



**IOWA
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OF BUSINESS
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Nicole Crain Named New Iowa Association of Business and Industry President

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) is pleased to announce Nicole Crain as the organization's next president. Crain – who has served as ABI's executive vice president since 2019 – will take the reins from Mike Ralston, longtime ABI president who is set to retire at the end of the year after nearly two decades in the role.

ABI began its search for a new president in July following Ralston's retirement announcement. The organization's board of directors met with both internal and external candidates in its search to fill the position before offering the role to Crain.

"Nicole's outstanding professionalism, track record for success and incredible work ethic rose to the top during our search," says Chad Reece, ABI board of directors' chair. "She has a strategic plan for the future of ABI that strongly aligns with the board's vision for the organization. That combined with her unwavering commitment to and passion for the organization and its members, deep knowledge of our business, and understanding of our mission make her the right fit for the future."

In her tenure with ABI, Crain has worked closely with its members and the board on important initiatives involving organization finance and operations, membership, a partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation on childcare issues, and public policy advocacy. Nicole has more than 16 years of service at ABI, including time spent as senior vice president of public policy and director of government relations.

"Nicole has been an exemplary steward of ABI's mission to serve as the champion for Iowa businesses for more than a decade," says Ralston. "Her work for ABI and our members has been pivotal in driving organizational growth and visibility. She is a natural fit for the role of president, and I have profound confidence in her leading ABI forward."

Crain has also served as president of the Iowa Taxpayers Association, where her focus was on steering statewide business tax policies, and as director of government affairs for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa, where she worked with the national association to engage Iowans in the fight to defend the state's right-to-work law. She's also spent time in Washington, D.C., working with an agricultural and trade-focused lobbying group on behalf of global agri-business companies on federal issues. Nicole has a wealth of board experience and is a magna cum laude graduate of Simpson College – an experience she is forever grateful for and a school she is passionate about supporting as an alumna.

"It is an honor to be trusted with such an important position," says Crain. "I have a strong vision for the future of ABI – one that encourages more member and partner engagement, growth of our membership, and additional opportunities to educate all Iowans about the importance of business to the state's success. I will continue to fulfill our mission to advocate, collaborate, educate and motivate to move Iowa forward. I'm excited to get started in 2025."

Learn more about ABI and its mission to nurture a favorable business, economic, governmental and social climate within the state on the organization's [website](https://www.iowaabi.org).

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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.

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