



News Release

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Iowa Business Council Announces 2011 Officers

Des Moines, IOWA (March 7, 2011) The Iowa Business Council has elected its leadership for 2011. Thomas L. Aller, President of Interstate Power & Light, an Alliant Energy company, will serve as the Council's chair. Stan A. Askren, Chairman, President, and CEO of HNI Corporation, was elected vice chair. John K. Sorensen, President and CEO of the Iowa Bankers Association, was re-elected as treasurer. Council members elected new leadership during their annual business meeting held on January 31 in Des Moines.

"In this, the Iowa Business Council's 25th anniversary year, Stan, John, and I will continue to focus on the issues Council members believe are fundamental to competing in today's global marketplace," Aller said. "To that end, we are eager to move forward with many important initiatives the Council has developed as priorities."

Tom Aller was named president of Interstate Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy, in 2004. Over the course of 18 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 masters degree in municipal administration from the University of Iowa.

Stan Askren is Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of HNI Corporation. HNI is the second largest office furniture manufacturer in the world and is also the nation's leading manufacturer and marketer of gas- and wood-burning fireplaces. Askren received an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of Northern Iowa, and has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. Prior to his arrival at HNI in 1992, Askren worked in several industries and held multiple executive management and general management positions with Emerson Electric and Thomson, S.A. He serves on the Board of Directors for Armstrong World Industries, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) International, and is also active in numerous civic organizations and boards in the Muscatine area.

John Sorensen is President and CEO of Iowa Bankers Association (IBA), the largest state banking association in the country. IBA provides services to more than 400 financial institutions and their customers. Sorensen is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and currently serves on the Business School's Advisory Board. He has held many industry leadership positions, most recently serving as Chairman of the American Bankers Association Alliance of State Bankers Associations and as Chairman of the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wisconsin. Sorensen serves on the boards of various state economic development organizations, and is actively engaged in numerous community activities.

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ABOUT THE IOWA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, self-funded organization whose 25 members are the top executives of 21 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 economic issues, evaluate options, and assist in implementing solutions through collaborative public/private partnerships.

Collectively, these companies and institutions employ nearly a quarter million Iowans and have committed billions of dollars in capital investment to the state. **On an annual basis**, several hundred million dollars in financial contributions and thousands of volunteer hours are directed to numerous charitable causes around Iowa. IBC members also lead in technology innovation with billions of dollars spent and grants procured for research and development. The Business Council focuses its efforts primarily in areas related to advanced technology, continuous process improvement, economic and workforce development, education excellence, health care and wellness, and operations continuity and security. Its representation reaches across the state – from borders north and south to rivers east and west. For more information, please visit the IBC Web site at www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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