



News Release

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Austen Joins Iowa Business Council

Des Moines, IA – (September 18, 2006) – W. Kim Austen, President of Allied Insurance, has recently accepted an invitation to join the Iowa Business Council. Membership in the Council is by invitation only and includes the top executives of 21 of Iowa's largest employers and Regent institutions.

Max Phillips, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and President of Qwest – Iowa, said, "Kim Austen is a respected leader in the insurance and financial services industries. We're pleased he will be working with the Council to enhance Iowa's economic vitality.

Austen was named President of Allied on March 1, 2006. A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Austen began his career with Allied in 1976. He has held numerous management positions with the company at three regional offices: Rocky Mountain Regional Office and in Lincoln and Des Moines.

Austen is a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter and a member of the Emmett J. Vaughan Institute of Risk Management and Insurance Advisory Board, affiliated with the University of Iowa's College of Business. He is a board member of the Science Center and serves on the Leadership Cabinet of the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Allied Insurance is a property-casualty insurer established in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1929. Allied operates in 32 states and has been a member of the Nationwide family of companies since 1998. Based in Columbus, Ohio, Nationwide is a Fortune 100 company and one of the country'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 180,000 Iowans statewide with capital assets of \$20 billion. 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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