



Iowa Business Council

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Business Council Achieves Home Base Iowa Hiring Objective Early

DES MOINES, IOWA – September 13, 2016. During a Home Base Iowa (HBI) press conference at the State Capitol in January 2014, the Iowa Business Council (IBC) Member companies and institutions announced its goal to, collectively, hire 2,500 veterans or their trailing spouses over the following five years – reflecting its support for the initiative. As of the end of June 2016, IBC surpassed that hiring goal two and one-half years ahead of schedule.

The U.S. Armed Services will downsize the number of troops up to 400,000 by the end of this decade. These individuals often possess unique skill sets that are sought by Iowa businesses. Recognizing this opportunity, Governor Terry Branstad and leaders of the Iowa National Guard developed Home Base Iowa to serve as a comprehensive resource for job services available to veterans, as well as introduce them to welcoming communities and businesses as these former soldiers transition into civilian life.

“HBI is an important initiative that strengthens Iowa’s commitment to our nation’s veterans by honoring their commitment to our country,” said Mike Wells, President and CEO of Wells Enterprises in Le Mars and current Chair of the Iowa Business Council. “It targets a unique population of educated, well trained, and dedicated Americans who are seeking meaningful career opportunities following their departure from full-time military service. Veterans bring tremendous value to the workforce and help grow the state’s economy – offering employers a solid work ethic, professional attitude, leadership, integrity, and loyalty.”

In 2014, several legislative initiatives were signed into law that strengthened Iowa’s reputation as a military-friendly state. These include exempting military pensions from State income tax, increased funding for the Military Homeownership Assistance Program, and tuition breaks.

“The Business Council has always believed Iowa should be the state of choice for veterans leaving active duty service,” said Ben McLean, CEO of Ruan Transportation Management Systems in Des Moines and current IBC Vice Chair. “Each IBC Member organization has contributed to achieving our hiring goal, demonstrating extraordinary dedication to targeting and hiring veterans when executing their employee growth strategies.”

HBI is directed by program manager Jason Kemp within the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Community leaders and employers can learn more about Home Base Iowa and how to become a “HBI Community” or “HBI Business” by visiting www.HomeBaselowa.org.

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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

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through collaborative public/private partnerships. **Collectively**, IBC companies and institutions impact the livelihoods of one in six Iowans, directly employing a quarter million citizens. The combined payroll of these entities is in excess of \$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 and well-being. Its membership reaches statewide – 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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