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Annual Report 2024

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From the Executive Director

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the accomplishments of the year just ended and the promise of the year ahead.

You'll see in this report that 2024 was a strong year for our organization and for our business community, with plenty of successes across our core functions.

Parts of what we do are no doubt familiar to you. Our Leadership for Five Seasons program has been a foundational program of excellence for more than 40 years. Our Downtown Farmers Market will celebrate its 20th season this summer. The Ambassadors in their familiar red coats helped celebrate about 100 milestone business successes last year.

Some of our most valuable business services are largely quiet, behind-the-scenes efforts. We're proud of the help we're able to provide businesses in hundreds of one-to-one engagement meetings we have each year, leading you to resources, connections and solutions.

Of course, each new year brings some new wrinkles to the playbook, too. Most significantly, we'll shift from 2024 planning to 2025 execution on a metro-wide talent attraction strategy and on the next round of implementation of the Downtown Vision Plan. New leaders and new resources will drive our efforts on both fronts.



Our full Annual Action Plan is available at cedarrapids.org. You can trust that it remains centered on our mission to drive economic growth and to help businesses succeed. And at the center of that mission is you, our valued member and the heart of the business community.

More than 100 years ago, businesses came together to work in a unified way to help businesses succeed, to grow the economy and make the community a better place. A century later, almost 1,200-member businesses of the Economic Alliance continue to see the value of joining together to do much of the same thing. Thank you for your belief in this mission and for all you do for our great community.

Sincerely,

Dory & Meuman

Doug Neumann, executive director

our mission

To drive economic, workforce and population growth strategies and to help businesses succeed.



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A look at 2024 Highlights from our year

Our 2024 visual timeline captures the breadth of the Economic Alliance's impact across the community. From engaging public policy forums to business support initiatives and vibrant community events, the timeline showcases key moments that brought people together. Each milestone reflects our commitment to growth, connection, and advocacy, driving progress for our members and community.

Jan. Feb. March April

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance Annual Meeting Policy on the honored Lura Rocks brought McBride for her together committment to legislators and the Cedar Rapids the business area business community community as the several times a 2023 Howard year to discuss Hall Excellence in issues and **Business Award** recipient.

solutions.

Legislative Night takes place each year to say 'Thank You' to Iowa legislators in Des Moines. A select cohort is to our members invited to attend. throughout

Downtown Farmers Market has become a local institution, Let's Get Down bringing more to Business showcased to the Cedar passionate experts in summer and fall. the business The Market averages nearly community 14,000 patrons that presented per market! multiple sessions

2024.

The Cedar Rapids interns by engaging them in events, networking, and amenity experiences than 200 vendors throughout Rapids area each the span of their summer internships.

May

IgniteCR is

a program

designed to

retain area

June

BizMix networking events happen monthly to engage the business community in casual networking that highlights a different organization each event!

July

Aug. Market After Dark is an evening market experience that brings together vendors, entertainment, and the community for one great night of fun and festivities! together in This year 2024!

saw 32,000

attendees!

ImpactCR is a year-round networking opportunity for area young professionals to get involved with their community. Held at a different establishment each month, these low-key networking events brought nearly 520 young professionals

Sept.

The Economic Alliance's mission is driving Cedar Rapids! economic, workforce & **BRAVO** Awards population were three growth strategies making and helping community businesses to impact. Also succeed. To that honored were end, we hold a three local series of forum events to give companies making candidates the community floor to discuss how they will impact whose leaders were in support and empower Cedar the spotlight to share their Rapids metro missions with area's business community. attendees. A

owering ...

Oci

Personaliz Support Collabo Services, Technol Enhanc

Nov. Twenty legislators, along with nearly Nearly 750 200 members community members joined of the business us for the annual community, came together Good Morning to hear about unveiling of the event this year. Cedar Rapids Honored with Metro Economic

Dec

Alliance and local companies Greater Iowa City's public policy priorities for 2025. The two organizations join forces each year to promote pro-growth policies for our region. To develop these policies, we seek input from our combined 2,000 members,

hearty breakfast investors, partners, and and genuine community laughter were stakeholders. shared as a few of our talented

community

entertained from

partners

the stage.

Connections Matter

At the Economic Alliance, membership is the foundation of everything we do. In 2024, we wrapped our year with 1,180 members strong, demonstrating the continued growth and strength of our business community. With a 94% retention rate and 83% member engagement, our members are at the core of our success, fueling our ability to connect, advocate, and create opportunities across the region.

1,180 Members in 2024

118 New Members in 2024

94% Member Retention

83% Member Engagement

98% Member Outreach

Celebrating Members with Ribbon Cuttings and Groundbreakings

Each year, the Economic Alliance celebrates member businesses and their milestones and expansions. In 2024, more than 41 ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings were celebrated across the region, cutting 366 feet of red ribbon!







Workforce: Building a Stronger Future Together

Workforce development is a cornerstone of our region's continued success. Through strategic partnerships with local schools, colleges, and programs statewide, we're helping to create a robust talent pipeline that supports businesses across sectors.

One of the standout initiatives this year was the College Community Staff Career Tours, a collaboration with the College Community School District. On August 19th and 20th, 500 educators, from preschool to 12th grade, were welcomed into 24 local businesses. This unique event, in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, gave teachers firsthand insight into the local workforce and allowed them to take this valuable knowledge back to their classrooms. By connecting educators with businesses, we're helping to better prepare students for the future, ensuring they're equipped with the skills and understanding needed to thrive in our growing economy. Some member businesses that opened their doors to faculty included BAE Systems, The Eastern Iowa Airport, ImOn Communications, Van Meter Inc., and Arlo Steel.

Career Services Day was another new successful event that was launched in 2024. This full day event was designed to empower career service professionals with the knowledge and connections needed to enhance their support for students' career development. The event was held on June 11, and hosted 60 career service professionals from 20 colleges and universities across the state. Attendees engaged and connected with local leaders and human resource professionals from 19 different companies.

Movement happens when everyone buys in. The

State of Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) launched a personalized talent attraction pilot program in June 2024 to connect prospective new residents with career opportunities and communities statewide. This initiative builds on IEDA's marketing and leverages relationships across the state, creating an infrastructure that captures leads, connects them with communities and employers, and ultimately converts them into new residents. Cedar Rapids was proud to acquire the first successful lead and talent match through the program. Bringing valuable new talent back to our region helps our workforce remain competitive and strong.

Young Professionals: Building Meaningful Connections

Being a young professional in Cedar Rapids is about more than just swapping business cards—it's about creating meaningful relationships and building something that impacts our community. That's the heart of **ImpactCR**, a group that goes beyond typical networking to foster deep connections, provide opportunities for growth, and develop the next generation of leaders.

This group works to make connections between young professionals, centered around three pillars: Social Connections to expand networks and exchange ideas, Leadership Development to provide opportunities for career growth and mentorship, and Civic Engagement to organize volunteer initiatives that positively impact our community. A talented board of 18 leads the way, cultivating a vibrant and inclusive environment that empowers young professionals to thrive personally and professionally, while strengthening and connecting the Cedar Rapids community.

IgniteCR: Shaping the Future of Cedar Rapids

IgniteCR is a summer event series for college students and interns in the Cedar Rapids metro. It offers students the chance to meet one another, explore the local culture, and connect with young professionals, all while imagining a future in the 319. This year, we welcomed 234 interns to the program, sparking connections that inspire talent to consider Cedar Rapids as a place to live, work, and grow. It was a wildly successful year with 50+ interns in attendance at each diverse event. These events included:

- Summer Kick-Off Party at Pickle Palace, Cedar Rapids
- The Marion Experience in Lowe Park, Marion
- Regional Mixer with Greater Iowa City at Pinseekers, Tiffin
- Beyond the Internship Improv at Ideal Theatre & Bar, Cedar Rapids
- Night Out at the Kernels Ballpark, Cedar Rapids



Enter Keywords

RESEARCH

Public Policy: Momentum Together



Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Economic Alliance Continues Advocacy in Washington D.C.

Locally, we know the value of partnerships within the Corridor. Nationally, we continued our efforts to promote and educate legislators about our vibrancy and how they can help. Together with our partners from Greater Iowa City, we led a coalition for our annual D.C. Fly-in of 35 regional leaders representing small businesses, large employers, higher education, non-profits and our cities.

We held meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate for the future of our growing region, including Visa reform to allow for more workers, workforce education funding and infrastructure investment. And for fun, we hosted a reception for 75 D.C. area residents with a connection to lowa, including employees of D.C.-based lowa companies, alums from Coe College and the University of Iowa and staff from the Iowa federal delegation.

Here are some of our state advocacy wins for the year:

- Expanded work-based learning opportunities to strengthen the workforce pipeline
- \$10 million for Destination Iowa, a publicprivate funding program for community quality of life projects
- Helped create the Major Economic Growth Attraction (MEGA) program, allowing Iowa to compete for large-scale economic development projects that provide highpaying jobs and capital investment.
- \$2 million increase in funding for the Manufacturing 4.0 program that prepares Iowa manufacturers to remain globally competitive through a 4th industrial revolution.

2024 was the sixth consecutive year the Economic Alliance has joined forces with Greater Iowa City, Inc. to advocate as one region for the business community. At the 2025 Legislative Launch event held on December 11, the two organizations urged state and federal legislators to enact policies that will foster growth, retention, and attraction of a skilled workforce.

Their Focus is on the Facts: Common Sense Institute Iowa Chapter

The Common Sense Institute (CSI), a nonpartisan research organization, launched their lowa chapter in 2024 at the Economic Alliance's annual meeting. CSI is dedicated to promoting economic prosperity and free enterprise through extensive research reports that help us understand the fiscal impacts of legislative proposals, regulations and initiatives by offering objective and data-driven insights. Economic Alliance Executive Director Doug Neumann serves on the CSI lowa board and drives decisions that help to better understand and navigate the economic landscape of the Cedar Rapids metro and the broader state. Economic impact reports included childcare, taxes, housing, healthcare, Caitlyn Clark-"onomics" and more.

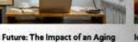
Giving Everyone an Equal Floor

Here at home, the Economic Alliance hosted two forums for the U.S. House 2nd District candidates. Our 2024 Voter Resource Guide 2024 garnered 100% participation from all Democrat and Republican candidates seeking to represent Linn County in the state House and Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives. This piece is distributed digitally across Economic Alliance social media and email communication, where it saw 35% open rates across the board, smashing the industry average of 19%. We work hard to help our members be informed on the issues and vote for candidates who are solution-oriented collaborators for the business community.

The Economic Benefit of Iowa Remaining a Low Crime State

Common Sense institute (CSI) strives to develop insightful and educational research on the most critical debates facing low a

issues on the lowa economy and individual opportunity. CSI provides elected officials, policy makers and lowan's with facts an research has also sparked innovative policy solutions and bipartisan, solutions-based discussion about the future of towa



lowa's Future: The Impact of an Workforce

December 10, 2024 | Ban Murray . Andrzei Wieciorkowsk

December 06, 2024 | Andrzej Wieciarkowski



wieciorkowski

Inflation in the Midwest - October 2024 lowa

ember 14, 2024 | Zachary Milne, Ben Murrey,

November 13, 2024 | Andrzej Wieciorkowsk





nflation Misery Index October 09, 2024 | Zachary Milne, Ben Murrey

August 22, 2024 | Dr. Chelsea Lenning .

Ben Murrey , Andrzej Wieciarkowski

The Iowa Budget Then and Now

October 01, 2024 | Andrzej Wieciarkowski





Employment Update Preliminary QCEW Benchmark

August 21, 2024

2024





"It was an amazing trip to D.C. Thank you so much for all the work you do to support each of our organizations and the work you put into our trip to D.C. From our visit with US DOT staff to meetings with our congressman, congresswoman, and their staff, and everything in between, it was so great to see and meet all who were on the trip. We are so fortunate to have such amazing people to work with in our corridor. So grateful for all of you!"

-Kim Downs, City of Marion

Forging Connections: Driving Economic Growth Through Partnership

Big things happen when we work together.

The success of any community is measured by a strong business environment that supports all employers. Our Economic Development team is always behind the scenes, creating meaningful relationships, connecting the dots and helping to promote economic growth and development in our region. Over the last seven years, capital investment has demonstrated strong forward momentum, with \$5.32 billion invested across 236 projects from 2016 to 2024, driving growth and retention of new and existing businesses.

Several of the projects in the year 2024 were slam dunks for our region. For the last decade, the Economic Alliance has advocated and lobbied for the Big Cedar Industrial Center, 1,391 acres of land. Two large data center projects decided that Big Cedar was the ideal location for their expansions, claiming the last of The Mega Site inventory; Google \$576 million and QTS \$750 million.

Connecting the Dots: Linking Opportunities for Growth

Efforts of this grand caliber would not be possible without our economic development partners like Alliant Energy, Benton Development Group, Cedar Rapids Economic Development, City of Center Point, City of Cedar Rapids, City of Fairfax, City of Hiawatha, City of Marion, City of Robins, Eastern Iowa Airport, Hiawatha Economic Development Corp., Iowa County Community Development, Jones County Economic Development, Linn County, Marion Economic Development Corp., City of Mount Vernon, and Robins Economic Development Initiative, among others.

More 2024 Highlights:

 153 Business Retention Expansion surveys completed to help identify and understand concerns or opportunities within the business community

- Our economic development team, energy partners and the city collaboratively conducted headquarter visits with both local and interstate commerce companies. These large employers, such as IFF, Collins and Red Star, among others, are critical pillars in the larger business ecosystem.
- One Brownfield project that received an award of \$775,000 for the FY25 Redevelopment Tax Credit Program was the old Garfield Elementary School located at 1201 Maplewood Drive NE, Cedar Rapids. The project will redevelop the facility and create a minimum of twenty - 1,2- and 3-bedroom units.
- Expansion on the First and First West development continues to add taxable value to the area with the addition of the Kingston Yard development – adding retail space and housing units to a vastly growing area
- In September 2024, leaders from the City of Cedar Rapids and the Economic Alliance Economic Development team visited Prague, the largest city in the Czech Republic. This group over the course of several days had many meetings that took place as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Iowa. The main topic of the meetings was the expanded cooperation between the industrial sector and universities in Iowa and the Czech Republic. The possibilities of cooperation in key areas of research, such as cosmonautics, aviation, biomedicine and agriculture, were mainly discussed. An important point of the program was also the question of the development of university studies and exchange programs for students.





"If you're going to be a part of a community you need to be embedded into it and be a part of a network of people who together work to make the whole better.

The Economic Alliance is one of those places, and it's a really good place because that's their sole goal."

-Mary Quass, NRG Media

Energizing the Downtown Cedar Rapids Vision



"It has been an incredible year for the Downtown District, marked by collaboration, progress, and a shared commitment to creating a thriving, vibrant downtown Cedar Rapids. Our success is driven by the strong partnership we have with the City of Cedar Rapids, the Economic Alliance, and our dedicated property owners, all working together to bring our vision to life."

-James Klein, Chair of the Downtown District Commission

↑ Greene Square

↑ Museum O

Federal

Courthou.

Downtown proudly welcomed several new members to the team: Jennifar Bassett as District Program Manager and Caleb Knutson as Executive Director. Chosen for their passion and dynamic vision, Jennifar and Caleb bring the energy and innovation needed to make downtown Cedar Rapids a hub of creativity, growth, and vibrancy. Together, they're driving initiatives that not only enhance our downtown but also inspire a ripple effect of economic and cultural vitality across the entire region and state of Iowa.

With these additions, progress on the Downtown Vision plan that was adopted in late 2023 has begun to make strides. Downtown continues to grow and find immersive ways to bring the community to its streets and support local businesses. Here's a few notable happenings in 2024:

 The Downtown Trolley pilot program is making its debut on Friday and Saturday evenings in December 2024 through January 2025 as a way to connect patrons Downtown and with other close districts. The trolley safely transported more than 125 patrons on its debut weekend.

- Partnerships Powering Downtown Events: The success of downtown Cedar Rapids is fueled by the strong partnerships and sponsorships made possible through the Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID). Events include: The Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market season, Blocktoberfest, Freedom Festival, live music at Kingston Yard and Putts for Prevention, Iowa Brewing Company
- Addition of Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation's "Love for Humanity" Mural
- New Downtown signage on the Five Seasons Parking Garage welcomes visitors from the skyline
- Use of new Placer AI technology helps validate that downtown visitor traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels and rising.





Community Development: Local Means More

Giving Local Means More

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance has always worked to champion a local-first mindset, making it a priority to amplify that messaging exponentially since the flood of 2008. First, it was with the Rally Cap campaign, then with Buy. Give. Grow., and for the past three years, the Buy 319 message. As part of year-round buy local efforts, a new addition to the Buy 319 rally cry was launched with the Buy 319 Gift Card program.



Dollars spent locally have a positive ripple effect within our community. Purchasing a digital Buy 319 Gift Card allows gift offerings from a wide range of local businesses- from retail and restaurants to services and entertainment. The purchase of a single card allows for use at any participating Buy 319-member business. Since the program's launch in mid-November, 28 members businesses opted into the program and more than 60 gift cards have been sent. This program is just gaining momentum, as it is a year-round focused effort instead of a one and done holiday campaign. It's the gift that keeps on giving back to our community into 2025 and beyond. Get your cards and learn more about how you can be a Buy 319 business at www.buy319.com

Cedar Rapids Restaurant Week and Fork & Knife Feast

The table was set perfectly to bring back the highly anticipated Fork & Knife Feast for its post-pandemic return. Fork & Knife Feast kicked off the local foodie week with 200 local foodies at the event that featured tastings from specialty eats and cocktails from all 21 participating establishments. During the tenday span of Restaurant Week itself, many of the participating restaurants saw record-breaking sales, packed dining rooms and higher take-out traffic than they see during any other quarter. The purpose? To celebrate our incredibly diverse local eats and encourage supporting local restaurants.

Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market and Market After Dark

When you think of a community event, you think of the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market and Market After Dark. The 2024 Season brought an average of 13,000 people per market for the regular eight market season with 200 vendors lining up the 4-block venue. Market After Dark welcomed 32,000 people to the streets of downtown for an evening of live music, local brews and 150 vendors.

Empowering Growth: Business Support and Leadership in Action

Programs To Support You and Your Business

Members are eager to learn, and we actively listen to areas in which they want to grow. The Economic Alliance offers programming every month that brings together members to learn, connect, and develop their skill sets. Our programs this year included:

- Let's Get Down to Business is where members share their expertise with others twice per quarter on topics like marketing, hiring, employee engagement, and more.
- Quarterly Hiawatha Business Summits are a partnership with the City of Hiawatha and Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation. These summits allow Hiawatha businesses to network and learn about topics of interest to their community.
- Quarterly Speed Networking is a fast-paced event where attendees can get the word out about their work, potentially discover new business opportunities, and rapidly expand their network.
- **Group 401k Plan** meeting to educate small businesses on the new group retirement plan available to them as an Economic Alliance member.
- **Emerging Issues Program** to coach members on salary threshold changes going into effect for small businesses in the new year.

18 Business Support & Networking Programs 450+ professionals in attendance in 2024

Leadership for Five Seasons Molds Multi-Generational Leadership

The Adult Leadership for Five Seasons (LFS) program and its Youth and Executive counterparts are foundational programs of the Economic Alliance that serve as a compelling workforce retention tool and booster of community pride. They ignite passion and make participants feel a sense of belonging in the city in which they live, work, and attend school.

Youth Leadership for Five Seasons

Youth LFS is an annual program where 35 juniors from 8 area high schools are selected to gain community knowledge, connections, and career exploration opportunities over seven industry days during the school year. Their experience culminates in a class service project partnering with a local non-profit and a graduation each March.

The 2024 Youth Class adopted YPN for their service project to help them manage donations in their 'We Care Shop' and organize an expanded storage space. Classmates conducted a storage bin drive to aid with organization on project day, sorted donation items, stocked and stored them by season, created labels, and built additional shelving. Their collective efforts provided nearly 200 volunteer hours to YPN, freeing up their staff to focus more on helping clients!

"As a result of going through LFS, I am much more open to networking and establishing connections with people in my community."

-Srinidhi Kompella, Kennedy High School

Adult Leadership for Five Seasons

This flagship, 10-month program empowers participants with a comprehensive understanding of our community's challenges and opportunities; while also providing a broader knowledge of our region and the role future leaders can play as engaged citizens. Each year, 35 working professionals are selected through an application and interview process that is led by LFS alumni. Each class plans their own service project and carries connections that last long beyond their graduation dates.

The 2024 Adult Class partnered with Feed Iowa First for their class project to fundraise for and build an on-site wash and pack shed for their Marion farm location! The class raised funds through a Trivia Night at NewBo City Market, company sponsorships, and a charity BINGO night! They raised just over \$19k and after project expenses, were able to donate almost \$10k to Feed Iowa First to use towards additional projects at the farm.

"LFS equips you with the skills and insights needed to be effectively informed of local issues and fosters a deep sense of civic responsibility. Prepare to leave the program with a well-rounded perspective on leadership and a strong network of like-minded individuals dedicated to community improvement."

> -Ryne George, Adult Class of 2024, Community Impact Ambassador, Corda Credit Union

Executive LFS

Geared toward recently relocated or new executives to the area, this unique program is offered every two years and introduces 7-8 selected participants and their partners/spouses to our community's leaders, opportunities and unique offerings. The most recent class ran from August 2023-May 2024 and included:

Tony Baranowski Manager of Special Projects, The Gazette

Pete Bittorf Plant Manager, General Mills

Dr. Tawana Grover Superintendent, Cedar Rapids Community School District

Sara Konrad Baranowski Managing Editor, The Gazette

Ted Kraft Chief Credit Officer, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Laura Kuykendall VP of Marketing, Frontier Co-op

Danette Tobin General Sales Manager, KCRG







Scott Hauser

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Alliant Energy Nick Glew Community Savings Bank

Ted Kepros *Kepros Physical Therapy*

James Klein Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Paula Land Horizons

Anne Parmley TrueNorth Companies, LLC

Jeff Pomeranz City of Cedar Rapids

Rocki Shepard New Leader Manufacturing

Mark Thoeny GPB LLC

Justin Zehr Fun Not Fancy

Business Support Innovation Council

Jeff Brunscheen Coca-Cola Atlantic Bottling

Cat Cantrill The Heart Agency

Randy Conrad Conrad Consulting Group

Cherie Edilson Member Marketplace

Tim Ewing *Tim Ewing, Realtor at Keller Williams Legacy Group*

Kay Fisk Malia Gudenkauf Little Miss Finance Strategy Solutions, Inc. **Randy Shramek** Recon Roofing & Construction Armina Lacayo Lacayo Restaurant **Ed Leighton-Dick** Kingfisher Data Sammy Petersen Bloomsbury Farm Dr. Isaac Reis Atlas Specific Chiropractic Zach Schmit Covenant Workplace Solutions Jamie Siefken Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery Heidi Steffen TitanTV Tasha Stone Stepping Stones Alissa Studt Bliss Balloons Co LLC Eric Van Kerckhove Allegra Marketing Print Mail **Kyle Zimmerman**

Community Development Innovation Council

Guide Wealth Partners

Sarah Blais NewBo City Market

Ryan Bosch Equitable/Bosch Financial Derek Crockett BLX, Inc. Katie Curtis Foundation 2 Crisis Services Maurice Davis Marketing Growth Strategy

Erynn DeRycke Embody Bridal Eric Hanson KZIA Cale Henderson Cliff's Dive Bar Brad Joens Hills Bank Kelli Kurek Unique Events Angie Lippe

Angie Lippe The ESCO Group Aaron Loan Acumen

> **Nicole Mead** Creative Planning LLC

Jim Miller Horizons Jessica Montgomery

The Metropolitan Group

Brandi Sawyer The Olympic South Side Theater Nate Seyfer GreenState Credit Union Julie Stow Cedar Rapids Tourism Jordan Sullivan Edward Jones Lori Wiles Wiles Design Group Amanda Zhorne Craft'd

Economic Development Innovation Council

Dennis Jordan Alliant Energy Nancy Bird Greater Iowa City, Inc. Jessica Boyle-Roberts Northwestern Mutual Brad Canfield CCB Packaging ImOn Communications **Steve Charlier** Millstream Brewing Co. Steve Gibson Alro Steel **Kris Gulick** Kris G. Gulick CPA. P.L.C. Brian Hamacher South Slope Communications Rod Hanssen Premier Staffing Inc. Dean Houdeshell Innovative Coaching Strategies Damon John Riverside Casino & Golf Resort **Tim Kintner Ohnward Bank & Trust** Chad Lambi *Iowa Interstate Railroad LLC* Cydney Lovell (In memoriam) ITC Midwest Nancy Lynk U.S. Bank Tyler McCarville Kirkwood Community College **Gavin McGrath** McGrath Family of Dealerships Marc Meyer

Patrice Carroll

J and M Enterprises lowa, Inc. **Danielle Monthei** *Van Meter Inc.*

Craig Montz Miron Construction

Stefanie Munsterman *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission*

David Parmley

Kate Robertson Benton County Development Group

Caroline Rustand King Construction

Hailee Sandberg Iowa State Univ. Extension and

Outreach Linn County Luke Schmidt

GSTC Logistics

Megan Schulte Frontier Co-Op

Don Woodruff Woodruff Contruction

Trisha Young Clickstop

Large Investor Council

Brian Mullins ADM-Corn Processing Division **Dennis Jordan** Alliant Energy - Interstate Power and Light Co.

Greg Luerkens Amana Society, Inc.

Luke Bishop BAE Systems

Jack Gonder Bankers Trust Company

Bill McCartan Bradley & Riley PC

Dan Pulis Cargill Inc. - Corn Milling

Larry Helling Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

James Klein Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Tiffany O'Donnell *City of Cedar Rapids*

Dennis Marks City of Hiawatha

Ryan Waller City of Marion

Cindy Dietz Collins Aerospace

Jason MacDonald Collins Community Credit Union

John Smith CRST International, Inc.

Gene Neighbor

Farmers State Bank

Pete Bittorf General Mills Operations, Inc.

Vikram Israni GreenState Credit Union

Rick White HR Green Inc.

Andy Streit Hy-Vee, Inc.

Scott Stimart ImOn Communications

Jim DeArmond Ingredion

Thom Pritz KCRG-TV9 / Gray Television

Charlie Rohde King's Material Inc.

Kristie Fisher Kirkwood Community College

Chris DeWolf Lil' Drug Store Products, Inc.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt Linn County Board of Supervisors

Terry Sullivan *Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative*

Nick AbouAssaly City of Marion

Tim Quinn Mercy Medical Center

Kathryn Kunert MidAmerican Energy Company

Robb Loftsgard *MidWestOne Financial Group*

Scott Lindgren Nordstrom

Dave Sorg OPN Acrhitects Inc.

Eric Dalton Physicians' Clinic of Iowa

20

Mark Tonne

Ouaker Foods & Snacks a Division of Pepsico Inc.

Dennis Winders RCI Imaging Center

Jen Bennett Shive-Hattery Inc

Laurie Dawley Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C.

Brian Fagan Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC

Hunter Skogman Skogman Companies

Martin Lenss The Eastern Iowa Airport

Kelly Homewood The Gazette

Julie Johnson The Hall-Perrine Foundation

Amy Evans Transamerica Companies

Jason Smith TrueNorth Companies LLC

Kelly Lind-Daufeldt U.S. Bank

Michael Sheeley UFG Insurance

Casey Greene UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital

Lura McBride Van Meter Inc.

22

Jesse Hammes Weitz Industrial LLC

Becky Ditch Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa

Thank You, Ambassadors!

Peg Antonelli Bella Rose Consulting, LLC John Armon Bankers Trust Krista Barnell KCRG-TV9 - Gray Television

Destiny Benson Spare Time Entertainment Matt Brandt

Hills Bank and Trust Andrea Brommelkamp

Corda Credit Union Sarah Buehler *Guide Wealth Partners*

Dan Burrus ATLAS CPAS & Advisors Michael Clanin Safe Money Solutions Nikki Clavton Dupaco Credit Union Brett Clavton Cedar Rapids Kernels **Trisha Cornwell** ESG Professional Accountants Bob Cunningham

The Gazette/Gazette Print Services Brvce Dake

Neighborhood Finance Corporation

Janelle DeMeulenaere Community Savings Bank Jack Denton Cedar Rapids Kernels Alan Diehl Transamerica

Steve Dodson City of Hiawatha Terri Dovle Bankers Trust Chad Dunne Sheets Forrest Draper Insurance

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance | Annual Report 2024

Becky Eckley Lindale Mall LeeAnn Eddins LA. Eddins Design **Bob Eustice** Prudential Advisors **Tim Ewing** Realtor at Keller Williams Legacy Group Julie Fay Transamerica Companies Jake Fichter BSI Engineering Liz Foster Northwestern Mutual **Ben Gander** MidwestOne Bank Stephanie Gobeli Elevated Financials LLC **Lindsey Gruber** Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa Suede Gruenwald Lamar Advertising Vicki Hanna Hanna Plumbing & Heating Inc **Rachel Hauck** Community Savings Bank Terra Heaton Heaton & Associates John Heavens Dupaco Credit Union Trent Hekel New American Funding **Dr. Brenton Hicks** *Revive Family Chiropractic* Paula Hill Four Oaks Family and Children's Services Amber Hoff

Sound Mind Therapy Kathy Holmes City of Cedar Rapids

Bob Hovt

Uptown Snug Laura Janssen KCRG-TV9 - Gray Television

Shar Jones UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital

Elisabeth Kissling Marion School Foundation

Sean Koopman Koopman Partners Funds

Cindy Lampe ServiceMaster by Rice

Carrie Langton Bouslog Insurance

Colin Looker Farm Bureau Financial Services

Kvle Low **Ohnward Bank & Trust**

Susie Makinster Five Rings Financial

Bridget Martin Northwestern Mutual

Ian Martin Rock Technology

Sean McDonald Farmers National Company

Becky Miller Hy-Vee

Joel Miller Linn County

Kevin Moser Septagon Construction

Troy Munger

Skogman Realty Kristen Mvers

Ohnward Bank & Trust Christa Nelson Epiphany Dermatology Mike Nemeth fp Music Academy

Troy O'Connell Integrated Connection, LLC Ashley Palmer Silver Oak Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC

Isaiah Pirtle Corda Credit Union

Jessica Pleggenkuhle New Leader Manufacturing

Elizabeth Posekany Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Danielle Priebe Goodwill of the Heartland

William Redmond Mercy Medical Center

Deanna Reeves Kirkwood Village / Watts Group

Brittany Rohling Grand Living at Indian Creek

Lisa Rowe PRK Williams Companies

Shaubhik Roy Hills Bank and Trust

Jane Schlegel Linn-Mar Community Schools

Nicole Schroeder Wired Production Group

Janet Shepherd-Meier Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Kari Sicard Just Make Music

Teresa Smalley Coldwell Banker Hedges Realty

Jordan Sullivan Edward Jones

JD Towe OnMedia

Renee Uthoff iHeartMEDIA - WMT AM/FM Radio

Alyssa Vande Voort King Construction

Todd Vavra Banklowa

Josh Volgarino Carson Wealth

Todd Wagner

Lamar Advertising Kristi Whitham MidwestOne Bank

Andy Whiting National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Sally Wiley Level 10

Radisson Hotel Cedar Rapids

Basepoint Wealth

Dupaco Community Credit Union

Holly Zimmerman Fairfax State Savings Bank

Megan Williams Shelley Woods

Richard Younts

Thank You, Members! (This list includes members active as of 12-31-24)

Legacy

Alliant Energy - Interstate Power and Light Co. Collins Aerospace

Benefactor

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust **City of Cedar Rapids** City of Hiawatha **Collins Community Credit Union** Dakota Red Corporation Mercy Medical Center **Skogman Companies** The Eastern Iowa Airport Transamerica Companies U.S. Bank UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital

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Cedar Rapids Community School District Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC **Central Iowa Power Cooperative** Centro Inc. City of Fairfax City of Mount Vernon City of Robins CliftonLarsonAllen LLP **College Community School** District **Community Savings Bank** Corda Credit Union de Novo Marketing ESCO Group Estes Construction F & M Bank First Interstate Bank Fluid Quip Technologies, LLC Frontier Co-Op Graham Construction Company Grant Wood Area Education Agency Hibu Holmes Murphy & Associates International Paper Involta LLC Iowa Interstate Railroad, LLC JRS Pharma LP **King Construction Kraft Heinz** L.L. Pelling Company, Inc. Legacy Manufacturing Company Mediacom **MI Conveyance Solutions** Mortenson New Leader Manufacturing Nyemaster Goode, P.C. **Ohnward Bank & Trust Pirc-Tobin Construction** Point Builders, LLC Rinderknecht Associates Inc Riverside Casino & Golf Resort Ryan Companies US, Inc. Skyworks Solutions, Inc. The Accel Group

Confluence

Veridian Credit Union **Conlon Construction Co.** Walmart Super Center **Construction Materials Inc Corridor Business Journal** West Side Transport **Creative Planning LLC** World Class Industries Crystal Group Inc. Worley Warehousing, Inc. **D.W. Zinser Company** Company Inc. **Commerce Builder** DoubleTree by Hilton DSG Fareway Stores, Inc. Allegra Marketing Print Mail Future Systems, Inc. Area Ambulance Service Armstrong Development Co. **Real Estate Advisors GSTC** Logistics, Inc. **Bayer Crop Science - Williamsburg Benton Development Group** Hawkeye Fire & Safety Hawkeye Holdings **High Properties** Cedar Crest Manufacturing Hogan - Hansen, PC Hometown Restyling **Cedar Memorial Funeral Home** Honkamp, P.C. **Cedar Rapids Janitorial Hunter Companies Cedar Rapids Kernels Professional IBEW Local Union 405** Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery Cedar Valley Steel, Inc. In Tolerance **CellSite Solutions, LLC** Iowa Beverage Development Iowa Realty **Circle Computer Resources, Inc. Climate Engineers Inc.** Coca-Cola Atlantic Bottling Center **Coldwell Banker Hedges Realty**

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Wells Fargo Bank

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AMTek Microwaves

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B.G. Brecke, Inc.

Boyson Heights

BSI Engineering

Carson Wealth

Company

Baseball Club

Cedar Graphics, Inc.

Channel Fusion, Inc.

Compass Commercial Services

Choreo Advisors

Coe College

Baker Group

A-1 Disposal

AARP Iowa

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Auxiant

BHFO

BLX, Inc.

Dave Schmitt Construction **Dental Prosthetic Services, Inc. Dupaco Community Credit Union** E & F Paving Company, LLC Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. **First Federal Credit Union** Garling Construction, Inc. Genova Technologies, Inc. Gibbs Lamb Drown Commercial GTG Peterbilt - Cedar Rapids Hall & Hall Engineers Inc. Hawkeye Electrical Contractors Hawkeve First Aid & Safety Hughes Nursery & Landscaping **IFP Motion Solutions Inc** Iowa County Community J.P. Gasway Company Inc. Janda Motor Services, Inc. John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial **Kepros Physical Therapy and** Performance

Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank Keurig Dr. Pepper KGAN/KFXA **Knutson Construction KZIA-FM Z102.9** Lederer Weston Craig, P.L.C. Liebovich Steel & Aluminum Co Lynch Dallas, P.C. Marco McClure Meth-Wick Community, Inc. MidAmerican Aerospace LTD Midwest Metal Products MJ Commercial Cleaning LLC Modern Mount Mercy University **Mount Vernon Bank & Trust MSI Mold Builders Nelson Electric Company** NeoNova Network Services LLC Nesper Sign Advertising Newell Machinery Co., Inc. Pactiv Evergreen Inc. Park Cedar Rapids Parker Hannifin Peak Construction Group Performance Foodservice Peterson Contractors Inc Phelan's Pipe Pro Inc. Principal Financial Network of Cedar Valley **PRK Williams Construction and** Remodeling **Prodigy Power** ProLift Garage Doors of Cedar Rapids q2Advantage, LLC **Quality Care Lawn Radisson Cedar Rapids Raining Rose Rapids Reproductions Inc** Rathje Construction Company **Rayser Holdings Rinker Materials** Robert W. Baird & Company, Inc. Russell

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Classic Supporter

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Cedar Rapids Bowling Center Cedar Rapids City Assessor's Office **Cedar Rapids Country Club Cedar Rapids Eyecare** Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival, Inc. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art **Cedar Rapids Opera Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation** Cedar Rapids Public Library Cedar Rapids Shopping Center | MRP Capital Group Cedar Rapids Smile Center, PLC Cedar Rapids Tourism Office Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc **Cedar Valley Humane Society** Cedar Valley Montessori School Cedar Valley World Travel **Central State Bank** Century 21 Signature CertaPro Painters of Eastern Iowa Chick-fil-A Lindale ChildServe Cedar Rapids City of Elv **Citywalk Eatery** Citywide Cleaners, Inc. Clickstop Clife DJ Company Cliff's Dive Bar & Grill Cobble Hill Coffee Republic **Community 1st Credit Union Conrad Consulting Group Construction Publications. Inc.** Coonrod Wrecker & Crane Service **Corporate Center East Corridor Corporate Games Corridor Crossing Place Cottage Grove Place** CountryHouse Courter Law, PLLC, Bill Courter **Covenant Workplace Solutions** CR Signs & Lighting, Inc. Craft'd

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Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation Hilton Garden Inn **Hobart Historic Restoration** Holiday Inn Express Holistic Wellness & Psychiatry Home 2 Suites Home Instead Homewood Suites by Hilton Horizons House of Carpets Housing Fund for Linn County Hovden Oil Co Inc HRTLND Hupp Electric Motors Inc Ican. Inc. Icon Industrial Services ICS Advanced Technologies iHeartMEDIA - WMT AM/FM Radio Illuminate Digital LLC Impact Photo / Joe Photo ImpactLife Indian Creek Nature Center Industrial Energy Applications Infologistics, Inc Infomax Office Systems, Inc. Informatics, Inc. **Innovative Aesthetics Medical Spa** and Laser Center **Innovative Coaching Strategies** Insect Control Specialists, Inc. Inteconnex Integrated Connection **INTEGRUS** Consulting, LLC International Traders of Iowa Iowa Brewing Company Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral Iowa City Downtown District **Iowa Giving Crew** Iowa MBA and Business Analytics programs, Univ of Iowa Iowa Public Radio Iowa Running Company Iowa State University - CIRAS Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Linn County

Iowa Title Company Iowa Women's Health Center **IowaWORKS** ISA Ventures ISA, Inc DBA Islamic Services of America J. Pettiecord. Inc. J.D. Byrider J.W. Morton & Associates **JCMR** Jennessey Business Advisors Jerry's Homes, Inc. Joe Bertsch Electrical Sales Co John Deere Classic Junior Achievement of Eastern lowa Junior League of Cedar Rapids Inc **Kaas Employment Services** Kenwood Records Management **KF Engineering** Kieck's & K Jean's **Kingfisher Data** King's Material Inc. **Kinzler Construction Services** KJ Haul Away Junk Removal & Demolition Klinger Paint Co Inc Kona Ice of Cedar Rapids, LLC **Koopman Partners Funds** Kris G. Gulick CPA. P.L.C. KWWL-TV/NBC L.A. Eddins Design La Cantina Bar & Grill La Terraza Mexican Grill & Seafood Laborers' Local 43 Lacayo Restaurant LAMAR Advertising Company LattaHarris LLP Lattner Boiler Company LBA Foundation (Leaders Believers Achievers) Let's Go CR Party Bus Level 10 Apparel Life 101.9 Lindale Mall Linn County Emergency Management Agency Linn-Mar Community School

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District

Millstream Brewing Co Miron Construction Co., Inc. **Mirrorbox Theatre** MMS Consultants Moe's Southwest Grill Mosaic Motel 6 MRA: The Management Association **MSA Professional Services** Munson Electric Inc Murals and More MY SALON Suite of Cedar Rapids National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Nazette Marner Nathanson Knoll LLP Need Pizza Neumann Monson Architects New American Funding New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative / NewBoCo **New Pioneer Food Co-op** NewBo City Market Next Generation Wireless NFC Cedar Rapids, LLC North Risk Partners Northtowne Cycling & Fitness Northwestern Mutual NRG Media LLC **Oak Street Health** OFB LLC Office Evolution Office Express Office Products Office Pride **Ogden & Adams Building Solutions** One Above HR **Orchestra** Iowa O's Grill LLC Ottsen Oil Co. Inc. **Ovation Networks Inc.** P.E.C. Communications P&K Midwest Palmer Group **Paragon Interiors Parks & Schmit Orthodontics** Parlor City Pub & Eatery Paulson Electric Company

Paychex HR Payteva **Pedalers Fork** Per Mar Security Petersen Pet Hospital Pickle Palace **Piersall Law Firm PC** Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouses Inc. Pigott, Inc. Pinnacle Realty **PinSeekers Tiffin** PIP Marketing/Signs/Print **PIRTEK Cedar Rapids** PointCore Graphic Solutions Pool Tech, a WGHK, Inc. Company **Prairie Capital Advisors** Prairiewoods Franciscan **Spirituality Center** Premier Staffing, Inc Prestige Cuts Price Electric Prime IV Hydration and Wellness **Primera Engineers Primus Companies Private Wealth Asset Management** Professional Muffler, Inc. **Prospect Meadows Sports** Complex PS Adfinity Pub 217 **Pulse Financial Services QPS Employment Group** Quality Inn at Collins Rd. **Quarter Barrel Arcade & Brewery Quick Action Accounting & Business Solutions LLC Rains Architecture, PLLC Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** Rally Appraisal, LLC Randy's Flooring Rapids Wholesale Equipment Co. Raygun **RBC Wealth Management Recon Roofing & Construction** Red Cedar Advisory, Inc. **Rehab Management Services, LLC** Renaissance Group, Inc.

Hiawatha Bank & Trust Co.

Solutions Management Group

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"Not only is the team at the Economic Alliance great at providing warm introductions between members, but you can trust those connections made will have lasting impact. I've always found relationships created through the Economic Alliance to be mutually beneficial because their team and members care so much about moving our community forward."

> -Jordan Taylor Flanker Media







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Caleb Knutson







Anne Laugen Membership Development

Jennifar Bassett Downtown District Program Manager

Doug Neumann

Executive Director

Ron Corbett Vice President of Economic Development

Communications

Jule Day





Peggy Degnan Admin/Project Coordinator

Jenn Draper **Events** Contractor

Brittnie Gerard Office Clerk

Colin Glandon Maintenance Specialist

Accounting/Finance

Shannon Hanson





Clarissa Koch

Manager



Member Relationship Manager



Mike Lukan Economic Development Project Manager



Jodi Schafer Talent Attraction Director



Laura Seyfer Workforce Specialist

Josh Smithey Marketing & Communications Specialist



Barbra Solberg Public Policy Strategist

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Rebecca Sullens **Programs Specialist**



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Relationship Manager Gage Trimble



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Economic Development

Seasonal Maintenance















Our Strategic Partners

Government Partners City of Cedar Rapids City of Ely City of Fairfax City of Hiawatha City of Marion City of Mt. Vernon City of Robins Benton County Iowa County Linn County State of Iowa

Education Partners

Coe College **Grant Wood AEA** Iowa State University – CIRAS Iowa State University – Linn County **Extension Service Kirkwood Community College** Metro area school districts - Cedar Rapids, College Community, Linn-Mar and Marion **School Districts Mount Mercy University** University of Iowa – MBA & Business Analytics University of Iowa – John Pappajohn **Entrepreneurial Center** University of Iowa – Pomerantz Career Center University of Northern Iowa – Institute for **Decision Making Upper Iowa University - Cedar Rapids** Center **Xavier Foundation Economic Development Partners**

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ITC Midwest

Jones County Economic Development Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative Local SCORE chapter Marion Chamber of Commerce Marion Economic Development Corporation MidAmerican Energy NewBoCo Robins Economic Development Initiative Small Business Administration Small Business Development Center The Eastern Iowa Airport Travero, Inc.

Trade Association Partners

American Chamber of Commerce Executives Cedar Rapids Area Association of REALTORS Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Building & Construction Trades Council Greater Cedar Rapids Housing and Building Association Hawkeye Labor Council (and participating Locals) International Traders of Iowa Iowa Chamber Alliance (and other state business associations) U.S. Chamber of Commerce (other federal business associations)

Community Development Partners

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