

Welcoming Our New Finance Director



Michelle Sheraden

1. What drew you to finance, public utilities or IMU specifically?

I have always been a numbers person so pursued Accounting at the University of Iowa. I enjoy working with numbers and telling the story they reveal about how an organization is performing.

2. What education or experience do you have that you are excited to bring to IMU?

I have been in the Indianola area for over 30 years and I previously served as the Controller at Des Moines Water Works for over 18 years. After many years there, I was looking for a change of scenery and new challenges. When I saw the Director of Finance & HR position posted for IMU, I knew it was an opportunity I wanted to pursue. Once I met the team in Utility Services and interviewed with the management team, it became clear that IMU was where I wanted to be.

3. When you aren't balancing the books, how do you like to spend your time?

I have recently started writing and using the more creative side of my brain. I'm working on a book and just attended my first writers' conference, which gave me the motivation to keep going and taught me the basics of editing, pitching to an agent, and publishing.

4. Relating to work or life in general, what's the best piece of advice you've received?

The phrase I take with me wherever I go is from a poem by Erin Hanson: "What if I fail? Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?" It's a reminder to take chances, whether in my career, creative pursuits, or life in general.



Dialing 811 works from any location.
Iowa One Call | 1-800-292-8989 | iowaonecall.com

If you are planning a project that involves digging, trenching, drilling or grading, state law requires you to call 811 at least three days before digging. This is a free service and there are penalties if you dig and hit a line, but did not call. Although accidents are relatively rare, damage from digging is the most common cause of underground natural gas leaks. Respect the marks, then dig with care. When you start digging, try to stay at least 18 inches away from the marked lines. Hand digging with extreme caution is required when digging within the 18-inch tolerance zone.

Before Contacting Iowa One Call

When you contact Iowa One Call with a locate request, a series of questions will be asked.

- What is your name, address and phone number?
- What type of work will you be doing? (i.e. planting a tree, installation of fence)
- What is the dig location's address, city, county and nearest intersecting street?
- At the dig location, where will you be digging? (i.e. east side of house, within 5 ft radius of white stake.)
- When will you be digging? (i.e. 3 days, next week)

What Does NOT Get Marked

Only the buried facilities registered with Iowa One Call will be located and marked. Private facilities will not be marked for locates. These can include LP gas lines, sprinkler systems, gas grill lines, or more.

Respect the marks, then dig with care. When you start digging, try to stay at least 18 inches away from the marked lines. Hand digging with extreme caution is required when digging within the 18-inch tolerance zone.

Women's Historical Figures in Utilities



Mária Telkes

(1900–1995): A biophysicist known as the “Sun Queen,” she developed the first solar-powered home heating system and a solar-powered oven.



Edith Clarke

(1883–1959): The first woman to earn a master's degree in electrical engineering from MIT, she invented a graphical calculator to solve long-distance transmission problems and was the first female electrical engineering professor.



Katharine Burr Blodgett

(1898–1979): The first woman to earn a Ph.D. in physics from Cambridge University and the first female scientist at General Electric Research Laboratories, she developed nonreflective, “invisible” glass coatings crucial for solar panel efficiency.



Annie Easley

(1933–2011): A “human computer” and computer scientist for NACA/NASA, she conducted pioneering research on battery technology, solar, and wind energy, laying the groundwork for modern hybrid vehicles.



Hazel R. O'Leary

(1937–Present): Served as the first female and first African American U.S. Secretary of Energy (1993–1997), establishing crucial offices for economic impact and diversity.

CONTACT IMU

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IMU RESOURCES

Online bill pay: my.imufiber.com/ebill/login
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IMU board meetings: youtube.com/@indianolamunicipalutilities
Work for IMU: indianola.com/careers