



News Release

Contact:

Mollie Deem

m.deem@essmanassociates.com

Essman/Associates

Phone: 515-282-7145

Iowa Business Council to Hold Early Childhood Summit: *What Business Leaders and Legislators Need to Know*

February 13, 2006 – (Des Moines, IA) – Iowa's largest employers will host an Early Childhood Summit Wednesday, March 1, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hy-Vee Conference Center. The Iowa Business Council is inviting business leaders and legislators to discuss and learn about the importance of early childhood education and its impact on the development of quality employees.

Keynote speakers, including Governor Vilsack, will present topics focusing on the impact of pre-K learning on Iowa's future, early childhood education and brain research, and the economic business case, followed by a panel discussion about the connection between educational development and economic development. Other speakers include Dr. Andy McGuire, Chief Medical Officer, American Republic Insurance Co.; and Dr. James Heckman, 2000 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences recipient and Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago.

The panel will include:

- Business Leader – Barry Griswell, Chairman and CEO, Principal Financial Group
- Empowerment Board Representative – Shanell Wagler, Empowerment Community Liaison
- Legislative Representative – House Speaker Christopher Rants
- Legislative Representative – Senate Democratic Leader Michael E. Gronstal
- First Lady Christie Vilsack
- Moderator – Max Phillips, 2006 Iowa Business Council Chair and President, Qwest – Iowa

Business leaders and legislators should RSVP by February 20, 2006, to ibc@iowabusinesscouncil.org.

The Iowa Business Council is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization whose 24 members include the top executives of 20 of the largest businesses in the state, the three Regent university presidents, and Iowa's largest banking association. Collectively, these companies and institutions employ more than 180,000 Iowans. They have made over \$25 billion worth of capital investments 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. For more information, go to www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

###