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Iowa Business Council

# News Release

## John Deere Senior Vice President, Schaffter, Joins the Iowa Business Council

January 17, 2005 – (Des Moines, IA) – Barry W. Schaffter, Senior Vice President of Engineering and Manufacturing for John Deere's Worldwide Construction & Forestry Division, 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. Deere & Company is a worldwide corporation, headquartered in Moline, Illinois, that employs 12,257 Iowans. As a member of the Council, Schaffter will work collaboratively with other members to identify challenges and implement solutions that will lead to economic vitality in Iowa.

John Forsyth, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and Chairman and CEO of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, said, "We are pleased to welcome Barry Schaffter to the Iowa Business Council. His experience as chair of the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance, as well as his work with the Waterloo Development Corporation, will be invaluable."

Recently named Senior Vice President of Engineering & Manufacturing for John Deere's Worldwide Construction & Forestry Division in 2005, Schaffter's tenure at Deere & Company is longstanding. In 1961, Schaffter began working at his family-owned John Deere dealership while attending school and since that time has advanced to various leadership positions within the organization.

Established in 1837, Deere & Company, collectively known as John Deere, is one of the oldest industrial companies in the United States. John Deere and its subsidiaries manufacture, distribute and finance a full line of agricultural equipment, construction and forestry equipment, and a variety of commercial and consumer equipment. The company also provides credit and managed healthcare plans for businesses and the general public. Its products and services are marketed in over 160 countries and it employs more than 43,000 people worldwide.

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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