



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

April 29, 2015

Connected!!



On Tuesday, April 21, the Iowa House passed HF 641, the bill regarding Broadband Provisions. Many believe it is the next step in the changing landscape of the economy and culture of Iowa, including education. Let us put this into historical perspective.

In 1838, the first stage coach in Iowa connected 55 miles from Burlington to St. Francisville, on the Iowa-Missouri border. Places in Iowa were subsequently connected and the economy and culture of Iowa began to change.

Twenty years before the Civil War, railroad transportation came to Iowa. In 1867, the Union Pacific completed the first track to go from river to river all the way across the Hawkeye State. By 1870, Iowa had 2683 miles of track, and by 1917 this had peaked to 10,500 miles. Towns and villages in Iowa were connected and grew. The economy and culture of Iowa had dramatically changed.

Roads, paved highways and interstates followed and Iowa's economy and culture continued to transform. In the early 1980's community colleges began the Iowa Communications Network. The ICN linked colleges, schools and communities across Iowa with fiber-optics.

Today many small communities have experienced the loss of businesses, churches, organizations and schools with the exodus of Iowans from the rural areas to the urban areas. As the requirements of maintaining small rural schools has become more and more demanding the doors of more rural districts and rural attendance centers have been closed. In 1935 Iowa had 935 public high schools, around which the community culture and society revolved. Today slightly over a third of that number remains. These beloved mascots no longer exist; the Curlew High School Waders, Miles Bulldogs, Russell Trojans or Mallard Ducks. The Des Moines Register calls it "Iowa's lost schools crisis."

Some advocates believe that broadband internet is the natural extension of ICN and the possible savior of Iowa's rural schools. Crestwood High School Principal Tim Felderman, commented, "Giving our students the opportunity and means by which to collaborate and compare their work with that of other students across the state and around the world raises the level of expectation and performance."

Many legislators, like Representative Josh Byrnes, see the broadband bill as a simple question of fairness. Representative Byrnes said, "It's time to stop the *haves and have nots* when it comes to broadband in Iowa; its time to level the playing field."

Since Berryman Jennings became the first public school teacher in Iowa, in a one-room school in Lee County in 1830, many things have changed in Iowa's educational system. It is hard to predict what the next turn will be, but it seems likely that if rural Iowa is to survive then broadband to every school, community, home and acre might very well be the key.

The economy and culture of Iowa are changing and schools will need to change as well. Broadband might very well be the vehicle of change.

Mark Felderman

This is a GREAT time

...to tell other teachers statewide that Professional Educators of Iowa has *frozen* the membership dues in all categories for the upcoming school year. It appears that minimal raises for teachers are on the way along with increased tax burdens in other areas. The board also understands the economic challenges facing the entire educational community and this dues freeze demonstrates our good faith effort to support our members at a time when budget cuts and increased costs are prevalent.



While we offer the best liability and legal coverage available for anyone, we are still a sovereign, non-partisan choice for all people in the education community. PEI will continue to offer current members \$20 for every new Professional membership they bring into PEI. Tell others how to gain the best job security!

Enroll at www.peiowa.org

Above the Call of Duty (or more commonly called) **What Teachers Do**

A group of Iowa teachers voluntarily organized the annual Readers Recognition Breakfast that was held for students and their parents to honor those students who met rigorous reading goals. This breakfast was held early in the morning prior to contract hours and was attended by many staff members as a show of support.

Thank you!

Do you have an example of someone who has gone above the call of duty? Send us your story! (Names and districts will be withheld to protect the teacher and the students.)

Discounted Classes for PEI members!



Drake University is offering PEI members a \$60 discount on two of their most popular online classes. ***Teacher Leadership Strategies*** and ***Anti-Bullying: Where to Start*** will be offered this summer for just \$535 each. For more information and to receive your PEI credit, click the links below.

Teacher Leadership Strategies: <http://tinyurl.com/TLS-PEI-DRAKE>
Anti-Bullying: Where to Start: <http://tinyurl.com/antibully-PEI-Drake>

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA FAMILY NIGHT

IOWA BARNSTORMERS VS. CEDAR RAPIDS TITANS

May 16, 2015

7:05 P.M.

Wells Fargo Arena,

Des Moines

PEI Family Tickets:

\$8.00 tickets in the 200 Level End zone

\$13.00 tickets in the 100 Level End zone

\$15.00 tickets in the 100 Level Corner



[Click here for more information](#)



-BREAKING NEWS-

We can take 9 more on a bigger bus!!!

Thursday, June 25

The original PEI bus is full, BUT, we can get the next bigger bus with 9 more registrations! Join fellow PEI members, family, and friends for a great day of baseball, fun and fellowship at Wrigley Field. The bus will be stopping in Iowa City and the Quad Cities to pick up members! Call the PEI office at 515-221-2330 for reservations!

STILL ONLY \$99!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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



STAY CONNECTED!

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