

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

§256.3, 256.9(12)

*Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building,  
Des Moines 50319; (515)281-3436*

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director of Education, Executive Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending Date</i>
Gene E. Vincent, President .....	Carroll .....	April 30, 2008
Charles Edwards .....	Des Moines .....	April 30, 2012
Jude Fitzpatrick .....	West Des Moines .....	April 30, 2008
N. Brian Gentry .....	Des Moines .....	April 30, 2012
Rosemarie Hussey .....	Clear Lake .....	April 30, 2010
Wayne Kobberdahl .....	Council Bluffs .....	April 30, 2010
Mary Jean Montgomery .....	Spencer .....	April 30, 2008
Max Phillips .....	Woodward .....	April 30, 2008
<i>Nonvoting student member:</i>		
Kameron Dodge .....	Cambridge .....	April 30, 2008

The Department of Education was created by the General Assembly in 1913 and was originally called the Department of Public Instruction. The current name was adopted in 1986. In its early years, the department was charged with working with the many small, isolated school buildings to build a formal system of public education that included organized districts with defined duties and boundaries, as well as specific qualifications for teachers. While the state department was established to provide oversight, local schools maintained the authority to set many of the rules and requirements for their own students. This system of “local responsibility” — based on the belief that local residents have the greatest interest in assuring their children’s success — continues today.

As the state progressed over the decades with greater diversity in business, industry, and population, the public education system evolved to reflect and encompass those changes. In the mid-1960s, a system of 15 public, two-year community colleges was established to provide more students the opportunity for continued education and training beyond high school. In the mid-1970s, the system of area education agencies (AEAs) was developed to provide regional support for local schools and their teachers. Originally, the AEAs and community colleges shared the same service area boundaries. In recent years, however, several AEAs have merged to provide greater efficiency in regions with declining population.

The Department of Education employs approximately 225 people in the Office of the Director and three divisions: Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation; PK-12 Education; and School Support and Information Services. Approximately 420 staff are employed in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, which provides direct services to clients. Although the state libraries and public television remain affiliated with the Department of Education, their operations have expanded and developed into independent entities with independent boards.

## DIVISION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION

*Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; (515)281-8260*

Janice Friedel, Administrator

The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation includes the Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education and is responsible for granting and monitoring the accreditation of the state’s 15 community colleges. Division staff work directly with the community colleges to assure programs and structure meet state requirements for quality and equity.

The state’s community colleges have an “open-door” admission policy that guarantees Iowans an opportunity for education and career development regardless of previous educational attainment. Each community college offers a comprehensive educational program in three major