



**IOWA
ASSOCIATION
OF BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY**

BUSINESS

JUNE 2026

MONTHLY

Celebrating the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa



Coolest
THING MADE IN
IOWA

STORY ON PAGE 12

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 19-23
Business Horizons
DES MOINES

AUGUST 2-6
Leadership Iowa University
DES MOINES

AUGUST 4-5
Executive Forum
(Members Only)
OKOBOJI

AUGUST 6
Economic Growth
Public Policy Meeting
DES MOINES

AUGUST 11
Workplace and Product Safety
Public Policy Meeting
DES MOINES

AUGUST 13
Tax Public Policy Meeting
DES MOINES

AUGUST 18
Employment and Workforce
Public Policy Meeting
DES MOINES

AUGUST 20
Environment
Public Policy Meeting
DES MOINES

AUGUST 24
Golf Classic
WEST DES MOINES

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MEET ABI'S NEWEST MEMBERS

Visit our newest members' websites, and see how their products and services can benefit you.

Valar Advisory | www.valaradvisory.com

Valero Energy Corporation | www.valero.com

Visit www.iowaabi.org and click the "Events" tab for details on upcoming events.

Learn more about how ABI membership could benefit your company by visiting www.iowaabi.org/membership/why-abi.

CAPITOL BUSINESS

How ABI Public Policy Benefits You

The ABI public policy team reports on the happenings of the Iowa Legislature in real time during the Legislative Session. The updates show how the association performs against the policy priorities developed by our year-round cycle of policy development. That policy development is about to enter a new phase in August as we convene ABI's policy committees. Now is the time for all ABI members to confirm that they are on the policy committees important to their enterprises.

In August, ABI will hold public policy committee meetings at the ABI offices in Des Moines. As an ABI member, you or someone from your team is encouraged to participate and provide the expertise vital to ensure that we continue to improve the competitiveness of the business climate in Iowa.

We seek input in five specific issue areas:

1. Workplace and Product Safety | August 6th

Most recently this committee has forwarded public policy recommendations that have become law affecting Iowa's drug testing law, tort reform for medical

employers and trucking companies as well as managing costs and creating predictability in workers compensation cases and added additional funding to defend the second injury fund for workers compensation from unwarranted claims.

2. Economic Growth | August 11

This session saw the enactment of omnibus legislation from the Iowa Economic Development Authority that will keep Iowa competitive with other states in the attraction and expansion of corporate headquarters and made changes to workforce training programs at Iowa's community colleges.

3. Tax | August 13th

Business taxes today are lower because of the work of this committee. Employers structured as pass-through entities will see a flat 3.8% income tax rate, and corporate filers are ahead of schedule to a flat 5.5% rate in just a few tax cycles. The 2026 Legislative Session delivered a property tax reform and reduction bill that observed the ABI principle that no reform should simply shift property tax burden from commercial and industrial classes of property to advantage residential taxpayers.

4. Employment and Workforce | August 18th

New laws relating to work-based learning, expansion of apprenticeship programs, childcare solutions and ongoing support for workforce housing incentives all started as initiatives of this committee. Policy and tax rate changes for Iowa's unemployment system started in this committee.

5. Environment | August 20th

This committee recently saw success in limiting arbitrary air dispersion modeling not required by federal or state law, saving expanding businesses regulatory burdens at the time of investment.

Thanks to you, the ABI member companies that have participated in the policy committee process. Your engagement has clearly led to an improved business climate in Iowa. Please consider continuing those efforts. And for member companies that have not participated, please consider picking a committee and getting involved.

To take steps to join a committee, please visit the ABI webpage at: www.iowaabi.org/public-policy/get-involved/ ABI



JD Davis

Vice President, Public Policy
ABI
jddavis@iowaabi.org

EXPERT ADVICE:

The Cool Product Gets Attention. The Business Creates Value.

The "Coolest Thing Made in Iowa" is a fun reminder that there are a lot of impressive companies in this state that most people never hear about. Many are not household names, but they are making products that take real skill, specialized knowledge and a team that knows how to get hard things done.

That is also how buyers tend to look at manufacturing businesses. The product matters, of course. But in a sale process, the conversation usually moves pretty quickly to what sits behind it. Why do customers keep coming back? What makes the product difficult to copy? How strong is the team? Can the company keep performing if the owner is not involved in every ma-

nor decision?

Those are useful questions even for owners who are not planning to sell.

A good place to start is with the company's story. Not the marketing version, but the practical version. What does the company do especially well? Maybe it turns around custom work quickly. Maybe it has deep engineering knowledge, specialized equipment, long-standing customer relationships, or a workforce that knows how to solve problems others avoid. Whatever it is, owners should be able to explain why it matters.

The next question is whether the company can keep doing those things consistently over time. Many great Iowa manufacturers were built by hands-on

owners who know the customers, the equipment, and the people. That can be a major advantage, but it can also create risk if too much knowledge or decision-making sits with one person. Building the next level of leadership and documenting key processes can make the business stronger, whether it is ever sold or not.

The numbers matter too. Margins, customer concentration, working capital and future capital needs all help tell the story. Good financial information does not need to be fancy, but it does need to be clear.

A great product gets people's attention. A strong business behind it is what gives an owner more options. ABI



Tom Cavanagh

Vice President & Shareholder
BCC Advisers
tom@bccadvisers.com

ABI FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the Leadership Iowa 2025-26 Class!

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation proudly celebrates the outstanding individuals graduating from the 44th year of Leadership Iowa. Over the past year, this class has traveled to eight host communities (Indianola, Fort Dodge, Cedar Valley, Des Moines, Muscatine, Decatur County, Perry, Coralville & Iowa City) gaining valuable insights into Iowa’s challenges and triumphs. Their transformative journey began last October, with each month bringing a new session topic and a fresh perspective in a different community.

The 2025-26 Leadership Iowa program was made possible through the generous support of presenting sponsors EMC Insurance and John Deere. Additional annual sponsors include CIPCO, Iowa Soybean Association, Grinnell Mutual, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Keen Project Solutions, MidAmerican Energy Foundation, Musco, Pella Corporation, and Winnebago.

Leadership Iowa is also grateful for the support of the Leadership Iowa Board of Governors and the 200+ individuals who contributed their time, talents, and expertise to make this year truly remarkable.

MORE FROM THE ABI FOUNDATION PAGE 14



Leadership Iowa Class of 2025-26

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Colette Atkins | Brian Doyle | Megan Holland | Kristen McMains | Greg Piklapp |
| Clarissa Atwell | Kim Failor | Abena Sankofa | Lucas Meier | David Schenk |
| Amy Bartachek | Jennifer Fletcher | Imhotep | Todd Milburn | Zach Schmit |
| Christina Bateman | Sydney Gangestad | Tyler Kamerman | Michael Muhlenbruch | Sandi Sommerfelt |
| Gina Bell | Joy Greer | Emily Kamish | Tim Neubauer | Mindy Stalker |
| Jenny Butcher | Ben Hagen | Rachelle Keck | Shelley Oltmans | Kristin Tentinger |
| Kristopher Byam | Kelli Harms | Paul Larsen | Stacie Osako | Cory Westphal |
| Brittney Carstens | Lee Henderson | John Marshall | Brooke Parziale | Margaret Young |
| Daren Dieleman | | | | |

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Esteemed Counsel

Six of Fredrikson’s Iowa attorneys are honored to be ranked among the top attorneys in the 2026 Chambers USA Guide.

 Krystle Campa Energy & Natural Resources Real Estate	 Bret Dublinske Energy & Natural Resources	 Ryan Haaland Real Estate
 Bridget Penick Labor & Employment	 Emily Pontius Labor & Employment	 Marc Ward Corporate/M&A

Our Iowa offices are proud to be ranked among the leading law firms in the practice areas of Corporate/M&A, Energy & Natural Resources, Labor & Employment, and Real Estate.

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COVER STORY FROM PAGE 9

Celebrating the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa

BY KELSEY O'CONNOR

Innovation in Iowa manufacturing doesn't always look the way people expect it to. Sometimes it's advanced technology. Sometimes it's a product found on jobsites, in homes, on farms or in businesses across the country. But every great product has one thing in common: it starts with Iowa ingenuity.

Three years ago, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry launched the Coolest Thing Made in Iowa competition to celebrate the incredible products

designed, engineered and manufactured across our state. What began as a fun way to showcase Iowa manufacturing has quickly become one of ABI's most anticipated annual traditions.

This year, more than 60 products from 51 Iowa communities were nominated for the competition. Thousands of votes were cast as Iowans rallied behind their favorite products and the companies that make them. The contest sparked excitement in workplaces, com-

munities and across social media while helping tell the story of Iowa manufacturing to audiences throughout the state.

More importantly, the competition highlights the vital role manufacturing plays in Iowa's economy. Manufacturers employ hundreds of thousands of Iowans, drive innovation, strengthen communities and create products that make an impact around the world.

After weeks of voting, the field narrowed to four outstanding finalists. Each

product represents a unique part of Iowa's manufacturing story.

ABI extends its sincere appreciation to Nicolet National Bank, presenting sponsor of the Coolest Thing Made in Iowa competition, for its support in celebrating Iowa's manufacturers and the products that make our state proud.

Meet the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa Top 4 finalists:

2026 WINNER

Mi-T-M ePowerStation Mi-T-M | Peosta

Designed for power wherever traditional generators fall short, the ePowerStation is a high-capacity, eco-friendly, and durable energy solution built for real-world demands. From food trucks and outdoor events to construction sites, it delivers reliable, portable power without relying on gas.

With a modular design, users can select between two base models — a 5.0kW battery with a 3,000-watt inverter or a 7.0kW battery with a 6,000-watt inverter — and pair it with interchangeable eBox configurations to match specific job requirements. The result is a fully customizable power system built for flexibility and performance.

The ePowerStation also features fast, versatile charging, including the ability to recharge while in use for uninterrupted operation. Its advanced lithium-ion battery system is backed by an 8-year warranty, delivering dependable, long-term performance when it matters most.

DATE FOUNDED: 1971

WEBSITE: WWW.MITM.COM/EPOWERSTATION



An Employee Owned Company



Ironclad Tornado Shelter & Gun Safe Ironclad Shelter Solutions | Earlham

Built with American steel right here in Iowa, Ironclad storm shelters offer unmatched strength and reliability. They provide 100% customizable designs tailored to your specific requirements, with a versatile installation process that only requires 3.5 inches of concrete. Each unit is powder-coated for maximum durability, ensuring your family stays safe in a shelter that complements your property.

The storm shelter is designed with user-friendly components that prioritize safety and durability. It features a high-quality stainless steel latch pin system that engages all 3 latch pins simultaneously, enhancing strength and safety. It exceeds industry standards for wedge anchors, providing a secure hold to the concrete for maximum stability.

DATE FOUNDED: 2024

WEBSITE: WWW.IRONCLADSTORMSHELTERS.COM

Pella Steady Set™ Pella Corporation | Pella



The Pella Steady Set Interior Installation System is the industry's first installer-inspired window system designed for interior installation of new construction windows. Developed after hundreds of hours of field research, Steady Set empowers a single installer to work entirely from inside the home — eliminating dangerous ladder work and the need for a two-person crew.

Steady Set is 3.15x faster than standard installations, with 64% of the process completed from the interior, reducing outdoor exposure by up to 72%. Pre-attached components make it easy to learn and deliver consistent, high-quality results — reducing callbacks for builders and homeowners alike.

As the construction industry faces a skilled labor shortage and record home demand, Steady Set delivers a safer, faster, more efficient solution. Available on select Pella Reserve and Pella Lifestyle Series windows.

DATE FOUNDED: 1925

WEBSITE: WWW.PELLA.COM/PROFESSIONALS/STEADY-SET



Washington University School of Medicine Steven & Susan Lipstein BJC Institute of Health
St. Louis, MO, award-winning

Weiler D1075 Blasthole Drill Weiler | Knoxville

Based in Knoxville, Weiler designs and manufactures the D1075 Down the Hole (DTH) Surface Mining Blasthole Drill, transforming raw steel to final product in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.

The D1075 is capable of drilling holes up to 8" in diameter at a rate of over 100' an hour to a maximum depth of 147' in hard rock. A 540 horsepower engine and 1000 CFM air compressor provide maximum drilling efficiency. The 60,000 pound drill rig is built with robust components to withstand the harsh conditions found in mines and quarries while the climate-controlled cab provides a quiet and comfortable operating environment. Weiler in-house software is designed around the operator which makes it easy to learn and simplifies operation while increasing productivity.

The Weiler D1075 Down the Hole Rock Drill is utilized by contractors in mining, quarry and construction applications across North America and around the world.

DATE FOUNDED: 2000

WEBSITE: WWW.WEILERPRODUCTS.COM



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ABI FOUNDATION

Leadership Through Service: Myron Linn Named 2026 Leadership for Iowa Award Recipient

For nearly four decades, Leadership Iowa has helped cultivate leaders committed to strengthening communities, industries, and opportunities across the state. In 2026, one of those leaders will be recognized for a lifetime of service and impact.

Leadership Iowa and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) have named Myron Linn the recipient of the 2026 Leadership for Iowa Award, honoring his decades of leadership in business, workforce development, military service, and civic engagement.

A graduate of the 1988-89 Leadership Iowa class, Linn exemplifies the qualities the award was created to celebrate: servant leadership, a commitment to Iowa, and a dedication to improving the lives of others.

"Leadership Iowa is the state's premier issues-awareness program created to promote leadership and civic responsibility in our state," said ABI President Nicole Crain. "The program has graduated thousands of Iowans committed to moving the state forward. Myron Linn exemplifies the mission and values of the program through his servant leadership, civic involvement, and lifelong dedication to improving opportunities for Iowans."

Throughout his professional career, Linn helped shape Iowa's workforce and business landscape. He spent more than 25 years with Pella Corporation, serving in leadership and government relations roles where he worked on workforce and public policy initiatives that supported both employers and employees. His commitment to workforce development continued in public service when he joined Iowa Workforce Development as deputy director, helping address workforce challenges affecting communities across the state.

Linn's leadership extends well beyond the workplace. He dedicated nearly 30 years of service to the U.S. Army, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Since 1995, he has served as Iowa State Director for the U.S. Selective Service System, continuing his commitment to public service and civic responsibility.

His impact can also be seen throughout Iowa's civic and nonprofit communities. Linn has served as chair of both ABI and the Iowa Taxpayers Association, contributed to local education through service on the Pella Community School Board, and volunteered with numerous organizations focused on strengthening communities and expanding opportuni-



Myron Linn gives remarks during the 2026 Taking Care of Business Conference.

ties for future generations.

Perhaps one of Linn's most visible contributions has taken place on Iowa's athletic fields. For more than 40 years, he has officiated Iowa high school athletics and spent 29 years officiating NCAA football. His dedication to the profession earned him induction into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame in 2019.

The Leadership for Iowa Award recognizes Leadership Iowa alumni who demonstrate a sustained commitment to serving the state, leading through challenging issues, and enhancing quality of life for Iowans. Recipients are selected based on their leadership roles in professional and volunteer capacities and their contributions to leadership development at the local or statewide level.

Linn's career reflects each of those qualities. Whether advancing workforce solutions, serving his country, leading civic organizations, or mentoring future leaders, he has consistently focused on making Iowa stronger.

He was formally recognized during ABI's 2026 Taking Care of Business Conference, where business and community leaders from across the state gathered to discuss leadership, workforce development, public policy, and Iowa's economic future.

For Leadership Iowa graduates, Linn's recognition serves as a reminder that leadership is not defined by a single role or accomplishment, but by a lifetime commitment to serving others and creating lasting impact. **ABI**

EVENT REWIND

Taking Care of Business Conference

June 2-4 | Coralville & Iowa City

The 2026 Taking Care of Business Conference brought over 500 Iowa business leaders together in Coralville and Iowa City for learning, networking and collaboration centered on this year's theme: Business is a Team Sport.

From thought-provoking keynote presentations and breakout sessions to meaningful conversations between busi-

ness leaders from every corner of the state, attendees explored the opportunities and challenges shaping Iowa's future. More than 135 first-time attendees joined ABI members, Leadership Iowa alumni and industry leaders for a conference focused on strengthening Iowa's economy and communities.

Highlights included keynote presentations from Donna Orender, founder of

Generation W and former WNBA president, and economist Shawn DuBravac, along with the celebration of the Leadership Iowa Class of 2025-26 and recognition of outstanding leaders and member companies. Attendees also rolled up their sleeves to support HACAP through a food-packing service project, demonstrating the power of teamwork beyond the workplace.

The conference concluded with a first-of-its-kind gubernatorial forum featuring State Auditor and candidate for Governor, Rob Sand, followed by a CEO panel discussion on the issues impacting businesses across the state.

Thank you to our speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and attendees for making the 2026 Taking Care of Business Conference a success. **ABI**



ABI members networking at the Welcome Reception at Hancher Auditorium.



ABI members enjoying the Welcome Reception at Hancher Auditorium



Economist and futurist, Shawn DuBravac, delivers a keynote.



Donna Orender, founder of Generation W and former WNBA president, addresses attendees.



The Fry Bus prepared to transport participants of the ABI Foundation Touchdown Tailgate.



ABI members aboard the Fry Bus.

More photos from the Taking Care of Business Conference

June 2-4 | Coralville & Iowa City



ABI members pose with Herkey at Kinnick Stadium during the ABI Foundation Touchdown Tailgate.



Members of the LI 44 class pose at Kinnick Stadium during the Chair's Dinner.



A panel of Iowa business CEOs, moderated by Director Debi Durham (IEDA/IFA), discuss the issues affecting Iowa employers.



University of Iowa Athletic Director Beth Goetz gives remarks at the VIP Breakfast.



State Auditor and candidate for Governor, Rob Sand, discusses his vision for the future of Iowa.



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Iowa Association of Business and Industry
400 East Court Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-280-8000 or 800-383-4224
abi@iowaabi.org, www.iowaabi.org

PRESIDENT: Nicole Crain
VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC POLICY: JD Davis
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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.