

Contact: Alexa Heffernan
Iowa Business Council
100 E. Grand Ave., Suite 160
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-246-1700
Fax: 515-246-1701
ibc@iowabusinesscouncil.com

Iowa Business Council

News Release

Allied CEO, Walker, Joins the Iowa Business Council

October 28, 2004 – (Des Moines, IA) – Kirt A. Walker, President and CEO of Allied Insurance, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Iowa Business Council. Membership in the Council is by invitation only, and includes the top executives of 24 of Iowa's largest employers. Allied Insurance employs 1,700 associates in its new corporate headquarters in downtown

Des Moines and continues to grow, with more than 2,800 associates representing the Nationwide family of companies in the central Iowa area. As a member of the Council, Walker will work with the other members to address major business issues in the state to enhance Iowa's economic vitality.

John Forsyth, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and Chairman and CEO of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, said, "Allied has long been respected in Iowa and its recent growth and commitment to its customers and employees make it a model of success for other companies. We welcome Kirt and his ideas to the Council to help strengthen the business environment in our state."

Walker joined Allied Insurance in 1986 and has held numerous positions, including being named regional vice president of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in 1997 and regional vice president of the Pacific Coast Regional Office in 1998. Walker was later named President of Allied Insurance in September, 2003.

Established in Des Moines in 1929, Allied Insurance is a property-casualty insurer operating in 27 states with regional offices in Sacramento, CA; Denver, CO; Lincoln, NE; and Des Moines, IA. Allied is part of Nationwide, a Fortune 500 company, and one of the nation's largest multi-insurers and financial services organizations.

The Iowa Business Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of the top executives of 24 of Iowa's largest businesses and three Regent universities, employing over 150,000 Iowans statewide. The purpose of the Council is to focus the active personal commitment of the leaders of Iowa's major employers in statewide leadership roles to enhance Iowa's economic vitality. Council members identify major business issues, evaluate options and assist in implementing solutions through collaborative public/private partnerships.

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