



News Release

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Iowa Business Council Recognizes 100th Lean Event and Announces Creation of “Partners In Efficiency Award”

DES MOINES, IOWA – January 26, 2009. The Iowa Business Council (IBC) will recognize the occurrence of the 100th Lean Enterprise event conducted within State government during its 23rd Annual Partnership Meeting to be held Monday evening, January 26, in Des Moines. Also at that time, IBC will announce the creation of the “Iowa Partners In Efficiency Award.”

LEAN IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Business Council’s Annual Partnership Meeting program will honor individuals who have helped to introduce Lean Enterprise into state government.

For the past six years the Business Development & Process Team of the Iowa Coalition for Innovation and Growth, a collaboration of IBC and the Iowa Chamber Alliance, has worked to institutionalize the philosophy of Lean Enterprise within state agencies. Successful businesses worldwide utilize Lean, which is the continuous, critical evaluation and improvement of administrative and production processes. Unnecessary steps or “touches” determined to add no value to the end product or service are eliminated. As a result, human and financial resources are deployed more efficiently while costs are reduced, product quality is increased, employee sense of value and worth grows, and customer satisfaction rises.

In 2006, the Iowa Department of Management received an appropriation to create the Office of Lean Enterprise, which has now assumed administrative responsibility for all future Lean events in state government.

During the month of January the Office of Lean Enterprise, led by Teresa Hay McMahon, coordinated and conducted state government’s 100th Lean Event within the Iowa Workforce Development Unemployment Insurance Tax Collections Office. The Council will recognize this milestone and honor McMahon, Governor Chet Culver, and others for their dedication to implementing Lean in more than 20 state agencies.

“A competitive business climate means regulatory functions need to perform as efficiently as possible,” said Mel Haught, President and CEO of Pella Corporation and incoming Chair of the Iowa Business Council. “As a result of leadership from Governor Culver and the determined efforts of the State Government Lean Initiative and the Office of Lean Enterprise, Iowa now serves as a role model for state governments everywhere

that are trying to duplicate the introduction of Lean throughout their own regulatory structures. IBC strongly endorses the ongoing pursuit of, and dedication to, this very important initiative.”

IOWA PARTNERS IN EFFICIENCY AWARD

IBC will also announce that, starting in 2010, the Business Council and the Lean Government Collaborative will co-sponsor an annual “Iowa Partners In Efficiency Award.” This award will recognize the 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 resulting in the improvement of delivery of public services to the benefit of the citizens of Iowa and the private sector.

The purpose for creating this award is:

- to publically acknowledge and highlight outstanding efforts at efficiency, productivity, cost avoidance, and waste elimination in government;
- to improve regulatory processes and performance targets;
- to drive economic competitiveness;
- to foster better work environments; and,
- to develop leaders and innovators with a bias for action.

More details about the *Iowa Partners In Efficiency Award* are forthcoming. In the meantime, the Business Council is pleased and excited about this new recognition, one it expects to become a tradition in the years to come. “The Iowa Business Council applauds the visionary state agencies that have conducted Lean events, the results of which are providing significant benefits to their departments and the constituencies they serve,” said Mel Haught. “With the advent of the *Partners In Efficiency Award*, IBC hopes to encourage continued use of Lean Enterprise in the public sector as an initiative that consistently succeeds in producing effective results.”

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The **Iowa Business Council** (IBC) 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.

The **Iowa Chamber Alliance** (ICA) is a non-profit, non-partisan, unified voice for economic growth, focused on improving the business environment to directly impact the success of

main street and commercial businesses by promoting job growth, enhancing our workforce, and creating infrastructure for the future. This coalition represents 16 Chambers of Commerce and economic development organizations throughout the state. Its mission is to put forth and enact an agenda to grow Iowa's economy through support of proactive programs that stimulate economic growth opportunities for the entire state and its residents. The Alliance members include chambers and economic development organizations in: Ames, Bettendorf, Burlington/West Burlington, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Mason City, Muscatine, Sioux City, and Waterloo. For more information, please visit the ICA Web site at www.iowachamberalliance.org.

The **Iowa Coalition for Innovation & Growth** (ICIG) is a collaborative structure for coordinating the identification of economic priorities and the process for moving those priorities to reality. Established in 2001 by the Iowa Business Council and co-administered by the Iowa Chamber Alliance, ICIG works to competitively position Iowa as a world leader in the new economy by encouraging research, technology, business innovation, and growth throughout the state. Membership consists of those who desire and will work for a stronger, more vibrant Iowa economy.

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