

The Iowa African-American Journal

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Spring 2005

ICSAA News

Commissioners

Beverly Allen
Des Moines

term expires April 2008

Cutis Baugh
Pella

term expires April 2006

Dr. Michael Blackwell
Waterloo

term expires April 2006

Jamie Howard
Davenport

term expires April 2008

Isaiah Johnson
Denison

term expires April 2006

Thomas Simmons
Adel

term expires April 2008

Jerome Thomas
Dubuque

term expires April 2008

Loretha Teggatz
Ft. Dodge

term expires April 2008

Charlotte Westerhaus
Cedar Rapids

term expires April 2009

Walter Reed, ex officio
Director

Department of Human Rights

Staff

Kimberly Baxter
Director

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Program Coordinator

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2005 ICSAA Legislative Priorities

The Commission on the Status of African Americans was created to fulfill the duty of the state to improve the status of African Americans who, for economic or social reasons, find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal opportunity. Issues of disparity and institutional racism deeply affect the success and status of Iowa's African American citizens.

During the 2005 legislative session, the Commission will focus on a broad range of proposed legislation that will move the State of Iowa toward the Commission's goal in each of the Commission's four priority areas: education, health, law and justice, and economic development.

LAW AND JUSTICE

Commission Goal – Justice and equality under the law for all African Americans.

African Americans are negatively and disproportionately affected by the justice system. The Commission will follow and support criminal and social justice legislation bills addressing:

- ⇒ Restoration of voting rights – post felony conviction
- ⇒ Disproportionality in sentencing and in rates of incarceration

EDUCATION

Commission Goal – Create an environment of educational excellence for African American students.

Education is a critical factor in the success of all African Americans. The Commission will focus on education proposals supporting and furthering the Commission's education goal(s):

- ⇒ Develop and expand cultural competency tools to close the student achievement gap and enhance student performance
- ⇒ Decrease student dropout rate
- ⇒ Increase efforts to recruit additional minority teachers
- ⇒ Increase student proficiency by decreasing minority achievement gap

HEALTH

Commission Goal – Improve the health of Iowa's African American citizens.

The Commission will focus on legislation designed to substantially reduce the level of disparity in all areas of health care, including legislation to:

- ⇒ Improve overall health outcomes for African Americans
- ⇒ Address health disparities
- ⇒ Expand access to health care, including mental health and reproductive health care
- ⇒ Expand pool of culturally competent health care providers

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commission Goal – Improve the economic vitality of African American businesses and workers in Iowa.

In partnership with business leaders and agency directors, the Commission is developing an educational strategy to enhance minority businesses in Iowa. Legislation furthering the successful integration of African American businesses and workers into Iowa's economy is critical in furthering ICSAA's economic empowerment goals, including:

- ⇒ Consumer protection
- ⇒ Consumer education
- ⇒ Procurement redesign
- ⇒ Expansion of Iowa Values Fund

Legislative Watch

Legislation that has survived the first funnel process

Funnel dates are deadlines in which bills die if they fail to pass out of committee. Friday, March 11, was the first funnel date. A bill may have died in the funnel process but an issue remains alive forever. Key bills that survived the 1st funnel deadline include (but are not limited to):

House File 141

A bill for an act relating to the training and certification of designated security personnel working at commercial establishments with a liquor control license or wine or beer permit.

Legislation that did not survive the first funnel process

HF 75

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS DEAD

A bill for an act providing for the restoration of the right to vote and hold elective office for certain persons who have made full restitution and who have been discharged from probation, parole, or work release, or who have been released from confinement.

For a complete list and history of all bills sponsored this session and how to contact your legislator, visit www.legis.state.ia.us.

How Can You Get Involved—How to Lobby:

Write a letter to the editor supporting your specific issues

Convene a community forum; talk about issues with colleagues and community leaders.

Give support to local efforts to increase and improve quality education, health, economic development, criminal justice, and civil rights experiences.

Deploy workplace policies and practices that support cultural diversity, and families and children.

Serve on various boards and commissions, like Community Empowerment Boards, Accountability Boards, run for School Board, become a member of the PTA, volunteer at a school or child care center.

Newsletter from the Iowa Governor's Office Wednesday, March 09, 2005

My fellow Iowans,

As Governor, I have the great pleasure of traveling across this state visiting with community members and local leaders. I have held countless forums in Iowa communities about education, health care, the economy and the state budget. I have learned a lot from Iowans and what makes me most proud to be Governor of this state is the values we all hold dear –responsibility, opportunity and security.

In my budget recommendations to legislators, I funded those values – I called on legislators to act now to uphold our responsibility to every Iowa child by investing in comprehensive early education and health care; to provide opportunities to every Iowa graduate by investing in more high-wage, high-skilled jobs; and to provide health care security for every Iowan, especially those most vulnerable.

This Friday (March 11) is funnel day in the General Assembly. That means any proposed measure or bill that hasn't won committee approval will not reach the Senate or House floor for debate. This means measures to provide early childhood education for our children, efforts to protect kids from bullying and harassment in schools, measures to ensure long-term living options for Iowa's seniors, and the Iowa Values Fund, the most successful economic development tool this state has ever created, are in jeopardy.

This is the time to make sure your legislator knows you want your values funded. Please phone your legislators 515-281-3221 (House) and 515-281-3371 (Senate), or email them by going to <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>. Please help make sure Iowa's children have every chance to succeed, every family has the security they need and Iowa's communities have every opportunity to grow, expand and create more jobs.

The time to act is now.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

If you want to receive newsletters that are issue-specific please, visit <http://www.governor.state.ia.us/comments/subscribe> to indicate which issues you would like to receive further information about.

2005 Condition of the State

Governor Thomas J. Vilsack Speech Highlights

Education

Iowa's children deserve a firstclass education system that prepares them for global competition and success later in life

The Governor's budget will fully fund allowable growth and more than double our commitment to teacher compensation – but that is not good enough. Iowa must take immediate action and make a comprehensive commitment to our youngest learners by integrating early care, health and education.

We must invest more to help parents be their child's first and best teacher. By supporting programs like Community Empowerment we can enable parents to create more stimulating learning environments at home.

We must establish a quality rating system for childcare facilities. Iowa has the most two parent working families in the nation. These parents need affordable, quality child care. A rating system will help them make choices about where their children are cared for.

85 percent of brain growth occurs within the first six years of life, yet less than 20% of Iowa children attend an accredited preschool. Children who attend quality preschool do better in kindergarten, middle school and throughout their lives. WE must expand access to quality preschool.

The Governor proposed a \$40 million investment in the future of Iowa children – this investment will yield returns in the form of higher education and income levels, lower crime and divorce rates.

High school in Iowa must be transformed– the Iowa Learns Council's recommendations call for a stronger curriculum, tougher graduation standards, and a better working relationship between high schools and higher learning institutions.

Schools and communities cannot help to transform their education system if they do not have adequate resources, this is particularly important for smaller communities. The Governor's budget will target resources to encourage these steps at the local level.

Economic Development

Transforming Iowa starts with education, but doesn't end there. We must expand economic opportunities and create more high-tech, high-wage jobs in Iowa.

Economic Development efforts have been focused on three of Iowa's strengths: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and information solutions.

We know the Iowa Values Fund works-- there are more than 400 companies expressing an interest in locating or expanding their business in Iowa.

The Governor proposed an \$800 million investment in economic growth over the next five years – the return of which would be

50,000 good paying jobs that support families and communities, expanded cultural and recreational opportunities, and a cleaner environment.

Community

Transforming Iowa's economy means transforming Iowa's government. Government should support and enhance bold ideas at the local level.

Iowa needs great places to live, work and raise a family – we can do that by building on the success of the Iowa Values Fund and Vision Iowa.

The Governor has issued a directive called "Great Places" that aims to create more great places across our state through local stimulation and partnerships in state government. The Governor has ordered the Departments of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs along with the Iowa Finance Authority to package together resources, under their control, into competitive grants to the most creative and innovative communities aspiring to be great places.

The Governor wants to support legislative efforts to reform the state's property tax system. We must improve services, reduce property taxes, and preserve representative government at the local level.

Government must insure the safety and security of its citizens, winning the war on drugs is a key responsibility in that effort. The Governor asked legislators to support a crack down on the sale of the precursors vital to the manufacturing of methamphetamine by declaring psuedophedrine a schedule V drug.

Health Care

We have a responsibility to provide health care security for vulnerable Iowans.

Each year smoking costs all Iowans in increased medical costs and lost productivity – last year alone the state spent more than \$235 million in medical related expenses for smoking related illnesses while the state only collected \$88 million in cigarette taxes.

To be fair, the cigarette tax should be raised, which will save lives and better provide for the health care security of all Iowans. Additional revenues should be dedicated to funding Medicaid to avoid cuts in vital services and to capitalize a critical care fund that would enable doctors to stay in high risk specialties by lowering malpractice costs.

We will never transform our health care system until it includes mental health and substance abuse parity – this is our opportunity to better protect our most vulnerable Iowans.

We must create a consumer choice support and education program so older Iowans get the services they need in a way that is cost effective and respects their personal choices.

Employment Opportunities

Assistant Director for Multicultural Education Center for Multicultural Education

Position Summary: Joins the staff of the Center for Multicultural Education (CME) and works as a member of a dynamic team within the Division of Educational and Student Services; develops, plans, and implements multicultural programs and activities; prepares budgets, authorizes expenditures, and interprets CME policies and procedures; acts as the public relations and marketing officer for the CME; assists in the recruitment and, especially, the retention of students of color; counsels the Multicultural Student Advisory Board; develops cultural diversity workshops and training for faculty, staff, students, and community members; and oversees the communication media through which the CME informs the campus and wider communities of its programs and activities.

The CME consists of the Director for Multicultural Education, and a secretary and student staff. This position reports to the Director for Multicultural Education. This position is an academic year plus eight-week summer session appointment.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree plus at least one year of professional experience working with U.S. racial and ethnic minority college students required; student work experience will be considered. Master's degree in student affairs or related area in higher education preferred. Experience in supporting diversity initiatives within the higher education context is also required. Some knowledge of budgeting and financial reporting preferred. Successful candidates will have knowledge of multicultural programming and intercultural communication.

Applications: Application materials received by March 28, 2005 will be given first consideration. Additional information provided upon request (319-273-3424). Send cover letter, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references to: Assistant Director for Multicultural Education/CME Search Chair, Human Resource Services, 106 Gilchrist, UNI, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0034. Fax: 319-273-2927. Email: HRS-Applications@uni.edu. AA/EEO

YWCA Executive Director

YWCA of Greater Des Moines seeks a results-driven and strategic Executive Director. Responsibilities include fund development and operations, financial and public relations management. Competencies needed include non-profit experience, business development, financial planning and management, human resource management, and staff development.

To apply, email your resume and cover letter to:

cvannote@ywcadsm.org
Attn: Cami Smalley, Board President
YWCA of Greater Des Moines

Mark Your Calendars!

The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
presents

The Seventh Annual African-American Male National Conference

"Education vs. Incarceration"

October 26-28, 2005

Hilton Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

Look for registration
information at
www.IN.gov/icssbm



For more information please contact:

Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
(317) 234-1389 • Steven.Ingram@fssa.in.gov • www.IN.gov/icssbm

Police Officer Careers

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Iowa Department of Public Safety is seeking men and women with exemplary personal ethics and superior physical and mental capabilities for challenging and rewarding careers as:



- Troopers
- State Patrol Officers (State Capitol Complex)
- Gaming Enforcement Officers (Riverboat Officers)
- Fire Inspectors
- Division of Narcotics Enforcement Special Agents

The next **APPLICATION DEADLINE** is ***May 1, 2005.***

Applications are now being accepted for a fall 2005 academy.

Applicants with current Iowa Law Enforcement Academy certification will be eligible for a shortened academy.

To obtain an application for employment, or to learn more about our selection process, please visit our website or contact us:

www.dps.state.ia.us

Iowa Department of Public Safety
Plans, Research & Training Bureau
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: (515) 281-5639.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety is an Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Employer.

Mark Your Calendars

The Isiserettes Drill & Drum Corps will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on April 23, 2005. Joining the celebration will be drill teams from across the Midwest, starting with the Drake Relays Parade - Saturday morning featuring these teams through an exhibition "showdown showcase" at Veterans Memorial Auditorium that evening a great silver anniversary celebration is planned.

Tickets for the showdown will be on sale at Veterans Memorial Auditorium box office the day of the show.
For more information please contact Pam Williams, (515) 246-9959.

The 6th Annual Conference on White Privilege (WPC)

What is it?

Peggy McIntosh, author of "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," defines white privilege as "unearned assets" about which most white people are unaware. She describes it as "an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools, and blank checks" that serve to advantage white people living in a racist society.

Is this about proving how bad white folks are?

Absolutely not! No purpose is served through white folks feeling bad about being white. It is, however, about getting honest about the type of society in which we live, about the advantages that accrue to some but not others, and about working to dismantle this system of privilege and oppression.

Where can I learn more?

Outstanding! We're glad you're intrigued and we know just where you can go to explore your questions, get more information, and make lasting connections. Whether you're a seasoned anti-racist activist, someone who's curious about the connections between privilege and oppression, or a downright skeptic, we have the conference for you! We hope you'll join us.

WPC

Central College plays host to the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) on April 27-30, 2005. The conference has a diverse cast of participants and speakers each year. WPC is not just about white privilege and/or black and white issues. This conference takes a comprehensive look at complex issues related of privilege and oppression.

Over the years, workshops and keynote speeches examined and explained a variety of topics including gender, race, economics, religion, language and many more. Most importantly, WPC addresses the society in which we live and is about the advantages that accrue to some but not to others and building strategies and skills to dismantle these systems of privilege and oppression.

This year, the conference theme is "Women Activists: Their Fight Against White Privilege, White Supremacy and Oppression." Speakers this year include Ako Abdul Samad, Diane Finnerty, Patricia Ireland, Geneva Gay, Peggy McIntosh, Salome Raheim, Adrien Wing, Jesse Villalobos and many others.

Deadline for early registration is April 15, 2005. Fees vary by association and select scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr. at (641) 628-5134 or visit www.whiteprivilege.com.



The Iowa Juneteenth Observance is conducting a statewide Gospel Talent Search on April 16, 2005

The host site of this year's talent search is the Faith Temple Baptist Church, which is located at 415 Walnut Street in Waterloo.

The talent search will run from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. We are inviting 'all' Gospel dancers, musicians, poets, rappers, and singers in Iowa (regardless of race or ethnicity) to compete for the title of Iowa's best Gospel talent (choirs are not eligible).

This contest is open to amateurs and professionals from ages 10 and over (a signed authorization from a parent or guardian must accompany participants under 18 years of age). A panel of celebrities will judge the contest and determine the winners.

Registration:
Connect Foundation
Iowa Juneteenth - GTS
P.O. Box 65204
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Website: www.iowajuneteenth.org for updates, or call Mr. Chauncey Mallett at 515/256-8183 (in Des Moines) with any questions.

The Juneteenth Observance Committee announced the dates of the 2005 Iowa Juneteenth Observance. The Observance will be held June 10 through June 18, 2005. Daily events for the 15th annual observance in June will be held at several locations around Des Moines.

ICSAA

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

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Yes, I want to make a difference in the lives of African American Iowans.**

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- Educational, Health, Economics, or Criminal Justice Programs
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

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