

Voices

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT CENTER FOR WOMEN AND POLITICS

Former CEO Carly Fiorina to Speak as Smith Chair on Nov. 17

Carly Fiorina, the former chair and CEO of Hewlett-Packard, will visit Iowa State University on Monday, Nov. 17, as the Fall 2008 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics.

Still the only woman to lead a Fortune 20 company, Fiorina will present “Tough Choices: Women, Leadership and Power” at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. She will discuss her memoir, “Tough Choices,” which details the personal story behind the public persona of her rise to power as a young woman in a male-dominated profession. The event is free and open to the public.

“The goal of the Catt Center is to bring in a diversity of voices from women leaders, and we are excited to host Carly Fiorina not only because of her experiences in the business world but also because of her recent work with John McCain’s presidential campaign and her philanthropic foundation,” said Dianne Bystrom,



director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. “Plus, she has recently published a book that we find interesting.”

As chairman and CEO at Hewlett-Packard from 1999-2005, Fiorina led a reinvention of the company by steering it through the dot-com bust, the worst technology recession in 25 years, and a controversial merger with Compaq Computer—now acknowledged to be the most successful merger in high-tech history. The merger laid the foundation for HP to become the first \$100 billion info tech company, creating leadership positions for the company in every product line and every country.

Fiorina wrote about the merger in her *New York Times* and international bestselling memoir, saying “It was a made-for-television drama complete with a reluctant, slightly ruffled good guy battling valiantly to save his father’s legacy and protect the little people pitted against a possibly wicked, definitely ego-driven, controlling woman determined to have her own way.”

In February of this year, Tom Peters—a critically acclaimed author on business management practices best known for his book “In Search of Excellence”—named Fiorina 2007 CEO of the Year, referencing Hewlett-Packard’s breakthrough post-merger performance.

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Alumni Association Honors Catt Center

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics was honored by the Iowa State Alumni Association as one of three recipients of its annual Impact Award. Awards were presented at the 77th Annual Honors and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 24.

The Alumni Association board of directors established this award in 2002 to recognize individuals, businesses, organizations or units whose programs or accomplishments brought broad recognition to the university and increased the involvement of ISU constituents in the life of the university during the year prior to being nominated. Up to three awards are granted annually.

The Catt Center was nominated for the Impact Award by Dave Gieseke, executive director of communications for the ISU Foundation. “In the Iowa Caucus year of 2007, the Catt Center was front and center in any number of election-related activities,” he wrote, including:

- The bipartisan *Ready to Run*TM campaign school, which was held in June 2007 to encourage more Iowa women to run for political office, work on a political campaign, or get involved in public service.
- A presentation on women and leadership by Democratic presidential candidate

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“When people have stereotypes of what you can’t do, show them what you can do,” said Fiorina during a May 2005 speech. “When they have stereotypes of what you won’t do, show them what you will do. Every time you resist someone else’s smaller notion of who you really are, you test your courage and your endurance. Each time you endure, and stay true to yourself, you become stronger and better.”

Prior to HP, Fiorina rose through the ranks at AT&T and Lucent Technologies over a 20-year span, leading the initial public offering of Lucent—at the time, the largest IPO in history—and becoming president of its largest business.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, she served as chair of Victory ’08 and as a senior economic adviser to Republican candidate McCain. Fiorina also is the chair of the Fiorina Foundation, a philanthropic organization. In that capacity, she chairs the One Woman Initiative, a fund for women’s empowerment, and is a founding partner of the African Leadership Academy. She also serves as a member of the Defense Business Board and the Advisory Group for Transformational Diplomacy for the Department of State.

Fiorina is the 18th prominent woman leader to visit Iowa State under sponsorship of the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics, which was established in 1995 to honor the Iowa native and longtime political leader. Smith was the first and only woman to chair the Republican National Party (1974-1977).

Additional information on the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women in Politics, including a complete list of the past speakers, is available at: <http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/smithchair.shtml>.

Catt Center Honored continued from page 1

Hillary Clinton in October 2007 as the 16th woman leader to visit Iowa State as the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics. Clinton spoke to more than 1,500 at Stephens Auditorium and continued to reference that talk in her campaign stops throughout the state until the January 2008 Iowa Caucus. The Catt Center has brought to campus every woman running for either the Democratic or Republican nomination for president since the chair was established in 1995.

- An educational workshop in November 2007 to help citizens prepare for the 2008 Iowa Caucus. The workshop featured representatives from the Republican and Democratic parties, who explained their caucus process, and ended with a resource fair with representatives from most of the presidential campaigns.

- Media interviews with Center director Dianne Bystrom, who was quoted in more than 200 newspaper and Internet articles and television and radio broadcasts in the 12 months leading up to the Iowa Caucus.

In addition to these election-related activities, the Catt Center publicly launched a Web-based Archives of Women’s Political Communication; distributed thousands of “Women Impacting ISU” calendars; and spearheaded the approval of a new interdisciplinary certificate program in community leadership and public service in 2007.

Letters in support of the nomination were written by College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Whiteford; Mike Ferlazzo, communications specialist, News Services; and Sharon Wirth, former president of the Ames League of Women Voters.

“I can think of no other campus department that has had as big of an



Catt Center staff members, Chris Fowler (left), Julie Snyder-Yuly, Robin Gogerty and Dianne Bystrom, wait on stage with the other awardees.

impact on Iowa State University in 2007,” Whiteford wrote. “The Iowa Caucuses typically provide the state with its greatest visibility opportunity and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics contributed greatly to that event in 2007—both in terms of service to the community and related media exposure,” Ferlazzo wrote. “The impact of the (2007 *Ready to Run*[™] campaign school) will be felt for years to come,” Wirth wrote.

In addition to Bystrom, director of the Catt Center since 1996, staff members are Julie Snyder-Yuly, a 10-year employee now serving as assistant director; Chris Fowler, who has served as student program coordinator for three years; and Robin Gogerty, administrative assistant, who joined the Center in 2006.

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Center Spearheads New Certificate Program in Community Leadership and Public Service

A new interdisciplinary certificate program in Community Leadership and Public Service will be offered to undergraduate students at Iowa State University beginning in Spring 2009.

The certificate program was proposed by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics in cooperation with the Public Policy and Administration program (Department of Political Science), the Speech Communication program (Department of English) and the Division of Student Affairs. After a year of review by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate, the Executive Vice President and Provost and President, the program was officially approved on Oct. 20, 2008.

The interdisciplinary certificate program utilizes university courses offered in a variety of academic disciplines to provide a strong foundation and appropriate experiences for undergraduate students who plan to become community leaders and engage

in public service—regardless of their profession—in the public, nonprofit or private sectors. All six undergraduate degree colleges at Iowa State—including 18 academic departments—and the Division of Student Affairs are contributing courses to the program.

The program requires the completion of 21 credit hours through three, three-hour required courses in leadership, speech communication and public administration; a three-hour elective course in communication; six hours of elective courses in leadership; and a three-hour capstone experience through a course, internship or study abroad experience.

The certificate will be awarded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Completion of the certificate will be noted on the student's transcript and via a certificate provided by the Registrar. Enrollment in the leadership certificate program is limited to 20 entering students per academic year, with

applications reviewed twice each year. Selection will be based on current and past leadership experiences; previous leadership education and training; academic performance; and, most important, how completion of the certificate program will add value to the student's major/minor areas of study and future leadership goals.

The certificate program will be administered through the Catt Center with oversight from a newly appointed Community Leadership and Public Service Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of one representative each from the Catt Center, Public Policy and Administration, Speech Communication and Student Affairs and one representative from another participating department.

For additional information about the certificate program in Community Leadership and Public Service, please contact the Catt Center at 515-294-3181 or cattcenter@iastate.edu.

Kunin Hopes to Inspire Future Women Leaders During Her Visit as Smith Chair

Speaking to a crowd of 200 on April 24, Madeleine Kunin, former three-term governor of Vermont and ambassador to Switzerland, discussed what it took to be a woman leader in politics. After working for years in politics, Kunin is looking forward to inspiring the next generation of women leaders.

Speaking candidly about the role of women in politics, Kunin reiterated that



Kunin speaks at Iowa State on April 24.

Iowa was one of the few states that hasn't elected a woman to Congress or as a governor. She also expressed her disappointment that her election as governor of Vermont in 1984 didn't usher in larger numbers of women seeking leadership roles.

"I thought there would be a whole parade of women marching behind me - as I looked over my shoulder there were some, but they canceled the parade," she said. "There was no audience, there was no band playing."

Although disappointed that the number of women in leadership positions hasn't dramatically increased, she is optimistic about youth leadership. Kunin expressed how impressed she was with the active role of today's youth in the current presidential election. "What I see in this election is that this generation has

recaptured something that we older folks thought had been lost," said Kunin.

Following her presentation, Kunin autographed her book, *Pearls, Politics, and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead*, and visited with guests at the lecture.

Kunin has received numerous awards for her work on the environment, education and human services. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and master's degrees in journalism from Columbia University and English literature from the University of Vermont.

Kunin was the 17th prominent woman leader to visit Iowa State under sponsorship of the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics, which was established in 1995 to honor the Iowa native and longtime political leader.

Calendar Recognizes Women's Leadership at Iowa State

Twelve women whose leadership has made a difference at Iowa State University will be honored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics on the third annual "Women Impacting ISU" calendar.

More than 1,000 copies of the 2009 calendar will be distributed free after an official unveiling and recognition reception on Friday, Dec. 5, 2008. The "Women Impacting ISU" calendars will be formatted as a large poster with a 2009 calendar. The poster will include photographs of the six students and six faculty and staff members who were selected based on their achievements in administration, teaching, research, service and various other campus activities.

Funding for the calendar is provided by a mini-grant from the Women's Enrichment Fund administered by the Women's Leadership Consortium and made available through the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

The Catt Associates, a student leadership organization affiliated with the Catt Center, sponsors the calendar. Members of Catt Associates publicize and collect the nominations; organize the recognition reception; and help design, order and distribute the calendars. A committee comprised of representatives of the Catt Associates, Catt Center and previous calendar honorees selected the 2009 recipients.

"We received more than 70 letters of nomination for some 50 different individuals this year, so it's clear that

interest is growing in this annual recognition of women's leadership at Iowa State," said Greta Johnson, a junior political science major and one of two Catt Associates who served on the selection committee. "The committee was impressed with the overall quality of the nominations and enjoyed reading about the truly amazing women leaders on this campus."

Students honored on the 2009 calendar are: Emily Jensen, graduate student in educational leadership and policy studies; Danielle Simmons, graduate student in counseling psychology; Nicole Bell, senior in construction engineering; Maggie Luttrell, senior in history and women's studies; Brionni McGriff, senior in political science, sociology and international studies; and Megan Savaia Ortiz, senior in psychology.

Faculty and staff selected are: Kristen Constant, associate professor of materials science and engineering; Carla Espinoza, associate vice president for Human Resource Services and director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity; Suzanne Hendrich, professor of food science and human nutrition; Julie Larson, director of outreach and events for the Iowa State Alumni Association; Gail Romberger Nonnecke, university professor of horticulture; and Jenn Plagman-Galvin, assistant dean of students/director of Greek Affairs.

Dave Gieseke, executive director of communications for the Iowa State University Foundation, served as the photographer and Sheena Lara, graphic designer for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will design and format the 2009 calendar.

Proposals Sought for 2008 Catt Prize for Research

Proposals for the 2008 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics will be accepted by the Catt Center through a postmark deadline of Nov. 15.

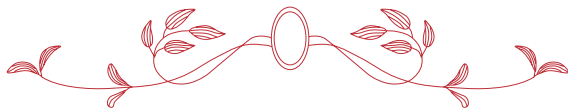
This annual competition is designed to encourage and reward scholars embarking on significant research in the area of women and politics. The prize includes a \$1,000 cash award for each project selected. Honorable mention prizes of \$500 per project are sometimes given.

Proposals for the 2008 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics must be postmarked by Nov. 15. Research projects submitted for prize consideration can address any topic related to women and politics—American, international and/or comparative in focus. Scholars at any level, including graduate students and junior faculty members, can apply.

"The Catt Center is pleased to continue this tradition of supporting a diversity of research on women and politics," said Dianne Bystrom, director. "Many of the projects supported by the prize have resulted in journal articles, book chapters and books."

Awards will be announced in January 2009. Winners of the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics are to acknowledge their honor when their research results are published and to transmit one copy of each publication for the Center's archives.

For more detailed information on submissions or for information on past recipients, please visit the Center's website at: www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/cattprize.shtml or contact us by phone at 515-294-3181 or email at cattcntr@iastate.edu.



Carrie Chapman Catt Center to Offer *Ready to Run*TM Campaign Training School in April 2009

Although women comprise the majority of Iowa's population and its voters, Iowa's record of electing women to federal, state and local political office lags behind the nation in many respects.

To help reverse this trend, plans are underway for the 2009 *Ready to Run*TM: campaign training school for women sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the League of Women Voters of Ames. *Ready to Run*TM will take place on Friday, April 3, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Scheman Center at the Iowa State Center in Ames.

"We partnered with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and the Ames League of Women Voters to offer our first *Ready to Run*TM workshop in 2007," said Dianne Bystrom, Catt Center director. "It was very successful, and the Catt Center has made the commitment to offer this workshop every other year in hopes of increasing the representation of

Iowa women in local, state and national office."

This non-partisan training program is for anyone considering seeking public office, working on a campaign, or becoming more involved politically. It presents a unique opportunity for potential candidates to hear directly from prominent elected and appointed women leaders, campaign consultants and party officials about how to get *Ready to Run*TM.

The training program will cover topics such as positioning yourself for public office, developing a campaign plan, fund-raising, interactive media training, and navigating political parties.

An advisory board has been established to help plan the 2009 workshop. "We are delighted that so many talented women, from both major political parties, have given their time and expertise to help us plan our 2009 campaign school," Bystrom said.

*Ready to Run*TM Advisory Board members include: Staci Appel, State Senator; Elizabeth Baird and Sharon Wirth, League of Women Voters of Ames; Dianne Bystrom and Julie Snyder-Yuly, Carrie Chapman Catt Center; Eve Doi, Ames Chamber of Commerce; Lisa Heddens, State Representative; Chris Hensley, Des Moines City Council; Libby Jacobs, State Representative; Karen Slifka, Lincoln Strategies; MaryAnn Spicer, Polk County Republican Women; Marisa Stadlman, Iowa Secretary of State's office; and Kelly Dauplaise Thornburg, Iowa N.E.W Leadership.

*Ready to Run*TM was established by the Center for American Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the League of Women Voters of Ames have adapted this program to encourage women in Iowa to seek public office.

Catt Center Recognizes Recent Achievements of Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends

We are pleased to recognize the professional and academic achievements of alumni, staff, supporters and students of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.

Dianne Bystrom (Catt Center director) is working on research comparing the early newspaper coverage of Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama in the months leading up to the January 2008 Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary. She presented some of the results of the content analysis at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in a paper titled, "Gender and U.S. Presidential Politics: Early Newspaper Coverage of Hillary Clinton's Bid for the White House," on Aug. 29 in Boston. She will present additional findings of her research in a paper, "A Tale of Two States: Newspaper Coverage of Hillary Clinton's Presidential Candidacy in Iowa

and New Hampshire," on Nov. 21 during the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in San Diego. Bystrom has been interviewed about this research project by several state and national media, including Gannett News Service.

Greta Johnson (Rodine Intern, Legacy of Heroines Scholar and Catt Associate) was appointed by Iowa Governor Chet Culver to the State Board of Regents. She has served as a page for the Iowa Legislature and has held leadership positions at Iowa State, including the Alice Rodine Internship in Community Activism and the Political Science Alumni Legacy of Heroines Scholarship at the Catt Center. She is a junior from LeMars, IA, majoring in political science.

Emily Kuster (Legacy of Heroines Scholar and Catt Associate) was honored with the Tze-Yen Teoh Sophomore

Leadership Award from the College of Engineering for her leadership and community service efforts on and off campus.

Maggie Luttrell (Legacy of Heroines Scholar and Catt Associate) was elected to vice president of the Government of the Student Body at Iowa State.

Julie Snyder-Yuly (Catt Center assistant director) presented "From Camp to Covergirl: Performing the Carnavalesque on America's Next Top Model" in June at the annual Visual Communication Conference in Lake Tahoe. In March, she was awarded a Gender Equity Award by the Margaret Sloss Women's Center at Iowa State University.

Marisa Stadlman (ISU graduate student and former Catt Associate and ACT peer mentor) accepted a position in public relations and elections at the Iowa Secretary of State's office.

ACT Students Explore Opportunities on Campus and in the Ames Community

The 12 members of the ACT (Advancing Citizenship Together) Learning Community were welcomed this year by new peer mentor, Christina Vik, a senior in political science and international studies. ACT aims to provide first-year students with a sense of community, person and place as they learn within the larger university setting.

Students will work closely with their peer mentor and take "Introduction to Women's Studies" in the fall and "Fundamentals of Public Speaking" in the spring. This year, the order of the courses was changed from previous years to give students the opportunity to develop ideas from the women's studies class in the fall into speech topics for the spring and to get to know each other before taking a public speaking course.

Students also receive additional academic credit by attending the ACT learning community seminar each semester. Through the seminar, students learn more about leadership training programs, meet leaders who visit the ISU campus, and participate in service-learning opportunities.

This fall, the learning community has been busy exploring a variety of opportunities available on and off campus. "It's really important for students to explore the variety of opportunities available to them while they are in college," Vik said.

Catt Associates Work to Build Membership

Since 1993, ISU sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students have participated in leadership development training through the Catt Associates student organization. Catt Associates elect officers and participate as an official ISU student organization through the Student Activities Center.

"This year we are taking time to look at the mission of the Catt Associates in order to develop relevant activities for the students involved," said Tess Vandover, president. "We are also exploring ideas for building membership and collaborating with other student groups on campus."

During the fall semester, students have watched "Iron Jawed Angels," an HBO movie about the women's suffrage movement; heard from former ACT peer mentor and current GSB vice president Maggie Luttrell; and will have a post-election discussion with Dianne Bystrom, Catt Center director.

Outside the classroom, students have participated in several presidential debate watches, had lunch at the student-run Tea Room, attended a Women's Studies fundraising event, organized study groups and enjoyed Malaysian Cultural Night.

In November, students will have the opportunity to meet former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, the Catt Center's Fall 2008 Mary Louise Smith Chair.

Plans are currently underway for the spring semester. "I am working on arrangements for a field trip to Iowa's Capitol as well as exploring some different opportunities to further engage the students in the Iowa State University community," Vik said.

This semester, the students served on the planning and selection committee for the 2009 "Women Impacting ISU" calendar; attended several presidential debate watches; brought MTV's *Rock the Vote* to campus; and will have the opportunity to meet with former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, the Center's Fall 2008 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women in Politics.

Besides Vandover, other Catt Associate officers are: Amanda Johnson, vice president; Molly Tracy, secretary; Tierra Mayberry, treasurer; and Shanna Delfs, public relations.



Brea Nokleby (back left), Christine Blohm, Alissa Stoehr (WS TA), Brett Murdoch, Christina Vik (front left) and Amy Sojka attended a Women's Studies fundraiser.

Vik Serves as ACT Peer Mentor

Christina Vik, a senior in political science and international studies, has joined the staff of the Catt Center to serve as the new peer mentor for the ACT (Advancing Citizenship Together) Learning Community.



Vik is an active member of the ISU Committee on Lectures, serving as the co-chair for the committee as well as on its two subcommittees, World Affairs and National Affairs. She is also serving as community advisor for the Frederiksen Court Apartments and is involved with the Political Science Club and the Catt Associates student leadership organization. Following her graduation from Iowa State, Vik plans to join the Peace Corps and hopes to focus on health extension outreach in sub-Saharan Africa.

"I really enjoy working as a peer mentor for the Catt Center," she said. "It's a great way to develop my leadership skills while at the same time encouraging young people to become active members of Iowa State and society in general."

Brown First Rice Neville Intern

Narren Brown, a doctoral student in educational leadership and policy studies at Iowa State, was selected to serve as the first Rice Neville Intern in Political Activism at the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.



The internship was established by Center director, Dianne Bystrom, and her husband, Keith Bystrom, associate legal counsel at ISU, in honor of their mothers—Marcia Rice Gabrukiewicz and Irene Neville Bystrom. The internship supports students working on projects associated with the Catt Center.

Brown, who earned a master's degree in political science from Iowa State in August 2008, is assisting on several Catt Center research projects related to the 2008 presidential campaign.

He also is a graduate research assistant at RISE (Research Institute for Studies in Education) and a special lecturer in the American Government course. From 2006 to 2008, Brown was a teaching assistant in the Department of Political Science and a research assistant in summer 2007. He won the ISU Teaching Assistant Award in fall 2007. During the summer of 2008, he worked as a program assistant for the Iowa AGEP/Alliance Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates out of the Graduate College.

Prior to his studies at Iowa State, Brown graduated magna cum laude from Luther College and managed several restaurants and one hotel.



Women Represent Suffrage Leaders in Boone Parade

Jane Cox, professor of theater at Iowa State, and Marcheta Munoz of Findley, OH, were among the women participating in the reenactment of the Boone Suffrage Parade on Oct. 25.

Cox portrayed Carrie Chapman Catt and Munoz played her great grandmother, Rowena Edson Stevens, president and founder of the Boone Equality Club and former president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association (IESA). Held on the last day of the 37th annual convention of the IESA on Oct. 29, 1908, the Boone Suffrage Parade was the first and only suffrage parade held in Iowa and marked a turning point in the state's suffrage movement.

The parade was viewed as a dramatic tactic to win the vote. Although Catt did not participate in the Boone Suffrage Parade as she was working overseas that year as president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, she was a leader in both the Iowa and national suffrage movements.

Both Catt and Stevens graduated from Iowa State. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics was among the participating organizations in the parade's reenactment.



Following the parade, Jane Cox (left) and Marcheta Munoz visited with spectators.

Joni Axel Inducted into Iowa Women's Hall of Fame



From left: Mike Whiteford, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Dianne Bystrom, director of the Catt Center; Joni Axel; Julie Snyder-Yuly, assistant director of the Catt Center; and Elizabeth Hoffman, executive vice president and provost of Iowa State University.

Joan Urenn Axel was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame on Aug. 23 in a ceremony at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. Among those representing Iowa State to celebrate her recognition were College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Whiteford, Catt Center director Dianne Bystrom, Catt Center assistant director Julie Snyder-Yuly, and ISU Executive Vice President and Provost Elizabeth Hoffman.

Axel, who earned a bachelor's degree in history from ISU in 1964, was one of four women inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2008. She was honored for her work as an attorney, community volunteer and mentor to women. Axel is vice president and director of Stanley, Lande & Hunter Attorneys and Counselors of Muscatine. She helped create the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics in 1992 and initiate the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics in 1995.

She and her husband also established the Joni and John Axel Leadership Development Program for students through the Catt Center. The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women established the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975 to highlight women's heritage and recognize their contributions.