



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

January 27, 2015

Survey Says!

The results
are in...

The 2015 Legislative Survey results have been calculated and have now gone out to every legislator and the media. We are pleased that close to 400 members took time to complete the survey.

There are many issues on which there were split opinions. The clearest member opinion was in the landslide (81.9%) stamp of approval for an evaluation for the financial review and assessment of the Teacher Leadership Compensation plan. To access the survey results [click here](#). Or go to <http://bit.ly/Jan2015survey-results>.

Join fellow PEI members, family, and friends for a great day of baseball, fun and fellowship at Wrigley Field.



ONLY \$99!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Or go to <http://bit.ly/2015cubs-dodgers>.



SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Professional Educators of Iowa is pleased to announce the Association and Foundation scholarship program for 2015 with over \$5,000 available. Established to create an ongoing network of educational awareness for Iowans, the PEI Foundation supports worthwhile academic endeavors by awarding student and teacher scholarships. All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2015.



Make sure that you attach the [cover page](http://bit.ly/scholarship-cover-page) (<http://bit.ly/scholarship-cover-page>) when applying for the scholarships as listed here!

Download the scholarship brochure [here](#). (<http://bit.ly/scholarship-brochure>).



MY VIEW FROM THE HILL

by Mark Felderman

My first two weeks representing PEI at our beautiful Iowa State Capitol are in the books. The highlight happened off the state grounds at our PEI offices in Windsor Heights on Tuesday night. PEI hosted our first ever legislative reception. We were pleased to welcome over 40 legislators from both parties.

There are a number of educational bills under consideration in this session. Two of them have caught the most attention. The first issue deals with the start date for schools. There are two bills in committee now, one in each house, SSB 1058 and HF 13 that say essentially the same thing. They would eliminate the rules and penalties concerning school calendars, except to say that schools can't start before July 1 and the academic year must end before June 30. The House Subcommittee heard many impassioned opinions on both sides of the issue on Thursday, January 22, 2015 and decided to advance the bill on to the full committee. In the Senate, a similar bill has been assigned to a subcommittee. It will be addressed soon.

The second big issue on everyone's educational docket is the increase in school appropriations. There are 4 bills to provide for the next 2 years. House Education Chairman Ron Jorgensen explained to those at the committee meeting that it has been his experience that schools (administrators) really want three things. They are: 1) as much money as possible; 2) appropriations in a timely fashion, so that schools can set budgets and negotiate salaries and benefits; 3) assurances that the state will deliver what they allocate. While Iowa is recovering economically, the proposed budget will continue to be tight. The House's proposal is for an increase next year of 1.25% and 2.45% for the 2016-17 school year. I expect the Senate to propose higher percentages and then the real negotiations will commence.

There are a number of other issues coming up that I will be addressing in the coming weeks. Iowa Core will be a major issue and more specifically Smart Assessment. There is discussion of a new "academic coach" endorsement for teachers trained specifically in learning strategies to remove barriers to academic success. To access the education bills in committee in the Iowa Senate, go to <http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=dspldata&var=isco&CFID=5&GA=86> and to see the House bills follow this link <http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=dspldata&var=ihco&CFID=21&GA=86>.

We've all heard of "Iowa nice". If the first two weeks of this session are any indication, legislators from both sides of the aisle display heavy doses of it. Everyone has been very kind to me.

I'd love to hear your take on issues before the General Assembly. Please send your thoughts, suggestions and messages to me at mark@peiowa.org.

Mark Felderman

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



PEI and DRAKE UNIVERSITY
are teaming up to bring you valuable online classes
at more than 10% discount!



Anti-Bullying: Where to Start (EDMA 205)

3 Semester Hours of Graduate Credit

Bullying and harassment in our schools is reaching epidemic proportions. Although best practice tells us that to halt this steady growth we must approach the problem from a systemic standpoint, the typical classroom teacher does not have the ability to influence such a decision. This course will assist educators in recognizing what they might do to halt the progression of these negative statistics and increase the culture and climate of their classroom. In an eight-week format, students are guided through various activities including reading, viewing, reflection, and investigations to further increase their knowledge and awareness of topics related to bullying and harassment in our schools.

INSTRUCTOR: Susen Schirmer

DATES: February 9 - April 5, 2015

COST: regularly \$595

PEI Rate: **\$535**

To register to receive this discount you **MUST** go to: <http://tinyurl.com/muz9dyt>



Professional Educators of Iowa has teamed up with the U.S. Cellular Center to provide members with amazing discounts to a variety of entertainment! To purchase discounted tickets, click on [this link](#) or go to <http://bit.ly/jan2015UScellular>

STAY CONNECTED!

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