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Forty Iowa Leaders Graduate from Premier Statewide Leadership Program

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation celebrated the graduation of 40 leaders from the Leadership Iowa Class of 2025-26 during a ceremony held June 2 as part of ABI's Taking Care of Business Conference.

Over the course of nine months, participants traveled across Iowa to gain a deeper understanding of the state's opportunities, challenges, industries, and communities. Through immersive experiences and conversations with business, community and government leaders, class members explored topics including agriculture, renewable energy, workforce development, economic growth, government, manufacturing, education and rural vitality.

"Leadership Iowa is much more than a program – it is an experience that challenges participants to broaden their perspectives, build meaningful relationships and strengthen their commitment to Iowa's future," said Nicole Crain, president of ABI. "We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of this outstanding class and welcome them into the Leadership Iowa alumni network."

The class began its journey in Indianola in October and visited communities across the state, including Fort Dodge, Cedar Valley, Des Moines, Muscatine, Decatur County and Perry, before concluding the program in Coralville and Iowa City.

"Leadership Iowa is truly an example of Iowans serving Iowans," said Meg Schneider, ABI vice president of strategic initiatives and member engagement. "Nearly 200 volunteers helped shape this year's program, sharing their time, expertise and perspectives to help participants become more knowledgeable, well-rounded leaders prepared to make a difference in their communities and across Iowa."

The ABI Foundation also recognized the contributions of the Leadership Iowa Board of Directors and the many volunteers, sponsors and host communities that made the 2025-26 program possible.

More information about Leadership Iowa, including a list of [2025-26 participants](#) and photos/videos from this year's program, is available online at www.LeadershipIowa.com. To request individual photos of community representatives, please 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.

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Iowans by providing personal and professional development programs for students and adults. The ABI Foundation's leadership and educational initiatives foster growth and innovation in Iowa, promote quality leadership and community engagement, and inspire the current and future workforce in our state. Learn more at www.IowaABIFoundation.org.