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Civility



"The gospel according to Ted Lasso": Behind the scenes of the uplifting show that changed Hollywood

On Sunday's CBS "60-Minutes," Norah O'Donnell interviewed Jason Sudeikis (aka: Ted Lasso) regarding the show that was nominated for 20 Emmys last year-- more than any other new comedy in television history. A bit of [the full interview](#) follows:

Norah O'Donnell: "Did you set out and say I want a character that's **all about positivity and kindness and can transform people, bring out the best in people?**"

Jason Sudeikis: "To play the character was intentional. To play someone that was kindhearted, that didn't swear-- be **like Teflon towards people's negativity or-- or-- or sarcasm, 100% intentional.**"

Then, Jason Sudeikis, acting as Ted Lasso: "I saw this quote by Walt Whitman, it was painted on the wall there and it said, "**Be curious, not judgmental.**" I like that."

Education in Iowa – a continuing focus

At the March 9 Town Hall, **Shawn Snyder** (Associate Executive Director, Government Relations & School Finance) and **Phil Jeneary** (Government Relations Director) of the Iowa Association of School Boards, presented a "Readers Digest" version of a 7.5-hour course (in just 50 minutes!) on funding Iowa's PK-12 system. As there wasn't time for it, Shawn and Phil will return for some Q&A at next Wednesday's TACI Town Hall. The slide deck and an audio recording of the event may be found on the [Town Hall website](#).

Having first focused on the financial investment being made by Iowa's, **the focus will change to student achievement and outcomes.**



Shawn Snyder



Phil Jeneary

- Measures of Student Outcomes
 - Graduation rates, ACT scores, NAPE
- Spending vs Achievement
- Opportunities for Improvement?



Mark Jacobs

Guest Panelist: Mark Jacobs, Reaching Higher Iowa

The mission of Reaching Higher Iowa is to improve public education and restore Iowa's position of leadership. Mark is a native Iowan and a product of Iowa public schools, having graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. Before founding Reaching Higher Iowa, Mark served as President and CEO of Reliant Energy. One of his civic roles was Board Chair for KIPP

Houston Public Schools, a high-performing charter school network serving over 9,500 economically disadvantaged students.

The next **TACI Town Hall, Wednesday, March 23 at 4:30 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85348985659?pwd=dUgxbG1MYi8rNEhFZlVzN29rY0NtQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 4898 5659 | Passcode: 263969 | Dial in: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

DART seeks to diversify funding and lower property taxes



DART's Board of Commissioners recently completed an extensive process to update the property tax formula it utilizes. While doing so, it became apparent that other funding options needed to be pursued.

Currently the authority is working at the Iowa Statehouse to earn legislative support of a proposal that would permanently lower property taxes for all of the communities that participate in DART. The authority currently collects approximately \$23 million in property taxes from 11 cities and unincorporated Polk County. The proposal DART has developed with lawmakers is estimated to reduce what it collects in property taxes by over \$10.6 million, providing significant property tax relief to central Iowa taxpayers.

Details of the proposal, provided by DART, may be found on the TACI Town Hall [Communications page](#). DART officials suggest that if you would like to see the proposal passed by the Legislature, Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley and Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver are appropriate contacts.

Des Moines International Airport - New Terminal Plan



There have been a number of developments since the [January 26 TACI Town Hall](#):

[“Gov. Reynolds announces \\$100M investment for Iowa commercial airports.”](#)

Ninety percent of the funds will be granted based upon passenger numbers from 2019 and the remaining 10% will be split equally among the eight commercial airports in Iowa. Eligible projects under this program include terminal construction and renovations, parking structure construction and hanger construction. The Iowa Commercial Aviation Infrastructure Fund will be administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation utilizing one-time federal funds from the American Rescue Plan.

Brian Mulcahy, Director of Finance & Administration, Des Moines Airport Authority, has also advised that **nineteen communities have pledged over \$28.6 million** toward the new facility: Alleman (\$4,520), Altoona (\$576,630), Ankeny (\$2,020,650), Bondurant (\$69,580), Clive (\$517,260), Des Moines (\$10,000,000), Grimes (\$150,000), Indianola (\$250,000), Johnston (\$451,640), Mitchellville (\$22,580), Newton (\$78,800), Norwalk (\$250,000), Pleasant Hill (\$100,000), Polk City (\$49,610), Polk County (\$10,000,000), Urbandale (\$1,331,370), Waukee (\$722,670), West Des Moines (\$2,000,000), and Windsor Heights (\$48,090).

State of Iowa Income Projections



At the [Association's Annual Symposium](#) on February 23, **Kraig Paulsen**, Director, Iowa Department of Management, and the Iowa Department of Revenue, reviewed the December findings of the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC).

For the current fiscal year (FY 2022), state revenues are expected to be \$9.1711 billion through June 30. That amount is \$110.5 million higher than what the REC had forecast at their December 2021 meeting. The new forecast expects state revenue to grow by 4.2% for the year, or \$370.5 million.

This forecast includes the tax reductions (forecasted to be \$236.3 million) passed by the Legislature in the 2018 and 2021 sessions that impact FY 2022. So it appears that even with the tax cuts, state revenue will be essentially the same for FY 2022 and FY2023.

The TACI In-Basket



Editor's note: In the spirit of civility and brevity, latitude has been taken, where needed, with the responses. Hopefully, the intent and spirit of the email has been maintained.

Address contributions and thoughts to: Pres@taxpayersci.org.

Broadlawns:

Time for a TACI Town Hall update?
The new CEO is great.
Is another large clinic in the future?

Focus on Education:

From a former school board president:

In a nutshell, here's the priority of education with many parents:

1. What week is spring break in 200x
2. What week is spring break in 200x +1
3. What week is spring break in 200x +2

You wouldn't believe how often the administration gets that question. "We are trying to plan where we want to go on break next year...."

My next-door neighbors with 2 kids in school are in Costa Rica - left a couple days early and come back day after school starts.

Good examples from their parents.

***Please forward this notice to your friends, colleagues and neighbors who share your interest in
"Vibrant, just, and safe Central Iowa communities."***



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