

International Division

The responsibilities of the International Division have expanded as Iowa strives to take a greater role in the global marketplace through assisting companies to develop and expand their international markets. The International Division provides educational seminars and workshops to assist in the operational aspects of exporting, international marketing through the promotion of products at catalog shows, trade shows and trade missions and one-on-one assistance to companies. The division has offices in Tokyo, Japan and Frankfurt, Germany along with contractual arrangements in key international markets to better assist Iowa companies in those countries. We are also responsible for recruiting foreign direct investment into the States.

Tourism Division

The Tourism Division has the task of letting Iowa residents and out-of-state travelers know about the hundreds of exciting, fun-filled events and attractions that take place here each year. Tourism is important to economic development as it creates jobs and brings into Iowa over \$3.6 billion each year. The Division also administers the Community Attraction and Tourism Development Program which provides financial assistance for multipurpose attractions and tourism facilities.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

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The Department of Education was created by the 35th General Assembly in 1913 and was then called the Department of Public Instruction. The current name was adopted in 1986. The department's mission is to champion excellence in education through superior leadership and service. The department is committed to ensuring that all Iowans have access to a network of services that allow them to realize their potential. Through education, the department strives to build a quality of life which sets the standard for the nation.

The director of the department is appointed by the governor with confirmation by the Senate. The director is responsible for supervising Iowa's system of public and non-public elementary and secondary schools, area education agencies, community colleges and the state and regional libraries. The policy-making body for the department is the State Board of Education. Nine lay people appointed for six-year terms by the governor with confirmation by the Senate constitute the board. The director serves as the board's executive officer.

To accomplish its mission, the department employs approximately 662 staff members in five major divisions: Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, Financial and Information Services; Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, Library Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. For organizational purposes, Iowa Public Television is included in the department (See "Iowa Public Broadcasting Board"). Through these divisions, the department conducts a variety of activities to fulfill its major functions of leadership and service, with some regulatory duties as well.

The leadership function includes long-range planning for the education system, coordinating school improvement efforts, and consulting with educators to solve problems and improve programs. In this function, the department acts as a catalyst for positive change.

In its service functions, the department uses its resources as a statewide base for activities, such as conducting research and disseminating information; providing advisory services on all phases of educational programs and operations; developing innovative programs; distributing state and federal funds to Iowa's schools and community colleges and libraries; and providing