

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR IOWA PUBLIC RADIO**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of Iowa Public Radio's request to return university support from the Regent universities to FY 2013 funding level for FY 2015.

**Executive Summary:** One of the goals in IPR's 2012-2016 Strategic Plan is to become financially independent from Regent university funding by FY 2017 by increasing private support. A key strategy to achieve that outcome is large donor fund raising. However, IPR had an extended period with interim leadership which resulted in interrupting the plan to increase funding from large donors. IPR seeks an increase in university support for FY 2015 to the FY 2013 funding level (\$944,800). This will allow IPR's new executive director and Board of Directors time to launch a large donor effort and to update the strategic plan.

**Background:**

In 2011, the Iowa Public Radio Board of Directors approved its 2012-2016 Strategic Plan and approved the following plan regarding funding from the Regent universities:

REVENUE	FY 2011	FY 2012	<b>FY 2013</b>	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	\$1,181,000	\$1,062,900	<b>\$944,800</b>	\$826,700	\$708,600	\$590,500	\$0

The additional funds available to IPR in FY 2015 (\$236,200) will allow it to develop a sustainable model that will result in meeting its financial goals in the future. Iowa Public Radio intends to review its strategic plan with its Board of Directors and provide a revised university support funding plan to the Board of Regents at a future meeting. IPR has budgeted to use approximately \$500,000 in reserves to cover costs in FY 2014. Its plan is to spend conservatively in FY 2015 and find savings in the budget to keep costs down.

Ms. Myrna Johnson became IPR's new Executive Director in January 2014. Myrna has more than 30 years of experience as a non-profit professional, including eight years in the government affairs office of National Public Radio and serve on the board of directors of KUNC-FM in Greeley, Colorado. Prior to joining IPR, Myrna built and led the government affairs office of the Outdoor Industry Association and served as executive director of the Boston Schoolyard Initiative, a major effort by the City of Boston to revitalize and green Boston's schoolyards. Ms. Johnson grew up in Ruthven, a rural community in northwest Iowa. She has a B.A. from Wartburg College and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.