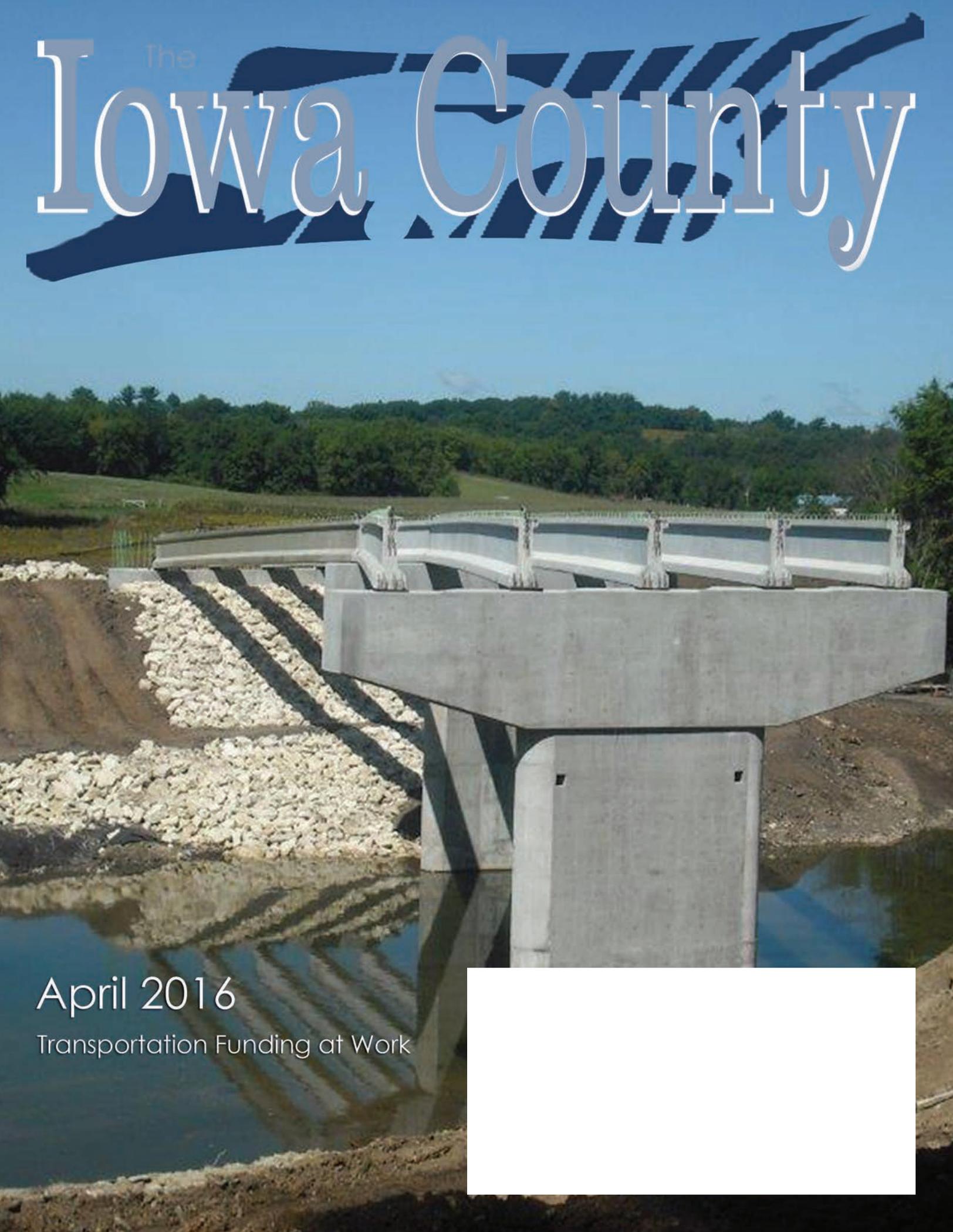


The Iowa County



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The Iowa County

April 2016 * Volume 45, Number 4

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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

feature - fuel tax

Fuel Tax Anniversary

This past March 1 was a significant anniversary for those of us that are responsible for maintaining Iowa's public roadway infrastructure. That was the one-year anniversary of the 10 cent per gallon fuel tax increase that resulted from Senate File 257. The one-year anniversary offers a good opportunity to reflect not only on the great partnership that culminated in passage of the bill but more importantly on our role in making the best use of the additional funding.

While the legislative process to introduce and pass Senate File 257 occurred in a relatively quick manner, the actual process to get to that point took many years. A common theme of the 13-year effort was "partnership." The most important partnership leading to the increase in transportation funding was that of the cities, counties and the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). It formally began on January 9, 2002, with the first meeting of the Road Use Tax Fund Committee which eventually led to legislative changes to increase the efficiency in how we all maintain the public roadway system. Those collective and individual efficiency initiatives were vital to demonstrate our priority to make sure all funds are spent in the most effective manner prior to seeking additional revenue.

Several other initiatives and studies followed, all of which highlighted the ongoing partnership of cities, counties and Iowa DOT. Those efforts led to the passage of Senate File 257 and creation of more than \$200 million per year in additional road and bridge funding for Iowa's public roadways. Without that consistent and ongoing partnership, Senate File 257 would not have occurred.

While it is appropriate to celebrate this one-year anniversary, we must all recognize that the hard work is not over. We have a continuing obligation to demonstrate to all Iowans how this

By: Paul Trombino III

Director
Iowa Department of
Transportation



funding is being invested wisely in our roads and bridges. There are many ways we can accomplish this obligation. One way is to specifically identify projects that are moving forward as a result of the additional funding. Iowa DOT was required to do this by law, but we have also asked cities and counties to report to us their projects in an effort to provide a more comprehensive report for the entire state. Thank you to those who replied to our survey. We expect to do this survey for a few more years and encourage all counties to reply. We also encourage individual jurisdictions to highlight the value of the additional revenue to your constituents. A few ways you can do this is through discussions at board meetings, community outreach, press releases, and invitation of local media to construction project sites. It is important to demonstrate the benefits this additional transportation funding is bringing to communities across Iowa.

We understand the additional revenue does not permit us to address all of the transportation needs throughout the state. It was never intended to. This means we all have work to do to assure we are meeting the needs of our constituents. We must continue to work both together and individually to make the right decisions in how to invest our funds and increase efficiency. Whether it's by funding pavement condition data collection on all paved roads in Iowa or by supporting the development of asset management tools, the Iowa DOT continues to be committed to supporting efforts to help all of us make the most cost-effective investment decisions.

In closing, thank you for your partnership and hard work in providing a public roadway system that meets the needs of Iowans and supports the continued economic growth of the state.



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Putting Transportation Tax Dollars to Work

March 1, 2016, marked the one year anniversary of the 10 cent increase in the per gallon fuel tax. Long a priority of ISAC, the user fee increase has and will continue to provide additional revenue to counties for the maintenance and repair of our secondary road system. County engineers and boards of supervisors have a duty to provide the public with safe and efficient roads and bridges. Through a combination of federal, state, and local funds, county officials invest in the infrastructure that gets us where we need to be. Whether it's driving to work or taking a bus to school, visiting family and friends, transporting crops to market, heading into town for groceries, or across the state for a weekend getaway, we all rely on our system of roads and bridges.

Prior to the passage of SF 257 and the increase in the fuel tax last year, the previous increase was implemented in 1989. Over that period the cost of construction increased by more than 250%, while increases in road use tax revenue were dependent on increased fuel consumption. It simply wasn't enough to keep up with the rising cost of maintaining and repairing our infrastructure. As the caretakers of over 75% of both the road miles and bridges in this state, counties were falling behind on needed upkeep, through no fault of their own, because the funding was no longer sufficient.

Last year the stars seemed to align as a bipartisan coalition of legislators, both urban and rural, came together to address this critical need. The groundwork was laid over a number of years by our association and many other stakeholders, but credit is also due to Governor Branstad and leadership from both chambers who went above and beyond to make the proposal a reality. The passage in February and implementation in March provided an immediate increase in revenue, and for some jurisdictions, led to projects being moved up to the 2015 construction season. The first four months after the increase (the final four months of FY 2015) saw a statewide increase in revenue of over \$55 million above previous levels, or about \$18 million for secondary roads and bridges.

These trends continue as we look at the first half of the current fiscal year. From July 1 to December 31, 2015, revenues were up almost \$98 million statewide from the previous fiscal year, an increase of 55%. With 24.5% of the RUTF revenue going to secondary roads and 8% going to farm-to-market roads, the amount of additional revenue for counties was over \$31 million in the first six months of the fiscal year. An increase of 50% or more of RUTF revenue will go a long ways towards protecting the investment the public has made in our road system.

By: Lucas Beenken

ISAC Public Policy Specialist



So where do we go from here? As in the past, ISAC encourages counties to use public meetings, local media, and other means to showcase the projects being undertaken. Local governments have a unique ability to show tax dollars at work better than higher levels of government, and this is a perfect opportunity. Citizens have greater confidence in their government when they can see the investments of their elected and appointed officials. Frequent updates at board meetings and stories and pictures in the local newspaper are great ways to do this. Some counties have even erected signs at replaced bridges and resurfaced roads denoting that the project was funded by the increase in the fuel tax.

Another important component of the showcase is accountability to the Legislature. With legislators from all over the state and both parties taking a tough vote to increase the fuel tax, counties need to reassure them that the additional revenue is being put to good use and progress is being made to improve our state's infrastructure. The DOT has collected voluntary submissions from counties detailing the use of the increased RUTF revenue, and we encourage counties to continue to share this information. Further evidence of the Legislature's interest in the use of revenue and the progress being made was the introduction of HF 2345. The bill requires county engineers to file annual reports with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on the use of Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) dollars to repair or replace structurally deficient bridges. The report would include details on fully functional bridges and work completed or pending on deficient bridges. The bill has passed both chambers, and as of this writing is heading back to the House for consideration of a Senate amendment. Regardless of the final form the bill takes, the message is clear: legislators want to know that the revenue from the tax increase they voted for is being put to good use and that progress is being made to maintain and improve our state's infrastructure.

Whether it's through reports to the state, updates at board meetings, profiles in the local newspaper, or actually driving on a resurfaced road or crossing a new bridge, there is a desire to see and a need to show the progress being made. The investment the public is making for the maintenance and repair of our infrastructure provides a great opportunity to show both the vigilant use of the tax dollars and the invaluable service the counties provide in taking care of our secondary roads system. Thank you for all of your efforts to make your county and its taxpayers proud of your work.

Technology and County Road Departments

County Road Departments use information technology in many aspects of their operations. Some of it is done ‘in-house’ using commercial software: mapping via GIS tools; project design with CAD; accounting; inventories; construction inspection records; and/or pavement management on Excel. In other cases, the county performs work using software or websites provided by other parties: hydraulic (bridge and culvert) analysis software provided by the Iowa DOT and the USGS, bridge inspection records via the DOT’s Structure Inventory Information Management System; and submission of disaster claims online to FEMA. Additionally, the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau (ICEASB) has developed online tools specifically for secondary road department needs. Some are delivered via the county engineers’ website, www.iceasb.org, while other project programming and development tracking functions are provided by TPMS, an online system that connects and serves all players involved in those processes.

The ICEASB is a county 28-E agreement organization formed in 1998. A staff of five operates out of space sub-leased from ISAC in West Des Moines. It is overseen by a seven member board made up of county engineers and supervisors.

The county engineer website provides a slate of tools designed to augment efficient, effective operations. The News area provides bulletins on current topics, a calendar of events, legislative issues, ICEA association activities, job openings, and a “Secondary Roads Encyclopedia.” Additionally, it offers a panel from which an engineer can post a question and receive a tally of replies from peers. This is a powerful feature that allows each individual county to benefit from the knowledge and experience available from every other county. A “Find and Contact” section enables additional communication between counties, the DOT, and ICEA committees. Next, the “Online Tools” panel provides administrative, project delivery, maintenance, mapping, and data services. To highlight a few of these options: the Local Lettings tool facilitates taking local projects from initial setup through to bid letting and award, the Work Orders tool enables engineers and staff to capture, assign, add notes and record completion of road work needs, and the ‘Rockalyzer’ allows a county to map out a granular road resurfacing program and obtain results tallied by road, maintenance district, and materials source. A Downloads area contains reference and model documents that counties can download for local use when needed: Administrative, Engineering, General, ICEA business, and Financial updates. And a “Jump To” area provides quick

By: Steve De Vries

Executive Director
Iowa County Engineers
Association Service Bureau

access to frequently used external resources, such as the Iowa DOT’s Instructional Memos or the Iowa Local Transportation Assistance Program at ISU.

The ICEASB website was completely rewritten and modernized in 2015, replacing the old version on December 23. The new version has much more robust security, a standardized interface design, easy adaptation of features to work on mobile devices and a new concept called ‘Pods’. These are user selectable, resizable mini-screens of various applications that a user can arrange at the bottom of their screen. They provide a means by which users may set up dashboards of items to which are most often referred.

TPMS

The TPMS system is an example of inter-jurisdictional cooperation unique to the nation. Created with an initial funding grant from the Iowa Highway Research Board, it is operated by the ICEASB but used by all consultants, local road agencies, the DOT, and the FHWA.

It is designed to support and automate three activities: the preparation, review and DOT approval of county five year programs and budgets; the preparation, review and approval of Federal Aid project programming; and the tracking of project development from commencement of design through to turn-in for letting. TPMS’ objective is to provide all involved parties with the same view of current data at all times and enable them to perform tasks consistent with their roles. For instance, in regard to Federal Aid work, the county edits and submits the project for planning agency action. The RPA or MPO then marks approval, first, at the staff level and, second, at the TAC/PAC level. This then sends the project on to a DOT Planner for review and quality control check. When the planner is done, the project is electronically presented to the DOT Office of Program Management (OPM) to be consolidated into the statewide TIP. After completion of public involvement efforts, OPM marks the project approved to send it on to the Iowa office of the Federal Highway Administration, where it receives final acceptance and becomes eligible for FA funding. Similar step-by-step support is provided for the county five-year program and the project development processes.

feature - transportation technology

The development module exchanges project information with the DOT's Project Scheduling System daily. It informs the Department of upcoming local agency projects and communicates the status of DOT reviews back out to road agencies, and their consultants.

Future Directions

Over the years, ICEASB gradually developed the slate of services outlined above, but much of that was synthesized in a world where technology consisted primarily of desktop computers presenting static web pages over wired internet connections. With the advent of GPS-enabled mobile devices that can connect to 4G and Wifi links to download and execute on-line applications, the ICEA Computer and Information Technology Committee has begun to define an expanded set of applications on which the Service Bureau will work. Included in this future vision are: use of GPS tracking for operations status;

route coverage and work need identification/fulfillment functions; sign and culvert management systems; a detour signage planner; and a combination internal communications – work quantity data capture – time tracking tool to support enhanced operational efficiency. These apps will be designed to work in the office or in the field, adapting to whatever device is being used at the time.

Public Side Website

Work is also being done to create a public-facing website that will inform the public and media about secondary roads and provide them with links – to general data and to individual counties. Major topical areas will be: about Iowa's secondary roads; about county engineers; how to connect with your local county; and a public notice page for posting news releases, secondary road job openings, road closure information and future local bid lettings.

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feature - county transportation projects

County Transportation Projects

Danny Waid, Hamilton County Engineer

A narrow (17' wide) one lane concrete girder bridge, originally built in 1917, was damaged by an implement of husbandry in the summer of 2015. The structure is within three miles of an ethanol plant and heavily used to transport agriculture products. This structure was added to the current five-year program and will be replaced with a precast concrete box culvert during the 2016 construction period. The increase in the fuel tax allowed reconstruction of this structure without delaying other important, previously scheduled projects.



This 100 year-old concrete drainage structure has experienced considerable deterioration and has been repaired after recent high water storm event causing undermining of the foundation. The additional road use tax in 2015 has allowed adding this structure to our construction program for 2016.



Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer

The picture on the left below is the before condition of Co. Rd. A34 (Pole Line Rd) prior to our rehabilitation project. The photo on the right shows the roadway after its completion. Eleven miles of rehabilitation. This is a Federal Aid eligible and Farm-to-market road that was waiting for the county's FM fund to build a big enough balance to meet the match money requirements of the Federal Funds (STP). The Board of Supervisors was looking to subsidize the project with local tax dollars and was working to build enough of a fund to allow the project to proceed. With the passing of the dime, the FM restrictions were released and the project went forward in 2015 without the influx of funds from the Board of Supervisors and the local tax dollars. Those local tax dollars have been re-allocated to two small bridge projects that are not eligible for federal bridge replacement funds and are slated for construction in 2016.



Rural Impact County Challenge: Compat Rural Child Hunger

Small towns and rural communities are home to millions of Americans, are a vibrant part of our nation's economy, and include some of the most beautiful landmarks in the country. Rural America provides the vast majority of food, energy, and environmental benefits for the rest of the country. Additionally, rural communities are the source of nearly 90% of renewable water resources, and home to important service sector and manufacturing hubs.

Despite this critical role in our nation's economy, too many Americans in rural areas are not sharing in our nation's economic growth. A full 85% of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. Lack of opportunity for rural kids and families is often compounded by other challenges, including distance from health and early learning programs, lack of access to public transportation, and higher rates of drug and substance abuse. But for all kids, the road to successful adulthood relies on a strong foundation of access to basic health, nutrition, high-quality early education, strong schools, and support from parents and caregivers.

Counties Leading the Way

Recognizing the critical role local officials play in supporting innovation and change, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the White House Rural Council have come together on a national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of rural children and families living in poverty. The Rural Impact County Challenge (RICC) seeks to recognize and support counties making real difference in the lives of children in rural communities.

The RICC consists of two components:

(1) A Call to Action demonstrating strong county leadership, commitment, and vision to achieve concrete results on behalf of rural children and families. The Call to Action asks counties to develop or refine an actionable plan that can be used to achieve local and state-level impacts. As part of this Call to Action, county elected officials will pass a resolution to work with local, state, and federal entities (e.g., schools, health and social service providers, and state and federal policymakers), children and families, and other key stakeholders on the following actions:

- **Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers** from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families in rural areas living in poverty
- **Develop a plan** with measurable outcomes that improves access, participation, and/or impact of evidence-based and other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services.
- **Implement research-based approaches** that advance the plan.
- **Create a process to track progress** using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

A sample resolution for your county board can be found at www.naco.org.

In addition to national recognition as local leaders creating opportunity in rural communities, County Challenge participants will receive a weekly newsletter with rural-focused research and state and federal funding opportunities, invitations to participate in monthly webinars with Senior Administration Officials and fellow Challenge participants, and a platform for peer learning opportunities to share best practices and barriers

(2) A National Convening of County Challenge participants, Administration officials, thought leaders, and practitioners. This summer, the White House Rural Council and NACo will lead a convening to highlight progress and innovation in advancing county-led plans to reduce the number of rural children and families living in poverty. The summit will help counties advance their plans and measure progress while identifying best practices from counties across the country that have developed successful and scalable evidence-based programs or initiatives designed to combat chronic rural poverty on a local and regional basis.

If your county is interested in participating in the Rural Impact County Challenge, please contact Rachel Bennett, rbennett@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181. Help to make Iowa counties leaders in combatting rural child poverty.

County Economies 2015: Opportunities and Challenges

By: *Brian Knudsen*

Research Analyst
National Association of Counties



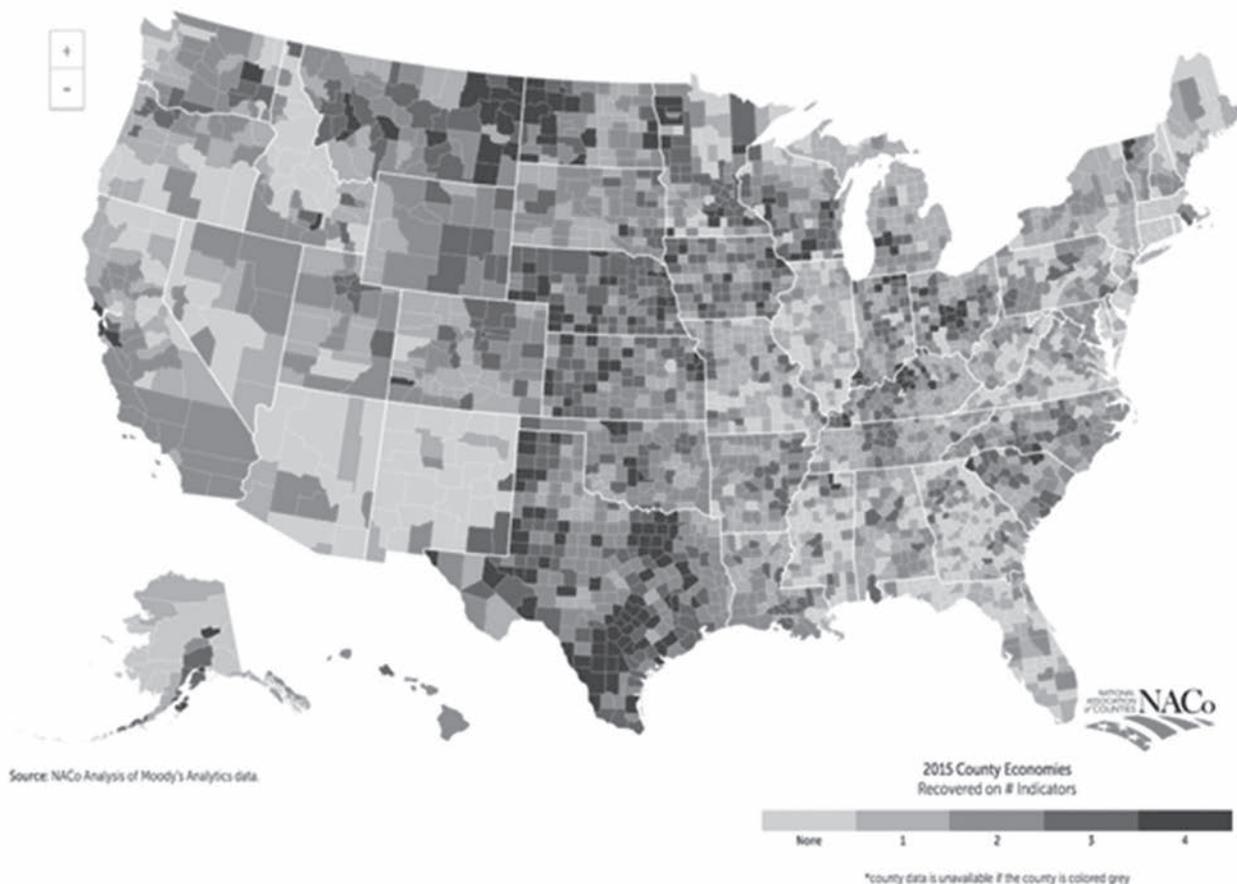
The National Association of Counties (NACo) released in January its annual look at recovery patterns across the nation's 3,069 county economies. *County Economies 2015: Opportunities and Challenges* analyzes annual changes of four economic performance indicators — economic output, also known as gross domestic product (GDP), employment, unemployment rates and home prices — between 2014 and 2015 across county economies. In addition, it explores 2013-2014 wage dynamics as well as 2009-2014 trends in productivity and wages in county economies.

This report focuses on the county economy and not on the county government. It keeps track of the peaks and valleys, recession and recovery for each county economy in the country since 2002.

In Iowa, most county economies grew in 2015, but recovery was mixed. All 99 Iowa county economies had unemployment rate

declines in the past year. Also, 97 county economies saw year-over-year growth in home prices in 2015. Seventy-four Iowa county economies had recovered on GDP by 2015, and 100% had returned to their pre-recession home price peaks. Yet, by 2015 less than one out of three Iowa county economies had recovered to their pre-recession levels on either jobs or unemployment rate. Furthermore, only eight of Iowa's county economies had recovered on all four indicators analyzed by 2015.

The economic recovery is creating an uneven geography of opportunity. Sixty-four Iowa county economies (65%) saw increases in their cost-of-living and inflation adjusted wages in 2014, similar to the national share. Longer term, wages did not keep up with productivity gains everywhere. The NACo analysis examines average real wages in county economies, not for county government employees. Eighty Iowa county economies (81%) saw real wage increases alongside productivity gains



between 2009 and 2014. By contrast, 10 county economies (10%) had falling wages, yet their productivity increased.

This uneven recovery across county economies contributes to the challenges that counties already confront. Counties face a triple threat from the uncertainty around federal policy on tax reform, entitlement reform and appropriation cuts not accompanied by reductions in unfunded mandates. Counties are doing their part under difficult conditions by investing in economic development, infrastructure and providing services.

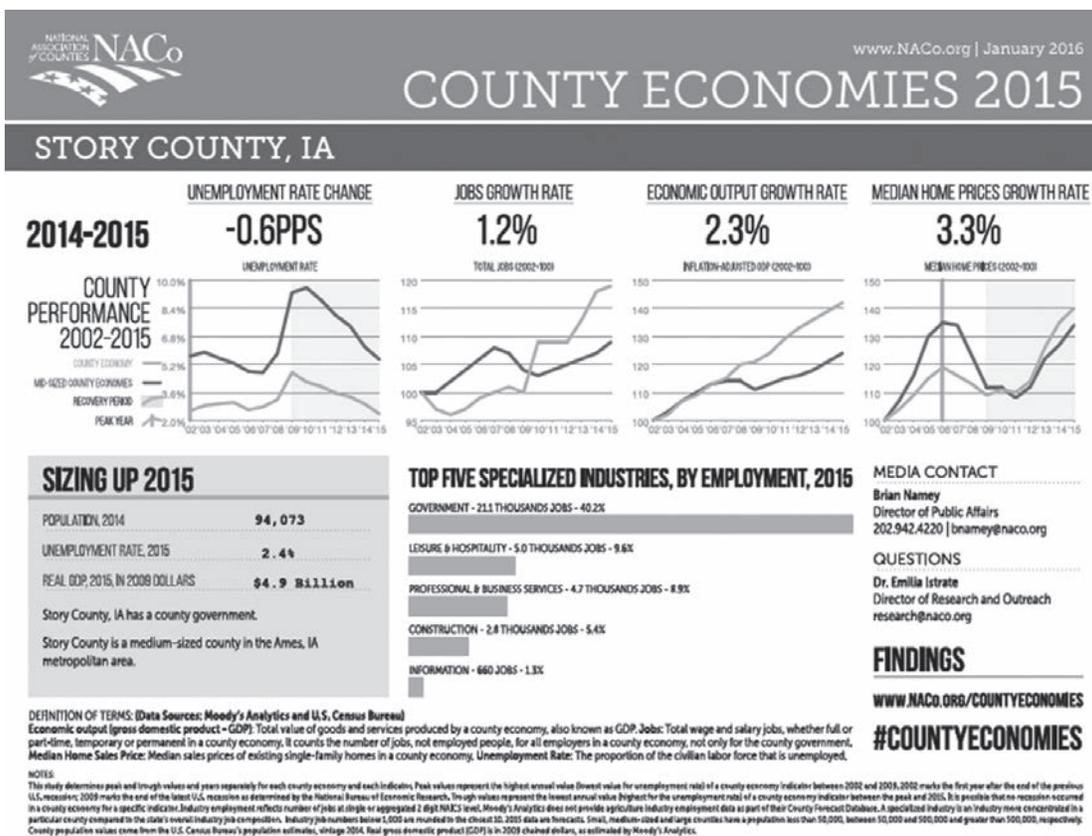
County Economies 2015 highlights that it is on the ground, in counties where Americans feel the national economy. The economic recovery and growth continued to spread in 2015, but unevenly around the country. These opportunities and challenges point to the continuing need for a strong local-state-federal partnership to secure a strong economy.

About County Economies 2015

When trying to understand national and local economic trends, sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. County leaders now have access to an interactive visual tool to help assess the economy of their county thanks to NACo. Find it online at www.naco.org/CountyEconomies. NACo's "County Economies 2015: Opportunities and Challenges" is a nationwide analysis of economic recovery at the county level, and it was the source of the information cited in the adjacent article. Individual counties are assessed on four key indicators:

- Economic output (gross domestic product/GDP)
- Employment
- Unemployment rates
- Home Prices

The result is a color-coded interactive map of the 3,069 counties in the United States, showing the progress of economic recovery for each county.



NACo news - conference recap

2016 NACo Legislative Conference Recap

“Remember what the dormouse said. ‘Feed your head, Feed your head.’”
- Grace Slick of Jefferson Airplane

This legislative conference was one of the best I ever attended. There seemed to be a common thread throughout. Maybe it was because of the workshops I elected to go to. Maybe it was because I got to fly out with Richard Crouch from Mills County who was attending his first NACo Conference. Richard was staying in the off-site hotel next to the conference hotel. It was a bit of a meander from there to the conference, so he may have looked a little lost on his way. That’s when Buck from Wyoming stopped him and had him wait until the other ranchers showed up. Then they escorted him across the street, up the elevators and through the hallways. I’ll bet they talked about cows on the way. That’s the great thing about local officials. They are so friendly and accommodating. Not only those from Iowa, but from every state. I asked Richard if he would go to another one. He thought probably so. It was a great experience. And he learned a lot.

He joined me at the Ag and Rural Affairs Steering Committee which focused on how rural communities can build strong and sustainable regional food systems. I had the pleasure of introducing the first speaker, Kate Clancey, who, with others is working on a study of Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast. She talked about the resilience, or lack thereof, of our current food system. I wondered if FEMA should be involved. Here is the cool thing. Kate knows and works with many of the people I know and have worked with in developing local food systems. Ardith, Gil, and Denise from Atlantic, and Rich Pirog, formerly from the Leopold Center. The next speaker was from USDA’s Ag Marketing Service. Sarah Eckhouse is from the Des Moines area and her parents own La Quercia, where they produce a nationally sold prosciutto. It is in Norwalk, about two blocks from Bill Peterson’s house. Small world, eh? I’ve always thought of food as a great connector of our society. I just never thought it could be to this extent!

Sunday I went to a Human Services Committee where a lady from King County Washington spoke about their new initiative called “Best Starts.” Similar, I suppose to our Early Childhood Iowa efforts. It is funded by a voter-approved 14 cent tax levy. Half of the money goes to early childhood 0 to 5 years, while other funding is for 5 to 24 year-olds. Also, some is set aside for a Healthy Communities project. She and a following speaker talked a lot about early brain development, ACES, which is

By: Melvyn Houser

ISAC NACo Representative
ISAC Past President
Pottawattamie County Supervisor



adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, and the need for good childhood nutrition. I heard some of the same thing later (more about that later) and as soon as I got back home at our Early Childhood/De-Cat meeting. I’m not sure what is causing all these problems, but there are a lot of non-profits and government entities working on solutions.

At the Arts and Culture Commission we learned of a new project called Arts of the Rural. The Rural Policy Research Institute, RuPRI, along with Americans for the Arts is partnering up with various others, including Zach Mannheimer formerly of the Des Moines Social Club and the University of Iowa. Similar things are happening here locally, so I contacted the RC&D in Oakland to tell them about this. Of course, as usual, they are miles ahead of me and are working with them on the project. It is nice to know that efforts are being made to make the rural areas more culturally significant. There is a lot of history and culture that needs preserved and shown. They are establishing three regional networks in Minnesota, Kentucky, and Iowa. The “Rural Placemaking Summit” will be held in Iowa this October.

The general sessions had some great speakers. Among them was Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, a former County Supervisor from Kentucky. He pointed out the need to address the increasing use of opioids in our communities. Michael Botticelli of the White House Drug Policy Council re-emphasized this issue - 47,000 deaths per year are caused by drug overdose. That is 129 per day and greater than automobile and shooting deaths combined. Much of this is caused by the overuse of prescription pain killers. After a patient gets “hooked” they then find the cheaper and more accessible heroin. Unrelated to that issue, Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx talked about our continuing problems with transportation infrastructure. He said our cities are getting too congested. I’m thinking it might help if more people lived in the rural areas. We can make it a nice place.

This is what the Governor of Pennsylvania said at Secretary Vilsack’s Governor’s Summit on Rural Poverty (see more on the page 9). “Don’t just make the people better. They will move. We need to make our place better so they will stay.” On a later panel several of the speakers talked about childhood poverty, good nutrition and early brain development, drug use and how it is up to the locals to address the issue. The First Lady of Virginia summed it up nicely saying that hunger is the enemy.

NACo news - conference recap

Childhood hunger is an adverse childhood experience that has lasting effects not only on the child, but also on the rest of the community. This is the point when “White Rabbit” started running through my head.

Let me back up for a bit. For these panel sessions on hunger and poverty we had a great lunch!

Nice salad, full entree, and a good dessert. I felt a bit of a hypocrite. I’ve attended the Iowa Hunger Summit several times. The first time I got an empty plate. The second time I was served a small cup of rice. My guess is that no one would have attended this summit if that was what was served.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of what a NACo Conference has to offer. It is chock full of workshops, meeting and sessions from which all county officials can learn. Like Richard Crouch said, “If one session doesn’t interest you, you can find one that will.”

So. The Dormouse. After some light research, I learned that the dormouse didn’t really say “Feed your head.” And “White Rabbit” probably had something to do with psychedelic drugs. I don’t know what the hookah smoking caterpillar was smoking, and I suspect that Lewis Carroll was not eating fresh carrots when he wrote “Jabberwocky.” And I don’t suppose any kid ever had an adverse childhood experience weeding the garden or pulling fresh carrots from it.

NACo news

ISAC NACo Representative

NOTICE: Pursuant to the ISAC bylaws, notice is hereby given that ISAC is accepting applications for the position of ISAC NACo (National Association of Counties) representative. The ISAC NACo representative is selected by the ISAC Board of Directors.

The duties of the ISAC NACo representative include attending four NACo Board of Directors meetings a year around the country and representing Iowa on the NACo Board of Directors.

The ISAC NACo representative is automatically a member of the ISAC Board of Directors as well. The ISAC NACo representative will be required to attend nine ISAC Board meetings annually and report to the ISAC Board regarding NACo.

Applicants must be either county officials or county employees. Applicants must be from a county that is a member of NACo.

The term of the ISAC NACo representative is three years, and commences in July 2016 at the conclusion of the NACo Annual Conference. A person may serve a maximum of three terms.

This is an unpaid position. ISAC will reimburse the ISAC NACo representative for all reasonable travel expenses to attend the NACo Board of Directors meetings and ISAC Board of Directors meetings.

Applications are available on the ISAC website at www.iowacounties.org or by calling the ISAC office at 515.244.7181.

Applications must be received by 4:30 pm on April 25, 2016 at the following address or by email:

Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: William R. Peterson, Executive Director
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Email: bpeterson@iowacounties.org

meetings

Cyber-Security Threats and What Can Be Done

You should be concerned with protecting your infrastructure and data from hackers. Hackers break in, steal a bunch of stuff, and suddenly your county is all over the local and national media. Sounds like a really bad day to me.

The problem with this is that these data breaches or “hacks” all look very eventful when the media discusses them. In reality, you probably don’t know that you were breached. Most organizations don’t find out for six months to a year, and those are the companies with multi-million dollar budgets. The Target’s, Home Depot’s and other mega-franchises typically find out from researchers who end up finding credit card or other data for sale on the black market. The black market data is then traced back to the source of the leak. This is a really bad way of identifying breaches, and there needs to be a complete perspective shift from leadership.

The first thing that should be done is to *assume* that you have already been hacked. Seriously. Assume that one of the workstations, desktops, laptops or servers has been compromised. Hackers try their hardest not to get caught, so they write custom software and do their best to cover their tracks. They don’t want this software to get picked up by anti-virus scanners that you run at 3:00 am every day. Sure, superficially you can sleep better at night knowing that Windows Defender is running daily, but that is not going to keep the bad people from getting what they want.

Do you have an accurate inventory of your infrastructure so you can systematically search/secure your assets? Have you hired a professional hacker/team to do an audit/penetration test?

I’m really not trying to be Debbie Downer or Chicken Little but it’s an absolute certainty that there are hundreds of compromised networks throughout local government organizations in Iowa and across the United States, let alone the rest of the world.

The evidence is everywhere. The hack of the Office of Personnel Management was particularly bad, with fingerprint data of 5.6 million federal employees, along with millions of background checks and personnel files of federal employees.

See full story here - <http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/sep/23/us-government-hack-stole-fingerprints>

By: Bryan Seely

Ethical Hacker, Author,
U.S. Marine



What about the Chinese espionage group that was caught hacking defense and industrial targets?

See full story here - <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/05/politics/cyber-espionage-campaign-chinese/index.html>

I myself discovered some pretty big data breaches and was able to notify the various agencies involved. The scariest one was finding information on Defense Intelligence Agency personnel, along with drivers license information, when all of those individuals were not supposed to be identified as DIA personnel.

See full story here - <http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/10/10/which-spies-visited-the-port-of-baltimore/>

The first thing that needs to be done is to get an inventory of every single thing that you have on the internet. Websites, servers, computers, etc. The next thing is to figure out how you can simplify the management of these devices. Security is paramount. It needs to be built into every step of planning, deployment, and management cycles.

Chances are, you don’t have the resources to have a full-time cyber security expert on staff, but you can go find one. They can help you with the roadmap to ensuring your data is safe and that you won’t be run out of town for failing to keep vital information safe.

Bryan will be the keynote speaker at the 2016 Smart Connections Conference being held on April 28 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. He will be focusing his address to local government officials without a background in technology. He’ll also then lead a breakout session of the IT professionals. Find more information about him at www.seelysecurity.com.

All conference information, a full agenda and listing of speakers, and registration is available at www.iowacounties.org.

Come One! Come All! To the Greatest Show on Earth! ...

...as ICIT brings together an amazing show of learning sessions, speakers, networking opportunities, and exhibitors for its Mid-Year Conference this June. Technology continues to evolve at a fast pace. Everyone in county government should do what they can to become the ringmaster of their own technology circus.

With several tracks of sessions, covering a variety of IT and GIS topics, you will be sure to find a topic of interest to you. Such topics will include ArcGIS Online and ESRI's Collector, as well as open source GIS solutions and discussions on creating, maintaining, and sharing GIS data.

Security in county government continues to be a critical issue in our day-to-day business. With this in mind we'll examine numerous security topics, such as cybersecurity, email encryption, and video surveillance, as well as tackling the topic of Active Directory 101 and discussions centered on disaster recovery and emergency response.

A circus-inspired menu will treat us all, as we are surrounded by great friends and knowledgeable colleagues. There are several fun evening activities planned - but we can't reveal what is Under the Big Top!

ICIT welcomes all county technology staff, technology vendors/exhibitors, and anyone else interested in learning more about technology to join us at the conference.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! STEP RIGHT UP!

For more feats of amazement visit: www.icitmidyear.com.



2016 ICIT Mid-Year Conference

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ISAC Board Meeting Summary - February 12, 2016

President McCalmant called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The January 22, 2016 ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes and the February 3, 2016 ISAC Executive Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Jeanine Scott gave a history of the Iowa County Attorney Case Management Project (ICACMP) analysis of the Prolaw Software Project. A workgroup for the Project has asked Iowa Counties Technology Services (ICTS) for a proposal for the support of the program. She also discussed ICTS providing support for Precinct Atlas. Two proposals were reviewed and discussed by the Board at length – scenario one included the support of Precinct Atlas and ICACMP and scenario two included only ICACMP. The Board approved the concept of ICTS supporting ICACMP and Precinct Atlas unanimously and requested more information on clear governance and funding structures.

Brad Holtan reviewed the financial statements for the seven months ending on January 31, 2016. He highlighted registration numbers for the 2014 Fall School that was held in Des Moines (central) and the 2015 Fall School that was held in Cedar Rapids (east) and noted that there wasn't much of a difference. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

Brad provided a listing of staff credit cards with corresponding credit limits. The Board unanimously approved the ISAC Credit Card Authorization Resolution as presented.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an update on legal matters.

Jeanine gave an update on CSN and IT activities as well as a presentation on how managed care is affecting CSN.

Bill Peterson presented the proposed ISAC budget for FY 2017 that was recommended by the ISAC Executive Committee. He reviewed significant income and expenditure adjustments and the summary of required actions:

- County dues set at \$5,700 per county an increase of \$200.
- Fall conference registration fees increased by \$20 to \$200/registrant.
- Authorize a 2.5% increase in the staff salary line item – each additional 0.5% increase in salary costs \$5,821 in staff salary line item.

- Approve change in employer contribution to family health insurance cost.
- Salary adjustment for Executive Director recommended increase of 2.5%.
- Authorize video funding of \$15,000.

The Board discussed the recommendations at length, and unanimously approved and recommended to the full membership the FY 2017 ISAC budget.

Grant Veeder was recognized and thanked for his Lincoln Letters series of articles that has been published in *The Iowa County magazine* for several years.

Rachel Bennett reviewed a schedule of activities for the Iowan's attending the 2016 NACo Legislative Conference. She also gave an update on County Day at the Capitol being held on Wednesday, March 9 and reported on the exhibitors and sponsors for the Spring School. Kelsey Sebern reviewed the conference board scenario.

Brad presented a series of management trainings that we held in each of ISAC's six districts in May and June. Limited registration will begin and more information will be disseminated in mid-March.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken gave an update on the ISAC legislative priorities, objectives, and issues of concern to counties.

President McCalmant reviewed the results of the Scholarship Selection Committee. Awards will be presented during the Spring School General Session. She also reviewed the ISAC Board committee appointments.

President McCalmant adjourned the Board following board members sharing issues, concerns, ideas, achievements, etc. with other board members.



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2016 calendar

April 2016

- 12 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
- 14 ISAC HIPAA Program Training
(Courtyard by Marriott - Ankeny)
- 17-20 ISSDA Civil School
(Holiday Inn Airport)
- 28 Smart Connection Conference
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)
- 29 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

May 2016

- 17-20 Treasurer's Summer School
(Arrowood Resort & Conference Center,
Okoboji)

June 2016

- 15-17 ICIT Midyear Conference
(West Des Moines Marriott)
- 21-23 Records Summer School
(Honey Creek Resort, Moravia)

July 2016

- 7 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 13-15 ISACA Summer School Conference
(West Des Moines Sheraton)
- 22-25 NACo Annual Conference
(Long Beach, CA)

August 2016

- 25-26 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Hotel Renovo, Urbandale)
- 31 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)

September 2016

- 18-21 ISSDA Jail School
(Holiday Inn Airport)
- 21-23 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Linn County)
- 29 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office)

October 2016

- 27-28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

November 2016

- 30-2 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Veteran's Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des
Moines)

December 2016

- 4-7 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 6-8 ICEA Annual Conference
(Scheman Building, Ames)
- 14 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

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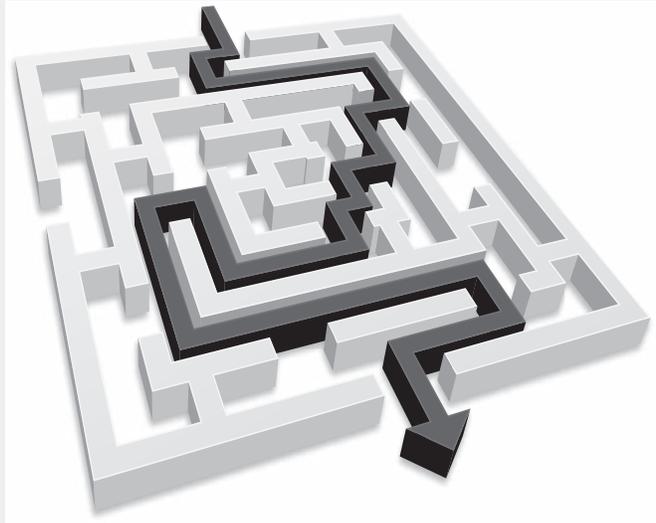
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