



News Release

Contact:

Denise Essman

d.essman@essmanassociates.com

Essman/Associates

Phone: 515-282-7145

Allen, Fethke Join Iowa Business Council

Des Moines, IA – (July 24, 2006) – Two Regent university Presidents have recently accepted invitations to join the Iowa Business Council: Benjamin Allen, President of the University of Northern Iowa and Gary Fethke, Interim President of the University of Iowa. Membership in the Council is by invitation only and includes the top executives of 21 of Iowa's largest employers and three Regent universities.

Max Phillips, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and President of Qwest – Iowa said, "We are honored to have these outstanding individuals join the Council. These leaders are dedicated to preserving Iowa's position as a top state in the country for education as is the Council. Both Ben and Gary have distinguished careers of service and possess the kind of visionary thinking that will further the work of the Council on behalf of all Iowans."

Allen, University of Northern Iowa

Benjamin Allen assumed his duties as President of the University of Northern Iowa in June 2006. Before moving to Cedar Falls, Allen was the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Iowa State University in Ames from 2002 to May 2006.

From 2001-2002 Allen served as Interim Vice President for External Affairs at Iowa State University. Prior to that he was Dean of the ISU College of Business from 1994 to 2000, during which time he was named the school's first University Distinguished Professor in Business.

Before joining Iowa State, Allen was a Brookings Economics Policy Fellow in the Office of Transportation Regulatory Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation. Allen has taught at Washington State University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Arkansas. He was also the director of the Midwest Transportation Center, a research consortium consisting of Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. In addition, he has served as a consultant for private corporations and public agencies.

More than 12,000 students are enrolled in the University of Northern Iowa. The University employs nearly 2,000 faculty and staff.

Fethke, University of Iowa

Lifelong educator Gary Fethke was appointed Interim President of the University of Iowa in June 2006. He is the Leonard A. Hadley Professor of Leadership in the U of I's Henry B. Tippie College of Business and recently retired as Dean of the College.

While Dean, Fethke led the effort to expand the Evening and Executive MBA Programs. Also during his tenure as Dean, the Undergraduate Program of the Tippie College raised the academic profile of



students entering the College and began an Early Admissions Program that admits outstanding high school students.

Fethke headed the planning and coordination of construction for the John Pappajohn Business Building and the Pomerantz Center on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City, the UI-Cedar Rapids Area Conference and Education Center in Cedar Rapids, the MBA facilities at the W.A. Krause Center in Des Moines, and the Polytechnic Campus in Newton.

Fethke is actively involved as a professor in the Executive MBA Program, and he currently conducts research relating to the economics of public higher education.

Established in 1847, the University of Iowa's enrollment exceeds 29,000 students each year. There are approximately 1,700 faculty and 13,000 staff on campus.

* * * * *

Founded in 1985, the Iowa Business Council is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization whose members collectively employ more than 180,000 Iowans and have made over \$25 billion worth of capital investments in the state. The purpose of the Council is to engage the personal commitment of these executives in active leadership roles on major initiatives that offer opportunity to enhance Iowa's overall economic vitality. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

###