

APLU Food Systems Leadership Award

Dr. Wendy Wintersteen has served as President of Iowa State University since 2017. She is the 16th president of Iowa State, and the first woman to hold the university's highest office in its 160-year history.

Dr. Wintersteen has served many leadership roles for Iowa State University for more than 40 years, including 11 years as Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.

Dr. Wintersteen began her career working in eastern and central Iowa as one of the first female ISU Extension associates in integrated pest management. She then completed her doctorate in entomology at Iowa State in 1988 and rose through the ranks to become a professor of entomology, while serving a brief stint at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., as the Interim National Program Leader in Pesticide Education. Dr. Wintersteen took on progressively senior administrative roles in ISU Extension and became the senior associate dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and associate director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station in 2000.

During her 11-year tenure as agriculture and life sciences dean, Iowa State's agricultural programs ranked in the top 10 worldwide, college enrollment hit record levels to become the third largest college of agriculture in the nation, research grants increased markedly, awards for teaching excellence grew and the college achieved a 98% placement rate for its graduates. Dr. Wintersteen grew fundraising success for agricultural programs and facilities from \$5 million per year to \$30 million per year.

Dr. Wintersteen advances education, agriculture and food systems in many ways, including her service on the Board of Directors for the Cultivation Corridor, a regional economic initiative establishing Iowa as the global center for excellence in agricultural biosciences, advanced manufacturing, and technology sectors; as a member of the World Food Prize Council of Advisors; the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee; past President of the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation; as a member of the Iowa Business Council's Business Education Alliance; and as a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Council of Presidents and the APLU Research Intensive Committee. Her past service during her tenure as dean included service as chair of the Administrative Heads Section of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly; and service on boards of the Farm Foundation and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

Dr. Wintersteen holds a bachelor's of science degree in crop production from Kansas State University (1974) and Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University.