Dear Colleagues,

Our 2007 IEREA Conference in Iowa City was once again a high-quality gathering of educators from across the state to examine the possibilities of “Success for All” in our educational system. This year we will be in the Des Moines metro area at Stoney Creek Inn (I-80/35 and 86th Street exit), where there are superb accommodations and free parking adjacent to the site.

The theme of the 2008 conference, “Standards for Success in Our Schools: Fact or Fiction,” takes a hard look at standards in schools and the impact they have on producing quality education in the classroom. The December conference comes on the heels of national elections and potential changes in educational accountability. Kicking off the day will be Dr. Doug Christensen the former Commissioner of Education of Nebraska – an outspoken critic of current national standards expectations. Other sessions will provide a glimpse of how data is used positively to improve teaching and learning and the up-to-date status of Iowa’s Core Curriculum and what impact (if any) it might have on Iowa schools. The day will close with a spirited panel discussion of whether or not statewide standards will make for better schools, leaders, teachers, and students. With the quality speakers and research-based poster sessions, this is a must-attend conference. Mark December 5, 2008 on your calendar and complete/return the registration form no later than November 21.

Phil Berrie  
2008 Conference Planning Chair

Xiaoping Wang  
2008 IEREA President
Conference Description

No Child Left Behind, a law that has evoked both positive and negative emotions from educators, imposes standards and a battery of standardized tests on every district receiving federal funds. The results and reactions to this legislation have been varied and sometimes volatile. Since the inception of NCLB in 2002, standards and standardized tests have dominated the educational scene in all states.

With its array of controversial yet relevant topics, this year’s IEREA Conference will pique the interest of educators at all levels. What are we learning about the Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA), and how this information can help other schools be successful will be discussed. How does Iowa’s new Core Curriculum accommodate local control, and how will its implementation impact large and small districts? Statewide standards: now that we have them, are we assured of better schools, better teachers, better leaders, and better students? What lessons can be learned as we continue to struggle with compliance, equity, and excellence?

The state of Nebraska, led by Dr. Doug Christensen, challenged the U.S. Department of Education and received a waiver to continue its mixture of locally crafted student assessment systems called the School-based Teacher-led Assessment Reporting System (STARS). This unique system had received impressive test results, but the Nebraska Legislature passed a bill last year to create statewide tests for reading and math. Dr. Christensen will share his perspectives on the Nebraska story.

Conference Description

www.ierea.org

Standards, Assessment and Accountability: A Vision for Quality? … A Roadmap to Disaster?

Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner Emeritus of Education, State of Nebraska

When standards create clear outcomes for intellectual development of our students, when assessments measure intellectual learning and capacity, and when accountability is a policy of reporting improvement, the major ingredients of quality and success are in place. When standards standardize, when tests measure low-level content, and when accountability is a status that comes from a number on a single measure, we are on the road to disaster. Dr. Christensen will discuss the “structure” of our system of education and how various strategies of reform impact the system. He will examine the construct and operationalizing of “systems” change that could result in redesigning the system of schooling to a system of education, impacting the system in positive ways from within. Federal and state policies—especially those that imitate NCLB—will only ensure that the system remains frozen in place and unable to either change or to meet the equity challenges of the “all children” agenda.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Standards for Success in Our Schools: Fact or Fiction?</th>
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| 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. | Registration  
Dianne Chadwick, Treasurer, IEREA |
| 9:00 - 9:10 a.m. | Welcome  
Xiaoping Wang, President, IEREA  
Introduction of Keynote, Phil Berrie, President-Elect, IEREA |
| 9:10 - 10:00 a.m. | Keynote Address:  
“Standards, Assessment and Accountability: A Vision for Quality? … A Roadmap to Disaster?”  
Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner Emeritus of Education, State of Nebraska |
| 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. | Continued Dialogue with Doug Christensen  
An opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Nebraska story |
| 11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. | Poster Presentations A  
Highlighting current educational research and evaluation studies occurring in Iowa |

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<tr>
<th>Northwoods Room</th>
<th>Timberland Room</th>
<th>Pines Room</th>
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| Iowa's Core Curriculum: The DE/Legislative Perspective  
What does it mean for state/local policy making?  
How does it fit nationwide?  
Assessment requirements for schools? What is the current status?  
Presenter: Rita Martens, Iowa Department of Education |
| Program Quality: From the Board Room to the Classroom  
Data analyses through the use of quality tools and continuous improvement principles produce a healthy culture of teaching/learning  
Presenter: Dave Markward, Cedar Rapids Community School District |
| Iowa's Core Curriculum: Implications for Schools  
What are the implications for administrators, teachers, and students? What assistance is needed? What assistance will the DE and AEAs provide?  
Presenters: Bridgette Wagoner, Megan Balong, and Jody Stone, Price Lab School, Cedar Falls |
| Using Assessment Data for Better Teaching/Learning  
Assessment data helps provide the direction SINA schools need to overcome instructional hurdles  
Presenter: Lou Howell, SINA Project |
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>12:15 - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Poster Presentations B</strong></td>
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<td><em>Highlighting current educational research and evaluation studies occurring in Iowa</em></td>
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<td><strong>Using Data-Driven Decision-Making to Drive Instruction</strong> Insight into the process, history, professional development and monitoring of implementation**</td>
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<td>Presenter: Jane Lindaman, Waterloo Community School District</td>
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<td><strong>Skills 2010: An Assessment of Employers’ Skill and Employment Needs in the Technology Corridor</strong></td>
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<td><em>Key research findings and nine recommendations for action</em></td>
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<td>Presenter: Dee Baird, Kirkwood Community College</td>
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<td>2:00 - 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>2:15 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Fact or Fiction: Statewide Standards Yield Better Schools, Better Leaders, Better Teachers, Better Students</strong></td>
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<td><em>A lively discussion from multiple viewpoints offers food for thought and sound ideas for an Iowa approach</em></td>
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<td>Panel Guests: Jeff Berger, DE; Margeret Buckton, IASB; Troyce Fisher, SAI; Jan Reinicke, former ISEA Executive Director, Kevin Vidergar, North Polk Schools</td>
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<td>Moderator: Jon Twing, Past President, IEREA</td>
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<td>3:30 - 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of 2008 IEREA Distinguished Research Award</strong></td>
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<td>Jon Twing, Past President, IEREA</td>
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<td>Closing Remarks: Phil Berrie, President-Elect, IEREA</td>
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<td>3:45 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Open Business Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><em>Economics, passing of the torch, debriefing, suggestions</em></td>
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Two Poster Sessions will be held as part of the 2008 IEREA Conference (see conference schedule), and all conference attendees are invited to attend both sessions. The Poster Sessions highlight excellence in educational research throughout the state and are structured to promote conversation between poster presenters and conference attendees. During each session, posters summarizing research projects are displayed in a common area, and refreshments are provided to facilitate browsing and informal visiting. A panel of judges will select the 2008 IEREA Distinguished Research Award winner from among the Poster Session presentations, and the winner will receive a plaque, an invitation to present their research at the 2009 American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in San Diego, and a stipend ($200) to support AERA-related travel expenses. The winner of the 2008 IEREA Distinguished Research Award will be announced at the closing session.

Note: The Poster Session presenters are selected in accordance with the 2008 Call for Proposals. For more information about the Call for Proposals, the selection process, or the slate of 2008 Poster Session presenters (to be posted upon completion of the refereed selection process), please consult the IEREA Web site: http://www.ierea.org. For more information, please contact Jan Walker, Conference Poster Coordinator, at (515) 271-3719 or jan.walker@drake.edu.

IEREA Research Award Winners

2007
Sarah Hagge and Kris Waltman, University of Iowa,
*Teachers’ Perceptions of NCLB: A Multi-Year Study*

2006
Emily R. Lai and Kris Waltman, University of Iowa,
*High Stakes Testing and Test Preparation: Examining Teacher Beliefs and Practices*

2005
Erica Stevenson and Kris Waltman, University of Iowa,
*The Impact of NCLB on Instructional Changes: A Consequential Validity Study*
Lodging Options

A block of rooms has been reserved at Stoney Creek Inn. For reservations, call (800) 659-2220 before November 12. Please identify yourself as an IEREA attendee to obtain the conference room rate of $89. A government employee rate with appropriate identification is $80. Other lodging options may be obtained from the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau online at www.seedesmoines.com or by calling (800) 451-2625.

Directions to Stoney Creek Inn

Address: 5291 Stoney Creek Point, Johnston, Iowa. From I-80/35 in Des Moines, take the 86th Street exit (Exit 129) turn right. Turn right on Birchwood Court and left on Stoney Creek Point. Stoney Creek Inn is next door to the Wynnsong Cinema.

Conference Parking

Parking is available at Stoney Creek Inn or next door at the Wynnsong Cinema.
REGISTRATION

Yes! I want to attend the IEREA Conference December 5, 2008. Please register me now!

For further registration information, please call Dianne Chadwick at (515) 281-3718 or e-mail Diane.Chadwick@iowa.gov.

Registration is requested by November 21, 2008.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION Please print:

   First Name: ________________________________ Last Name: ________________________________
   Job Title: ________________________________ Organization: ________________________________
   Street Address: ________________________________ Suite/Room/Apt.: __________________
   City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________________
   Work Phone: __________________ E-mail: __________________

2. REGISTRATION FEE

   Please select one:
   □ Regular $60.00
   □ Student and/or Poster Session Presenter $20.00
   ☐ I will not be attending the conference this year.
   Please send me information about future conferences.

   Total: __________

3. PAYMENT METHOD

   Make check or purchase order payable to IEREA. Please select one:
   □ Purchase Order Number ____________________________
   □ Check payable to: IEREA

4. REGISTRATION SUBMISSION

   Send registration and form of payment to:
   Dianne Chadwick, Treasurer IEREA, P.O. Box 6012, Des Moines, IA 50309-6012
   No registration refund after November 26, 2008
Dianne Chadwick
Treasurer IEREA
DES MOINES, IA 50309-6012
P.O. Box 6012