IOWA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

**Fall Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, October 18, 2024**

**University of Northern Iowa**

**Schindler Education Center Room 217**

Robert Reason, Past President

Gabriela (Gabi) Olivares, President

Liz Hollingworth, Executive Director

Denise Crawford, Treasurer

Carl Weems, At-Large Member

Attendance: Liz, Gabi, Bob, Jeff, Greg, Carl, Ann, Scott, Connie, David, Nick, Stephanie, Nicki, Kere, and Carla.

Zoom attendance: Allison, Megan, Ann, and Pam

Guests: Larry Bice

*Agenda*

9am Welcome, President Dr. Gabriela Olivares-Cuhat

                Introductions

                Induction Ceremony  
                Photos

9:30am Presentation from David Bills Dissertation Award Recipient:

Dr. Andrew Wirtz: “Giftedness and the Arts in Iowa’s Rural Public Schools: Recommendations for Implementation”

BREAK

10:45 am Presentation from David Bills Dissertation Award Recipient:

Dr. Danielle Woods: “Leadership Experiences from the Perspective of High Achieving Elementary Educators”

Noon AEA PANEL- working lunch

                Conversation with AEA Chiefs about challenges facing them

*Guests: Shane Williams, Mississippi Bend AEA; John Speer, Grant Wood AEA;   
Cindy Yelick, Heartland AEA; and Stan Rheingans, Central Rivers AEA*

1:30 pm Business Meeting

                Next Steps for Supporting AEAs

                Regular Business

3:00 pm Adjourn

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The Iowa Academy of Education meeting at the University of Northern Iowa featured introductions of attendees and a presentation by Dr. Wirtz on gifted education in the arts. Dr. Wirtz highlighted the underrepresentation of students in gifted programs for visual and performing arts, citing historical and current issues. He shared his research, which identified nine barriers to implementing arts-based gifted programs, including lack of district policy and staffing shortages. The research also revealed five themes for successful implementation: including arts in definitions, collaboration with arts teachers, addressing identification challenges, and ensuring programming and resources are available.

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Gabi welcomes everyone to the Iowa Academy of Education meeting at the University of Northern Iowa. She thanked the Graduate College and the College of Education for their support and mentions the availability of breakfast and lunch.
* Introduction round, starting with herself as the president of the Iowa Academy of Education. Various participants introduce themselves, including professors from different universities and professionals from the education field.

**Group Introduction**

* Gabi addresses the Zoom participants and asks them to introduce themselves.
* Carl Weems, a professor at Iowa State University, introduces himself. Megan Foley-Nicpon and Allison Bruhn also introduce themselves, highlighting their roles and responsibilities.

**Group Photo and Morning Session**

* Gabi announces a group photo session and reminds participants to pick up name tags and additional food. She introduces Dr. Wirtz from the University of Iowa, one of the recipients of the David Bill's Dissertation Award.

**Dr. Wirtz's Presentation on Gifted Education in the Arts**

* Dr. Wirtz shares his background, including his involvement in sports, art, and music.
* He discusses his teaching experience in rural, suburban, and urban settings and his encounter with a student named Cash.
* Dr. Wirtz highlights the lack of identification and support for gifted students in art and music in his district.
* He emphasizes the importance of including the arts in gifted education and the need for research to support this.

**Research on Gifted Education in the Arts**

* Dr. Wirtz outlines the research questions for his study: which schools identify and serve gifted arts students, why some schools do not, and what programming is available for identified students.
* He describes the mixed methods research plan, including a survey and interviews with school districts.
* Dr. Wirtz shares the results of the survey, indicating that many school districts do not identify and serve gifted arts students.
* He identifies nine barriers to implementing gifted arts programs, such as lack of knowledge, staffing shortages, and lack of funding.

**Interview Findings and Recommendations**

* Dr. Wirtz presents the themes that emerged from the interviews with five districts that do serve gifted arts students.
* The first theme is the need to include the arts in the district's definition of giftedness.
* The second theme is the importance of collaboration with art and music teachers.
* Additional themes include the need for training, addressing staffing shortages, and finding time and resources for programming.
* Dr. Wirtz concludes by emphasizing the importance of closing the equity gap in gifted education and providing opportunities for all students to excel in the arts.

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1:30 pm Business Meeting

Next Steps for Supporting AEAs- decision to write a letter of support to the legislators and committee members

Regular Business

3:00 pm Adjourn

**Next meeting: May 2, 2025 University of Iowa**