

**Urbandale Announces Retirement Of Superintendent Dr. Doug Stilwell**

*Following 10 years of service in the UCSD, 35 total years in public education, Superintendent Dr. Doug Stilwell will retire effective June 30, 2015*

**URBANDALE, Iowa – December 17, 2014** – On December 12, 2014, the [Urbandale Community School District](#) (UCSD) Board of Directors announced the retirement of Superintendent Dr. Doug Stilwell effective June 30, 2015. Throughout his 10 years in Urbandale, Stilwell served as Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. Prior to joining the UCSD, Stilwell served as a Principal and Teacher within the West Des Moines Community School District, having also taught in the Storm Lake and Estherville Community Districts.

“To say that we are grateful for the leadership Dr. Stilwell has provided our district over the past 10 years, 35 total years in public education, is an understatement,” said Chris Gunnare, President of the Board of Directors. “Of all the roles he has served in our district, his greatest role has always been that of a true leader. Dr. Stilwell used his influence to empower others to be successful—to become even more than they thought possible.”

Under Stilwell’s guidance, UCSD has taken profound steps toward [transforming education](#) in order to re-engage learners and help them feel a greater sense of purpose in their learning. He has been instrumental in the implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan that guides the district’s work in order to improve student achievement and increase joy in learning, teaching, and leading. Stilwell’s dedication and leadership of Quality and Continual Improvement has resulted in over 90% of staff implementing continuous improvement practices, a graduation rate above 98% and the highest achievement scores the district has seen for over a decade.

“It has been a true honor and pleasure to serve as Superintendent of the Urbandale Community School District,” said Stilwell. “From parents to staff to school board, high-quality and meaningful learning are a top priority.”

One of the top priorities for the Board of Directors is to conduct an extensive search for Stilwell’s replacement. Stilwell has set the bar high and the Board will ensure the baton is passed to a candidate that will help the district continue to accomplish high levels of student and staff achievement. The Board will be working diligently to ensure a seamless transition for students, staff, and families.

**About Urbandale Community School District**

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative

[Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: [www.UrbandaleSchools.com](http://www.UrbandaleSchools.com)

Urbandale Community School District  
11152 Aurora Avenue  
Urbandale, IA 50322

**Contact:**

Dena Soenke  
Communications Partner  
Urbandale Community School District  
[soenked@urbandaleschools.com](mailto:soenked@urbandaleschools.com)  
(515) 868-1879

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