

# The Noon News

November 05, 2007

Published by



Waterloo Exchange Club

**Mathematics and Science Education Collaborative Initiative** - President Elect Don McGriff introduced Lyn Countryman, Associate Professor of Biology and Science Education at the University of Northern Iowa, who gave us an update on the Mathematics and Science Collaborative Initiative initiated by the Board of Regents.



Lyn Countryman answers more questions

We are acutely aware of the challenges we face as a state and a nation in providing a work force sufficiently skilled in math and science to keep us competitive in the global economy we

have to deal with now. So, we're pleased to learn the leaders of the our three state universities are taking action on these critical issues. We're also glad they selected UNI to lead the effort. With UNI's track record of producing excellent teachers, we know they will rise to the occasion once again.

Here is an excerpt from an editorial in the Des Moines Register this past May that UNI's president Ben Allen wrote that pretty well describes the goals of the project and some of the expected outcomes.

*"...This regents' initiative has three basic goals: 1. To improve math and science performance of Iowa students. 2. To prepare more high-quality math and science teachers for Iowa schools. 3. To bridge the gap between pre-K-12, the community colleges and the three state universities.*

*There's an interrelationship between the first goal, improving student performance, and the second, stepping up teacher preparation. Many elementary, middle and high school students in the United States are being taught math and science by teachers not trained to teach those subjects. Nationally, due to the shortage of math and science teachers, more than half of all eighth-grade students receive math and science instruction from a teacher who neither holds a mathematics degree nor is certified in mathematics. In 2000, 93 percent of fifth-through-ninth graders were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the subject. Rural school districts are particularly affected.*

*The third goal will help make sure students are better prepared for the transition from high school to community colleges and universities. Seamless transitions are needed at all levels, pre-K-16.*

*Assuring teachers that they can engage their passion for teaching at a competitive salary helps to create an environment for success. Those who are entrusted with that success and the overall viability of Iowa's public-education system are preparing for the next step: facing the math and science challenge with the courage, confidence and commitment needed to ensure a sustainable solution to building a competitive work force..."*

Important work. For more information, check out the website [here](#). Contact me if you would like a PDF copy of the presentation Dr. Countryman used.

## NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

**Program** : Closed Business Mtg. - **19 NOV**  
**Prayer** : Don Faris  
**Pledge** : Sharon Droste  
**Menu** : Hot Beef Sandwich

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Nov 26: Tenderloin and Fries  
Dec 03: Roast Pork Loin  
Dec 10: Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Dec 17: Meatloaf  
Dec 24: No Meeting

**Order Chef Salad one week in advance**

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Nov 26: ACE Students  
Dec 03: Students of the Month (2)  
Dec 10: Iowa Criminal Investigation Unit  
Dec 17: Closed Business Meeting  
Dec 24: No Meeting

## BIRTHDAYS

Nov 10: Galen Howsare

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

President Neebel offered this quote by our speaker Lyn Countryman: "We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit."

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**One Nation Under God Banquet** - This program is sponsored by our club and another of the Exchange clubs in the area and is really an effort of the Cedar Valley. The date is Thursday, November 15 at the Elk's club. Social hour is at 5:30 pm with dinner of roast beef or orange roughly at 6:30 pm. Guest speaker for the event is Dan Paxton, pastor at the Heartland Vineyard Church. The MC for the evening will be our own Aaron Buzza. Contact is Wanda Martin.

**Healing Field Flag Sales Initiative** - We are conducting a special Veteran's Day initiative to sell more of the remaining flags from the Healing Field. Here's an advertisement is being placed in the Courier on

**Honoring Those Who Serve...**

Exchange Club of Waterloo Salutes our Veterans.

Flag, pole and yellow ribbon for sale @ \$25.00 ea.

Flags may be purchased for a member of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Guard Unit or for yourself.

To purchase a flag, contact: Hogan-Hansen  
3128 Brockway Rd  
319-233-5225

Healing Field™

November 11<sup>th</sup>. Members are invited to participate in this special sales initiative.

**Guests** - We had one guest today. Jane Reppas. Jane is one of the EXPO Partners in Education.

**Upcoming social events** - Our Christmas Party will be November 30<sup>th</sup>. Folks will gather at the Black Hawk Hotel Lobby for a social time at 6:15 with appetizers, champagne and cash bar. Then it's off to a play, *Inspecting Carol*, at Oster Regent Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30. The play is a spoof on the classic play *A Christmas Carol*. Then it's back to the Black Hawk Hotel Lobby for coffee, deserts and liquors. The cost is \$10 for members and \$40 for guests. RSVP by November 16<sup>th</sup> to Donald Faris at 319-235-7221 or email Jennifer Heller at [J.Heller@pointbuilders.com](mailto:J.Heller@pointbuilders.com).

**EXPO High School Student Food Drive** - What a great way to wrap up our National Day of Service and participate in EXPO's Student Food Drive - enjoy a



Roger & Kari Gunderson load up some food

great lunch at EXPO High School served up by the students and staff!

Northeast Iowa Food Bank staffer, Val Peterson, explained the Student Food Drive is a national effort and how the local Food Bank is one of only 5 across the country to be selected for the project.

Our \$1,124 gift should provide a ton (literally) of food for the Food Bank's program. Many of the EXPO students depend on the Food Bank for some their meals. We heard from one such student, Trent, who treated us to a song he composed about his experiences with the Food Bank as a hungry child and why it's important to support the work there.

Well, it was a different meeting setting. My sense is that it was a good experience and everyone enjoyed the change of pace. As one member put it: "... *knowing we helped such a great cause. Good food, good fellowship, and good program. It made my day.*" That pretty well sums it up for me too.