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ABI Conference to Feature CEO Panel, National Speakers in Eastern Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) will host its annual *Taking Care of Business Conference*, June 2–4, 2026, in Coralville and Iowa City, convening 500+ business leaders from across the state for three days of forward-looking conversations, expert insights, and high-value networking.

A highlight of this year's agenda will be a CEO panel moderated by Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The panel will feature leaders from some of Iowa's most critical industries, offering candid perspectives on topics ranging from artificial intelligence and workforce challenges to leadership and the state's business climate.

Immediately preceding the panel, attendees will hear directly from candidates for governor during a forum focused on key issues impacting Iowa employers. With the event taking place two days after the primary, the top vote-getter in the Republican primary will be invited to participate.

This year's program will also feature two nationally recognized mainstage speakers:

- **Donna Orender**, former president of the WNBA and a nationally recognized leadership expert, who will share insights on leadership, growth, and driving organizational success
- **Shawn DuBravac, Ph.D.**, economist, futurist, and best-selling author, who will offer perspectives on emerging trends, technology, and the forces influencing today's economy

In addition to mainstage sessions, attendees will participate in interactive workshops led by industry experts and Iowa business leaders, covering a range of timely topics.

"The Taking Care of Business Conference is about bringing leaders together to learn, connect, and move Iowa forward," said ABI President Nicole Crain. "ABI members and business leaders attend because this event enables real conversations on topics that will shape Iowa's future."

The conference will also feature the announcement of the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa, the graduation of the 2025-26 Leadership Iowa Class, and networking events across the Corridor region.

To learn more or view the full agenda, visit www.ABITakingCareOfBusiness.com.

Media access is limited to credentialed members of the press. A separate media advisory with credentialing details and coverage opportunities will be distributed in advance of the event. To receive this advisory and additional coverage details, email Kelsey O'Connor.

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The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) has been the voice of Iowa business since 1903. Its mission is to provide a strong, unified voice to business and industry on issues affecting Iowa employers. ABI is comprised of member companies representing all industries and sizes in Iowa's 99 counties. ABI members employ more than 330,000 Iowans.