

## IOWA IS RENOWNED FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES.

And the counties comprising Western Iowa Advantage are no exception.

With a graduation rate of over 96 percent and higher proficiency test results compared to the state averages, our educators, parents and students work together to make education a priority. Small class sizes, opportunities for advanced studies, partnerships with businesses and strong extracurricular programs provide the advantages students need to prepare for their futures.

### Quality preschool and K-12

Numerous preschool and K-12 schools, both public and private, are found among the area's towns and cities. More than 18,000 children attend 80 public and private schools in the region. Like all of Iowa, the schools are equipped with fiber optics to provide Web service and enable computer lab instruction. Children receive the modern educational support necessary to grow and excel as they embark on the next stage of their lives. Academic excellence is coupled with numerous opportunities in music, sports, drama, arts, speech, civic leadership and more. Serving the education needs of children in the Western Iowa Advantage region are:

- 38 elementary schools
- 16 middle schools
- 26 high schools
- 8 private schools

### Raising the bar through higher education

Five community colleges are either within the member counties or an easy commute away, as are Iowa's three regent universities. In fact, the University of Northern Iowa and the Carroll campus of Des Moines Area Community College join in the state's only collaborative teacher education degree-granting program between a community college and a regent university.

The area's reputable colleges and universities cater to a significantly high nontraditional student base — providing opportunities for those students returning to school for personal and professional growth. Nearby

colleges offer programs in nursing, business, law, engineering, numerous fields of bioscience and more. Support for local businesses is available via training programs offered at area colleges.

### ➔ QUALITY EDUCATION ADDS TO QUALITY OF LIFE.

“What most people don't realize is the impact that results from having both a private and a public school in a smaller community.”

After 10 years in Des Moines, John Steffes decided to go back to school and pursue a teaching career. He never dreamed it would lead him back to his hometown of Carroll. Yet that's exactly what happened soon after he received his teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa. “A job opened up at Kuemper Catholic Schools in Carroll, which was perfect because my wife and I had been talking about raising our own children in a smaller community with good schools.” Twelve years later, as the Development Director for the Kuemper Foundation, John couldn't be happier with his decision. “I'm proud of Carroll and the fact that everyone talks about our great schools. What most people don't realize is the impact that results from having both a private and a public school in a smaller community. There's good 'competition,' and a private school also contributes to property tax relief for all residents.”

