

Dr. Steven D. Schulz

NIACC President



Dr. Steven D. Schulz

Dr. Steve Schulz officially began his duties as the President of North Iowa Area Community College on December 1, 2013. Prior to coming to NIACC, Dr. Schulz served as the Provost at Des Moines Area Community College, Carroll campus. From 2004 to 2006, he was the 2 + 2 Coordinator at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. From 2000 to 2004, he was the Superintendent of the Carroll Community School District.

Dr. Schulz received his Bachelor's degree in History from Wartburg College in Waverly, his Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Northern Iowa, his Education Specialist Degree from Drake University in Des Moines, and his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Iowa State University.

Dr. Schulz grew up in Franklin County. He and his wife, Cathie, have two daughters, Lindsey and Caitlyn.

O. Jay and Patricia Tomson

Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs



O. Jay and Patricia Tomson

O. Jay and Patricia are principal shareholders of First Citizens Financial Corporation, which in turn owns First Citizens National Bank. The bank has assets in excess of \$1 billion and serves eight North Iowa communities.

O. Jay has a lifelong career in community banking. He has served as President of both the State and National community bank trade associations and was also a Class A Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. An active champion of higher education, O. Jay served as a Regent on the boards of St. Olaf and Wartburg Colleges for twenty-five years combined.

Patricia holds a Master's Degree in Family Counseling from the University of Northern Iowa. She was employed by Lutheran Social Services of Iowa and also served on its board. For a number of years, she was involved in private practice as a family counselor, working principally with abused children and related family members. She has served as President of the Mason City Family YMCA, has been actively involved in fundraising, and is a recipient of the Willis Patton Leadership Award. Patricia is the Executive Director of the First Citizens National Bank Charitable Foundation.

Eugene and Mary Sukup

Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs



Eugene and Mary Sukup

Eugene Sukup started Sukup Manufacturing Company in 1963 in a small welding shop in Sheffield, Iowa. Today, it is a multimillion-dollar, international company employing around 600 people from the North Iowa area. Eugene Sukup currently serves as Chairman of the Board of this family-owned manufacturer of grain bins and dryers, material handling equipment, and pre-engineered metal buildings. His wife, Mary, serves as Corporate Secretary.

Eugene's current professional and community leadership positions include the National Steering Committee for the Concordia Seminary "How Will They Hear?" Campaign, Bankers Trust of Des Moines board member, as well as a major supporter of the Hampton Community Christian Day Care, Roots & Wings, and the Simon Estes Iowa Educational Foundation, Inc. In addition, he has been a member of Farm Bureau, Iowa Association of Business & Industry, National Association of Manufacturers, Trinity Lutheran Church – Hampton, and the US Chamber of Commerce. He has received the Iowa Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award, Farm Bureau Federation Renew Rural Iowa Award, Governor's New Product Award, Sheffield Outstanding Citizen Award, and was inducted into the Iowa Business Hall of Fame and the Iowa Inventors Hall of Fame.

Eugene, Mary, and the entire Sukup family are committed to their roots and keeping the company located right where it is; in rural America. They are also helping future generations succeed by providing scholarships to the children of Sukup employees who are continuing their education after high school.

The Sukups are devoted to supporting local communities and regularly donate time, energy, and resources to many worthwhile causes including the Sheffield Care Center, Deer Field Place Assisted Living, a gazebo in the Sheffield City Park, a major bridge and hard surfacing project on the new 4-mile bike trail in the Sheffield area, and Relay for Life. The Safe-T-Homes, manufactured by Sukup Manufacturing Co., have been a very successful project to supply a steel home for use in a warmer climate like Haiti with 100 homes being built there and in other countries by Global Compassion Network. The Sukups are also enthusiastic supporters of Iowa State University. The family makes an annual contribution to the Franklin County Fair and surrounding community celebrations; their generosity extends across Iowa, the United States, and the world.

Vicki and Gary Wattnem

Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs



Vicki and Gary Wattnem

Vicki Wattnem has been a stay-at-home mother during most of the years that their daughters were growing up. After that, she went back to work as a part-time beautician working at a number of salons in Mason City and retired 6 years ago. She has served on the Council at Trinity Lutheran Church, is active in PEO, volunteers for a number of organizations and has assisted in various capital campaigns in the Mason City community.

Gary Wattnem worked for Reichert Technologies for 35 years and retired two years ago as the Director of Sales for the Americas where he had responsibility for sales in North and South America. He also spent time serving in the Active Army and Army Reserve for 35 years and retired as a Major General in 2004. His final assignment was the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics on the Army Staff at the Pentagon.

He is currently a consultant for the ophthalmic instrument industry, serves on the Mason City Airport Commission, the Iowa Veterans Commission, is a member of the Vets4Energy National Council, and is the U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Iowa. He has served on boards at Trinity Lutheran Church, participated in a number of capital campaigns in the community, and is a member of Kiwanis in addition to numerous military and community organizations.

David Steffens, Jr.

Campaign Co-Chair



David Steffens, Jr.

David Steffens, Jr., started Norsemen Trucking, Inc., with his father in 1979 in Waseca, Minnesota. It has evolved over the years from a small local-haul trucking company to a national long-haul trucking firm. It is currently headquartered in Lake Mills, Iowa, with a terminal located in Waseca, Minnesota. In addition, Steffens is president of Norsemen Specialized Division, Inc. (a transportation brokerage service), Norsemen Outdoors, Inc. (sporting goods equipment), Lake Mills Investors, Ltd. (a real estate holding company), and The Perfect Circle Corporation (organic greenhouses). He is vice president of Norsemen Transportation, Inc. (transportation) and Leading Edge Development Services (real estate development and construction management), and a managing member of Forest Plaza, LC (real estate development).

Current Board positions include the North Iowa Area Community College Board of Trustees (president), the Perfect Circle Corporation Board of Directors (president), and a member of the Board of Managers for the North Iowa Venture Capital Fund I.

Steffens obtained a degree in pre-engineering and business from Mankato State University. He has been a member of the Lake Mills Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Mills Development Group, the Lake Mills Ambulance Service, Lions Club, Winnebago County Enterprise Zone Commission, and the Rice Lake Chapter of The Izaak Walton League.