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Registration Opens for Business Horizons 2026: Iowa High School Students Invited to Innovate, Lead, and Launch

Registration is now open for the 2026 Business Horizons summer program, available to all Iowa high school students in grades 9-12. This year marks the 43rd edition of the program, which will take place from July 19-23 at Grand View University in Des Moines, IA.

"We are excited to host Business Horizons on Grand View University's campus," said Meg Schneider, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. "This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to student success, community engagement, and expanding access to high-impact, hands-on learning experiences."

At Business Horizons, participants spend an action-packed week working in teams to solve a real-world challenge by creating an innovative product or service and building a business around it. Students take initiative and step into the role of entrepreneurs, using creativity and critical thinking skills to develop their ideas from concept to launch. Along the way, they build resilience as they adapt, problem-solve, and learn what it takes to turn an idea into reality.

The week wraps up with competitions where teams pitch their businesses to investors, film and edit infomercials, and showcase their work at a trade show, each judged live by industry professionals. Along the way, Iowa business and industry leaders share insights through interactive presentations and mentoring.

Beyond the business challenges, Business Horizons includes leadership development activities, hands-on tours of local businesses, opportunities to practice independently living like a college student, and fun after-hours social events that help students build confidence, friendships, and connections from across Iowa.

Students who register by June 7 are eligible for an early bird rate of \$475. The full program cost is \$650 and includes all meals, lodging, activities, and materials. Need-based financial assistance is available and can be requested through the online registration form. Registration will remain open through July 5 or until the program is filled.

To learn more, nominate, or register students for the program, visit www.BusinessHorizonsIowa.com.

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Business Horizons is a program of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation. The ABI Foundation is a statewide non-profit organization with a mission of building partnerships between business, education and communities. The organization also provides resources and forums that develop professional and personal responsibility and leadership for our communities and our state.

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.

