

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Leadership Iowa University Showcases Why Iowa is the Place to Live, Work, and Lead

DES MOINES, Iowa – Leadership Iowa University (LIU) concluded another successful week with talented college-aged students and interns. Over a five-day span, 18 participants explored professional and personal development, toured businesses and industries as well as dug deep into why Iowa is the best place to stay, work and play.

The participants started the week learning how to use their strengths to their advantage and how to apply those strengths to upcoming interviews and career goals. Along with hearing remarks about the importance of networking and making lasting connections throughout the week, the group was equipped with resources and tools early in the week.

From servant leadership and community engagement to exploring Iowa's many assets, participants connected with more than 100 professionals and leaders across a variety of businesses. Students visited a range of workplaces across Iowa, including Pella Corporation, Kemin Industries, Vermeer, and Musco Lighting, as well as community-focused groups like Habitat for Humanity, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa, and Mainframe Studios. They met with state and local leaders, asked pressing questions, and learned about the challenges and successes in various career fields.

"I took away leadership and career development skills that will stick with me throughout the rest of my life along with people that will support me." Lance Sobaski, a student at Wartburg College, added.

Leadership Iowa University is not possible without our tour hosts, volunteers and sponsors including Emerson, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Grinnell Mutual, the Iowa Soybean Association, Pella Corporation and many more. The student list along with their college/university and internship is found below. For a list of all sponsors and pictures from the week, visit LeadershiplowaUniversity.com.

2025 Leadership Iowa University Participant List

1. **Jackie Bihoyiki**, Grand View University
2. **Will Chase**, University of Iowa, Pella Corporation
3. **Becca Cross**, Iowa State University, Musco Lighting
4. **Emily Davis**, University of Iowa, EMC Insurance
5. **Cole Glasgow**, University of Jamestown
6. **Jack Harms**, University of Iowa
7. **Lucas Huntrods**, Iowa State University, Keen Project Solutions, LLC.
8. **Elizabeth Jayeola**, Drake University, Farm Bureau Financial Services
9. **Reagan McFarland**, Simpson College, Musco Lighting
10. **Tracy Ngo**, Des Moines Area Community College
11. **Lane Oswalt**, Des Moines Area Community College
12. **Aiden Schuttinga**, Iowa State University, Transamerica
13. **Slade Sibenaller**, Iowa State University, HNTB Corporation
14. **Lance Sobaski**, Wartburg College, Pella Corporation

15. **Josh Trimberger**, Iowa State University, Emerson
16. **Grant Ward**, St. Ambrose University
17. **Jackson Ward**, University of Iowa, Farm Bureau Financial Services
18. **Sam Weaton**, Des Moines Area Community College, Weaton Companies

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Leadership Iowa University is a program of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation, a 501c3 statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering partnerships among business, education, and communities while promoting leadership and responsibility across Iowa.

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.