



# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

July 2017

## News from the Office on the Status of Women

### Coffee with a Commissioner

Join us every month for an interview with one of the commissioners of the [Iowa Commission on the Status of Women](#) (ICSW) to learn more about how and why they got involved in women's advocacy. Each month we will focus on a different commissioner.



This month, I had the pleasure of interviewing commissioner Rachelle Hunt Russian to talk about herself, her work, and the motivation behind the work that she does with the Commission.

### *Rachelle Hunt Russian*

Commissioner, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women



**How long have you served on the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women?**

I have served on the commission since May 2014.

**What was one of the things that called you to serve on this specific Commission?**

I was called to serve on the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and then asked to serve as the chair of the committee for two years.

**What is one accomplishment you've been proud of since your start on the Commission?**

I am humbled to have served on the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and also as a member of the Friends Board of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. These roles highlight the impact the work of a woman's work in elevating the status of, and supporting women and girls, and reminding us that there's more work to do.

**What is an issue that affects women and girls that you are passionate about?**

I am passionate about economic security for women. It is important to share the message to women and girls that they have an opportunity to have independent economic security. It is critical to share the resources available to achieve economic security, serve as a mentor, and support individuals and organizations leading and guiding women to financial freedom and economic security.

**What do you do in your spare time (if you have any)?**

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, and serving in cultural, educational, and service organizations in the city, including, but not limited to:

- Des Moines Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- Corinthian Gardens Board
- Corinthian Baptist Church

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## **2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame announcement**

### **Ceremony location change**



The 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame ceremony has been relocated to the following location:

[Staplin Performing Arts Center](#) (auditorium)  
Valley High School  
3650 Woodland Ave  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

The ceremony will still begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 26th. A reception (free and open to the public) will follow the ceremony in the lobby of the Staplin Performing Arts Center, hosted by the [Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women](#).

**2017 honorees are:**

- Jane Boyd (Formerly of Cedar Rapids; deceased)
- Senator Joni K. Ernst (Red Oak)
- Christine Hensley (Des Moines)
- Governor Kim Reynolds (Truro)

**2017 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient:**

- Alicia Parrott Claypool (West Des Moines)

If interested in helping to sponsor the reception for the 2017 ceremony, please contact the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women at [info@friendsoficsw.org](mailto:info@friendsoficsw.org).

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## Remembering those we have lost

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of Women and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women would like to take this time to recognize and honor those we have lost over the last several months. We would like to pay tribute to the legacy these women have left behind, including the work done by those that they have influenced that will continue to benefit Iowans for years to come.

### Iowa Women's Hall of Fame members

**Willie Stevenson Glanton**, passed away on July 6, 2017

- Des Moines Register: [How Willie Glanton, Iowa's graceful civil rights icon, inspired generations](#)
- Obituary: [Willie Stevenson Glanton](#)

**Joy Corning**, passed away on May 20, 2017

- WHOTV.com: [Joy Corning pens her own obituary](#)
- The Courier: ["Wonderful public servant" Joy Corning dies at 84](#)

### Past Commissioners

**Scharron Ann Clayton**, passed away on June 11, 2017

- The Courier: [Educator Clayton leaves big shoes at UNI, KBBG](#)

**Patricia "Patsy" Boesen**, passed away on July 1, 2017

- Obituary: [Patricia "Patsy" Boesen](#)

*Note: If you know of a member of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame or a past commissioner we inadvertently missed, please let us know at [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov). Thank you for your help.*

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## In the News: Women and girls in Iowa, the nation & the world

### Status and Research

- Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR): [IWPR releases 2017 report: The Status of Black Women in the U.S.](#)

### Breaking Barriers and Leadership

- NBCNews.com: [Six black women at the center of gravity in theological education](#)
- New York Times: [For women in blue, a grim measure of their growing role and risks](#)

- The Daily Iowan: [Girls empowered through rock 'n' roll](#)

## Women in Business, the Workplace and Discrimination

- U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau: [Celebrating 97 years of advocacy for working women](#)
- JSTOR Daily: [The pioneers in the fight against sexual harassment](#)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation: [Workforce of today, workforce of tomorrow: the business case for high quality childcare](#)
- Fortune: [These female entrepreneurs have gone on record about being sexually harassed](#)

## Health

- Iowa Public Radio: [From birth to death, Medicaid affects the lives of millions](#)
- The Gazette: [Planned Parenthood closes doors on four Iowa clinics](#)

## Violence

- Lee Enterprises: [Programs for Iowa sexual abuse victims scrambling amid budget cuts](#)
- Iowa Public Radio: [Self-Defense Class for Muslim Women to Debut in Iowa City](#)
- Des Moines Register: [The pain of 2 Iowa girls' killings remains, but resolve in Evansdale only grows](#)
- Iowa Public Radio: [After abuse scandal, USA gymnastics says it will take steps to protect athletes](#)

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## Upcoming Events/Seminars

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- August 26: [Iowa Women's Hall of Fame](#) ceremony at the [Staplin Performing Arts Center](#) (Valley High School) located at 3650 Woodland Ave. in West Des Moines
- August 26: Women's Equality Day
- September 14: Iowa Women Lead Change-The Women's Connection's a [Seat at the Table](#) in the Quad Cities
- September 21: [Chrysalis 2017 INSPIRED event](#) in Des Moines
- September 22-23: Iowa Early Care and Education Fall Institute, [Power to the Profession](#) in Altoona
- September 27-28: [Moving Together: Cultivating Dialogue for Social Change conference](#) (Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault) in Des Moines
- October 12: [Iowa Women Lead Change conference in Dubuque](#)
- October 21: Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence fundraiser, [Wine Women and Shoes](#) in Clive
- October 26: [Iowa Women Lead Change conference in Central Iowa \(Des Moines\)](#)

- November 2-3: [The Way Up Conference](#) in Des Moines

*Note: If you have an event taking place for women in Iowa that you would like to see added, please send it to [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov).*



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