



News Release

Contact: Essman/Associates
Janet Green
j.green@essmanassociates.com
Phone: 515-282-7145

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Receives First Annual Iowa Partners in Efficiency Award

Des Moines, IOWA – (March 2, 2010). The Iowa Business Council (IBC) named the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Snowmobile/ATV Registration and Titling program as the winner of the first annual Iowa Partners in Efficiency (IPE) Award at a news conference held at the Iowa Department of Economic Development in Des Moines on Tuesday, March 2.

The DNR entry was selected from among three finalists and 15 nominees. The department was recognized for information management improvements in its snowmobile/ATV registration and titling process, which resulted in the development of a single database holding registration and titling information. The new system allows instant access to the information, and brings consistency and standardization to the processing of registration and title applications.

DNR's efforts reduced lead time by 99%, reduced the number of steps in the overall registration and titling process by 90%, reduced handoffs by 77%, delays by 96%, and re-work by 100%. The improved process is being replicated for boat registration and titling.

Accepting the First Annual Iowa Partners in Efficiency Award on behalf of the Snowmobile/ATV Registration and Titling Program of the DNR were Dave Cretors, Customer Service Bureau Chief, Sally Jagnandan, Management Services Division Administrator, and Chris Van Gorp of the Office of Continuous Improvement & Planning.

The IBC established the Iowa Partners in Efficiency Award in 2009 to recognize subdivisions of government in Iowa that use the tools and techniques of Lean Enterprise to increase productivity, promote innovation, and improve delivery of public services. The award specifically seeks to:

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

“Members of the Business Council have found that by eliminating waste in operational processes – whether on the production floor or in administrative offices – scarce human and financial resources can be effectively redeployed to more value-added functions,” Aller said. “Our award finalists, and the DNR’s snowmobile and ATV program in particular, have shown that these same tools of efficiency are transferable to any process in any organization.”

more

Teresa Hay McMahon, Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development and Chair of the Lean Government Collaborative, presented the award, which is a trophy produced by Tom Newport of Newport Design in Cedar Rapids.

“We are pleased to recognize the efforts of the DNR’s Snowmobile/ATV Registration and Titling Program,” McMahon said. “The data management process that they have implemented brings consistency and standardization to a process that previously depended on coordinating 99 county recorder databases and one DNR database – none of which were linked together. The transformation of this system is remarkable – in fact, it’s award-winning.”

Benjamin Allen, an Iowa Business Council member and President of the University of Northern Iowa, also received a prize – this one on behalf of the winner of the contest to design the IPE award trophy. Students from the art and design colleges of the State’s Regent Universities submitted concepts for the award. Rachel Kleven, a senior at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), was selected for her sleek design based on the infinity symbol, representing continuous improvement and reaching for ever-higher goals. President Allen accepted a \$2,000 cash prize on behalf of Ms. Kleven, who was unable to attend the ceremony in person but still participated in the program via the Iowa Communications Network.

The application process for the Second Annual Iowa Partners in Efficiency Award will begin on Thursday, July 1, 2010. The next award will be made at the IBC’s 25th Anniversary Annual Partnership Meeting in 2011.

ABOUT THE IOWA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, self-funded organization whose 24 members are the top executives of 20 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.