

## SOE Newsletter

6/27/14

### Dates/Updates

Ramadan begins at sundown this evening.

### Newsletter feedback

Thanks to people who offered feedback about the newsletter. Keep the news items coming! The newsletter is a great chance to toot your own horn in a small way, and/or to remind others of important upcoming events or deadlines. Send emails/reminders to [Catherine.gillespie@drake.edu](mailto:Catherine.gillespie@drake.edu) by noon on Fridays to include your items each week.

There is a bit of a disagreement among newsletter readers about whether or not to continue to include jokes. Some people really like them, so they will stay, but with some varied content, starting with:

**This week's puzzle question:** What is the smallest number of matchsticks you can relocate within this Roman numeral equation written in matchsticks to make it correct?

$$XI + I = X$$

### Symposium opportunity

**Both faculty and staff** should consider registering for this event (\$30 per person) – SOE reimbursement is possible (details below the link):

[https://events.egov.com/eventreg/IA/registant.htm?action=new&\\_event=test3](https://events.egov.com/eventreg/IA/registant.htm?action=new&_event=test3)

#### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor Terry E. Branstad ★ Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, May 29, 2014

Contact: Governor's office 515-281-5211

#### **Iowa Teacher & Principal Leadership Symposium website launched, registration open to public**

(DES MOINES) – Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds today launched [EducationLeadership.iowa.gov](http://EducationLeadership.iowa.gov), a website for the second Iowa Teacher and Principal Leadership Symposium, which will be held on **Monday, Aug. 4, 2014, at the FFA Enrichment Center at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny**. Featured speakers include Vivien Stewart from the Asia Society, Ee-Ling Low from the National Institute of Education in Singapore, and Barnett Berry from the Center for Teaching Quality. Also featured are Iowa's first 39 school districts to launch teacher leadership systems in 2014-15 as part of Iowa's landmark 2013 education reform package, two Iowa school districts – Central Decatur and Saydel – that started teacher leadership systems in 2013-14 with the help of a federal grant, and a student panel on the difference great teaching makes.

The event is open to the public, with the goal of attracting a broad cross section of Iowans, including educators, parents, school board members, business leaders and legislators. The website includes the agenda, speaker biographies, sponsors and information on how to register.

The purpose of the symposium is to continue the public conversation about the critical role teacher and principal leadership will play as Iowans work to give students a world-class education.

### **New Career and Professional Development hire 1/5 time in the SOE**

**Kelli Pitts**, our current Career and Professional Development support person, has accepted a position in Denver, CO. **Kate Evans** has been hired to start on July 28 to take Kelli's place. Kate will be 80% time in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and 20% in the SOE, which amounts to one day per week for us. Kate can help with resumes and career counseling for both undergraduate and graduate students as well as helping us to develop employer relationships.

### **Information about graduate student admission deadlines**

2014-2015 Last Dates for admission by term

Several years ago the schools and colleges agreed to end admission to graduate programs approximately 30 days prior to the end of any term/semester to avoid situations where degree admissions were happening throughout a term even including the last day of the term. The SOE is the only school/college that currently uses the flexibility of admitting students after the semester/term has started. The last dates for admission to a program per term for 2014-2015 are listed below:

Last date for admission for Summer 2014: July 25, 2014

Last date for admission for Fall 2014: November 14, 2014

Last date for admission for Spring 2015: April 17, 2015

### **Media items – 3 total**

**1. This op/ed piece was submitted to the Des Moines Register on Tuesday by Drake SOE and the Colleges of Education at UNI, Iowa, and Iowa State and published in the paper Thursday. You can read it below or here:**

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2014/06/26/accreditation-strong-teacher-prep-schools/11384999/>

**Response to “A higher bar: No Accreditation at the Big 4” Op Ed written by Jonathan Wilson, Des Moines Register, June 18, 2014.**

Jonathan Wilson's Op Ed piece in the June 18, Des Moines Register makes two main points, both of which are misleading and inaccurate. He claims that the teacher preparation programs at Iowa's Big 4 institutions (Wilson's term for Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, and Drake University) are: 1. not accredited and 2. thus not held to a higher bar. Wilson incorrectly assumes that because the Big 4 preparation programs have chosen not to join a national organization known as Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) means they are not accredited programs.

The Big 4 teacher preparation programs ARE all accredited programs. They are accredited by the State of Iowa Board of Education through a system managed by the Iowa Department of Education. Additionally, curriculum for all licensure areas is approved by the Board of Educational Examiners as provided in the Iowa Code. Each program must meet the rigorous standards outlined in Iowa Administrative Code 281, Chapter 79, Standards for Practitioner Preparation Programs. Each practitioner program must undergo a comprehensive

and rigorous external review a minimum of every seven years and must report to the Iowa Department of Education annually.

Wilson's second point is that since the Big 4 institutions are not accredited by CAEP, these programs are not held to a higher bar. State of Iowa accreditation standards and procedures mirror the national procedures and standards of CAEP. In fact, an analysis of the Iowa standards and the CAEP standards indicates that the Iowa standards are not only consistent with the CAEP standards, but in most cases are even more demanding. National standards are no assurance of high standards.

The State of Iowa accreditation of Iowa Teacher Preparation Programs confirms that each university is offering students quality services consistent with the highly respected state standards. Iowa's accreditation assures the public that its tax-supported as well as private educational institutions are operating at expected high levels of professionalism and effectiveness.

A fair question to ask is, why should Iowa institutions spend the high costs in terms of money and time to undergo a national evaluation of their teacher preparation programs when the state's evaluation and standards are not only equal but more demanding?

Iowa students who receive their teaching certification under current State of Iowa standards are qualified and successful in classroom performance, and highly marketable both inside and outside our state. We are extremely proud of these teachers who graduate from the Big 4. They are graduating from accredited programs which demand a higher bar.

Submitted by,

Janet M. McMahon, Dean, School of Education, Drake University

Pamela J. White, Dean, College of Human Sciences, Iowa State University

Nicholas Colangelo, Dean, College of Education, University of Iowa

Dwight C. Watson, Dean, College of Education, University of Northern Iowa

2. Get inspired by reading this **blog post by Drake 2013 secondary education graduate Jenna Hotwagner** about her first (successful!) year of teaching:

<http://jennamarie125.wordpress.com/2014/05/18/what-a-difference-a-year-makes/>

### **3. Experts: Market dictates superintendent pay**

June 21, 2014 4:30 pm • [ASHLEY MILLER ashley.miller@globegazette.com](mailto:ashley.miller@globegazette.com)

As most area school districts face declining enrollments and prepare to do more with less, attracting and keeping quality administrators and superintendents can be a concern, state education officials say.

With few quality candidates to choose from, Iowa school districts often face stiff competition from counterparts in Minnesota and Nebraska when trying to attract top leaders.

"We don't put as many superintendents in the pipeline as we need," said Larry Sigel, president of Iowa School Finance Information Services.

Dan Smith, executive director of School Administrators of Iowa, said shared responsibilities are now "pretty common" for both administrators and superintendents.

"In an era where there aren't enough resources, people are covering responsibilities so districts are operating as effectively as possible," he said.

Due to consolidated positions, most Mason City administrators have multiple roles, such as building principal and overseeing curriculum. The district is down about 11 administrative positions since 2008, according to Superintendent Anita Micich.

The district ranks 21st statewide for its 12.7 school administrators, according to information from the Iowa Department of Education.

It also ranks 27th statewide for its number of district top administrators, listed as 2.1.....

.....In 2013-14, the average 4A non-shared superintendent received \$185,000, while an average 3A non-shared superintendent received \$189,000, according to information provided by the Mason City and Clear Lake districts.

In the four years the sharing agreement has been in place, it has resulted in major general fund savings for both districts, since they only pay a partial salary and have received state incentives for sharing.

Mason City has said it's saved about \$833,000 from the arrangement, while Clear Lake has saved about \$850,000.

#### **Mason City School Central Administration Salaries**

- Ramona Jeffrey, chief financial officer, \$149,397.
- Hal Minear, assistant superintendent of administrative services, \$144,397.
- TJ Jumper, executive director of educator quality and leadership, \$127,897.
- Mike Penca, executive director for learning supports and elementary programs and Jefferson Elementary principal, \$112,397.
- Barb Wells, K-6 curriculum director, K-12 literacy coordinator and Hoover Elementary principal, \$97,977.

Note: All district- and building-level administrators have accepted a pay freeze for 2014-15. Salaries are rounded.

*Source: 2012-13 (most recent available) employee earning report, provided by Mason City School District.*

**Puzzle answer:** The answer to the puzzle is that you needn't move any matchsticks. Just get up and walk around the table and look at the equation upside down!