

School of Education

Today is **September 12, 2014**

Media - 4

1. **Lost Schools: Final bell for some small districts**

Jason Clayworth and Charles Litchfield, Des Moines 11:19 p.m. CDT September 6, 2014
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/lost-schools/2014/09/07/lost-schools-district-consolidation/15231717/>

2. 9.7.14 = Cedar Rapids Gazette **Critics question funding changes: Some call for reconsideration of new university metrics**

By Vanessa Miller, The Gazette
Critics, including at least one regent, are calling on the state Board of Regents to reconsider a funding model it approved in June that will change the way state dollars are allocated to Iowa's public universities and could pull \$47.8 million from the University of Iowa over several years.

In emails obtained by The Gazette, university faculty, Iowa residents and Regent Bob Downer question the process and timing involved in developing a new way of funding the UI, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. A UI representative on the task force that proposed the funding model also expressed concerns to Gov. Terry Branstad, calling the process 'flawed.' Just days before the model was approved, Downer in an email told a constituent that he thought the Board of Regents was moving too quickly and the issue

From Dean Jan McMahon

Thanks to the Head Start staff for providing the vital support Sam Walker needs to move through his difficult health care situation. If you have not already done so, I know Sam would appreciate a card. His home address is 4108 Hubbell Avenue, #53, Des Moines, Iowa 50317. We miss our Technical/Engineering Specialist and look forward to having Sam back in the building. SOE Dean's Council members have reviewed the suggestions you sent forward during our August 20th meeting. While some of the recommendations are outside of our purview, there are several that we can address. In future editions of this newsletter or at the various meetings we conduct, we will provide updates and/or enlist your assistance in the implementation.

Dates

September 16, 2 pm Faculty meeting. Room 214.

October 15. Graduation applications due for December graduates. Please announce this in class. Students have been contacted via email, but many have not taken action yet. Students can access the graduation application via the Student Services tab in BlueView. Advisors can view filed graduation applications through MYDUSIS advisor menu.

Updates

warranted more analysis.

3. NYU Professor changes his laptop policy from 'allowed unless by request' to 'banned unless required'

<https://medium.com/@cshirky/why-i-just-asked-my-students-to-put-their-laptops-away-7f5f7c50f368>

**4. Branstad, Reynolds offer higher education plan
Proposal aims to make college more affordable, reduce debt**

By Rod Boshart, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES - Gov. Terry Branstad and his running mate, Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, traveled to college campuses Tuesday offering their plan for making higher education affordable and reducing student debt.

During stops at Iowa State University in Ames and Drake University in Des Moines, the GOP team proposed offering fixed-price degrees or \$10,000 bachelor's degrees at public universities, as well as tax credits for students who volunteer in qualifying community activities.

Branstad said he and Reynolds hoped to reduce the cost of higher education.

5. Vail Daily column: Evaluation as the quality killer

Fueled by federal grant money and state policy, education systems across the United States (including Colorado) are engaged in a large-scale effort to dramatically improve the quality of teachers and principals through evaluations.

These evaluations go where no school system has gone before in that they require the use of student outcomes (in many cases, standardized test scores) to be heavily weighted in the overall merit rating.

For a policy that practically every public school system in the nation is pursuing, the lack of evidence to support its effectiveness is staggering. The number of high-performing education systems that use such an approach: zero. The number of peer-reviewed scientific studies that support this approach: zero.

1. Iowa Department of Education Director keeps us up-to-date about this year's legislative changes affecting schools: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/legislative-information/2014/07/2014-06-24-letter-field-2014-legislative-session-statute>

2. The IRIS Center at Vanderbilt offers free resources for reading instruction, behavior management, and response-to-intervention (RTI) for faculty, providers, and independent learners. More at:

<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/implementation/faculty/>

Invitation

Consider registering (only \$20) and attending DMU's Developing Brain, Developing Accountability: Using Science to Direct Our Policy and Practice for Educating, Disciplining and Growing Our Children into Accountable Adults on Monday, September 29 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
<https://www.dmu.edu/event/developingbrain/>

Spotlight

Presidential Search Committee status report: There are currently approximately 75 applicants. There is rich diversity across the pool and there are plenty of well qualified applicants. The timeline is that the board will get the list of of the best candidates soon, with interviews expected in October or November and a decision in December or January.

The campus committee will have some input but there will not a vote on the final decision. No open forums will be available, as some of the top candidates are currently employed elsewhere and need to keep their applications confidential.

After the process is complete, it is likely that there will be changes to the Drake Charter so that future search committees will include broader representation accross campus, including representation from the School of Education.

T 515-271-3726 W www.drake.edu/soe



Click here to [unsubscribe](#)