



# NORTH IOWA FUTURE LEADERS

## Leadership North Iowa & YIELD 2022-23



## LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA

Robin Anderson, Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce has provided leadership training for up-and-coming business people in North Iowa for the past 40 years. *Leadership North Iowa (LNI)* provides skill development and participants in the program connect with well-established business leaders to explore best practices and gain meaningful advice.

First and foremost, this program exposes participants to all North Iowa has to offer. At the same time, the Chamber’s goal is to engage *Leadership North Iowa* participants and alumni—to connect them to the community and to each other. *LNI* graduates are high-potential prospects who are well-poised to play a more prominent role in the community.

This can and does take many forms. For some, it may be the call to action to run for elective office. For others, participation may ignite the desire to seek an appointment to local government boards and commissions. It may provide the foundation to volunteer at a church or service club. It might even help people to assert themselves more in their place of work. Whichever direction our alumni choose to go, *Leadership North Iowa* is often credited as the catalyst for inspiring participants to seek active involvement in causes they care about.

### Class Sessions and Speakers

**Networking** | Networking Skills & Building Relationships | Jon Prebeck, First Citizens Bank

**Leadership Styles** | Leadership & Personality Styles | Michael Voet, MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center

**Local Business & Industry** | Metalcraft Tour | Kyle Bermel, Metalcraft

**Law Enforcement** | Cerro Gordo County Law Enforcement Center Tour | Cerro Gordo County Sheriff Kevin Pals

**Servant Leadership** | Serving My Community | Parker Thirnbeck, Mason City Jaycees; Melissa Schoneberg, Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa; Jen Arends, United Way of North Central Iowa; Lindsey Isaacson, Mason City Lions Club

**Learning About My Community** | Historic Park Inn Hotel Tour | Barb Bowen and Teri Elsbury, Wright on the Park

**Government & Citizenship** | Public Service | Mason City Councilperson Paul Adams, Cerro Gordo County Supervisor Tim Latham, and Former Mason City Mayor & City Councilperson Jean Marinos

**Leadership & Stewardship** | POET Biorefining - Hanlontown Plant Tour | Ben Arentson, Jake Bradley, Dennis Nicholson, and Derek Segerstrom, POET Biorefining

**Leadership vs. Management** | Leadership Styles - Guest Panel of Local Business Leaders | Matt Chizek, CENT Credit Union; Fouad Daoud, WHKS Engineers, Planners & Surveyors; Sarah Nielsen, First Citizens Bank

**Leadership & Workforce** | NIACC Tour | Dr. Steve Schulz, Melinda McGregor, Patti Hanson, Dyan Childress, Theresa Price, Heather Wright, Anthony Riesen, Laura Wood, Barb Godfrey, Sara Udelhofen, Heather Rissler

**Graduation Speaker** | Ian Stockberger, Good Shepherd Health Center



# COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

The *Leadership North Iowa* program encourages participants to engage in servant leadership, focusing on the well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. As a part of the program, the *LNI* cohort chooses a project for community betterment and sees it through to completion, often extending past graduation from the program. Teamwork and dedication are important qualities fostered in the program, and the activities they choose as their class project often encourage their fellow citizens to spend more time in active connection.

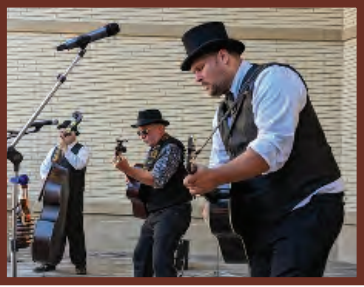
## Friday Night Summer Plaza Series - Community Impact Project

The 2022 *Leadership North Iowa (LNI)* class's community impact project, the Friday Night Summer Plaza Series, was a hit for summer 2022. The goal of their project was to celebrate Mason City's rich musical history by featuring local artists at the newly completed Principal Pavilion on the downtown plaza.

*LNI* Participants worked with downtown establishments to make it a positive experience for all involved. The Friday Night Summer Plaza Series featured local artists every Friday night, June-August from 5-7PM, bringing people downtown, but also allowing them to move on to other bars and restaurants for additional entertainment in the evenings. Artists were paid for their efforts thanks to the support of donations by many local businesses. The future is bright for downtown Mason City and the musicians in North Iowa!


Now that the program is established, the *LNI* class is looking forward to another organization building on the momentum of the downtown entertainment to provide another great summer of music on the plaza in 2023.

Thank you to the following businesses for their sponsorship of the project:  
Bergland + Cram Architects, CENT Credit Union, Central Park Dentistry, Century 21 Preferred - Cassidy Harris, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, CURRIES, First Citizens Bank, First Security Bank, Hearing Associates, P.C., Jane Fischer & Associates, Overhead Door Company of Mason City, Renewable Fuels - REG of Mason City, and The Quarry.



## LNI PROGRAM SPONSORS





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2022 LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA CLASS

Cassie Berger - Bergland + Cram Architects



**Employer:** Bergland + Cram Architects - Architecture and interior design firm that specializes in design for residential and commercial architecture.  
**Position within Organization:** Project Manager  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is taking action for a common goal with a team, using each other's strengths and encouraging those beside you along the way to achieve what was set out to be done.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** Leadership North Iowa teaches valuable lessons about community involvement, leadership impact, and local business impact within the community. Having the chance to network with and learn from successful local leadership in North Iowa has been an inspiring experience.



Abby Bice - First Security Bank & Trust



**Employer:** First Security Bank & Trust - Financial institution providing expert and progressive financial services backed by outstanding and personalized customer service.  
**Position within Organization:** Relationship Manager  
**Definition of Leadership:** The ability to use various skills and knowledge to help improve the skill set and knowledge of others through encouragement and direction.  
**What I learned in LNI:** If you are passionate about something, then there is something out there to fit your needs whether it is a non-profit group, a public servant group, or various boards or committees. Always follow your passion because when you are doing something you are passionate about, your cup will fill continuously.



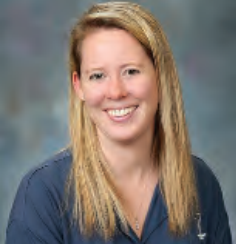
Jacob Bombei - Cargill Protein



**Employer:** Cargill Protein - Leading marketer of high value, further-processed egg products in the United States.  
**Position within Organization:** Operations Supervisor  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is being flexible with your team and looking out for their best interest and your company's best interest. Leadership is also being able to handle stressful situations without letting your emotions play a role and being dependable for your team.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part was touring different businesses. It opened my eyes to the different opportunities available in North Iowa. I also enjoyed the speakers and panelists who showed a lot of excitement about North Iowa and the different available careers.



Mackenzie Ebeling - Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.



**Employer:** Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. - Locally owned, full-service bank in operation since 1934, supporting countless community projects, programs, and area businesses.  
**Position within Organization:** Personal Banker  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership doesn't necessarily have to be the top of the food chain at a company or organization. Leadership can happen on any level by influencing, encouraging, motivating, and inspiring another to do better or be better.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed the tours of local businesses and the jail. I also enjoyed hearing from the service clubs panel on all the different opportunities to get involved and connect in North Iowa.



Dr. Katie Giles - Nettleton Dental Group



**Employer:** Nettleton Dental Group - A team of highly-skilled, caring professionals providing dental services with integrity and compassion to their patients.  
**Position within Organization:** General Dentist  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is working to serve your team by increasing communication, motivation, and streamlining efforts to achieve your goals and make change for the better.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite parts of LNI have been meeting and working alongside fellow leaders in the area to develop our leadership skills, learning from speakers from a variety of backgrounds, and serving North Iowa by increasing usage and access of the performing arts pavilion downtown.



Congratulations  
Hayley Williams, Jacob Bombei,  
Omar Hyder & Will Hesford  
on your graduation from the  
Leadership North Iowa Class!

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to our Leadership  
North Iowa graduate!

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GRADUATES!

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2022 LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA CLASS

Dalton Hamm - Hertz Farm Management



**Employer:** Hertz Farm Management - Farm management, real estate, and appraisal company providing a full range of services to help clients achieve their farmland investment goals.

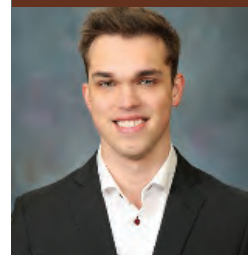
**Position within Organization:** Appraiser

**Definition of Leadership:** Putting the needs of others first, and empowering others to perform their best.

**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed listening to the insights and ideas of business leaders in North Iowa and applying them to my own personal and professional pursuits.



Benjamin Hansen - Bergland + Cram Architects




**Employer:** Bergland + Cram Architects - Architecture and interior design firm that specializes in design for residential and commercial architecture.

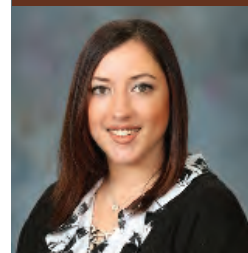
**Position within Organization:** Project Manager

**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is to influence, inspire, learn, and work as a team to achieve a goal.

**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part of LNI was connecting with and learning from other professionals in North Iowa.




Cassidy Harris - Century 21 Preferred

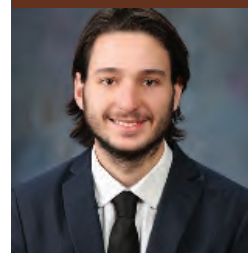


**Employer:** Century 21 Preferred - A full-service Real Estate company specializing in residential, condos, lake shore, acreage, farmland and commercial sales.

**Position within Organization:** Realtor



Noah Harris - Mason City Chamber of Commerce




**Employer:** Mason City Chamber of Commerce - Membership-based organization that strives to promote progressive community and economic development for the future growth of North Iowa.


**Position within Organization:** Program Director

**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is to inspire others to do the right thing, both personally and professionally. Strong, positive leaders rally others to work towards a common goal and celebrates their strengths through success or failure.

**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed seeing the multitude of opportunities that North Iowa has to offer. My favorite session was the tour of NIACC because they serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of many North Iowans.



Travis Havel - Henkel Construction Co.




**Employer:** Henkel Construction Company – General Contractor offering a full line of professional construction services delivering negotiated, design-build, general contracting, and construction management projects in many different markets.

**Position within Organization:** Project Engineer

**Definition of Leadership:** Strongly communicating with a group of people, in styles that best suits them, to complete a common goal.

**What I learned in LNI:** I learned how much more Mason City has to offer and the exciting opportunities to get involved.



Congratulations!



Dalton Hamm

Mason City, IA

on your graduation from the North Iowa Leadership Program



Congratulations

CASSIDY HARRIS

ON YOUR GRADUATION FROM THE

NORTH IOWA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



 CENTURY 21 Preferred

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Congratulations!

2022 North Iowa Leadership Graduates!

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2022 LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA CLASS

Brett Heimbuch - Jane Fischer & Associates



**Employer:** Jane Fischer & Associates - Realtors specializing in the North Iowa real estate market where customer satisfaction is their number one priority.  
**Position within Organization:** Associate  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is an art. It is the ability to maximize the strength of individuals and minimize their vulnerabilities while motivating them to work together in order to achieve a mutual goal, shared vision, or common mission.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part of Leadership North Iowa was being exposed to countless treasures North Iowa has to offer, both people and places alike!



Will Hesford - Cargill Protein



**Employer:** Cargill Protein - Leading marketer of high value, further-processed egg products in the United States.  
**Position within Organization:** 3rd Shift Superintendent  
**Definition of Leadership:** Positively motivating individuals or a group to accomplish objectives and goals.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part of LNI was meeting people and connecting with people from other local businesses as well as touring local businesses.



Andi Hughes - Jane Fischer & Associates



**Employer:** Jane Fischer & Associates - Realtors specializing in the North Iowa real estate market where customer satisfaction is their number one priority.  
**Position within Organization:** Licensed Realtor and Administrative Coordinator  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is influencing others to be their best and to achieve at a higher level while working towards a common goal. It's doing the right thing even if it's hard and showing up for those who follow you.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed listening to the different leaders and finding that there are many different styles of leadership that can be successful.



Evan Hulbert - Renewable Fuels - REG of Mason City



**Employer:** Renewable Fuels - REG of Mason City - North America's largest producer of advanced biofuels. REG utilizes natural fats, oils, greases, and sugars to produce biofuels.  
**Position within Organization:** Plant Manager  
**Definition of Leadership:** Being willing to do anything you ask of others.  
**What I learned in LNI:** I was very impressed with what Mason City and North Iowa really have to offer and enjoyed being able to network with a lot of different leaders in the area.



Omar Hyder - Cargill Protein



**Employer:** Cargill Protein - Leading marketer of high value, further-processed egg products in the United States.  
**Position within Organization:** Process Safety Management Coordinator  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is the ability to maximize the potential of the talent around you.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed meeting other future leaders of North Iowa. The program enhanced my understanding of the strengths and potential needs in the area.





is proud to be a YIELD sponsor for 2022-23.

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*Congratulations!*



Brett Heimbuch



Andi Hughes



On the Completion of the North Iowa Leadership Program



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CONGRATULATIONS!



**EVAN HULBERT**  
2022 Leadership North Iowa Class graduate!



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2022 LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA CLASS

Tara Kramer - Sukup Manufacturing



**Employer:** Sukup Manufacturing Co. - The world's largest family-owned and operated manufacturer of grain storage, grain drying and handling equipment, and steel buildings.  
**Position within Organization:** Human Resources  
**Definition of Leadership:** Having the ability to motivate and encourage those around you to accomplish a common goal through leading by example.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part about LNI was getting the opportunity to develop leadership skills and connect with other members of the community.



Erin Gansen Luong - One Vision



**Employer:** One Vision - A nonprofit charitable organization that provides services to more than 550 individuals with disabilities so they may achieve greater independence through personal choice and community involvement.  
**Position within Organization:** Director of Marketing and Communications  
**Definition of Leadership:** Leadership is the utilization of skills and knowledge an eager and open mind picks up along their journey in life. Leaders can inspire others to grow and find joy in working towards a common goal.  
**What I learned in LNI:** LNI was a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity to connect with other professionals and leaders in the area. I've come away with a more complete understanding of our community from the inside out, from private business to local government.



Dennis Nicholson - POET Biorefining - Hanlontown



**Employer:** POET Biorefining - One of the world's largest producers of ethanol, and also produces corn oil, wet cake, DDGs and syrup.  
**Position within Organization:** Materials Handler 2  
**Definition of Leadership:** Being knowledgeable of a team's mission and being able to teach and motivate others to want to succeed in that mission. A good leader leads by example and is willing to work side by side with others in difficult situations.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed hearing about leadership styles from professionals with different backgrounds and how they approached different obstacles in their careers.



Grant F. Petersen - First Citizens Bank



**Employer:** First Citizens Bank - Progressive community bank committed to excellence in delivering the financial solutions for customers and the community.  
**Position within Organization:** VP, Commercial & Ag Lending Officer  
**Definition of Leadership:** Being able to lead by example and willing to do the same work as everyone participating to reach the same goal.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** The opportunity to visit businesses in North Iowa was great, touring their facilities and seeing how they operate was interesting. I also enjoyed hearing our guest speakers and the stories that brought them to and kept them in North Iowa.



Tanner Poulter - Hearing Associates, P.C.



**Employer:** Hearing Associates - Audiology practice serving northern Iowa and southern Minnesota with ten locations within medical facilities. Conducts hearing tests, balance/dizziness tests, and fits hearing aids.  
**Position within Organization:** Patient Care Coordinator  
**Definition of Leadership:** Always be yourself and bring it every day and always strive for greatness.  
**What I learned in LNI:** I learned anything is possible in your career journey! You only have one shot to cement your legacy, so don't be scared to chase your dreams.



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Grant P. and Jake S. and all their fellow graduates!

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Congratulations TARA KRAMER

On your completion of the Leadership North Iowa Program.

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Congratulations!

Tanner Poulter

North Iowa Leadership Graduate

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Congratulations DENNIS NICHOLSON

on your completion of the North Iowa Leadership Program.

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POET



2022 LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA CLASS

Jake Stricker - First Citizens Bank



**Employer:** First Citizens Bank - Progressive community bank committed to excellence in delivering the financial solutions for customers and the community.  
**Position within Organization:** Universal Banker  
**Definition of Leadership:** “Taking the bull by the horns” and being the type of person that is willing to put themselves out there and do the real world work that is required to accomplish the goal.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** My favorite part was interacting with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and fields and being able to work with them to complete a project that would benefit our community.



Bridgette Exman Wagoner - Mason City Community Schools



**Employer:** Mason City Community Schools - School district providing responsive learning opportunities grounded in collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity for all students.  
**Position within Organization:** Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
**Definition of Leadership:** I constantly find myself relying on this definition of leadership from Brene Brown: “A leader is anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes, and who has the courage to develop that potential.”  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I appreciated the opportunity to become familiar with a wide variety of businesses and organizations. Being new to Mason City, this has really helped North Iowa feel like home.



Hayley Williams - Cargill Protein



**Employer:** Cargill Protein - Leading marketer of high value, further-processed egg products in the United States.  
**Position within Organization:** Quality Superintendent  
**Definition of Leadership:** Creating an environment that drives people to accomplish their goals and common goals.  
**What I learned in LNI:** I learned a lot about the many resources and ways to get more involved in the community.



Jeff Wise - Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.



**Employer:** Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. - Locally owned, full-service bank in operation since 1934, supporting countless community projects, programs, and area businesses.  
**Position within Organization:** Senior Teller  
**Definition of Leadership:** Taking charge of a situation and showing other people how to do something rather than telling them.  
**Favorite part of LNI:** I enjoyed learning more about the different levels of government and what they do to help the city move. I also enjoyed the law enforcement center tour.



Class members’ employer and position reflect status at time of graduation.

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North Iowa graduate!



JEFF WISE



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# YIELD Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development

Allyson Krull, Chamber of Commerce

**YIELD** is modeled after the **Leadership North Iowa** program. The acronym stands for Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development. In 2003, the Chamber partnered with the Mason City Youth Task Force to develop leadership skills in promising young adults by forging a connection between youth and the business community. Local business has a huge stake in area youth as future workers and leaders.

The class is comprised of high school juniors from Mason City High School and Newman Catholic High School. Chamber members generously share their knowledge and resources to serve as speakers at **YIELD** sessions. The course consists of 10 modules and each class selects and completes a Community Impact Project. Examples of Community Impact Projects include advocating for an ordinance restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine within Mason City, making fleece blankets for children in need, and renovating the community’s beloved Prairie Playground.

The **YIELD** program is now in its 20th year and has become a model for other communities providing leadership training to youth. School administrators report that **YIELD** graduates are among their most successful and engaged students.



## COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

### The Sled Shed

Allyson Krull, Chamber of Commerce

Each year, **YIELD** students complete a Community Impact Project as a graduation requirement. This year, the class wanted to tackle a timely project that would be fun for kids in Iowa winters. After reviewing a variety of ideas, they found a “free sled library” concept that had been implemented in other communities. Not only will this offer a fun winter activity for North Iowans, but it will help provide sleds to visitors or to those who may not already have access.

The students researched other cities with sled libraries for opinions and best practices. They also consulted with Mason City city staff and presented their project to the Mason City Park Board for approval of installation of two sled racks – one at the East Park Sledding Hill and one at the Georgia Hanford Sledding Hill. The group found many are unaware of the hill at Georgia Hanford so hope to call some more attention to this location. Students will work with city staff to make sure sleds are stocked in the racks and that broken sleds are removed from the sites.

Home Lumber & Builders donated the wood and students will construct the sled “shed” racks with the assistance of the MCHS woods shop instructor. They solicited gently used sleds from the public and thanks to a generous contribution from a local trust, were able to purchase many new sleds as well. Special thanks to the City of Mason City for their support of the project and for assuring The Sled Shed is a community amenity for years to come!



## 2022-23 YIELD CLASS

Rylei  
Brick  
*Newman*

Abigail  
Brinkley  
*Newman*

Noah  
Carson  
*Newman*

Drew  
DeGabriele  
*MCHS*

Karim  
Eldadah  
*MCHS*

Jackson  
Everist  
*MCHS*

Angelina  
Frank  
*MCHS*

Naomi  
Garrett  
*MCHS*

Maggie  
Gerrietts  
*MCHS*

Annemarie  
Hansen  
*MCHS*

Isabelle  
Harty  
*MCHS*

Grace  
Hehr  
*Newman*

Kyleigh  
James  
*MCHS*

Ishnoor  
Kaur  
*MCHS*

Angela  
Knipper  
*Newman*

Celine  
Matthews  
*Newman*

Audra  
Mulholland  
*MCHS*

Ella  
Petree  
*Newman*

Hadley  
Shatek  
*Newman*

Jayce  
Weiner  
*Newman*

### Guest Speakers

Spencer Anderson, Indiana Pacers (2004 YIELD Graduate) ▪ Brett Bachtle, Visit Mason City ▪ Julie Bauer, First Citizens Bank ▪ J Brooks, 98.7 KISS Country ▪ Bob Fisher, KGLO News ▪ Lt. Governor Adam Gregg ▪ Colleen Frein, Chamber of Commerce ▪ Cynthia Lewerke, The Decker House Bed & Breakfast ▪ Tyler Utzka, KIMT News 3

## YIELD SPONSORS

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Children’s Dental Center of Mason City ▪ Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. ▪CURRIES ▪ Dental Center of North Iowa ▪ Drs. Weber & Otto Family Dentistry  
Edward Jones - Sarah Carlsson, CFP ▪ Edwards-Brandt & Associates ▪ First Citizens Bank ▪ Heartland Asphalt, Inc. ▪ Henkel Construction Co.  
Hogan - Hansen, P.C. ▪ Holiday Inn Express and Suites - Mason City ▪ Jane Fischer and Associates LLC ▪Laird Law Firm  
Major Erickson Funeral Home & Crematory ▪ Martin-Brower ▪ Mechanical Air Systems ▪ MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center ▪ Metalcraft, Inc.  
Mid-West Roofing Company/Custom SheetMetal Works ▪ Newman Catholic School System ▪ North Iowa Eye Clinic, P.C. ▪ North Iowa Orthodontics  
NSB Bank ▪ Overhead Door Company of Mason City ▪ Ozzie Ohl ▪ POET Biorefining - Hanlontown ▪ Renewable Fuels - REG of Mason City  
Sukup Manufacturing ▪ The Nettleton Dental Group, PC ▪ The Window Source ▪ WHKS Engineers, Planners & Surveyors