

LARRY D. WILLIAMS

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Williams has been Superintendent of Schools for the Sioux City Community School District since 1999. He oversees the education of more than 14,000 students and the activities of 1,800 faculty and staff in 30 school sites. Previously, he held educational assignments in Boise, Idaho, in Great Falls, Montana (where he was also superintendent of schools), and in Bozeman, Montana as Director of Personnel for five years as well.

Williams is also an experienced arts educator. He began teaching music in a small community in Montana after taking his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and pursuing graduate work in music at both Brown University and Rutgers University. His graduate work in education was taken primarily at the University of Montana. That latter university, through its School of Fine Arts, awarded Williams its first Distinguished Alumni Award. Before becoming superintendent, Larry was also Music Supervisor in the Great Falls Public Schools for a number of years, and created a particularly interesting project that involved the musical education of handicapped students.

Williams has been involved in the arts in many other ways as well. He served as chair of the Montana Arts Council for eight years, having been appointed by three governors of two parties. He also was appointed by Governor Kempthorne to the Idaho Arts Commission. Williams twice served as chair of the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF). He has served on many National Endowment for the Arts and Music Educator panels. Williams was awarded the Montana Governor's Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 2003.

Larry and his wife, Becky, have a close affiliation with Glacier National Park. Williams was a ranger for ten years, and it was in his third year that he met his future wife who had come to Glacier as a ranger naturalist. Becky has completed 38 consecutive years of service in that park.

Larry presently serves the Sioux City community as a member of the boards of St. Luke's Iowa Health System, US Bank, Boy Scouts of America, Siouxland Junior Achievement, KWIT Public Radio, the Siouxland Area Red Cross, and the AbuBekr Chanters of Sioux City.

In 1997, Larry was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Liberal Arts by the University of Great Falls. Morningside College honored Williams with its Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2002. He was presented the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award for public service in 1996.

He will often be found singing or otherwise participating in local musical and arts groups, or will be seen in the audience.