



News Release

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Iowa Business Council Announces 2009 Officers

Des Moines, IOWA (February 5, 2009). The Iowa Business Council (IBC) has elected its leadership for 2009. Melvin R. Haught, president and CEO of Pella Corporation, will serve as IBC chair. Thomas L. Aller, president of Alliant Energy-Interstate Power & Light, was elected vice chair. John K. Sorensen, president of the Iowa Bankers Association, will remain in his position as treasurer. Council members elected the leadership for this year at its 23rd Annual Business Meeting held last week in Des Moines.

“As the new leadership for the Iowa Business Council, Tom, John, and I will concentrate on long-term initiatives that Council members consider essential for competing in today’s global marketplace,” Haught said. “IBC will continue to lead on major issues that are fundamental to fostering the attractive business climate and strong work ethic that sets Iowa apart.”

Iowa Business Council members include the top executives of 19 of Iowa’s largest employers, the three Regent university presidents, and Iowa’s largest banking association. The purpose of the Council is to focus the personal commitment of its members in active leadership roles on major initiatives that promise to enhance the economic vitality of Iowa.

Key initiatives for the Council in 2009 include:

Education Excellence & Reform

- instituting a coordinated, standardized, forward-looking pre-K thru 12 core curriculum that ensures equalized delivery and resources
- aligning the offerings of colleges, universities, and technical schools with the preparatory education provided by the pre-K thru 12 system as well as the needs of the business workplace
- requiring accountability and internationally-based performance measures along with higher, merit-based teacher compensation and improved professional development
- encouraging greater administrative efficiencies on a regional and statewide basis
- producing culturally aware and ethically-oriented graduates who have mastered key skills related to reading, writing, problem solving, math, and science

Health & Wellness

- encouraging private insurers to compete for customers at all levels, driving efficiency, and transparency of performance results
- enrolling the thousands in Iowa who are uninsured yet eligible for existing government programs such as Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program



- reducing chronic illness by changing human behavior with incentives provided for good health practices and disincentives for poor practices
- increasing participation in innovative employee wellness programs, like Live Healthy Iowa and the Wellness Council of Iowa, that encourage broad-based participation

Workforce Attraction & Development

- identifying specific skill level needs for effective workforce attraction and development
- coordinating secondary and post-secondary curricula and career counseling focused on the skill level needs identified
- creating awareness of career opportunities in Iowa among students
- developing meaningful, career-oriented intern, apprentice, and mentor opportunities

Process Efficiency

- encouraging the use of Lean Enterprise and other continuous improvement methods in non-traditional areas, e.g., government and education, to analyze how human and financial resources can be better utilized in public and private sector administrative systems, regulatory structures, and production methods, eliminating steps or unnecessary “touches” that impact the competitiveness of Iowa business and its workforce
- creating the “Iowa Partners In Efficiency Award,” recognizing employees or work units in any political subdivision of local, county, or state government that, through the use of Lean tools and techniques, significantly and measurably increase productivity and promote innovation that improves the delivery of public services to the benefit of the citizens of Iowa and the private sector

“The Business Council recognizes that these are difficult times for our state,” Haught said. “It is moments such as these when stepping up to face the greatest challenges can produce the most profoundly impactful rewards. I look forward to an exciting and productive year leading this group of CEOs, all of whom are committed to identifying and addressing the major issues important to enhancing Iowa’s overall economic vitality.”

Mel Haught was named president and CEO of Pella Corporation in 2002. During his 18 years with the company, he has served as vice president of manufacturing, senior vice president of operations, executive vice president, chief operating officer, and board member. Haught is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. He serves on the board of Hollister Incorporated, the Pella Regional Health Center Board, the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, and the Policy Advisory Board of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies. Haught is a member of the Blank Children’s Hospital Wishes Endowment Cabinet and the Henry B. Tippie College of Business Board of Visitors at the University of Iowa.

Tom Aller was named president of Interstate Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy, in 2004. Over the course of 16 years with the company, he has served as vice president and president of IES Investments, Inc., interim executive vice president and senior vice president of energy delivery, and senior vice president of energy resource development. Aller received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Creighton University and a master’s degree in municipal administration from the University of Iowa. He currently sits on the boards of Priority One in Cedar Rapids, Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Bankers Trust, Delta Dental of Iowa, Junior Achievement, the Cedar Rapids Community Theater Building Corporation, and the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor Committee.



John Sorensen was named president and CEO of Iowa Bankers Association in 1997 after having joined the organization in 1986. He serves on the American Bankers Association Board of Directors and as Chairman of the State Association Division. He is immediate past chairman of the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wis., serves on the boards of various state economic development groups, and is actively engaged in numerous community activities. The Iowa Bankers Association is the largest state banking association in the country, providing services to more than 400 financial institutions and their customers.

ABOUT THE IOWA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Iowa Business Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, self-funded organization whose 23 members are the top executives of 19 of the largest businesses in the state, the three Regent university presidents, and Iowa's largest banking association. Founded in 1985, the Council's purpose is to focus the personal commitment of its members in active leadership roles on major initiatives that offer opportunity to enhance Iowa's economic vitality and improve the lives of Iowans. Council members identify major economic issues, evaluate options, and assist in implementing solutions through collaborative public/private partnerships.

Collectively, IBC companies and institutions employ more than 210,000 Iowans and, in just the last ten years, have invested over \$15 billion worth of capital in the state. **Annually**, the Business Council represents more than \$250 million in financial contributions and volunteer hours given to numerous charitable causes around Iowa, and lead in technology innovation with over \$2.5 billion in spending and procured grants for research and development. For more information, please visit the IBC Web site at www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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