

School of Education

Today is April 17, 2015

Visitors

Past:

Drs. Michael Couvillon and Laura Kieran hosted Caribbean visitors on Thursday under the auspices of the Dept. of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Eight special educators and administrators attended a class and interacted with faculty and students.

Upcoming:

On April 29 from 10-11:30 Drake SOE will host students from Mitchellville Elementary School. They will be walking through the building, so be forewarned.

Dates

May 20, 10 am. Grades due. Submit early; submit often. You can put in a few grades at a time if you want. Just get them done!

Relays fun

1. **Dunk tank** opportunity: Catherine Gillespie will be sitting in the dunk tank between Olmstead and Hubbel dining hall, awaiting drenching at 4 pm on April 20, at the pre-relays carnival.

2. Another **alcohol free event** (Saturday night of relays): The students of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences have created an event that will appeal to individuals of all ages and affiliations with Drake University: Flick-on-the-Floor!

We would like to personally invite you and your family to this event, as we believe it will be a wonderful opportunity for community development and, of course, fun!

During this event, the movie Monsters University will be shown at the Knapp Center and free popcorn and refreshments will be provided. All members of the Drake Community will be encouraged to attend the event, meet professional and/or Drake athletes before the show, and participate in a raffle for a variety of donated prizes with all proceeds going towards the Special Olympics Iowa!

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Spotlight

Drake SOE's MSLD program has successfully renewed its alignment with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates. Throughout the world, 375 programs in 280 educational institutions have been acknowledged by SHRM as being in alignment with its suggested guides and templates. The HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates were developed by SHRM to define the minimum HR content areas that should be studied by HR students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The guidelines -- created in 2006 and revalidated in 2010 and 2013 -- are part of SHRM's Academic Initiative to define HR education standards taught in university business schools and help universities develop degree programs that follow these standards.

Kudos to Anne Murr

From Mandi McReynolds: in the United Way review meeting this week, we were told Drake Adult Literacy Center report was the best they have seen in years. This is a HUGE compliment give the number of agencies and applications. This team has done remarkably well, including many 8:00 a.m. meetings to stay on track. We will hear in June if they will honor an increase in funding to expand the ALC services. ALC restricted funds are currently at a level that will allow for 6 months of operation without grant funding. This was another impressive point in the review and celebratory area. Please join me in congratulating Anne and Marti on their fabulous work this year.

Save the Date

TLC Leveraging Teacher Leadership: An Institute for Teacher Leaders
Thursday, July 16, 8 am to 4:30 pm Vets Memorial, Des Moines

Media - 4

1. Posted: Sunday, April 12, 2015 = Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil **GOP: Education funding can go no higher** By Tim Rohwer trohwer@nonpareionline.com

Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs, talks about education funding during Saturday morning's Legislative Coffee at Wilson Middle School.

There apparently is a zero percent chance for a compromise on next year's funding for K-12 education, according to local member of the Iowa House.

"It's up to the (Iowa) Senate," said Rep. Greg Forristall, R-22nd District, who serves on the House Education Committee. "The House started with the maximum offer we thought we could afford. We're at our max."

2. 4.13.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette

As standoff drags on, deadline draws near

School districts must certify budgets soon, but legislators still deadlocked

By Rod Boshart, Gazette Des Moines Bureau
DES MOINES - The consequences of the Legislature's education funding impasse are taking shape as school districts certify their budgets and shape their programs and staffs for the 2015-16 school year.

The split-control Legislature begins the 54th day of session work Monday no closer to agreement on K-12 school funding for the next two fiscal years than when they arrived Jan. 12 at the Statehouse.

Legislative Republicans and Gov. Terry Branstad are holding firm on the 1.25 percent increase in supplemental state aid to schools they believe the state can afford in fiscal 2016.

3. Paulsen: Democrats adopt 'used-car' sales tactics on school aid

William Petroski, bpetroski@dmreg.com 3:25 p.m. CDT April 16, 2015

Iowa House Speaker Kraig Paulsen accused Senate Democrats on Thursday of adopting "used-car" sales tactics in their attempt to broker a deal on kindergarten-through-12th-grade school funding for the coming academic year.

Paulsen, R-Hiawatha, acknowledged he is becoming increasingly frustrated with a stalemate on school funding as a tentative May 1 deadline for the end of the 2015 legislative session approaches. He said he particularly objects to repeated accusations from Democrats that Republicans have not been negotiating in good faith. School aid currently totals about \$2.9 billion and is the biggest ticket item in the state budget.

House Republicans have refused to budge from an initial offer of a 1.25 percent increase in school aid, while Senate Democrats — who initially sought a 4 percent increase — have reduced their proposal to about 2.62 percent in an effort to compromise. The Democrats were supported on Wednesday by about 100 schoolchildren from the Des Moines and the Southeast Warren school districts who stood on the Iowa Capitol steps, holding

signs and urging legislators to increase school funding.

"This is about the schools and the kids in the state of Iowa," Paulsen told reporters. "We were serious when we put the 1.25 percent increase on the table. It is a \$100 million increase for K-through-12," including about \$50 million for a teacher leadership program.

Paulsen added: "This has sort of broken down into some sort of used-car negotiations, and I don't understand that."

4. Iowa funding stalemate forces schools to look at cuts

Mackenzie Ryan

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/staff/35885/mackenzie-ryan/>, mryan@dmreg.com 8:14 p.m. CDT April 15, 2015

Iowa legislators' stalemate over education funding is forcing school districts to turn in stop-gap budgets that for some include the possibility of program cuts — or even layoffs.

Wednesday marked the deadline to certify district budgets so that other government agencies can begin setting property tax rates. Once they take effect, school boards can lower their tax levies, but cannot raise them.

But with the state funding levels still unresolved, districts in the Des Moines metro area are trying to maintain programs for 2015-16 — while others, such as Johnston, are considering cuts.

The one thing that is for certain is that school administrators are anxious over and disappointed by the legislative impasse. The Democrat-controlled Senate is seeking a 4 percent increase, while the Republican-controlled House wants 1.25 percent.

"You've got frustration," said Galen Howsare, deputy executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards. "The messages are conflicting. We're sending a message that we're trying to do education reform, but we're not getting the funding or allowing districts to be able to plan. It creates a lot of unrest and mistrust and angst."

Some educators say a lower rate of 1.25 percent would be a "de facto" budget cut, because it would not keep up with inflation and other cost increases. Others say 2.5 to 3 percent is a "break-even" amount, maintaining but not expanding programs. Without a lawmaker agreement, any would-be increase becomes zero. If an agreement is reached, however, the school funding formula will be adjusted.

The formula determines property taxes and state aid, as well as how much districts can spend.

Metro schools weigh effect

The Johnston school district is estimating cuts up to \$400,000 in its \$200 million budget that builds in no predicted increase in state funding. It comes on the heels of nearly \$1 million worth of cuts the previous year, said district spokeswoman Laura Sprague.

"Last year, that was incredibly hard," said Sprague, explaining that the district will go through a similar process to evaluate reductions. "We examine everything very closely: 'What can we do to be more efficient? What staffing vacancies can we not have to fill?'"

Other districts are looking ahead to the 2016-17 school year. Waukee, for example, plans on dipping into reserves next school year as a stop-gap measure to maintain programs. Depending on state funding, cuts could occur the following year. "We can weather the storm going into next year, but we'll start planning in the summer for how we'll reduce the expenses going into the (2016-17) school year," said Lora Appenzeller-Miller, Waukee's chief financial officer.

West Des Moines is also looking at cuts in 2016-17. Chief Financial Officer Paul Bobek said the reductions come after multiple years of deficit spending, where the district used money from its reserves. School district leaders will start a process this summer to review areas to cut.

Des Moines is among the school districts that will maintain programs — but not expand, as officials had planned. In a letter to state legislators, Chief Financial Officer Thomas Harper said that even with a 1.25 percent increase, plans to implement a program that would allow more self-directed learning and technology use in the classroom "would come to a screeching halt."

"We'll have to scale that back to something that's more affordable," Harper said in an interview.

Layoff notices may be next
Next up on the chopping block could be teachers and other school staff.
School districts that are considering laying off teachers are required to notify them by April 30.

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