



News Release

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Iowa Business Council Announces 2007 Officers

Des Moines, IOWA (February 12, 2007) – The Iowa Business Council has elected its 2007 leadership. Max A. Phillips, President of Qwest - Iowa and Donna Katen-Bahensky, Senior Associate Vice President for Medical Affairs and CEO of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, will continue to serve as the organization's Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. John K. Sorensen, President of the Iowa Bankers Association, will remain in his position as treasurer. Council members re-elected the leadership for another year at its 21st Annual Business Meeting held January 29 in Des Moines.

"Donna, John, and I will continue to focus on the issues the Iowa Business Council believes are fundamental to fostering both a strong economy and an attractive business climate in our state," Phillips said. "Council members are focusing on a number of important initiatives again this year, and we are all eager to move them forward."

Iowa Business Council members include the top executives of 20 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 Council initiatives for 2007 include:

- Attracting and retaining a skilled and diverse workforce so Iowa's businesses can compete in international commerce.
- Strengthening Iowa's education opportunities, especially as they relate to early childhood education, science, and mathematics.
- Establishing the Safeguard Iowa Partnership – a voluntary, public-private coalition focused on preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural and human-caused disasters in Iowa.
- Continuing to introduce and mentor the principles of continuous process improvement to sectors beyond manufacturing that include State government, academia, and health care.
- Encouraging employee wellness programs and increasing quality medical outcomes to reduce the cost of health care to Iowans.
- Making Iowa the epicenter for bio-product research, engineering, and development of renewable, sustainable substitutes for petroleum-based manufactured products.
- Developing a critical mass of entrepreneurial talent and venture capital investment to accelerate the growth of business and career opportunities in Iowa.



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“The time has come for Iowa’s business community to lead efforts in these critical areas,” Phillips said. “If Iowa is to compete in the dynamic global economy, status quo is no longer an option. We need to act, and act now.”

Phillips has served as president of Qwest - Iowa operations since 2000. His nearly 30-year career with the company includes experience in sales, marketing, regulatory affairs, and public policy. Phillips serves on the board of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and is a former president of the Woodward-Granger School System Board of Directors. In 2005, Phillips was appointed by former Gov. Tom Vilsack to be a member of the state Board of Education. Phillips is also a member of the Wells Fargo Community Board and has worked on numerous economic development and education reform initiatives at the state level.

Katen-Bahensky came to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as director and CEO in 2002. She is also a professor in the University of Iowa Department of Health Management and Policy in the College of Public Health. Katen-Bahensky is active in many professional organizations, including the University Health System Consortium, the American Hospital Association, and the Council of Teaching Hospitals. She also serves in leadership capacities for several civic organizations. Prior to coming to Iowa, Katen-Bahensky held positions in upper management with the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and Clinics, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Sorensen was named president and CEO of Iowa Bankers Association in 1997 after having joined the organization in 1986. He has held many leadership positions with the American Bankers Association, is the chairman of the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wis., serves on the boards of various state economic development programs, 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.

The Iowa Business Council is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization. Collectively, the Council’s 24 member companies and institutions employ more than 180,000 Iowans. They have invested more than \$25 billion worth of capital in the state. Founded in 1985, the Council’s purpose is to focus the personal commitment of its members to assume 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, such as the Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth. The Council releases the results of a quarterly economic outlook survey based on responses from its corporate members. It also hosts an annual partnership meeting for leaders on Iowa business, academia, and government. For more information, go to www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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