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College Aid in Parent Education

Parent education and cooperation with schools are the two fundamental projects of the Iowa Congress. Professional leaders have given the finest help for both.

From the beginning, a better understanding of the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of children has been encouraged. Since the establishment of the Child Welfare Research Station, more expert help has been available. Annual conferences on Child Development and Parent Education have been regularly attended by large numbers of PTA members. All kinds of materials, as well as many speakers, have been provided by the State University of Iowa and Iowa State College.

The Iowa Congress has made every effort to improve the quality of leadership training. For several years two scholarships were given to teachers, principals, and selected lay leaders for summer-session work in parent education. These were called the "Bird T. Baldwin" and "Cora Bussey Hillis" scholarships, named, respectively, for the first Director of the Station and for the founder of the Iowa Congress. With the growth of the program, the funds were channeled out over the state to reach more people through the work of

the state chairman of Parent Education. The Child Welfare Station, through the University Extension Division, has given a great deal of help in training leaders by sending professional men and women into many Iowa communities. In 1950, the first week-long Workshop in Leadership Training for Parent Education was carried out at the State University of Iowa. There is now in every district of the state a nucleus of enthusiastic people ready to help in organizing better study groups. The workshop has also been the forerunner of two year-long leadership training courses at Drake University and Morningside College. Nearly all local units have reported some type of study program, with well over 10,000 Iowans enrolled.

The program of the annual meeting at the State University of Iowa in September, 1949, was devoted to the subject of child psychology and parent education. State PTA leaders have taken advantage of all opportunities offered for training in better understanding by attending National Congress conventions. In the last two years, three members of the state board attended, at National Congress expense, a workshop at the University of Chicago in Parent and Family Life Education. This year a member of the staff of the Child Welfare Research Station attended this workshop.

A second important area of interest centers in the school. Consequently, efforts have been made

to bring professional educators and parents together in the discussion type of program. Various types of college contacts have also been made with the purpose of explaining to teachers-in-training the fundamental projects of the Congress, and to prepare them to meet the parents in the communities where they would later teach.

The Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers and the State University of Iowa jointly held the first Workshop on Home and School Cooperation sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in June, 1945. Teachers, administrators, supervisors, college faculty, members of state departments of education, PTA workers, and community leaders from twenty-two states and from Canada spent a busy week in considering procedures revolving about home-school relationships. For those desiring it, credit was given. The National Congress now supports a year-round course on Parent-Teacher relationships in cooperation with Northwestern University.

The Iowa State Teachers College and the Iowa Congress are mutually interested in better teacher training, salaries, and selective recruitment. Early in the history of the Iowa PTA, the College enlarged its extension program by assigning a staff member to help organize new units. For the last decade or more an annual Parent-Teacher Institute has been held at Cedar Falls during the summer session, with an outstanding member of the

National Board as the speaker. At various times also, members of the State Board of Managers have discussed the Parent-Teacher movement with education classes.

Similar contacts are made with such institutions as Coe, Cornell, Drake, Morningside, Simpson, Iowa State College, and the State University. During 1949-1950, nearly all junior colleges in the state have been contacted in this way.

MRS. LLOYD S. MUMFORD