



Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth
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News Release

Iowa Entrepreneur & Investor Resource Now Available Online

Iowa Entrepreneur Network (IEN) Connects Iowa Entrepreneurs and Potential Investors with Information, Resources, and Events

Des Moines, Iowa – (December 6, 2004) – Iowa entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding businesses or investors interested in investing in Iowa businesses now have an online networking connection. It's the new Web site provided by the Iowa Entrepreneur Network (IEN) located at www.iowaentrepreneur.com.

The IEN, a development of the Entrepreneurial Formation Hot Team, is part of the Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth (ICIG). The team is made up of representatives from various constituencies across the state including entrepreneurial centers, economic development groups, business incubators, Small Business Development Centers, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Bankers Association, SITI, investors, business leaders and entrepreneurs, all coming together to develop and grow the communities of entrepreneurial practice needed to sustain innovation and growth in Iowa.

“By developing a virtual location where people can go for information and to share ideas, our intent is to quickly build a critical mass of talent to enhance and grow Iowa business,” said Kurt Heiar of Regena Therapeutics Corp. and chair of the ICIG’s Entrepreneurial Formation Hot Team. “The Web site is a portal that we hope leads users to make face-to-face connections with constituencies that can help them.”

The IEN Web site provides a one-stop resource for entrepreneurs, investors and service providers. “Best Practices” reference materials guide people who want a better understanding of

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technology, of new business development and those people wishing to invest in Iowa businesses. Technical resources such as links to self-teaching aides and business organizations provide educational opportunities.

A live calendar of events offers a diverse array of learning and networking possibilities. A few offerings have included small business workshops, software seminars, and more detailed topics such as inventory management and dealing with independent contractors.

Coming soon to the IEN Web site will be "Virtual Communities of Practice" for entrepreneurs and investors covering such topics as creating business plans, how to present to investors, biotechnology, angel investing and venture capital.

Heiar further stated, "It's our hope that the wealth of information channeled by the site will also lead entrepreneurs to discovery of new, valuable information as well as to individuals who have expertise across all phases of building a business. For investors, there will be discovery in the sense that they may learn about new start-ups that have not been widely publicized."

"As an investor, I've been to the site and think it will be a real asset to people like me who are looking for investment opportunities that can also help grow Iowa companies right here at home," said Steve Ringlee of Centesimus Investments.

IEN reports that usage of the site began very shortly after it went live. And while the site has not yet been widely promoted, visits already number well over 1,000 per month. Entrepreneurs, investors, and service providers are invited to use the site at www.iowaentrepreneur.com. There is no charge for its use or access to the materials found on the site.

The purpose of the Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth is to establish a collaborative structure for coordinating the identification of economic priorities and the process for moving those priorities to reality. This coalition, established in 2001 by the Iowa Business Council and co-administered by the Iowa Chamber Alliance, works to competitively position Iowa as a world leader in the new economy by encouraging entrepreneurial formation, research, technology, business innovation and growth throughout the state. For more information about the ICIG, go to www.iowabusinesscouncil.com.

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