



Ernst visits Clinton High School

Stop is part of 99-county tour

BY NICK MOFFITT, Digital Content Editor

CLINTON — U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst stopped by Clinton High School on Friday to mark off another stop on her 99 county tour.

“Nothing really surprised me because I expect a lot from our students here in Iowa and they never disappoint. They are well educated,” Ernst said after speaking with students.

“They know the issues here ... but I think our students in Iowa follow politics very closely because we are a first-in-the-nation caucus state.” She said the most common topics brought up by high school aged students in her visits generally depend on what the big topic currently is in the news.

“In a number of schools we talk about ISIS, there have been many different times where kids will talk about what’s going on in the Middle East, whatever really happens to be in the news is what they’ll focus on whether it’s North Korea or so forth they’ll talk about those things,” Ernst said.

One of the biggest issues facing students in their immediate future is the student debt crisis facing students.

According to a Des Moines Register database, students that graduate from Iowa colleges and universities are racking up debt, with 68 percent of Iowa college graduates in 20132014 holding an average debt of \$29,732.

"Student debt - that's a big one - that's an issue and it needs to be addressed. How can we find, in my point of view, conservative solutions to combat student debt?" Ernst said.

Ernst also addressed the ongoing presidential campaigns, saying she wanted candidates to get back to their policies.

"I don't think it distracts us from what we're doing but I don't like to hear a lot of negativity out in the campaigns," she said.

"I want our candidates to focus on policy and talk about what's best for our nation and their ideas on how to get to that point." The Stanford Daily on Thursday reported that former Speaker John Boehner called Sen. Ted Cruz "Lucifer in the flesh." "Lucifer in the flesh," the former Speaker said according to the Stanford Daily. Ernst said during her time working with Cruz on legislation her perception has been a bit different.

"We have worked on legislation together and that experience has been very positive. I think Senator (Ted) Cruz is a very, very intelligent man and he is laser focused when it comes to legislation and he knows the issues inside and out," she said.

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