



## THE COURSE FOR OUR STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Kay Neumann-Thomas  
Vice President/Programs, ABI Foundation  
(515) 235-0564 or (515) 250-1659

### *Cedar Rapids to Host Leadership Iowa Session*

**Des Moines, IA** – It's a lot more than a crash course. It's a year-long commitment from 40 leaders from across the state enrolled in the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation's Leadership Iowa (LI) program, ([www.leadershipiowa.com](http://www.leadershipiowa.com)). The class of 2009-10 will gather in Cedar Rapids Thursday-Friday, March 11-12, to explore the topic of community preparedness and response.

Leadership Iowa serves as an annual issues awareness program to develop, educate and motivate leaders of Iowa. Individuals are selected based on their professional standing and skills, community involvement and commitment to the issues impacting Iowa. Each Leadership Iowa class represents a diverse mix of individuals representing business, education, government, non-profit and community-based organizations. Many LI graduates have gone on to serve in elected and civic leadership positions.

The Cedar Rapids session will provide participants with an understanding of current and future community disaster preparedness and response initiatives and information on how they can help their own communities across the state. The class will experience:

- Subject-experts discussing response in natural disasters
- Stories of recovery from natural disasters
- A recovery tour of Cedar Rapids
- A networking reception with Impact CR, Leadership for Five Season, Leadership Iowa alumni and other community leaders
- Ideas for creating a disaster plan
- Innovative practices for prevention
- A simulation around designing a community communication strategy for disasters

The March LI session presenters who are generously providing their insights are:

- Kent Stock, Community Savings Bank
- Steve Bogle, Iowa Dept. of Public Safety/Iowa National Guard

- Cindy Dietz, Rockwell Collins
- Gary Ficken, Bimm Ridder
- Lois Buntz, United Way
- Bruce Aune, KCRG TV-9
- Greg Eyerly, Cedar Rapids Flood Recovery Director
- Todd Hutcheson, Rockwell Collins
- Mitch Mortvedt, Iowa DCI
- Mark Reifenrath, Spinutech
- Tim Charles, Mercy Medical Center
- Rich Patterson, Indian Creek Nature Center
- Christian Fong, Fong Strategic Consulting

Leadership Iowa 2009-10 has five participants from east central Iowa:

*Michelle Koller, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics*

*Jim Lorenz, Rockwell Collins*

*Jeff McGinness, Simmons, Perrine, Moyer*

*Ann Oleson, Stamats*

*Tonja Richards, Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership*

Cedar Rapids session sponsors include CIPCO, Alliant Energy, Corn Belt Power, Rockwell Collins, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Struxture Architects, Leadership Iowa Class of 2008-09 and others.

Leadership Iowa's eight educational sessions include topics related to Agriculture and Renewable Energy, the Iowa Economy, Government, Community Preparedness and Response, and Education.

“ABI and the ABI Foundation proudly present the Leadership Iowa program because each year of the past 26 years, we’ve identified many of our state’s best leaders and helped to equip them with the knowledge and tools to make a difference in our state,” says Michael Ralston (Leadership Iowa Alumni 1998-99), President, Iowa Association of Business and Industry.

Leadership Iowa gives participants the opportunity to enhance their knowledge on issues impacting their communities and Iowa and the opportunity to gain insights on how to address and manage those issues from leaders from across Iowa,” says Drew Conrad, Institute for Decision Making, the University of Northern Iowa, chair of the Leadership Iowa Board of Governors.

Please contact Kay Neumann-Thomas at (515) 235-0564 or [kthomas@IOWAABI.org](mailto:kthomas@IOWAABI.org) to arrange for an interview or photo opportunity with local Leadership Iowa participants, session speakers or to learn more about the Cedar Rapids session schedule. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010-11 Leadership Iowa class at [www.leadershipiowa.com](http://www.leadershipiowa.com).

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