Regent Sherry Bates of Scranton spent her career as a social worker in Greene County. This included more than 20 years with the Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson and several years with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Regent Bates is actively involved in her community through her service on the Greene County Board of Health, the Scranton Telephone Board, and the Greene County Foundation Board. She is also a past member of the Scranton Library Board.

Regent Bates is a 1974 graduate of Iowa State University with a B.S. degree in child development. She and her husband, Kim, also an Iowa State graduate, farm in Greene County. They have two adult children, each a graduate of Iowa State University and one with a Masters of Speech Pathology degree from the University of Iowa. They have four grandchildren.

Regent Bates was appointed to the Board of Regents on December 22, 2014, by Governor Branstad to fill the unexpired term of Nicole Carroll. She was reappointed on March 1, 2017. Her term on the Board expires April 30, 2023.