



Iowa Business Council

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Iowa Business Council Announces New Executive Director

Georgia Van Gundy will take the helm of the organization on January 3, 2017.

DES MOINES, IOWA – December 8, 2016. The Iowa Business Council (IBC) board of directors announced today that after an extensive search for the organization’s next executive director, Georgia Van Gundy has been appointed to this role and will begin her new position on January 3, 2017. Van Gundy fills the role previously held by Elliott Smith, who served as executive director from 2005 until his resignation in November of 2016.

“The Iowa Business Council is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for vibrant economic growth, and Georgia’s appointment reflects that commitment to our state,” said Benjamin McLean, 2017 IBC board chair and CEO of Ruan Transportation Management Systems. “Georgia’s 18 years of experience position her perfectly for the ambitious but attainable vision we have for IBC. She is a collaborative leader and her experience uniquely qualifies her to lead the IBC in addressing the policies and issues that will make Iowa a highly competitive state offering great careers and sustained job growth well into the future.”

Van Gundy’s nearly two decades of professional work includes vast experience in both government relations and community leadership. She comes to IBC having served as assistant vice president of Government Relations & Community Relations for Principal Financial Group. Prior to joining Principal, Georgia served as State Policy Advisor to Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and as Legislative Liaison at the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Van Gundy’s professional experience, commitment to her community, and her service to the state of Iowa made her an ideal candidate for the role. Highlights of her work include service on The Iowa Association of Business and Industry legislative committee, Iowa Taxpayers Association, and Future Ready Iowa initiative steering committee; gubernatorial appointments to the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation and the Iowa Innovation Corporation; and membership in a number of other committees and community organizations.

“To continue the forward progress and success of the IBC, our executive director must be a results-oriented professional who is committed to ensuring Iowa is a great place to work and live,” said Mary Andringa, 2017 vice chair of IBC and board chair at Vermeer. “We’ve found that leader in Georgia Van Gundy, and I’m looking forward to all that she will accomplish in this role.”

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The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose members are the top executives of the largest businesses in the state, the three Regent university presidents, and the Iowa Banking Association. Founded in 1985, the Council’s purpose is to focus the personal commitment of its members in active leadership roles on major initiatives that offer opportunity to enhance Iowa’s economic vitality and improve the lives of Iowans. Council members identify economic issues, evaluate options, and assist in implementing solutions through collaborative public/private partnerships. **Collectively**, IBC companies / institutions impact the livelihoods of one in six Iowans, directly employing a quarter million citizens. The combined payroll of these entities exceeds \$11 billion, and they have committed billions of dollars in capital investment to the state. **On an annual basis**, several hundred million dollars in financial contributions and thousands of volunteer hours are directed to numerous charitable causes around Iowa. IBC members also lead in technology innovation with billions of dollars spent on research and development. The Business Council focuses its efforts primarily in areas related to advanced technology, continuous process improvement, economic and workforce development, education excellence, and health care and wellness. Its representation reaches across the state – from borders north and south to rivers east and west. For more information, please visit the IBC Web site at www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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