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**From:** Koppin, Sheila Doyle [BOARD]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** Smith, Dianne [BOARD]  
**Subject:** Fw: Guest column: Higher education: An Iowa success story (Downer Op-Ed, DSM Register)

**Importance:** High

Please post. Thanks.

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**From:** Koppin, Sheila Doyle [BOARD]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2011 09:42 AM  
**To:** Bonnie Campbell <campbell.law@mchsi.com>; Craig Lang <craiglangbor@ifbf.org>; Dave Miles <dmiles@miles-capital.com>; Downer, Robert <bobd@meardonlaw.com>; Harkin, Ruth <ruth.harkin@cox.net>; Jack Evans <jackevans@hallperrine.org>; Johnson, Greta A; 'mgartner@iowacubs.com' <mgartner@iowacubs.com>; Rose Vasquez <Rav118@mchsi.com>  
**Cc:** Donley, Robert [BOARD]  
**Subject:** Guest column: Higher education: An Iowa success story (Downer Op-Ed, DSM Register)

Regents,

Please see Regent Downer's op-ed from today's DSM Register.

Sheila

## Guest column: Higher education: An Iowa success story

4:19 PM, Mar. 4, 2011 |

Written by

**ROBERT N. DOWNER, AN IOWA CITY LAWYER, HAS SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE IOWA BOARD OF REGENTS SINCE 2003. CONTACT: BOBD@MEARDONLAW.COM.**

Iowa has been widely known as an "education state" throughout its existence. Because of population shifts and changing educational needs for our K-12 students, this part of our education system receives a great deal of attention.

There is another component of Iowa's education system which internally has probably not attracted as much attention but which has brought both distinction and tens of thousands of high school graduates to our state for more than a century and a half.

That component is higher education - public universities under the governance of the Board of Regents, private colleges and universities, and area community colleges. All have made great contributions to Iowa, the United States and the world. Their economic impact within Iowa might be described as "hidden in plain sight."

Iowa's founding fathers clearly saw that higher education was a high priority for the state, establishing

its first state university on Feb. 25, 1847, only 59 days after Iowa was admitted to the union. However, two private colleges - Iowa Wesleyan in 1844 and Grinnell College in 1846 - already existed. Loras and Clarke Colleges arose out of institutions which had been founded even earlier.

As University of Iowa Law Professor and former President Willard ("Sandy") Boyd frequently points out: "Nothing is born full grown." But since the founding of these and dozens of other post-secondary institutions in Iowa, our state has rightly been recognized as a giant in the field of higher education.

On what do I base this sweeping statement? According to statistics compiled by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, a twelve state organization of north central states, in its most recent state report, Iowa had a net in migration of students for higher education of 14,198, the highest of all of the Compact states.

The ratio of incoming to outgoing students was 4.30, with North Dakota at 2.18 having the next highest ratio. Iowa also had the third highest percentage of its own high school graduates attending colleges in state at 85.9 percent.

The students who migrate to Iowa provide a huge economic boost to our state. Just as major industries in Iowa such as John Deere, Rockwell, and Lennox would not have nearly their present economic impact if they sold their products only to Iowans, our colleges and universities would not be the dynamic institutions they have become if they admitted only students from Iowa. Also, they would not be able to offer the breadth of courses and attract world-class faculty members.

The financial impact of these educational institutions is huge. A recent study calculated the economic impact of the University of Iowa at \$6 billion annually, or approximately one-thirtieth of the total economic activity of the State of Iowa. A recent report by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni surveyed tuition and fees at nine Iowa colleges and universities - Central, Coe, Cornell, Drake, Grinnell, ISU, Luther, UI and UNI - with an average for out-of-state students being over \$27,000 per year.

Although some of these amounts would be reduced by scholarships and grants to the students, the amounts reducing the students' costs would typically come from endowments or donations, with those endowment payments and donations still being utilized in the institutions' operating budgets.

If discounting this amount for lower tuition community colleges to \$20,000 would be a fair average for the 18,503 freshman students migrating to Iowa for higher education, one year's class of nonresident students would account for more than \$370 million in tuition and fees alone.

Clearly, when classes beyond the freshman year, graduate and professional students, board, room and incidentals are added in, the presence of non-resident students at Iowa's colleges and universities adds well in excess of \$1 billion annually to our state's economy.

An added benefit from having these students in Iowa in their late teens and early twenties is that they will be here as they are focusing their thoughts on where they would like to embark upon their careers.

If we create good employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in Iowa for college graduates, the state will reap huge economic benefits and rewards.