

ISU Sesquicentennial Celebration, Hull, Iowa

Good evening. Four years ago my predecessor, Stan Johnson, was here in Hull celebrating the 100th anniversary of a group of Sioux County farmers who were forward thinking enough to bring the land-grant college to the people. It's interesting to note that Perry G. Holden of Iowa State College, the Sioux County Farmers' Institute, and the Sioux County Board of Supervisors were about 14 years ahead of the Smith Lever Act. The way I figure it, 14 years back then would be about the equivalent of 98 dog-years in today's warp-speed society. I'd say that 98 years is pretty forward-thinking, wouldn't you?

But more importantly, Perry G. Holden and the Sioux County Farmers' Institute first undertaking of improving farmers' seed corn started a movement that spread over Iowa and the Corn Belt, and it laid the foundation for ISU Extension.

It's a special honor for me to be able to come to Hull to express my own appreciation. Extension started as an idea that the people of this town helped to create: to bring the knowledge and expertise of agricultural researchers to Iowans in the rural northwest part of the state who couldn't make it down to the university.

Today it's only fitting that we return to our roots here in Hull to celebrate another special anniversary: the Iowa State University Sesquicentennial. Iowa State University is proud to be the first land-grant institution in the nation and is pleased to celebrate its 150th birthday in Hull. The 150th birthday of Iowa State University holds special significance not only because of the great work that has gone before us, but because of **the great things to come**. ISU is Iowa's STATE University and our mission commits us to serving the people of Iowa and **that means that we must continue to be forward thinking and to be in synch with Iowan's values**. And Extension, a concept whose foundation was laid right here in Hull, has been at the forefront of taking our research to the citizens of our state.

To commemorate our first 150 years, Extension offices are coordinating Iowa State Sesquicentennial service projects all over the state this summer and fall. These projects are a lasting legacy of our appreciation to you, the taxpayers of each county.

As we celebrate ISU's illustrious past, please bear in mind that your continued input is the key to our future. It keeps us in sync with Iowans and it helps us provide relevant programs and research.

So, I thank the Sioux County office of ISU Extension for its hard work in organizing this project and today's activities, and for bringing me to the birthplace of Extension.

It is the university's goal to participate in a service project in every Iowa county and to mark this effort with a sesquicentennial commemorative plaque as a lasting legacy to this milestone in our history.

As Iowa State's official ambassador today and on behalf of President Geoffroy, I hereby present this project plaque to the people of Sioux County in tribute to your support and partnership with Iowa State University.

Thank you.

On August 1, 2007, Jack Payne presented to Sioux County a Sesquicentennial plaque on behalf of ISU. It was installed alongside a special marker commemorating the birthplace of Extension:

Honoring the creative thinking of the Sioux County farmers, a visionary college professor named Perry Holden, and the Sioux County Board of Directors, who in 1903 in Hull, Iowa, developed a new system of agricultural education, first through demonstration and later general education.

This is the birthplace of Extension.

Presented by Iowa State University Extension Sioux County