






August 2011 Spotlight

TIME TO VOTE

This month's Spotlight will focus on the candidates running for the ITAG board. Take a moment to find out about the people who are willing to donate their time. You will find the link to vote electronically at the bottom of the biographies. There is also a survey question attached to the ballot seeking your opinion on the Newsletter. Make sure your voice is heard on that issue. Please remember, only ITAG members can vote. Voting will be open from August 18th to September 30th at 5:00 pm.

	<p>Barbara Butler has been teaching gifted students in Sioux City for the past 19 years. Most of her experience has been at the middle school level; however, she has worked with students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Throughout the years with the Sioux City TAG Department, she has been involved with writing curriculum, developing Standards and Benchmarks, mentoring new TAG teachers, testing students, and designing TAG informational materials. In addition, she served on the State Accreditation Review Panel and the district TAG Review Committee. She received her BS from Iowa State University and her MA/Reading Specialist from Morningside College and has taken TAG classes from Drake University.</p>
	<p>Board Member Claudia Koch has been involved in the field of gifted education for more than 25 years. She received a B.S. from Southern Illinois University in 1970 and an M.A. in Gifted Education from Western Illinois University in 1990. Claudia recently retired after serving for 18 years as the PreK-12 Gifted Coordinator at the West Bend-Mallard Community School District. She also served as the High School Gifted Coordinator for the Twin River Valley High School. Claudia is a member of NAGC, ITAG and Lakeland TAG, an ITAG Affiliate serving both gifted professionals and gifted children in North Central Iowa. She has held several offices in that organization. Claudia has also taught several gifted classes.</p>
	<p>Board Member Matt Robie is a middle school talented and gifted teacher for the Ankeny Community School District, teaching gifted sixth and seventh graders at Prairie Ridge Middle School. He received his B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa, and his Masters Degree in Education from Michigan State University. Matt holds endorsements in K-12 TAG, K-8 Reading, K-8 Science, and Coaching. Professional areas of interest include problem-based learning, academic acceleration, and the promotion of science and technology in elementary and middle school gifted education. Matt has served as an ITAG Board Member since 2007, and currently serves as editor of the ITAG News Magazine. He is also an instructor for Drake University, teaching Differentiated Instruction for Gifted Learners and Gifted Learners: Math Strategies as part of the TAG Endorsement program.</p>



Linda Telleen Martens currently serves as the Talented and Gifted Coordinator for the Ames Community School District and is an Ames High School ELP instructor. In the last 12 years Linda has helped develop and implement a new ELP program for the Ames Community School District. Linda has been involved in the field of gifted education for the past 25 years. She facilitates gifted education staff development locally and for other school districts. Linda began the TAG program at Paton-Churdan and developed the secondary TAG program at Prairie Valley. While at Prairie Valley, Linda's students started one of the first student-based internet businesses serving several state organizations as well as local businesses. Linda has presented at numerous state conferences and serves on committees at the district and state level. Linda holds a Master's degree from Iowa State University with an emphasis in gifted education.



Felicia Twit has been a K-6 Extended Learning Program teacher in West Des Moines for the past 15 years. She currently facilitates gifted and talented programming at two elementary schools. She holds a Master's in Effective Teaching from Drake University and an Administrative Endorsement from Iowa State along with a TAG endorsement from University of Iowa. She participated in developing the framework for Heartland AEA's Gifted and Talented Academy. She is a consultant for Kendall Hunt Publishing and provides training to teachers around the U.S. on their gifted math curriculum: Project M3 and Project M2. She has presented at several ITAG conferences on Resources that Work and her Mentoring Program: Gifted Kids Mentoring Gifted Kids. Her focus is advocating for parents of gifted and gifted students. Felicia is a trained facilitator for the SENG model, teaching parenting classes in her area.



Board Member **Doreen Underwood** has been a Talented and Gifted (TAG) Facilitator in both elementary and intermediate schools in the Davenport Community School District (DCSD) for the past seven years. She received her Master of Arts degree in School Counseling with a gifted emphasis from the University of Iowa in 2010. Prior to working in the DCSD, she taught K-6 gifted students for 9 years in the Anamosa Community School District. During 6 of those years, she was also the program coordinator for the K-12 Extended Learning Program (ELP). Doreen received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa and received her TAG Endorsement from the University of Iowa. In the last 3 years on the ITAG board she has served as the assistant editor of the ITAG Newsletter. She has also presented on the affective needs of gifted learners at the 2004 and 2010 ITAG Conference. In December 2007 she had an article she co-authored published in the 2e Newsletter on Meeting the Affective and Academic Needs of Gifted Students with Asperger's Syndrome. In 2009 she served on a panel discussion for Twice Exceptional Students at the Wallace Symposium.

Voting Link: <http://survey.aea.k12.ia.us/survey/94194/9753/>