

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FACULTY PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
"ISD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IOWATER PROJECT"

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Ms. Kristen Newton and Ms. Diane LeDoux will describe the IOWATER volunteer monitoring program on the ISD campus.

Ms. LeDoux, an educator of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including those with multiple disabilities, has taught at the Iowa School for the Deaf for 34 years. She received a combined bachelor's degree in elementary education and deaf education and a master's degree in education of students with cognitive impairments. At ISD, she collaborates on the IOWATER program to teach students the importance of monitoring water supplies and ensuring high quality water sources; she also instructs students in horticulture and the importance of plants in the environment.

Ms. Newton has taught at ISD for 31 years, including the past 24 years as a middle school/high school science teacher. She has a master's degree in deaf education and is licensed to teach life/earth science, high school general science, and biology. Ms. Newton assisted in opening a school for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in the Philippines and participated in a study of the effects of dynamite fishing on the coral reef environment. She has also studied the interaction of varied ecosystems from the mountain rain forests to the barrier reef in Belize. Ms. Newton was instrumental in setting up the IOWATER program at ISD.

The IOWATER program is a multi-agency collaboration that includes the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the United States Geological Services. It is a volunteer water quality monitoring project, which is conducted in many community sites throughout the state. Its goal is to raise citizen awareness of the importance of Iowa's watersheds and water quality, while providing continual, systematic monitoring of those water sources. Since 2005, the faculty, staff, and students of the Iowa School for the Deaf have participated with two registered on-campus IOWATER sites and with additional monitoring activities at larger local water sources.