all have), candidates will have to meet the score in place at the time they apply for licensure, not the score that was in place at the time they took the test.

Character Counts summer workshop schedule is now available!

We're proud to bring you nationally renowned presenters to provide three character education workshops for Iowa educators.

Digital Citizenship for Schools & Students: Addressing appropriate technology use, online safety & cyber bullying

Character Development Seminar

Classroom & Program Management: Utilizing Curriculum Integration & Anti-Bullying

[Click here to see complete information, including course descriptions and workshop dates/locations.](#)

Apple headphone change gossip: <http://www.npr.org/2014/06/09/320368529/apple-jacks-the-headphone-port>

Education-related media articles

1. Iowa schools focus on local recruiting Campus tours can 'make it or break it'

By Vanessa Miller, The Gazette

Published: June 8 2014 | 12:01 am

<http://thegazette.com/subject/news/iowa-schools-focus-on-local-recruiting-20140608>

Standing in the heart of the Iowa State University campus on a clear spring day in May, college-bound Hailey Buzynski said she could see herself becoming a Cyclone.

The West Des Moines high school senior who was interested in pursuing a career in special education had been sold on the University of Northern Iowa after attending an open house there. But following her

official tour of Iowa State's scenic campus in Ames, Buzynski, 17, found herself on the fence.

"They both do well with education, and I like UNI's smaller campus," she said. "But I also like all the opportunities here."

Two hours east in Iowa City, Clare Klostermann, 18, of Bankston, praised the student volunteer who gave her a walking tour of the UI campus, where she's planning to begin her college career in the fall. Klostermann said the UI was her top choice based on the financial aid package it offered and on her career aspirations – she wants to go to medical school.

"It was the best fit for my field of study," she said.

The Board of Regents recently turned its attention – and that of Iowa's three public universities – to recruiting local students such as Buzynski and Klostermann by approving a new method for allocating state higher-education funds that ties a majority of the dollars to resident enrollment.

The change – if rolled out over one year – would pull \$47.8 million in allocations from the UI and make ISU the state's top funded regent institution.

2. Rural districts create Capitol advocacy group

Mary Stegmeir, metroiowa@dmreg.com; 11:23 p.m. CDT June 8, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2014/06/09/rural-districts-create-capitol-advocacy-group/10217315/>

More than 30 rural Iowa school districts this year joined a new group formed in January to advocate at the Statehouse for small schools. Rural School Advocates of Iowa is open to districts with 1,250 or fewer students. Clarion-Goldfield and Dows Superintendent Robert Olson said he believes the organization is the first to represent Iowa's rural schools since the lapse of People United for Rural Education, a group that he says was founded in 1977 and remained active in Iowa until the early 1990s. Building coalitions can help small schools survive, said Jerry Johnson, a professor at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla., who has studied rural education. Although the Iowa group hasn't focused on consolidation during its talks with lawmakers, the organization has sought more flexibility in education spending — a move they say could help rural districts address budget issues that drive mergers. "Advocates have got to be in a position to say: Here are some ideas we have for increasing efficiency without consolidation, here's how we can use existing resources more efficiently and effectively," Johnson said. "They need to have some solutions to be a part of the conversation." Thirty-nine school superintendents in Iowa currently oversee operations in two or more school districts in an effort to save money. In addition, two new state initiatives have the potential to make rural education more cost-efficient. Iowa lawmakers in 2013 allocated \$3 million to expand distance learning through the

state's Department of Education. Officials say the new Iowa Learning Online offerings will help districts provide more courses to high school students. Teens can participate in classes either online or through interactive video. Legislators also have pledged to expand high-speed Internet in rural Iowa, another potential boon for small schools seeking to use online tools to supplement classroom instruction. Talks at the Statehouse stalled this year, but the push to increase broadband access is expected to continue in 2015. Even with those bright spots on the horizon, educators believe the number of Iowa school districts will continue to decrease. "Unless there's an injection of economic development that happens within a rural school district, we tend to educate our students to leave town," Olson said.

3. Consolidation trend continues in rural districts

Mary Stegmeir,, metroiowa@dmreg.com; 11:31 p.m. CDT June 8, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2014/06/09/consolidation-trend-continues-rural-iowa-districts/10217285/>

Another round of Iowa school district consolidation is likely in the years ahead due to dwindling rural populations and the expiration of a state provision that allows districts with declining enrollment to recoup some budget losses, state educators say. Fourteen districts will merge to become seven in July. Residents in the Clearfield school system, which educated 27 southern Iowa children this year, voted to dissolve their district effective July 1.

As a result, Iowa will start the 2014-15 academic year with 338 school districts. The state had 367 districts a decade ago. In 1990, there were 430. Merging two or more neighboring school districts brings both benefits and challenges. Larger districts can offer more courses and extracurricular activities. But consolidation also can result in long bus rides for students, lost jobs at shuttered schools and weakened hometown ties.

4. Bloomberg Business Week Online

Financial Aid

Grad Students Could Win Big as Obama Slashes Debt Payments

By Karen Weise June 09, 2014



Photograph By Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via Getty Images
Erika Diane Casorso yells with delight after having her name called during the Spring 2012 graduation for Metropolitan State College of Denver today May 13, 2012.

Update – 2:45 p.m.: *The official White House [fact sheet](#) is out and doesn't provide many more details than the early reports cited in this story.* President Obama is set to address growing concerns over student debt and, according to multiple [news organizations' reports](#), he's about to roll out a plan to help borrowers lower their monthly payments. The effort would see Obama use his executive authority to make more people eligible for an existing program that caps student loan bills at 10 percent of an individual's monthly discretionary income. If those details hold true, the changes could be helpful to millions of borrowers—but far more for some than others.

All borrowers with federal student loans are already eligible for a program called [Income Based Repayment](#), which reduces a monthly bill to 15 percent of discretionary income. The executive order would extend eligibility in a similar program, known as [Pay as You Earn](#), to further reduce monthly payments to 10 percent of income. In its current form, PAYE is available only for borrowers who took out their first loans after 2007 *and* borrowed as recently as October 2011. The executive order on the table would get rid of those exclusions.

So in practice, borrowers who were once excluded—as many as 5 million, according to the early reports—will be able to see their monthly payments cut by as much as one-third. But the [biggest windfall will probably be](#) for people who take on a lot of debt, such as business and law students. That's for two reasons:

STORY: [What Americans Don't Know About Student Loans: A Lot](#)

First, as Jason Delisle of the New America Foundation [told Bloomberg Businessweek](#) in 2012:

“Undergraduates can’t borrow enough, so the change [from IBR to PAYE] is very marginal to them. If you’re only paying \$20 a month, a 33 percent reduction in monthly payments is not that big a deal. But if you are paying \$800 a month, a 33 percent reduction is a big deal.”

The second reason why grad students may benefit the most is that PAYE has more generous loan forgiveness terms than IBR. Under PAYE, the remaining balance of the student loan is forgiven after 20 years of on-time payments, rather than 25 years under IBR. Delisle explained some scenarios he calculated:

VIDEO: [Obama: Help Borrowers Know More About Loan Options](#)

We have one example of someone who might look similar to an MBA student. He starts out with a starting salary of \$90,000 and, by the end of 20 years, is making \$243,360. Under the old IBR program, he’ll have paid \$409,445 by year 25 and be forgiven \$23,892 of his loan balance. Under the new [PAYE] plan, he’ll pay less than half of that, or \$202,299, and be forgiven \$208,259 by year 20.

Earlier this year in his proposed 2015 budget, Obama [outlined changes](#) to reduce the benefits for large borrowers like grad students, but those haven’t gone through yet. None of the news reports so far have mentioned whether similar changes will be included in this executive order. Stay tuned today, and we’ll update this post as soon the administration releases more details.

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