

## **BOARD PRESIDENT BATES REMARKS – NOVEMBER 2024**

Next, the Board will receive an update on the progress of the universities towards compliance with Senate File 2435, which has been established in Iowa Code 261J, regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programming and activities at our institutions.

At the September Board meeting, I said we would complete our work by the end of the calendar year. The Board's review of the universities for compliance is complete. As you can see from the report, the universities have completed most of their work. There are some university efforts currently underway that may spill over into next year, and we ensure they will be completed as soon as possible.

This review will not be static. We are directing each university to establish a process for continual review of current and new programming. All of us need to examine what we are doing to ensure that we are compliant with the law in everything we do.

As a Board, our role is governance of this process, which we take seriously. We will continue to ensure that the universities are monitoring and evaluating their activities and programming to ensure ongoing compliance with 261J.

Let me be clear: This statute has been adopted by the state and we will follow the law.

I look forward to hearing the formal presentation and hearing any comments or feedback that my fellow Board members have.