

Alliant Energy Nominates
Ben Stead with the Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate
for the
Charles Percy Award for Public Service

Throughout his legal career, Ben Stead has demonstrated outstanding public service and an enduring commitment to energy efficiency and matters impacting low income consumers. Since 1974, Ben has worked tirelessly in the area of regulated utility service, devoting special attention to low income issues and initiatives. These initiatives included low income weatherization and energy education. Each of these initiatives is designed to reduce the energy burden of the most vulnerable families in Iowa. These programs have yielded significant savings for program participants and overall represent a cost-effective investment in energy efficiency.

Ben joined the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office, in 1981. This office represents consumers and the public in matters within the jurisdiction of the Iowa Utilities Board. As an attorney with the OCA, Ben has made a unique and vitally important contribution to energy efficiency by advocating for an innovative approach to achieve *greater* energy saving impacts with the hard-to-reach low-income customers who live in multifamily housing. Multifamily low-income housing has traditionally been a difficult market to reach for energy efficiency programs.

Ben believed that more could be done and with focused determination pushed the investor-owned utilities to do more. As a result, the Multifamily and Institutional Efficiency Improvements (MIEI) program was developed to encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies in low-income multifamily and institutional housing. This program was designed to identify energy efficiency opportunities in affordable multifamily housing. It provides enhanced incentives to property owners and developers to make cost-effective investments in their facilities that will benefit them *and* their tenants.

With Ben's persistence, encouragement and involvement the investor-owned utilities developed a plan to work with the Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa Department of Human Rights. Collectively they would identify low-income multifamily and institutional housing facilities that would benefit from receiving an energy audit and installation of energy saving measures.

This program was rolled out as a pilot in 2005 and today is available statewide. Iowa was the first state in the nation to offer such a program. The contributions to energy efficiency in this customer segment are well beyond expectations. All of the efficiency improvements are verified by a third-party vendor who visits each site. Since 2005, 28 buildings have been audited in the Alliant Energy service territory resulting in more than 1.2 million kilowatt-hour energy savings and 34 thousand-therm energy savings; the equivalent of removing more than 9,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Changes made included energy-efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, windows, exit signs and vending machine controllers. Weatherization upgrades, included weatherstripping and insulation.

Due to the success of this program in Iowa, Alliant Energy is taking the MIEI program to other states where it offers energy efficiency programs. Energy rehabilitation of existing multifamily housing is a winning proposition for everyone. The benefits go directly to existing multifamily owners, tenants, Iowa's economy and the environment. By assisting low-income customers the State of Iowa has achieved a healthier economy, a cleaner environment and greater energy security, due in large part to the dedication and commitment of Ben Stead.