



IOWA ACEnews

Fall 2006



CONTRIBUTE TO A FUTURE NEWSLETTER:

SUCCESS STORIES – Do you know of a child or family whose life was transformed by nonpublic school education? Was your life or that of someone you know changed for the better due to attending a nonpublic school? Please share this information with us. We would love to feature success stories in a future newsletter. Contact twilger@iowaace.org to share your stories.

OUTSTANDING IOWANS – In each of our future newsletters, we would like to feature an outstanding Iowan who is a product of a nonpublic education. If you know of such an accomplished and talented member of your community, please pass this information along to us. We would love to share their achievements with our members!

CONTACT US AND LET US KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN IOWA ALLIANCE FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION!

CONNECT – subscribe to our newsletter online so that you may receive email alerts and future newsletters by email. Visit www.iowaace.org today!

INFORM – invite us to speak to your group

SUPPORT – make a tax-deductible contribution to Iowa ACE that will help sustain our efforts to promote nonpublic education and school choice for all Iowa families.



Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

-MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mrs. Barb Buescher
Lutheran East Schools
- Mr. Jeff Courter
President of Parent Advisory Board
- Dr. Jerry Deegan
Iowa Nonpublic School Advisory Board
- Ms. Sara Eide
Iowa Catholic Conference
- Mr. Jeff Fick
Lutheran West Schools

- Dr. Luvern Gubbels
Des Moines Diocese Catholic Schools
- Sr. Delores Hannon
Iowa Nonpublic School Advisory Board
- Mr. Jeff Henderson
Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Schools
- Mr. Nick Lantinga
Secretary, Parent Advisory Board

- Ms. Christi Lines
Lutheran Schools
- Mr. Tim Manatt
Vice President, Parent Advisory Board

- Mr. Arlyn Schaap
Christian Schools
- Mr. David Te Grotenhuis
Christian Schools

- Mr. Kevin Vickery
Sioux City Diocese Catholic Schools
- Mrs. Mary Wieser
Davenport Diocese Catholic Schools

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

- Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Schools**
- Nelly Bodeen, *Mason City*
- Terry Duggan, *Dubuque*
- Tim Manatt, *Gilbertville*
- Sara Riley, *Cedar Rapids*

- Christian Schools**
- Carroll Hocksbergen, *Tracy*
- Nick Lantinga, *Sioux Center*
- Ken Veenstra, *Pella*
- Samona Yentes, *Clive*

- Diocese of Davenport Catholic Schools**
- Hugh McAleer, *DeWitt*
- Jim Nepola, *Iowa City*
- Mike Schilling, *Burlington*
- Mike Vonderhaar, *Bettendorf*

- Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools**
- Jeff Courter, *West Des Moines*
- Jamie Fitzgerald, *Des Moines*
- Dan McGinn, *Council Bluffs*
- Linda Rutledge, *Des Moines*

- Lutheran Schools**
- John Ellison, *Madrid*
- Erika Harris, *Council Bluffs*

- Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools**
- T.J. Augustine, *Fort Dodge*
- John Murray, *Storm Lake*
- Teresa O'Brien, *Sioux City*
- Tammy Shimon, *Rolf*

WHY DID I RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

You received this newsletter because you have a child attending one of Iowa's nonpublic schools, and you have supported nonpublic education in our state. We are the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education ("Iowa ACE") and you are already counted as a member of our organization because you have demonstrated that you believe in our nonpublic schools and all they do for our children and our state.

There is no cost and no obligation associated with belonging to our organization. We are not a lobbying group nor are we affiliated with any political party or religious entity. We are a non-profit organization committed to promoting the importance of nonpublic education in our state, and to supporting programs which extend the choice of nonpublic education to a greater number of our citizens. Our members come from all walks of life, from both sides of the political fence and from many different religious backgrounds. We have in common the belief that nonpublic education is a life-changing force in many lives, and that it should be made available to a greater number of Iowa families.

Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education, Iowa ACE for short, was formed in 2005 by concerned supporters of nonpublic education in Iowa. **Our mission and purposes are as follows:**

- To give witness to the total community regarding the contributions, and the immense social, spiritual, educational, cultural, and economic benefits that Iowa's accredited nonpublic schools provide our local communities, state and society.
- To create, facilitate, and promote meaningful dialogue among accredited nonpublic school leaders (e.g. Council of Iowa Accredited Nonpublic Schools – CIANS)
- To inform the accredited nonpublic school community about public-policy decisions that affect accredited nonpublic school students, parents and schools
- To advocate for parental choice in education, without significant restrictive economic disadvantage, as a just and viable means for educating citizens
- To mobilize the accredited nonpublic school community of Iowa as an effective grassroots constituency, which communicates with legislators and other public officials regarding educational rights and public policy
- To secure appropriate financial support for all parents of accredited nonpublic school children

We hope that you will take a moment to read this and future newsletters and share the information you find. We also hope that you will let us know of any ideas you have for Iowa ACE. You are a member, and we want you to be involved and informed. This organization belongs to you!



Great news for school choice!

The Educational Opportunities Act was signed into law by Governor Vilsack on June 2, 2006, thanks to the efforts of school choice supporters across Iowa. The Iowa Catholic Conference was instrumental in creating the legislation, lobbying for its passage, and getting the word out to parents and supporters across the state. The thousands of emails and phone calls from our nonpublic school parents, administrators and instructors told our legislators that nonpublic

school supporters are a dedicated and active force in Iowa.

The Educational Opportunities Act allows Iowa taxpayers to

receive a tax credit equal to sixty-five percent (65%) of the total amount of voluntary cash contributions made to a School Tuition Organization. (Donors may also then claim a deduction for the entire amount on their Federal tax returns.) A School Tuition Organization (STO) is a charitable organization that receives voluntary cash contributions from Iowa taxpayers and allocates those

Continued on page 3



IOWA ALLIANCE FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION



MEET YOUR IOWA ACE BOARD PRESIDENT

JEFF COURTER – WEST DES MOINES



Iowa ACE Board President Jeff Courter and his wife, Meg, have two children, Jack and Kate, who are students at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines. Meg serves on the school board at Sacred Heart School. Mr. Courter practices law with the Nyemaster, Goode, West, Hansell & O'Brien law firm in Des Moines, Iowa's largest law firm, where he heads the bankruptcy and creditor rights practice group. Jeff has been very active in several community organizations including the Des Moines Area Community College Foundation, Rotary Club of Des Moines A.M., and the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. Former Governor Terry Branstad appointed Mr. Courter to two terms on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, and during that time Mr. Courter served both as a commissioner and Chairman.

Mr. Courter's goal for Iowa ACE is to build an organization that will help create and support school choice options for every child in the state of Iowa. When asked what school choice means to him, Jeff stated, "...school choice means that every child in the state of Iowa

should have the opportunity to attend any school of his or her parents' choice, without regard to cost. Iowa is blessed with a strong public educational system, but we also are home to a tremendous non-public educational system. Every student doesn't fit in the same mold, and it is important in Iowa that we provide multiple educational choice options for parents to decide what school best fits the needs of their children." Mr. Courter is an ardent supporter of school choice in Iowa, and he hopes to see the passage of additional legislation that will further extend school choice opportunities to more Iowa parents.

Look for more information on the impassioned members of your Iowa ACE Board in future newsletters and on our website at www.iowaace.org.

MEET YOUR IOWA ACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRISH WILGER – BETTENDORF



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Trish Wilger and I am the Executive Director of Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education. I am very honored and excited to have the opportunity to be involved with this organization. I live in Bettendorf, with my husband, Steve, and our son, Ian. My office is here, but I will be traveling all over our state to promote the importance of our non-public schools, and to communicate with you and our community and state leaders on issues that affect education. I hope that you will contact me in the future should you have questions about this organization and the work we do.

My family belongs to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Davenport and as my son begins his faith-based education in our parish preschool this fall, I am spending a great deal of time thinking about him going forth into the world. I hope and pray for so many things for him, and one of the most important of these is a solid education. I want him to have the best education possible, one that encompasses not only academics, but also teaches the value of morals, ethics, and respect for our fellow human beings. I realize that not everyone has the choice of where they will send their

child to school. Not every parent has the luxury of choosing the education that will best meet their child's needs. Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education will be working to ensure that each of Iowa's families has the ability to choose the school they really want, rather than having their choice limited by their address or their income level.

The school choice movement has already met with incredible success with the recent passage of the Educational Opportunities Act, which is featured in this newsletter. I look forward to even more success in the coming years and I know that our organization will be instrumental in those successes. We will keep you informed of important issues having an effect on nonpublic education in the future. To subscribe to our newsletter and to receive action alerts, please go to www.iowaace.org and follow the instructions. We will keep you abreast of current developments and transmit future copies of our newsletter to you via email.

I invite you to contact Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education if you feel that there is something we can do to promote nonpublic education in your area, or if there is an issue you wish to discuss. Again, this is your parent organization and we want to hear from you!

Continued from page 1

funds in tuition grants to Iowa school children, who in turn use those grants to attend one of the accredited, nonpublic schools represented by the STO. To qualify initially, a student's household income must not exceed an amount equal to three times the federal poverty guideline amount. Each School Tuition Organization may then set additional eligibility requirements. At least ninety-percent of the money received by an STO must go back out in tuition grants within the year.

In short, donors will receive a significant tax credit while giving an Iowa family the opportunity to choose nonpublic education for their children. The passage of this legislation marks significant progress in the school choice movement in our state. In passing this Act, our legislators have recognized the value of nonpublic schools in our state. It is now time for us to do our part by passing this information on to other nonpublic school supporters who would donate to an STO, and by considering a donation ourselves.

If you would like more information on the Educational Opportunities Act or need assistance in locating a School Tuition Organization in your area, please contact Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education at info@iowaace.org or 515-323-0687, or toll free at 800-387-0942.

NAME OF STO	SCHOOLS INCLUDED	CONTACT PERSON
Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO	Archdiocese of Dubuque Schools and St. Paul Lutheran School, Waverly	Sup. Jeff Henderson dbqasup@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us 563-556-2580 ext. 307
Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation	Sioux City Diocese Catholic Schools	Sup. Kevin Vickery kevinv@scdiocese.org 712-233-7589
Catholic Tuition Organization, Diocese of Des Moines	Des Moines Diocese Schools	Dr. Jerry Deegan jdeegan@dowling.pvt.k12.ia.us 515-222-1040
School Tuition Organization of Southeast Iowa	Davenport Diocese Schools, with the exception of Scott County	Mr. Steve Roling steve@roling.net 563-242-8801
Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization	N.W. Iowa area Christian Schools	Mr. Arlyn Schaap aschaap@occhristian.pvt.k12.ia.us 712-737-2274
Mississippi Valley School Tuition Organization	Scott County Catholic Schools and Marquette Academy, Davenport	Miss Kara Koestner koestnerk@mail.assumption.pvt.k12.ia.us 563-326-5313 ext.228
Heart of Iowa School Tuition Organization	Des Moines Christian School, Grandview Park Baptist School, Iowa Christian Academy, Mt. Olive Lutheran	Mr. Eric Goranson egoranson@icablazers.org 515-221-3999
Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization	Christian schools in Pella, Newton, Sully, Peoria and Oskaloosa	Mr. Joel Groenenboom jagroen@mahaska.org 641-673-6913
North Central Iowa STO	Community Christian School – Fort Dodge, Timothy Christian School - Wellsburg	Mr. Roger Everett ccschool@dodgenet.com 515-573-3011

Below you will find the list of how members of the General Assembly voted on the Educational Opportunities Act. Please thank your legislators for their support.

SENATE	(Cont.)
<i>Name – Party – County</i>	Heaton – 91-R-Henry
<i>Voting in favor</i>	Hoffman – 55-R-Crawford
Angelo (R) Union	Hogg – 38-D-Linn
Beall (D) Webster	Horbach – 40-R-Tama
Behn (R) Boone	Huseman – 53-R-Cherokee
Black (D) Jasper	Huser – 42-D-Polk
Boettger (R) Shelby	Hutter – 82-R-Scott
Bolkcom (D) Johnson	Jacobs – 60-R-Polk
Brunkhorst (R) Bremer	Jenkins – 20-R-Black Hawk
Connolly (D) Dubuque	Jochum – 27-D-Dubuque
Courtney (D) Des Moines	Kaufman – 79-R-Cedar
Danielson (D) Black Hawk	Kressig – 19-D-Black Hawk
Dearden (D) Polk	Kuhn – 14-D-Floyd
Dotzler (D) Black Hawk	Kurtenbach – 10-R-Story
Dvorsky (D) Johnson	Lalk – 18-R-Fayette
Fraise (D) Lee	Lukan – 32-R-Dubuque
Gaskill (R) Hancock	Lykam – 85-D-Scott
Gronstal (D) Pottawattamie	Maddox – 59-R-Polk
Hahn (R) Muscatine	May – 6-R-Dickinson
Hancock (D) Dubuque	McCarthy – 67-D-Polk
Hatch (D) Polk	Mertz – 8-D-Kossuth
Horn (D) Linn	Murphy – 28-D-Dubuque
Houser (R) Pottawattamie	Olson, D. – 48-D-Boone
Iverson (R) Wright	Olson, S. – 83-R-Clinton
Johnson (R) Osceola	Paulsen – 35-R-Linn
Kettering (R) Sac	Pettengill – 39-D-Benton
Kibbie (D) Palo Alto	Quirk – 15-D-Chickasaw
Kreiman (D) Davis	Raecker – 63-R-Polk
Lamberti (R) Polk	Rants – 54-R-Woodbury
Larson (R) Linn	Rasmussen – 23-R-Buchanan
Lundby (R) Linn	Rayhons – 11-R-Hancock
McCoy (D) Polk	Reasoner – 95-D-Union
McKibben (R) Marshall	Roberts – 51-R-Carroll
McKinley (R) Lucas	Sands – 87-R-Louisa
Miller (R) Jefferson	Schickel – 13-R-Cerro Gordo
Mulder (R) Sioux	Schueller – 25-D-Jackson
Putney (R) Tama	Shomshor – 100-D-Pottawattamie
Ragan (D) Cerro Gordo	Smith – 43-D-Marshall
Rielly (D) Mahaska	Soderberg – 3-R-Plymouth
Schoenjahn (D) Fayette	Struyk – 99-R-Pottawattamie
Seng (D) Scott	Swaim – 94-D-Davis
Seymour (R) Harrison	Thomas – 24-D-Clayton
Shull (R) Warren	Tjepkes – 50-R-Webster
Stewart (D) Jackson	Tomenga – 69-R-Polk
Tinsman (R) Scott	Tymeson – 73-R-Madison
Ward (R) Polk	Upmeyer – 12-R-Hancock
Warnstadt (D) Woodbury	Van Engelenhoven – 71-R-Marion
Wieck (R) Woodbury	Van Fossen, Jamie – 81-R-Scott
Wood (D) Scott	Van Fossen, Jim – 84-R-Scott
Zaun (R) Polk	Watts – 47-R-Dallas
Zieman (R) Allamakee	Wendt – 2-D-Woodbury
<i>Voting against</i>	Whitead – 1-D-Woodbury
Quirnbach (D) Story	Wilderdye – 56-R-Harrison
<i>Voting against</i>	
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES –	
<i>Name – District – Party – County</i>	
<i>Voting in favor</i>	
Alons – 4-R-Sioux	Bukta – 26-D-Clinton
Anderson – 97-R-Page	Cohoon – 88-D-Des Moines
Arnold – 72-R-Lucas	Davitt – 74-D-Warren
Baudler – 58-R-Adair	Granzow – 44-R-Hardin
Bell – 41-D-Jasper	Heddens – 46-D-Story
Berry – 22-D-Black Hawk	Hunter – 62-D-Polk
Boal – 70-R-Polk	Jacoby – 30-D-Johnson
Carroll – 75-R-Poweshiek	Mascher – 77-D-Johnson
Chambers – 5-R-O'Brien	Oldson – 61-D-Polk
Dandekar – 36-D-Linn	Olson, R. – 68-D-Polk
DeBoef – 76-R-Keokuk	Petersen – 64-D-Polk
Dix – 17-R-Butler	Reichert – 80-D-Muscatine
Dolecheck – 96-R-Ringgold	Shoultz – 21-D-Black Hawk
Drake – 57-R-Pottawattamie	Taylor, D. – 33-D-Linn
Eichhorn – 9-R-Hamilton	Taylor, T. – 34-D-Linn
Elgin – 37-R-Linn	Wessel-Kroeschell – 45-D-Story
Ford – 65-D-Polk	Whitaker – 90-D-Van Buren
Freeman – 52-R-Buena Vista	Winckler – 86-D-Scott
Frevort – 7-D-Palo Alto	Wise – 92-D-Lee
Gaskill – 93-D-Wapello	
Gipp – 16-R-Winneshiek	<i>Absent or not voting</i>
Greiner – 89-R-Washington	Fallon – 66-D-Polk
	Foegel – 29-D-Linn
	Jones – 98-R-Mills
	Lensing – 78-D-Johnson
	Miller – 49-D-Webster
	Zirkelbach – 31-D-Jones