



## NEW OFFICERS OF IOWA ACE

The Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education Parent Advisory Board and Board of Directors have elected new officers who will serve from July 1, 2008 – July 1, 2009. The Parent Advisory Board officers are Scott Lindholm, Davenport - President; Samona Yentes, Clive - Vice President; and Ruth Branderhorst, Oskaloosa – Secretary. These individuals now become members of the Board of Directors. The Parent Advisory Board has also been expanded to include a representative from each School Tuition Organization.

The new Board of Directors officers are Scott Lindholm – Chairman, Samona Yentes – Vice Chairman, Barb Buescher, Waterloo – Secretary, and Dr. Luvern Gubbels, Superintendent of Des Moines Diocese Schools – Treasurer. These officers will have a demanding, yet enjoyable year of work ahead as we endeavor to extend educational options to even more Iowa families.

Everyone at Iowa ACE wishes to express our gratitude to our outgoing officers: Jeff Courter - Des Moines, Chairman/President, Tim Manatt – Gilbertville, Vice Chairman/Vice President, and David Te Grotenhuis – Oskaloosa, Treasurer. These gentlemen did a tremendous amount of work over the last year (or two!) to get Iowa ACE off the ground. They should be commended for our success!

## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

**MISSION:** *To promote the expansion of school choice for the benefit of Iowa's children*

**VISION:** *All children and parents in Iowa can access and afford their school of choice.*

### THIS NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF

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*"Only the educated are free."*

**-EPICTETUS**

*"Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."*

**-LORD HENRY PETER BROUGHAM**

## Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mr. Scott Lindholm**  
*Chairman of Board – President of Parent Advisory Board*

**Ms. Samona Yentes**  
*Vice Chairman of Board – Vice President of Parent Advisory Board*

**Ms. Barb Buescher**  
*Secretary of Board, Lutheran Schools East*

**Dr. Luvern Gubbels**  
*Treasurer of Board, Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools*

**Ms. Ruth Branderhorst**  
*Secretary - Parent Advisory Board*

**Mr. Tom Chapman**  
*Iowa Catholic Conference*

**Dr. Jerry Deegan**  
*Iowa Nonpublic School Advisory Board*

**Mr. Darryl DeRuitter**  
*Christian Schools*

**Mr. Jeff Fick**  
*Lutheran Schools West*

**Sr. Delores Hannon**  
*Iowa Nonpublic School Advisory Board*

**Mr. Jeff Henderson**  
*Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Schools*

**Ms. Christi Lines**  
*Iowa Nonpublic School Advisory Board*

**Mr. Arlyn Schaap**  
*Christian Schools*

**Mr. Kevin Vickery**  
*Sioux City Diocese Catholic Schools*

**Ms. Mary Wieser**  
*Davenport Diocese Catholic Schools*

### PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

**Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Schools**  
Tim Manatt, *Gilbertville*  
Sara Riley, *Cedar Rapids*

**Christian Schools**  
Tim Van Soelen, *Sioux Center*  
Ken Veenstra, *Pella*

**Diocese of Davenport Catholic Schools**  
Hugh McAleer, *DeWitt*  
Jim Nepola, *Iowa City*

**Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools**  
Jeff Courter, *West Des Moines*  
Jamie Fitzgerald, *Des Moines*

**Lutheran Schools**  
Lois Warnsholz, *Davenport*  
Dewey Torkelson, *Spencer*

**Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools**  
Susan Fitzpatrick, *Sioux City*

**Catholic Tuition Organization, Diocese of Des Moines**  
Jim Berens, *Des Moines*

**Heart of Iowa School Tuition Organization**  
Samona Yentes, *Clive - Vice President*

**Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization**  
Scott Lindholm, *Davenport - President*

**Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization**  
Ruth Branderhorst, *Oskaloosa - Secretary*

**Mississippi Valley School Tuition Organization**  
Liz King, *Davenport*

**Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation**  
Sherry Nilles, *Sioux City*

**Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization**  
Joe Dirksen, *Sioux Center*

**Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO**  
Jeff Engel, *Cedar Falls*

**School Tuition Organization of Southeast Iowa**  
Steve Roling, *Clinton*

# IOWA ACEnews

Fall 2008

## THE POWER OF PARENTAL CHOICE: SPOTLIGHT ON TIM MANATT.

As the former Vice Chairman and current Parent Advisory Board member, Tim Manatt brings a unique perspective on choice in education to Iowa ACE. Growing up in a small Iowa town, his family did not have access to a nearby nonpublic school. Tim attended public schools in the BGM school district for both his elementary and secondary education and went on to graduate from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

While Tim values the public school education he received, when it came time to make a choice for his children's education, he selected a Catholic school. At first glance, the choice may seem obvious – the Manatt family's current hometown of Gilbertville, Iowa does not offer a public school alternative. However, Tim admits that his decision to choose nonpublic school education provided benefits beyond convenience.

"I'm very glad it happened that way. Selecting a Christian-based school was important, but beyond that we found a very close-knit school and community," says Tim.

Tim believes that the participation and immersion of the entire family in the nonpublic school community is essential for children to receive the most from their education. The Manatt family enjoyed the involvement and support provided by a community that revolved around both its school and its church.

Looking back on her years in Gilbertville's Catholic schools, Tim's daughter, Sarah is appreciative of the Christian values she received through her nonpublic education. Currently a college senior, Sarah realizes the effectiveness of instilling those values in children at a young age, while they're still developing. Tim attributes many of his daughter's adult qualities, including respect and courtesy, to Sarah's well-rounded nonpublic education.

Tim's son, Tim Jr., also gained invaluable benefits from Catholic schools – he found his life's purpose. Tim Jr. recently earned his Masters in Theology at Harvard Divinity. He plans to obtain his doctorate in Theology and hopes to teach others someday.

Now that his children are grown and have nearly completed their educational journey, Tim continues to pursue equal access to choice in education in Iowa. He has been a member and Vice President of Iowa ACE since its inception two years ago and supports both public and nonpublic schools.

"I highly recommend nonpublic schools. They offer children a good base for both education and religion. Nonpublic schools are necessary to strengthen public schools. They provide the competition we need to make everybody better," says Tim.



*Seated – Tim Manatt and his wife, Genny Standing, left to right – daughter Sarah, daughter-in-law Sushmita, son Tim Jr.*





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

**TRISH WILGER – BETTENDORF**



### HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

During the past year, the school choice movement has seen enormous victories: a new \$50 million corporate and individual scholarship tax credit program in Georgia; a new \$10 million private school scholarship plan in New Orleans; and an expansion of \$30 million to the Florida corporate tax credit program bringing the state program total to \$118 million.

Even with these successes, the prevalent debate at recent national meetings of school choice supporters has been whether the school choice movement is growing fast enough. Are these successes not enough? Should we be further along than we are?

Iowans did not see an expansion of our tax credit program during the 2007 legislative session; however, the success stories from STOs are numerous and enrollment numbers at many of our nonpublic schools are on the increase. If improving just one life is defined as success, then school choice programs like ours certainly qualify. Many times over, STO tuition grants have

changed lives for the better. I am confident that we will see an increase in our program this year, and that we will continue to see growth. More and more Iowa children will have the course of their lives changed by the gift of a better option in education. In my book, that's success at its best.

## MEET YOUR NEW IOWA ACE CHAIRMAN

At their June meeting the Iowa ACE Board of Directors elected Mr. Scott Lindholm of Davenport to be their new Chairman. Scott previously served as the Iowa ACE Board Secretary. Scott is deeply involved at Trinity Lutheran School in Davenport and in the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Scott was also a Trinity student through 8th grade before going on to Davenport West High School.

Scott and his wife, Lisa, have two daughters. Alison is a junior at Davenport Central High School and Kelsey is a sophomore at Concordia University in Wisconsin, where she is studying to be a Lutheran school teacher. Scott and his family appreciate the freedom of religious expression offered by Trinity. "Private schools aren't better or safer than public schools, just different – different in that we can express and understand how our faith is woven into every aspect of our lives," says Scott.

Iowa ACE is fortunate to be in Scott's capable hands. According to Scott, "I consider it a privilege and honor to help Iowa ACE assist the private schools in Iowa and the nearly 35,000 students they educate, and pledge to work to make a private education attainable to every family that wants it."



## IOWA ACE FOUNDER SARA EIDE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

The national nonprofit Alliance for School Choice, a school choice organization, has named Ms. Sara Eide of Des Moines as its 2008 Advocate of the Year. "There is no greater advocate for school choice in Iowa than Sara Eide," said Robert Teegarden, the Alliance state project director assigned to Iowa.

As the Director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, Ms. Eide led the effort to pass the Educational Opportunities Act in 2006, and co-founded Iowa ACE. Since leaving the ICC, Sara has continued to remain active in the school choice movement by serving as the State Director for All Children Matter, a political action committee, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Advocates for Choice in Education, a school choice lobbying organization.

"Low-income children across the state can thank people like Sara Eide for their steadfast support of educational choice. She has blazed a trail for educational freedom across the state of Iowa," said Charles R. Hokanson, Jr., president of the Alliance for School Choice.

Sara and her husband, Matt, live in Des Moines with their five children.



## IT'S CRUNCH TIME! MAKE YOUR STO DONATIONS FOR 2008 BEFORE TAX CREDITS RUN OUT!

The deadline for making a donation to a School Tuition Organization (STO) is December 31, 2008. Statewide a total of \$7.5 million in tax credits is available for tax year 2008. These credits are allocated among the eleven STOs - some STOs have nearly distributed all of their credits! To ensure that you will receive a tax credit for your STO donation, you should make your donation very soon! A list of STOs and contact information appears in this newsletter.

Donors to an STO are given a 65% state income tax credit. **This is the largest individual state income tax credit in Iowa.**

As an example, if you donate \$1,000 to the STO of your choice, you will have your state income tax liability reduced by \$650 while the STO uses your donation to help qualified students attend nonpublic schools. You may then also claim your donation as a deductible, charitable contribution on your Federal tax return. You may also donate non-cash items such as stock and securities. Everyone wins with this program!

**MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!** Don't be left out of this unique opportunity to substantially reduce your state income tax liability while helping more Iowa families afford nonpublic education.

## SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATIONS

The following is a list of all School Tuition Organizations authorized to take donations and distribute tax credits during 2008. School Tuition Organizations are charitable organizations and give out at least 90% of their total donations in tuition grants to qualified students. These tuition grants help lower-income families send their children to nonpublic schools.

Please contact the individuals listed below to make a donation or to ask specific questions. You may also contact Trish Wilger at Iowa ACE for assistance. Don't wait until the end of the year, tax credits are being used up rapidly!

## STO DIRECTORY

### OUR FAITH, OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE STO

Dubuque Diocese Schools and St. Paul Lutheran School, Waverly

**Contact:** Jamie Henley  
563-556-2580 ext. 256 or 319-366-2517  
[dbqasup@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:dbqasup@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

### MONSIGNOR LAFFERTY TUITION FOUNDATION

Sioux City Diocese Catholic Schools

**Contact:** Kevin Vickery  
712-233-7589  
[kevinv@scdiocese.org](mailto:kevinv@scdiocese.org)

### CATHOLIC TUITION ORGANIZATION, DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

Des Moines Diocese Schools:

**Contact:** Jeanne Wells  
515-237-5010  
[jwells@dmdioocese.org](mailto:jwells@dmdioocese.org)

### SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHEAST IOWA

Davenport Diocese Schools (with the exception of Scott County)

**Contact:** Steve Roling  
563-244-1040  
[Steve@roling.net](mailto:Steve@roling.net)

### NORTHWEST IOWA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS TUITION ORGANIZATION

N. W. Iowa area Christian Schools

**Contact:** Arlyn Schaap  
712-737-2274  
[aschaap@occhristian.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:aschaap@occhristian.pvt.k12.ia.us)

### MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

Scott County Catholic Schools

**Contact:** Liz King  
563-326-5313 ext.228  
[kingl@mail.assumption.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:kingl@mail.assumption.pvt.k12.ia.us)

### HEART OF IOWA SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

Des Moines Christian School, Grandview Park Baptist School, Iowa Christian Academy, Mt. Olive Lutheran, Ankeny Christian Academy, Walnut Ridge Baptist Academy, Isaac Newton Christian Academy

**Contact:** Helen Ogbourne  
515-221-3999  
[hogbourne@icablazers.org](mailto:hogbourne@icablazers.org)

Kim Dreher  
515-222-5232  
[kim@knappproperties.com](mailto:kim@knappproperties.com)

### LEGACY OF GRACE SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

Pella Christian Grade School, Pella Christian High School, Newton Christian School, Sully Christian Grade School, Peoria Christian School, Oskaloosa Christian School

**Contact:** Joel Groenenboom  
641-673-6913  
[jagroen@mahaska.org](mailto:jagroen@mahaska.org)

### NORTH CENTRAL IOWA STO

Timothy Christian School - Wellsburg, Community Christian School - Fort Dodge

**Contact:** Roger Everett  
515-573-3011  
[ccschool@dodgenet.com](mailto:ccschool@dodgenet.com)

### IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

Lutheran Schools (Except St. Paul Lutheran School, Waverly and Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Des Moines)

**Contact:** Eastern Iowa - Lois Warnsholz, 563-271-3978, Western Iowa - Dewey Torkelson, 712-260-2991

### IOWA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION, INC.

Iowa Mennonite School - Kalona, The Academy - Des Moines, Maharishi School of The Age of Enlightenment - Fairfield

**Contact:** William Goldstein  
641-472-1175  
[Bgoldstein@mum.edu](mailto:Bgoldstein@mum.edu)