

**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

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Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
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Board of Regents To Receive Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

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On Monday, August 1, Iowa's Public Universities will be recognized with Iowa's premiere environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's natural resources through comprehensive campus sustainability programs.

Iowa's Public Universities were among the first schools in Iowa and the Midwest to adopt formal sustainability programs. This has included programs promoting energy efficiencies and renewable energy systems, waste reduction, and sustainability-related research and teaching. More specifically, the Universities' environmental contributions have included the use of wind, solar, and biomass, paperless solutions for business and admissions functions, and comprehensive recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. In addition, the Universities have increased their use of alternative-energy vehicles (E85, biodiesel, and electric), minimized water use, increased local food purchases, and adopted sustainable campus landscaping practices.

Most importantly, the sustainability programs of Iowa's Public Universities are designed to engage students in applying the principles of sustainability where they live, work and learn. "None of the Universities' many accomplishments ranks as high in importance as each University's commitment to building a new generation of leaders, critical thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs," said Liz Christiansen, director of the University of Iowa Office of Sustainability. "Our efforts to incorporate sustainability principles into the classroom and curriculum, and to lead with important research in sustainability, helps train minds to tackle the challenges of building true economic growth and solving critical environmental issues."

One of the many strengths of the Universities' sustainability programs is their ability to be replicated. This has encouraged the sharing of programs not only among the campuses, but also with Iowa communities through local partnerships where the Universities' sustainability measures find new uses to further benefit the state.

The University of Northern Iowa will also receive a special recognition in water quality for its work to minimize pollution from entering Dry Run Creek which flows directly through the UNI campus.

The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony will take place on Monday, August 1, at 3:00 p.m., in the Wallace State Office Building.

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