



**IOWA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF BUSINESS  
AND INDUSTRY**

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**Director Durham to Offer Insightful Perspective on Iowa's Economic Development Landscape at ABI's Connecting Statewide Leaders**

DES MOINES, Iowa – Members of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI), Leadership Iowa alumni, community leaders and the current Leadership Iowa class will gather in Sioux City on Thursday, April 13 to discuss the economic development landscape in Iowa as part of the Connecting Statewide Leaders discussion series, presented by ABI.

Overall, Iowa has a diverse economic landscape with several thriving industries. The state continues to make efforts to attract new businesses and industries to the state, providing tax incentives, and investing in infrastructure, education, and workforce development programs to support economic growth and development.

Director Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) & Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), will inform attendees about Iowa's particular economic development strengths, highlight manufacturing's role in economic growth, describe the opportunities for enhancing Iowa's economy and outline potential challenges to that growth.

Connecting Statewide Leaders is a popular discussion series hosted twice per year in cities throughout Iowa that draws industry leaders and experts to discuss issues and industries important to the state and its communities.

Once again, ABI has paired the Connecting Statewide Leaders series with its renowned Leadership Iowa program and is hosting discussions in the same cities visited by the 2022-23 Leadership Iowa class. Leadership Iowa will be in Sioux City on Thursday-Friday, April 13-14, to discuss economic development and workforce.

Members of the media are invited to attend the Connecting Statewide Leaders discussion at 11am on Thursday at the Warrior Hotel, 525 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Sioux City. To RSVP or learn more about Leadership Iowa's session in Sioux City or other ABI events, please contact Kelsey (Smith) O'Connor at [ksmith@iowaabi.org](mailto:ksmith@iowaabi.org) or 515-235-0571.

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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 1,500 member companies of all types and sizes in all 99 counties employing more than 330,000 Iowans.

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