



Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth
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News Release

Leaders to Explore the Future of Business in Iowa

Iowa Coalition for Innovation and Growth holds summer meeting

Des Moines, Iowa – (July 7, 2006) – The Iowa Coalition for Innovation and Growth (ICIG) will discuss issues affecting Iowa business and its workforce during its 2006 summer meeting on July 17, 2006, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Hotel Fort Des Moines.

The featured panel for the day will address “The Future of Business in Iowa.” Public and private sector experts will offer their perspectives and respond to questions focused on pressing business, workforce, and economic development issues facing Iowa.

Panelists include:

- Mary Lawyer – Director, Iowa Department of Economic Development
- Max Phillips – President, Qwest – Iowa and 2006 Chair, Iowa Business Council
- Alfred Ramirez – Executive Director, Diversity Focus (Cedar Rapids/Iowa City)
- Nathan Weaton – President, J&B Plastics (Fairfield)
- Martha Willits – President & CEO, Greater Des Moines Partnership

Moderated by: Dave Elbert, Business Editor, *The Des Moines Register*.

The meeting will also include informative updates and presentations on the key focus areas of ICIG:

- Lean/Kaizen – Applications in state government, health care, academia
- Entrepreneurial formation – small business start-ups/venture capital attraction
- Education – early childhood and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) initiatives
- Advanced manufacturing updates
- Biomass – renewable manufacturing materials, energy sources, fuels

The agenda concludes with comments from Iowans for a Better Future, a group concerned about the declining numbers of Iowa high school graduates and the affect this trend will have on

Iowa's employers and institutions for higher education including Regent schools, private colleges, and community colleges.

To register for the meeting, **RSVP on or before Thursday, July 13, 2006**, by e-mailing ibc@iowabusinesscouncil.org or by phoning 515-246-1700.

The purpose of the Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth is to identify economic priorities and move those priorities to reality. The ICIG, established in 2001 by the Iowa Business Council and co-administered by the Iowa Chamber Alliance, works to competitively position Iowa as a leader in the global economy by encouraging research, technology, business innovation, and growth throughout the state. Membership of the Coalition includes both individuals and organizations interested in growing Iowa's economy by taking ideas to action. For more information about the ICIG, go to www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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