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Contact: Haley Dudrow, Iowa Business Council

hdudrow@IowaBusinessCouncil.org

Phone: 515-208-0085



Iowa Business Council Announces 2019 Officers, Policy Priorities and Unveils its State Legislative Agenda

(DES MOINES) – The Iowa Business Council (IBC) elected new leadership, announced its 2019 priorities, and unveiled its 2019 state legislative agenda today following the final gathering of its members for the year.

Mary Andringa, Vermeer Corporation's chair of the board, will serve as IBC chair alongside new vice chair and president and CEO of Casey's General Stores, Terry Handley. Both John Sorensen, president of the Iowa Bankers Association, and Georgia Van Gundy, IBC executive director, will continue to serve in their current positions as treasurer and board secretary, respectively. The newly elected officers will serve a two-year term.

Following the election of new officers, the IBC adopted its 2019 priorities, which aim to increase Iowa's economic vitality. The Iowa Business Council's 2019 priorities are:

1. Building Iowa's talent pipeline.
2. Strengthening the state's economic climate
3. Increasing and diversifying Iowa's population.

"Our members are committed to elevating Iowa's long-term economic vitality. We believe our outlined legislative policy priorities will support our work to foster growth throughout Iowa," shared IBC Executive Director Georgia Van Gundy.

The Iowa Business Council 2019 state legislative agenda, which will support the organization's efforts to achieve their 2019 priorities, includes:

- **Workforce:** IBC members consistently identify attracting, developing and retaining a quality workforce as their primary business challenge in the IBC's quarterly economic outlook surveys. To continue the implementation of the state's Future Ready Iowa initiative the IBC supports funding the program's Last Dollar Scholarship and Employer Innovation Fund.
- **Housing:** In response to the feedback the IBC collected during its Vision to Vitality meetings across Iowa, the IBC supports initiatives that will provide additional resources to develop workforce housing across Iowa, including an increased investment in the State Housing Trust Fund and Workforce Housing Tax Credit programs.
- **Tax Climate:** The IBC applauds lawmakers for passing tax reform during the 2018 legislative session. The IBC supports the continued review of Iowa's tax code in order to increase the competitiveness of Iowa's tax climate.

"We were extremely intentional in selecting our 2019 legislative priorities, considering both the Iowa Business Council's research and the feedback we gathered from local community and business leaders during our Vision to Vitality forums," said Andringa, the newly elected IBC chair. "We look forward to working with both the General Assembly and the Governor to advance these priority areas to ensure Iowa remains the best state to work, live, and raise a family.

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About the Iowa Business Council

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose 23 members are the chief decision makers of major Iowa employers. One in six jobs in Iowa are tied to an IBC company. IBC member companies have invested billions of dollars of capital in Iowa's commercial infrastructure; lead the way in technology innovation, R&D, and grants procured; and are often the driving financial and volunteer forces behind philanthropic efforts all over the state.

IBC member companies include: Ruan Transportation Management Systems; Vermeer Corporation; Iowa Bankers Association; Alliant Energy; Casey's General Stores, Inc.; Collins Aerospace; Corteva Agriscience; Deere & Company; Fareway; FBL Financial Group, Inc.; HNI Corporation; Hy-Vee, Inc., Kent Corporation; Mercy Health Network; Meredith Corporation; MidAmerican Energy Company; Pella Corporation; Principal; The Weitz Company; The University of Iowa Health Care; UnityPoint Health; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa; and Wells Enterprises, Inc.