



# *Quick Reads*

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## **Dr. Miller-Meeks joins IDPH**

This week begins my tenure as the director of the Iowa Department of Public Health. I want to thank everyone who has gone out of their way to make me feel welcome in my new position. I especially want to thank Director Newton for his gracious assistance in making the transition to IDPH a smooth one. I am anxious to begin working with all of you to continue the strides IDPH has made to improve the health of Iowans.

As I seek to advance the goals of IDPH, I will build upon my background as an educator, nurse, doctor, and my experience in public health. As many of you may know, I am a retired Lt. Col. with the U.S. Army Reserves; as such, I served nine years active duty as a nurse and remained in the reserves as a nurse and doctor. I am proud to have been named the first female faculty member of the University of Iowa Ophthalmology Department, and also served as the first female president of the Iowa Medical Society.

I've been privileged to volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Wapello County. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens judges appoint to advocate for the safety and well-being of children who have been removed from their homes due to parental abuse and neglect. I've also had the opportunity to volunteer as a physician for the Linn County free medical clinics.

My goal as IDPH Director is to continue this department's excellent reputation promoting and protecting the health of Iowans. Just as many of you are finding cost saving measures that help you balance your family's budget, IDPH will work with other state agencies and Governor Branstad to continue to deliver high quality services to those in need during this challenging state and national financial climate.

I am delighted to work alongside the people who have made IDPH the extraordinary asset it is to Iowa. I look forward to continuing the important work we do for all Iowans.

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

*Mariannette J. Miller-Meece MD*