

# HELEN MILLER BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

---

State Representative Helen Miller (D-Fort Dodge) is serving her 8th term in the Iowa House of Representatives. She represents the 9th House District which includes Fort Dodge, Badger, Clare, Duncombe and Vincent. Miller serves as an Assistant House Minority Leader. Miller was born in Newark, NJ and moved to Fort Dodge, IA from Washington, DC in September 1999. She ran for the Iowa House of Representatives and was elected in 2002. She currently serves on the Economic Growth, Veterans Affairs, Administration and Rules, and the Natural Resources committee. She served as Ranking Member of the Agriculture committee for six years.

Miller has accumulated more than 30 years of experience and leadership as an attorney, legislator, mediator, legislative bill drafter, volunteer, arts educator, executive director of several nonprofits, and board member of numerous organizations. She volunteered as the Executive Director of Young at Art, a nonprofit, community arts education and enrichment program, which was based in Fort Dodge.

Miller is dedicated to the economic growth of her district and the completion of highway 20. She has been instrumental in promoting economic development in Iowa. Legislation she crafted has led to the development of an ATV park in Fort Dodge (2003) and the funding of a fuel quality-testing laboratory at Iowa Central Community College (2006). She co-sponsored a House resolution calling for the completion of Highway 20, which passed the Iowa House during the 2003 session and went on to the US Congress.

Her belief that economic development can be spurred by the arts has resulted in her efforts to bring the message of the value of art and culture to the Statehouse. For 7 years, she brought the Artful Dodger project exhibit to the Statehouse. In addition, she has organized and held legislative breakfasts to promote the arts and encourage legislators to consider and include the arts in any legislation brought forward. During the 2006 session, she authored legislation which resulted in a report to the Governor and General Assembly on the status of out-of-school arts programming for youth in Iowa.

She is the founder and director of The Urban-Ag Academy, an initiative whose mission is to educate an ever-increasing number of urban and minority legislators on agricultural issues and encourage dialogue between rural and urban policy makers. She also serves on the Iowa Economic Authority Board as a non-voting legislative member.

Nationally, Miller serves on the board of Women in Government, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, DC, as immediate past Chair. Women in Government is comprised of female state legislators and works to provide “leadership opportunities, networking expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues to all 1,785 women state legislators nationwide.” She is the Agriculture Committee Chair for the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), and a

member of its executive committee. Miller is a member of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women and served on its board. She is also a member of State Agricultural and Rural Leaders (board member 2008 to 2010) which provides and promotes educational opportunities for state officials and others on technology, policy, processes and issues that are of concern to agriculture and rural communities.

Miller is a graduate of Leadership Washington (DC), Leadership Iowa, the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD), and the Toll Fellowship Program. She is also a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Links Inc. and the Iowa State Bar Association,

Miller is the 2015 recipient of the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Service Award which was created by the Hoover Presidential Foundation to annually honor those legislative public servants who make use of their time doing service work and humanitarian projects. She was recognized along with the other four African American members of the Iowa House as the "Outstanding Leadership Group" by "I'll Make Me a World in Iowa", received the State Government Affairs Council Leadership Award, and was honored by the Polk County Women Attorneys as the 2016 recipient of the annual Willie Stevenson Glanton Award.