

# School of Education

Today is January 30, 2015

## After hours tech help and more

Drake has contracted with Black Belt Help, a company specializing in extended-hours IT support for higher education institutions. To access the service, simply call **515-271-3001** and follow the instructions on the voice response menu for extended-hours support. This service will be available 24/7. DTS has also implemented a new system to sign into the guest wireless network. Starting Thursday, Jan. 22, guests can obtain an access code via email or SMS text that will allow them to sign onto the DUGuest wireless network. Previously, guests had to obtain a user ID and password by contacting the Technology Support Center. This does not affect access to the DUFacStaff or DUSStudent wireless networks.

## Grant money

Faculty or staff members planning international activities can apply for Drake International Grants on a monthly basis. Guidelines and the application are available at:  
[http://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bDFI4qFjoQT7KtL](http://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bDFI4qFjoQT7KtL).

## Updates

## Media - tis the season! (10 articles!)

1. The San Pedro Sun newspaper ran a story on service-learning course in Belize taught by Drake SOE's Drs. Beisser and Fairbairn:

<http://www.sanpedrosun.com/education/2015/01/17/us-student-teachers-learn-global-citizens-ambergris-caye/>

2. **Blog on grit** <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/true-grit-measure-teach-success-vicki-davis>  
3. 1.30.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette **Senate bill lets schools decide their start date**

By Erin Murphy, Gazette-Lee Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES - Schools would have more freedom to decide when classes start each year under legislation approved Thursday by a panel of lawmakers.

A Senate subcommittee Thursday became the second in two weeks to advance a bill that frees Iowa school districts to set their calendars, changing current law that requires school to start no earlier than the week that Sept. 1 falls.

Although the late August date has been the law for years, schools have been granted waivers that allow them to start earlier. In December, the state announced new rules that make it more difficult to obtain such a

Dr. Bengu Tekinalp was elected Vice President for Counselor Education in Iowa School Counselors Association. Drs. Hodgkinson and Hayden battled it out on the ice Sunday. You should've been there!



## Career Fair

Drake University Career Fair 2015 Has Gone Mobile!

This e-mail is to inform you that Drake University Career Fair 2015 has gone mobile using [Guidebook!](#)

We strongly encourage you to download our mobile guide to enhance your experience at Drake University Career Fair 2015. You'll be able to research organizations and plan your day with a personalized schedule, map and general fair information.

The app is compatible with iPhones, iPads, iPod Touches and Android devices. Windows Phone 7 and Blackberry users can access the same information via our mobile site at <http://guidebook.com/browse/>.

To get the guide, choose one of the methods below:

- Download 'Guidebook' from the Apple App Store or the Android Marketplace
- Visit <http://guidebook.com/getitfrom> your phone's browser
- Scan the following image with your mobile phone (QR-Code reader required, e.g. 'Red Laser', 'Barcode Scanner')

The guide will be listed under the "Download Guides" section of the application. Search for and select the guide "Drake University Career Fair 2015."

waiver, effectively enforcing the later date.

Schools support the new legislative measure, saying local districts best know when their students should be in school. 'To take this role away from local officials is a slap in the face,' said Sen. Tod Bowman, D-Maquoketa, who led the Senate subcommittee and teaches at Maquoketa High School. 'We're saying they don't understand their local community (by saying), 'Listen to us in Des Moines. We know better.' ' Tourism and other business groups oppose the legislation, arguing that having youths in school in early August takes away seasonal employees and reduces revenue, which they say also affects state tax revenues that can be put toward education.

'I think the best thing we can do is we want to tell schools that without a strong economy we cannot meet the (school funding) request the education community is asking for,' said Sen. David Johnson, R-Ocheyedan.

Ross Schoofs, with Adventureland in Altoona, said he fears the legislation would allow schools to move start dates even earlier. He said that when most schools start classes in mid-August, Adventureland's admissions drop by half.

The separate but similar bills have passed subcommittees in both chambers and next go to the full committees.

Gov. Terry Branstad, who called for stricter enforcement of the current law, said he is willing to work toward a compromise. He said he took action after hearing from summer tourism groups and parents who want more of August school-free.

'We'll reach a compromise,' Johnson said. 'I think a late August start would help with everybody. I think we can get there.'

4. 1.30.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette's editorial

### **lowans deserve realistic aid debate**

lowans deserve an honest debate over how best to fund public school districts. We didn't get one in the Iowa House this week.

See you at the fair!  
February 12, 2015  
Upper Olmsted  
3-3:30 – Seniors Only  
3:30-6 – All Students  
The Professional & Career Development Staf -  
- Annette Watson, Kate Evans, and Chrystal Stanley

Majority Republicans pushed through legislation that would increase basic state aid to K-12 districts by 1.25 percent, or \$44 million, in the 2016 budget year that starts July 1, and by 2.5 percent in 2017.

Minority Democrats insisted that school aid should be increased by 6 percent in both budget years, matching the amount proposed by several education organizations. The bill now heads to the Senate.

Truth is, neither bid is realistic. House Republicans who portrayed their plan as fiscally responsible for the state neglected to mention how fiscally damaging it would be for local school districts. It bears no resemblance to the actual cost increases schools face, including negotiated salary increases that generally far exceed 1.25 percent.

In Cedar Rapids, school officials say they need a 3.5 percent increase in state aid just to maintain the status quo. At 1.25 percent, Superintendent Dave Benson says the district will need to trim its budget by \$2.5 million. And because the biggest chunk of the district's budget is personnel, that means sliced or unfilled teaching positions.

Republicans and Gov. Terry Branstad insist the full picture of school funding must include \$50 million for the new teacher leadership and compensation program and assorted other funding buckets. Trouble is, state law limits how those dollars are spent, so they have little or no effect on districts' struggles with operating expenses.

And the governor's quest for world-class schools seems to be directly at odds with his plan to provide so little state aid that schools lack the resources to transform and innovate.

But the state can't afford 6 percent. For one thing, lawmakers are building a 2016 budget based on a projected 4.9 percent increase in state revenue, and much of that new money already is committed to backfill commercial property tax cuts and other ongoing programs. The 6 percent proposal ignores those hard fiscal facts.

We understand how the political dance surrounding school funding works.

Republicans shoot low, Democrats shoot high and we end up in the middle. But a change in tune would be welcome. How about setting a funding level that balances the true needs of our schools with an honest assessment of resources. Leave the rhetoric on the campaign trail.

5. Munson: Iowa school start date debate takes us back to the '80s

Kyle Munson, [kmunson@dmreg.com](mailto:kmunson@dmreg.com) 11:06 p.m. CST January 24, 2015

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/local/kyle-munson/2015/01/25/iowa-school-start-date-tourism-education/22239609/>

#### **6. Current budget proposal not enough for schools, officials say**

1.25.15 = Mason City Globe Gazette  
MASON CITY | North Iowa schools may be forced to cut staff, reduce program offerings or find other ways to slash expenses if they aren't given more funding than the proposal currently on the table in Des Moines, officials say.

The GOP-backed legislative proposals would increase per-student state aid by 1.25 percent and 2.45 percent the following year. It moved out of committee this week and is slated for a public hearing on Monday.

Republicans say the proposal includes \$100 million in new money split between state aid and education reform initiatives. Democrats and education officials, who advocated for a 6 percent increase, claim that's not enough funding to keep pace with increasing expenses.

"We'll have to cut somewhere," said Northwood-Kensett Superintendent Mike Crozier.

7. 1.28.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette House approves school funding boost

#### **It's not enough, Democrats say, as bill passes along party lines**

By Erin Murphy, Gazette-Lee Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES - State funding of Iowa's K-12 schools would increase a total of 3.7 percent over the next two fiscal years under a bill passed largely along party lines last night in the Iowa House.

Republicans in control of the House said the

funding levels stay responsibly within the state's budget, and spending more on education does not necessarily yield better student achievement.

Democrats said the funding level is inadequate and called for 6 percent increases over each of the next two years while echoing the warnings of state educators who said the Republicans' plan will lead to larger class sizes, reduced programs, outdated materials and staff layoffs.

The Republicans' plan would yield an increase of roughly \$44 million in the 2016 fiscal year, according to the state's nonpartisan fiscal analysts, plus roughly \$50 million designated specifically for the teacher leadership program included in the education reform package passed in 2013.

8. 1.28.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette

**Community colleges ask for more state funding: Presidents confident in products of program**

By James Q. Lynch, The Gazette  
DES MOINES - Community college presidents presented a generally upbeat picture of Iowa's two-year college system's role in meeting present and future workforce needs.

However, in a presentation Tuesday to the Legislature's Education Appropriations Subcommittee, they warned they need more funding to meet the demands of students and employers.

Sixty-five percent of students at Northeast Iowa Community College in Dubuque and Calmar are part time, President Liang Chee Wee told lawmakers. Systemwide, 59 percent of community college students are part time.

9. 1.28.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette

**Legislators not convinced new budget will help 2-year school: Rastetter defends board's proposal for funding based partly on in-state student enrollment**

By James Q. Lynch, The Gazette  
DES MOINES - Board of Regents President Bruce Rastetter tried to allay lawmakers' fears that rewarding public universities for enrolling in-state students will come at the expense of community and private colleges.

Universities are not looking for dramatic in-state enrollment growth and will not lower admission standards to attract more students, Rastetter said repeatedly during a three-hour

meeting with the House Appropriations Committee meeting Monday. His answers seemed to do little to alleviate those concerns.

'I don't think that gives community college and private colleges any comfort,' Rep. Mary Mascher, D-Iowa City, said. Their margins are 'so thin that if they lose more students, they are in danger of closing.' What's more, she said, as the pool of Iowa high school graduates shrinks, the competition for them will intensify.

Iowa's high school graduating class, with as many as 37,549 students in 2003, is expected to be 33,932 this fall. It's projected to be 34,200 in 2020.

'The feedback I get from community colleges and private colleges is they don't support this and have grave reservations about its impact,' Mascher said.

10. January 28, 2015 **Bid to Hold Teacher Colleges Accountable Stirs a Debate Over Race** By Kelly Field

<http://chronicle.com/article/Bid-to-Hold-Teacher-Colleges/151409/>

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