



**ASSOCIATION OF
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

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Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) and the Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM) State Council sign partnership agreement

Ankeny, IA., December 5, 2008. Iowa businesses will benefit from a much more collaborative relationship between two powerful Iowa associations. Today at the SHRM Leadership Conference representatives from ABI and SHRM signed an agreement that will broaden both associations' mutual resources, increase grassroots membership activity and mutually enhance the value of both associations increasing the value they bring to businesses across the state.

Mary Greiner, Chair of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Committee says, "After a year of great informal and unplanned collaboration, both our organizations thought we could better serve business in Iowa if we formalized the relationship and developed a strategy for better serving the business community together." At the meeting last Friday, Mary said that, "this partnership will allow us to identify statewide resources and develop a repository for best practices."

Leisa Fox, Vice President for Membership at ABI said, "ABI has historically connected with the top level CEO's within our membership base. This relationship allows us to drive our grass roots efforts more deeply into our member organizations and communicate more effectively with our legislators on the many human resources issues being discussed at the Capital."

Initially, the partnership allows for collaboration on programming and services provided to the Iowa business community, mutually discounted fees for both organizations and a strategic approach to solving statewide issues such as workforce readiness, rising healthcare costs and protecting Iowa's business climate.

ABI is the largest and oldest statewide business network in Iowa, serving over 1400 members representing over 300,000 employees.