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IOWA ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

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Iowa Association of Business and Industry Wraps Up Elevate Iowa Manufacturing Tour,

RV Tour Across State Reaches Nearly 3,000 Manufacturing Jobs

IOWA – The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) wrapped up its second annual Elevate Iowa Manufacturing Tour, completing a 10-day journey across the state to showcase Iowa companies, highlight career opportunities, and connect communities with the businesses contributing to the state's economy. Click **here** for photos available for media use.

Traveling in an Iowa-made Winnebago RV, the tour visited facilities, schools, and workforce partners in communities across Iowa. Stops included John Deere Dubuque Works, Mi-T-M, Norplex Micarta, Zip's, Stellar Industries, Winnebago Industries, Baker Group, and others. Collectively, the companies visited represent an estimated 4,946 employees, demonstrating the significant role they play in providing jobs and supporting communities throughout the state.

A key focus of the tour was introducing students to the variety of careers available in manufacturing. Through school visits and Crystals of Innovation activities in Postville and Mason City, students had opportunities to explore new ideas, learn about the products made in the state, and connect classroom experiences with real-world career paths.

“Manufacturing is a major part of Iowa’s economy, and it is important that we continue to recognize the companies investing in our communities and creating opportunities for Iowans,” said ABI President Nicole Crain. “By bringing this tour to communities across the state, we can celebrate the work happening at these facilities while helping the next generation see the many possibilities a future in manufacturing can offer.”

Several stops also highlighted employee ownership, with the tour visiting multiple businesses operating under employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs). These visits showcased how employee ownership allows workers to share in the success of the companies they help build.

The tour concluded at America’s Harvest Festival on the Iowa Capitol grounds in Des Moines, where thousands of Iowans had the opportunity to see the RV and learn more about the products, people, and businesses that make Iowa a manufacturing leader.

Manufacturing is Iowa's leading sector by gross domestic product, playing an important role in the state's economic growth, innovation and workforce development.

To learn more about ABI and its work supporting Iowa businesses, visit https://www.iowaabi.org/.

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