

# School of Education

Today is February 13, 2015

## R.I.P.

Sam Walker, loyal Head Start employe and friend to all, died at Kavanaugh House on Feb 10. We will all miss him. Condolences at: <http://www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com/services/condolence.aspx?sid=17849>

## Conference opportunity

The 10th Annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth will take place on April 3rd, 2015 at Prairie Meadows Events Center and we are expecting our biggest event yet with over 1,000 attendees.

This annual event is an important opportunity for school counselors, educators, LGBTQ/allied youth, and anyone else who cares to learn more about issues impacting this population including bullying, homelessness, and suicide prevention.

Registration is open for this important event and you can save money by registering under the Early Bird discount by February 28th! There are also scholarships available for student attendees.

[Register today for the 10th Annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth!](#)

## Reminders

1. Consider nominating a worthy individual for the Drake Medal. Nominations due to [Martin.Roth@drake.edu](mailto:Martin.Roth@drake.edu) by March 1.
2. Faculty: Has your committee met yet? If not, please coordinate with the other members of your committee to meet before the next faculty meeting on 2/24. If so, could the chair of the committee please send [catherine.gillespie@drake.edu](mailto:catherine.gillespie@drake.edu) the members' "expiration dates" for service on the committee? Many thanks.

## Spotlight

Welcome Jonathan Dixon!! John Wood has gone to greener pastures at Drake DTS and Jon will be taking his place permanently, keeping office hours in his office at the North end of the Curriculum Library in the mornings in the SOE and in the afternoons at CPHS. HEADS UP! One thing that Jonathan is doing is pulling the white computers in the lab that are not functional. He isn't doing this just because he loves to dispose of old computers. He's doing it because the SOE Dean's Advisory Team directed him to do this. The silver computers will be updated on a schedule that will be announced soon.

## Media

### 1. Emails reveal furor over school start-date decision

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2015/02/08/iowa-school-start-dates-calendar/23094689/>

Kathy A. Bolten, [kbolten@dmreg.com](mailto:kbolten@dmreg.com) 10:20 p.m. CST February 8, 2015

### 2. Fewer Top Graduates Want to Join Teach for America

By MOTOKO RICH FEB. 5, 2015

## Smarter Balanced

### Smarter Balanced assessments to be used in Iowa

Members of the State Board of Education endorsed a state task force's recommendation to adopt the Smarter Balanced assessments as Iowa's new state test on 2/11/15.

The endorsement was part of a board resolution that was adopted in a unanimous vote during a meeting by telephone. The resolution will be sent to Iowa legislators for consideration.

Board members gave several reasons they support the Smarter Balanced assessments, including the need to accurately measure how students have progressed in meeting Iowa's academic standards. The standards represent statewide expectations for what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"Iowa needs an assessment that is closely aligned with our state standards, reflects what is taught in classrooms and moves us toward having students demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school," said Charlie Edwards of Des Moines, the board's president. "We support the Assessment Task Force's conclusion that Smarter Balanced is the right assessment system for Iowa."

Adopting the Smarter Balanced assessments was the centerpiece of a Dec. 31 report from the Assessment Task Force, created by lawmakers in 2013 to study Iowa's assessment needs. Legislators had directed the task force to recommend an assessment that aligns with statewide standards; accurately describes student achievement and growth for the purposes of accountability; provides valid, reliable and fair measures of student progress toward college or career readiness; and has been piloted in Iowa schools.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/06/education/fewer-top-graduates-want-to-join-teach-for-america.html?smid=nytcore-ipad-share&smprod=nytcore-ipad&r=0>

### 3. **Calling All Four-Year-Olds: Preschool's For You** By Joyce Russell

[https://webmail.legis.state.ia.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=Iw\\_hsbupP0yYOPUC6Uro5VLJ-UXzFdII-9TIOY8KWqNig7yZu9fNj0YZzQII4bs1\\_PYXq2xcZHS.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fiowapublicradio.org%2fpeople%2fjoyce-russell](https://webmail.legis.state.ia.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=Iw_hsbupP0yYOPUC6Uro5VLJ-UXzFdII-9TIOY8KWqNig7yZu9fNj0YZzQII4bs1_PYXq2xcZHS.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fiowapublicradio.org%2fpeople%2fjoyce-russell)

### 4. **Iowa House to set Aug. 23 as school start date compromise**

Jason Noble, [jnoble2@dmreg.com](mailto:jnoble2@dmreg.com) 5:21 p.m. CST  
February 9, 2015

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/09/iowa-schools-start-state-compromise-august-twenty-third/23132433/>

### 5. **Senate votes to boost school funding 4 percent for next two fiscal years**

2.10.15 • ROD BOSHART Mason City Globe Gazette  
Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES | Majority Democrats in the Iowa Senate voted Tuesday to boost base funding for elementary and secondary schools by 4 percent for the next two fiscal years -- a funding commitment that minority Republicans charged the state cannot afford and cannot sustain.

Senators passed measures on 26-24 party-line votes to raise state aid to Iowa's 338 K-12 public school districts by \$212 million in fiscal 2016 and \$217 million the following fiscal year.

Democrats also agreed to raise categorical funding supplements for schools by 4 percent, while Republicans joined their majority counterparts in voting 50-0 to have the state pick up the 12.5 percent property tax share under the state's foundation aid formula for both fiscal years.

"Education funding must always be our state's No. 1 priority," said Sen. Tod Bowman, D-Maquoketa, in pushing for the 4 percent yearly boosts. "Iowa's future depends on high-quality local schools. This legislation is a serious, meaningful step in the right direction for Iowa schools."

Minority Republicans said they share Democrats' commitment to schools, but Sen. Jake Chapman, R-Adel, noted that the Legislature has failed to meet its past commitments to K-12 schools six times since fiscal 2002 "to the tune of \$600 million." He said nonpartisan estimates say spending cuts or tax increases would be needed to balance the next two state budgets.

6. From the Chronicle of Higher Education: February 5,

State Board of Education members closely followed the task force's work.

"We have great confidence in the task force, which represents a cross-section of stakeholders who understand our state assessment needs," said Mary Ellen Miller, a board member from Wayne County. The Smarter Balanced assessments were developed by a consortium of states guided by the belief that a high-quality assessment system aligned to rigorous academic standards can improve teaching and can help prepare students for success in college and career training.

Iowa students currently take the Iowa Assessments in grades 3-8 and 11 in math and reading to meet state and federal accountability laws. The Iowa Assessments are developed and administered by Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa. The Legislature in 2012 mandated the Iowa Assessments for state and federal accountability purposes. However, the Legislature opened the door for a successor assessment in 2013 by creating the Assessment Task Force as part of [House File 215](#), the landmark education reform bill.

For more information about the Smarter Balanced assessments, visit:  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

2015

### **College Freshmen Seek Financial Security Amid Emotional Insecurity**

By Dan Berrett and Eric Hoover

<http://chronicle.com/article/College-Freshmen-Seek/151645>

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