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Iowa Business Council

# News Release

## HNI Corporation Chairman, President and CEO, Askren, Joins the Iowa Business Council

January 17, 2005 – (Des Moines, IA) – Stan A. Askren, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of HNI Corporation has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Iowa Business Council. Participation in the Iowa Business Council is by invitation only, and includes the top executives of 24 of Iowa's largest employers. HNI Corporation, headquartered in Muscatine, Iowa, has been in business since 1944 and employs over 10,000 people, with 3,800 employees in Iowa. As a Council member, Askren will work collaboratively with the other members to advocate economic vitality in the state.

John Forsyth, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and Chairman and CEO of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, said, "Stan will be a terrific asset to the Iowa Business Council. His diverse background and leadership in Human Resources Management, Operations and Marketing will help strengthen the Council's efforts."

Askren was elected President of HNI Corporation in 2003, and named Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 2004. Since joining the company in 1992, Askren has held several management positions in the company's hearth and office furniture businesses, including President, Allsteel Inc.; Group Vice President, The HON Company; and President, Heatilator.

HNI Corporation provides products and solutions for the home and workplace environments and is the second largest office furniture manufacturer in the United States. HNI Corporation is also the nation's leading manufacturer and marketer of gas and wood-burning fireplaces. The company's strong brands, including HON®, Allsteel®, Gunlocke®, Paoli®, Heatilator®, Heat-N-Glo®, Quadra-Fire® and Fireside Hearth & Home™ have leading positions in their markets. HNI Corporation is committed to maintaining its long-standing corporate values of integrity, financial soundness and a culture of service and responsiveness. By doing so, the company was recognized for the sixth consecutive year as one of the 400 Best Big Companies in America by *Forbes* Magazine in 2004, and one of America's Most Admired Companies in the furniture industry by *Fortune* Magazine in 2004. HNI Corporation's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol HNI.

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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