

## **HIGHER LEARNING LEADS TO HIGHER EARNING**

Treynor High School Principal JOEL BOHLKEN spoke to Club members about efforts of high school reform in Iowa. The focus of reform is rigor in teaching program; relevance of education to student lives now and in the future; and relationships among students, families, employers, and the public. BOHLKEN stated that students need to be more rigorous and many express the desire to work harder for better results. Average salaries of graduates at various levels of education are a strong motivation. Annual salaries range from high school at \$27,800, community college at \$34,000, university B.S. degree at \$49,000, university M.S. degree at \$50,000 to twice the high school graduate level or more for PhD graduates. BOHLKEN noted that the higher earnings for advanced education are a strong motivator for Treynor students, but the competition with other students around the world for jobs is getting stronger. At Treynor High School students are already required to take the classes that are proposed for all schools in the state. Some students already take advance placement classes for college credits. BOHLKEN stated that academic rigor is easier to improve than the relevance and relationship needs in the education reform agenda. But, even increased academic rigor is subject to having and keeping a good teaching staff. Teachers are being asked to increase the instruction rigor, but commensurate salaries are also needed to retain good teachers.