



# Newsletter

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## Elbert Among Rural Leaders Honored at Iowa Rural Summit

AMES, Iowa – The 6th Annual Iowa Rural Summit last week included a special recognition of “rural heroes” – and Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development Director Maureen Elbert was one of the seven individuals honored at a special reception at Iowa State University.

The Rural Summit brings together leaders from small towns across Iowa each year, and this year’s event included a special tribute to a group of individuals who have made a difference in their rural community or region. The event also recognized the contributions of Rand Fisher, the recently retired Iowa Area Development Group CEO.

The Rand Fisher Rural Leadership Award, sponsored by the IADG Community Foundation, recognized individuals in the rural economic and community development, philanthropy, the arts and utilities.

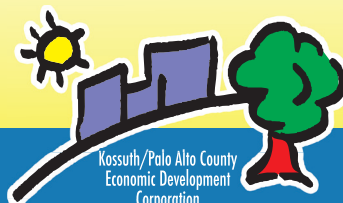
“Maureen was selected for her impact in Kossuth/Palo Alto and beyond, including her willingness to serve on many boards and commissions across the state and region,” said Mark Reinig, board chairman of the Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC) which hosts the annual Rural Summit. “Her work shows how small towns can thrive through great leadership and innovative projects.”

With a crowd of more than 360 individuals from 70 different small towns (including Algona and Bancroft), the Iowa Rural Summit addressed issues ranging from ag tech innovation to arts and culture to entrepreneurship.

Other honorees included Mickey Anderson, Stanton; Chris Deal, Jefferson; Deb Lucht, Minburn; Joe Sorenson, Des Moines; and Jim and Julie Vermeer, Spencer.



Photo with Elbert and left to right Rand Fisher, IRDC Vice-Chair; Sandy Ehrig, IRDC Past Chair; Mark Reinig, IRDC Chair; Bruce Nuzum, Iowa Area Development Group/IADG Community Foundation CEO



# Interns are Igniting Their Path to Success



The Kossuth/ Palo Alto County Economic Development Corp. held its annual Intern Breakfast on Wednesday, May 25th at the Columbia Events Center in Algona. The kick-off event for the Intern Program was well attended and a majority of the summer interns were in attendance and ready to have a productive summer in their workplaces.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Mark Nook, University of Northern Iowa President.

Dr. Nook had many take aways for the interns. He also encouraged the businesses in attendance to utilize this opportunity to mentor, lead, and encourage volunteerism for this potential future workforce.

President Nook also discussed the importance of finding a mentor and building a close relationship with them. He said, "Build relationships with key people whether those are faculty members, people in your major, or professionals in the region as they can write great recommendations for you, but also give you advice on what you need to better position yourself."

When asking the President of the University of Northern Iowa the advice he would leave the interns with as they continue their



education, he gave four pointers:

- Pay attention to your mentors.
- Thank the people who have helped you get where you are today and have made a difference in your life.
- Continue to smile and impact peoples' lives in a positive way.
- Have the attitude of "I'm going to make a difference today and the best day of my life will be today. If in the morning you believe today is going to be the best day of your life, it is going to be a really good day."

Maureen Elbert, K/PACEDC Executive Director, talked to the interns following Mark

Nook's presentation and explained all the activities that are available to the interns over the summer. Elbert discussed the benefits that the interns can gain from these activities that are led by professionals in the area. Director Elbert said that Nook's speech was "absolutely centered with the core ideas of the internship program." This is year 23 of the intern program. It was originally developed to guarantee a future workforce in Kossuth and Palo Alto counties.

"People believe in this program and we want to encourage our youth to come back to this area. This program gives interns true skill-building sessions that will hopefully enhance their ability to obtain a good job and make them a committed, productive employee and community leader," said Elbert.

Kossuth/Palo Alto County Economic Development would like to thank the business leaders that participate in the Intern program and for investing in their futures by giving Interns the opportunity to excel within their communities.





# ISU Extension Hosted “Your Farm, Your Future”



Farmers and other interested individuals attended the farm transition workshop, Your Farm, Your Future, at Iowa Lakes Community College in Algona.

Attendees learned about farm finances, factors involved in farm transitioning, as well as resources available through the Iowa Finance Authority.



Event sponsors and partners included:

- Iowa State Bank (sponsored refreshments from Feed Mill Coffee)
- Iowa Corn (sponsored a meal from AK's Chrome Kitchen)
- Kossuth County Farm Bureau
- Kossuth-Palo Alto County Economic Development Corp.

## Workforce strategies discussed

Dr. Ron Cox, Director of CIRAS at Iowa State University, spoke to area businesses from Kossuth and Palo Alto Counties about workforce strategies. He helped our area leaders understand what opportunities are available to solve Iowa's workforce challenges. He shared data on who is available to hire and best practices to hire these groups.



## City Clerks quarterly meeting

Kossuth and Palo Alto City Clerks held their quarterly networking meeting in West Bend in December. The guest speaker was Brent Hinson who is the Mason City Deputy City Administrator and Finance Director. Brent presented information on Municipal Capital Improvement Planning (CIP). He explained that CIP is a long-range plan for capital projects and equipment replacement. It's a financial planning tool that is designed to enable efficient and well-planned use of tax dollars. It is usually a 5-year plan but can include longer term priorities. Brent explained what qualifies as a "Capital Project" and why developing a financial plan is so important. Brent supplied the City Clerks with a sample plan they can utilize.

After the informational meeting, the City Clerks gathered at Madsen's Greenhouse for some networking fun by creating beautiful holiday greenery displays.



## New Startup Spotlight: Kinetic Technologies, L.L.C. in Algona

Located at 500 Norwood Drive in Algona, just 2 doors east of Cinco de Mayo, Kinetic Technologies, L.L.C. is a new startup

in the engineering, technology, and light manufacturing sector. Kinetic Technologies works with established companies, startups, and innovators to rapidly accelerate the time between concept development and initial production. Kinetic's mechanical engineers work with customers to develop and draft their design and produce quick-turn iterative prototyping of mechanical parts. Beyond design and concepting, Kinetic is a manufacturer of build-to-order parts, bringing high-quality, on-time



delivery. Current capabilities include laser cutting, metal forming, and deburring/polishing of metal parts, with CNC milling capabilities available soon.

Kinetic Technologies is also working with a market leader in collaborative robots to become a Certified Systems Integrator for automation. Their robotics engineering team works with companies on fixture design, electronics integration, and user interface software in many applications in order to address labor challenges, reduce repetitive tasks, increase worker safety,

and meet peak demand requirements, among other things.

Kinetic Technologies is owned by Mark Barglof,

who has experience in the engineering and autonomy space as well as agriculture. He and his wife Betsy lead a team of 8 employees. "We have been impressed with the support and encouragement of our local community as we've begun this new adventure. We look forward to growing our business here in Kossuth County," said Barglof. Kinetic Technologies, L.L.C. can be reached at 515-395-1500 or check them out on the web at [www.kinetictechllc.com](http://www.kinetictechllc.com).

## West Bend-Mallard Ranked Top Elementary School in Iowa



*West Bend-Mallard CSD*  
**HOME OF THE WOLVERINES**

WEST BEND, Iowa — West Bend-Mallard Elementary School in West Bend was recently ranked the top elementary school in Iowa by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the school on its performance on state required tests, graduation, and how well teachers prepared students to enter high school. U.S. News & World Report also said that West Bend-Mallard Elementary School scored high or above average in math and reading.

Elementary principal Brian Rodemeyer says he was notified about the ranking almost a month ago.

"It's pretty, pretty incredible. The teachers, community, and staff are all involved in the decision-making processes here. It's a collaborative atmosphere, so there's a lot of ownership in the decisions," said Rodemeyer.

The school plans to take students to see a holiday movie to celebrate the accomplishment.





# America's SBDC Iowa Names Jeff Vierkant as Northwest Iowa SBDC Regional Director

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa is pleased to announce that Jeff Vierkant is the new Regional Director for the Northwest Iowa SBDC, hosted by Iowa Lakes Community College. He began this position in March 2022.

Vierkant will advise and train entrepreneurs and existing business owners in Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto and Sioux counties.

"America's SBDC Iowa is pleased to add Jeff to our team of knowledgeable, experienced, and professional business advisors," says SBDC State Director Lisa Shimkat. "He brings years of diverse business experience



to our organization. He will continue to build on the strong connections with area resource partners and encourage new business growth in his northern Iowa region."

Jeff has experience in manufacturing, supply chain administration, human resources, and financing. Jeff holds a Master's of Business Administration and an undergraduate degree in Business Administration. He and his family reside in the Iowa Great Lakes area.

America's SBDC Iowa is an outreach program of Iowa State University's College of Business and the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations. Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age,

ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, email [eooffice@iastate.edu](mailto:eooffice@iastate.edu).

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, America's SBDC Iowa has 15 regional assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the SBDC has helped Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs through no fee, confidential, customized, professional business counseling and practical, affordable training workshops.

For more information on America's SBDC Iowa programs or services, call (515) 294-2030 or visit [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org), <https://www.facebook.com/AmericasSBDCIowa>, or <https://twitter.com/IowaSBDC>.

## Scott Stokes selected as the next President of Iowa Lakes Community College

ESTHERVILLE, Iowa - Following an extensive nationwide search, the Iowa Lakes Community College Board of Trustees are proud to announce that Scott Stokes has been selected as the next College President.

Stokes brings an extensive higher education experience to Iowa Lakes with a comprehensive background in academics, student services, and technology. Stokes currently serves as the Executive Dean of the Estherville Campus at Iowa Lakes Community College.

"Throughout the search process, Scott Stokes has thoroughly impressed the Iowa Lakes Board of Trustees and Search Committee with his passion for the community college system and his shared vision and values of the College. Scott Stokes is a dedicated leader who will be responsive to the needs of the College, our students, staff, and the communities we serve," said Janice K. Lund, Board President.

Stokes has a demonstrated work history with Iowa Lakes, enabling him to develop a diverse and unique skillset. He has a proven track

record of positively representing Iowa Lakes and promotes an environment of collaboration and inclusion. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in implementing guided pathways for student success and helping to solidify a 1.6-million-dollar Title III Grant.

Over the years, Stokes has been an active leader within several state community college groups and the Estherville Community, demonstrating his ability to work with diverse groups with persistence and integrity.

Stokes earned an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University, a B.A. in Mathematics Education from the University of Northern Iowa, and



an A.A. Degree from Iowa Lakes Community College. Scott currently lives in Estherville with his wife, Sarah, two daughters, Jordyn and Haylee, and son, Jayke.

Stokes will begin his role as College President beginning on July 1, 2022.



**IOWA LAKES**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





## 2022 K/PACEDC Intern skill building sessions & meetings



### MAY 25 Intern Breakfast

7:30 am to 9:00 am at Columbia Events Center  
(Formerly Known as KC Hall)

### JUNE 1 Seeking Professional Growth

*An interactive evening to provide you with skills to understand human behavior and socialize with fellow interns.*

5:00 pm at Kossuth County Election Center  
(Across from Law Enforcement Center)

### JUNE 2 Intern Advisory Committee Meeting

7:30 am at K/PACEDC

### JUNE 7 Secrets to Success:

*Insider's guide to business etiquette.*

7:30 am at K/PACEDC

### JUNE 9 Project Hope Work Session

11:45 am at K/PACEDC



### JUNE 10 Intern Golf Outing

9:30 am at Five Island Golf Course  
(Emmetsburg)



### JUNE 14 Kossuth County Board of Supervisors Presentation

8:30 am at the Kossuth County  
Courthouse Meeting Room

### JUNE 14 Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors Presentation

10:00 am at the Palo Alto County  
Courthouse Meeting Room

### JUNE 15 Project Hope Work Session

11:45 am at K/PACEDC

### JUNE 19- JULY 2 Project Hope Weeks

### JUNE 21 ALICE Training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)

5:00 pm at the Kossuth County Election  
Center

### JUNE 28 Excel Training:

*Advanced tips to make your life easier*  
7:30 am at Pharmacists Mutual Insurance  
(Algona)



### JULY 6-7 Bagging Project Hope Items

8:00 am at K/PACEDC

### JULY 8 Intern Golf Outing Rain Date



### JULY 12 Manage your Money: *Simple and clear advice for your financial future*

7:30 am at K/PACEDC



### AUGUST 3 County-Wide Breakfast: St. Michael's Parish Center (Whittemore) at 7:00 am





# Valero receives Pro Patria award



Front, from left: Kirk Jarvis, Valero Renewables Lakota Plant Manager; Erica Klukow, Office Coordinator; and Nancy Klatt, HR Specialist. Back: Allen Batschelet, Maj. General, US Army (RET); Maj. Anthony Loween, NG USARNG Recruiting and Retention Command; Becky Coady, ESGR State Chair; SSGT Austin Decker MNUSAR; Steve Waller, ESGR Area 3 Chair; and Allen Smith, Maj. General IAANG (RET). Submitted photo

LAKOTA, Iowa – On Thursday, April 28, at the Regional Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Awards Banquet held in Spencer, ESGR representatives presented the prestigious Department of Defense Pro Patria Award to Valero Renewable Fuels of Lakota.

The Pro Patria Award is the highest honor a state ESGR Committee can bestow to those employers who have truly separated themselves with unmatched efforts of support, strict adherence to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) which is the federal law that protects the employment rights of National Guard and Reserve Component service members against discrimination for serving their country, and demonstrate exceptional leadership through practices and policies for employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. The Iowa ESGR presents only three Pro Patria Awards each year and Valero Renewables Lakota is the recipient of the Large Employer category.

Staff Sergeant Austin Decker, who serves with the Minnesota Army Reserve, nominated Lakota's office coordinator, Erica Klukow, for the original Patriot Award which upon review, was elevated to the Pro Patria Award.

Decker, Shift Supervisor, writes in his award submission that when notified of his pending deployment, Ms. Klukow "swiftly and expertly started finding avenues that led to an easy seamless process" so that he could fulfill his military commitment.

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers, and to help recognize outstanding support arising from an employee's military commitment.

## PACEDC Board of Directors



PACEDC Board members meet at their monthly board meeting.

## KCEDC Board of Directors



KCEDC Board members listen to guest speaker Steve Wagner, President of the Expedition Baseball League, announce that there will be an Expedition League Summer Collegiate Baseball Team that will be playing baseball at Bancroft Memorial Park this summer.



# CEO RECOGNITION

## Elbert Recognized Nationally as Rural CEO to Know

Kossuth Regional Health Center is proud to share that Chief Executive Officer Dar Elbert is being recognized as one of 67 rural hospital CEOs to know by Becker's Hospital Review.

Rural hospitals play a critical role in keeping communities safe and healthy. The CEOs leading these small but mighty healthcare organizations have worked tirelessly to continue serving patients throughout the pandemic and ensure financial stability for the future.

Dar Elbert has served as the Chief Nursing Officer at Kossuth Regional Health Center since January, 1987. Dar assumed the role of interim Chief Executive Officer in 2019, and permanent CEO in 2020, now maintaining both roles.

She is a seasoned executive with 34 years of experience in our Critical Access Hospital with a proven history of leadership. Dar is a continuous learner, exhibiting strong communication skills with a reputation of integrity and collaboration with key stakeholders in an ever-changing environment. Dar has led KRHC through many major improvements and changes in that the last 34 years. She is an advocate for nurses and patients alike and brings that perspective to her daily work. Dar has also served as a coach and mentor to other

hospitals in Northern Iowa during times of leadership transition.

This recognition shines a light on Dar's exceptional leadership, putting her heart and soul into ensuring our community has access to the best healthcare services possible. While rural hospitals across the country have faced closure in recent years, Dar has



developed a model for not only surviving, but thriving.

Elbert is one of three MercyOne member hospital CEOs to be recognized nationally, along with Veronica Fuhs of Monroe County Hospital and Clinics in Albia and Davis County Hospital in Bloomfield as well as Brooke Kensinger of MercyOne Elkader Medical Center.

"We are extremely proud of these three leaders," said Mike Trachta, MercyOne V.P. of Network Affiliates. "Each CEO knows the needs of their communities deeply and is devoted to delivering that care. Their service has helped these hospitals thrive during a challenging time in health care."

Rural hospitals are the heart of communities in Iowa. Providers and colleagues work tirelessly to deliver safe, quality care to meet rural resident's health care needs. Rural hospitals also are a key player in the economic health of their regions – providing jobs, community services and economic stability. KRHC is proud to have Dar Elbert leading our organization, and we hope you will join us in recognizing her contributions and dedication to the health of those in Northern Iowa.

Becker's Hospital Review is the top publication relating to all hospitals and health systems. Becker's Healthcare is the go-to source for healthcare decision-makers and one of the fastest growing media platforms in the industry. Through print, digital and live event platforms, Becker's Healthcare equips healthcare leaders with the information and forums they need to learn, exchange ideas and further conversations about the most critical issues in American healthcare.

## Michigan Based Trinity Health to Acquire MercyOne

Michigan-based nonprofit Trinity Health has announced an agreement to acquire all MercyOne health care facilities in Iowa. MercyOne CEO, Bob Brits, says "National Catholic Health Systems came together in Iowa in 1998 to pull together their ministries to improve access and availability of health care services in Sioux City, Dubuque, Mason City, Clinton, Central Iowa, and Illinois." Brits said they made multiple changes to adapt and this is another one.

He says they have worked for months to



come up with a plan.

Brits says this was something that has been discussed for years – but was never thought possible.

Trinity Health's Mike Slubowski, says things have been operating well in the last 24 years and they are hoping to keep it that way.

MercyOne's Iowa network includes 16

medical centers and 27 affiliate organizations, including Kossuth Regional Health Center in Algona, Hancock County Health System in Britt and Palo Alto County Health System in Emmetsburg, Ruthven and West Bend. The health system serves more than 3.3 million Iowans every year. Brits says they don't expect this merger to save any money – but it could help improve the efficiency of the operations. The two non-profits will work together on the integration to Trinity and expect it to be completed this summer.



# Summer Collegiate Baseball is Back in Northern Iowa!

Bancroft has welcomed the North Iowa Ragin' Roosters to the area and is excited for the team's inaugural 2022 season, with the Roosters' Home Opener on May 31st.

After another league (The Pioneer League) ended its time in Bancroft, the owner of the Expedition League, Steve Wagner, was excited to bring a new team to the area. "Once I visited Bancroft and started to meet people, I knew this would be a great place to have a team", stated Steve. "There's such a rich history of baseball in this region of Iowa and Bancroft Memorial Ballpark is a beautiful venue for the Ragin' Roosters." Steve and his wife, Connie, started The Expedition league 7 years ago and are excited to add the North Iowa Ragin' Roosters to the League. "We love being an integral part of the community and enhancing the quality of life with exciting baseball and fan-first entertainment!" says Steve. "Our goal is to provide you, the fans, with an incredible, fun, unforgettable experience at Bancroft Memorial Park. We want you to have a great time with family and friends from the time you walk into the ballpark until you leave at the end of the game. We are excited to bring the Expedition League's brand of baseball and FUN to Bancroft and the surrounding region."

The Expedition League is bringing some new things to the ballpark this summer. On the first baseline, there are now 5 VIP tables. For \$160, four people get to enjoy all you can eat and all you can drink (including beer!) from ½ hour before the start of the game to the bottom of the 5th inning, served to them by their own VIP waitstaff. The third base side is going to have a "group party area" with picnic tables, another all-you-can-eat catered food experience, and their own beer kiosk. "This is a great place for a birthday party, church outings, or a company outing," says Steve. The Ragin' Roosters will also have a lot of entertaining, between-inning activities, 7 fireworks nights, specialty jerseys, auctions, and outside entertainment groups like the ZOOperstars, who perform in AA and AAA



minor league ballparks.

We have a great group of people working for us this year. Laura Arndorfer has joined the team as the main Front Office staff person. She has hit the ground running and has been willing to do anything she is asked with enthusiasm. She is in charge of finding host families, marketing and corporate sponsorships, website design, and ticketing, among other things.

Dakota Greer is the Field Manager of the Ragin' Roosters. His career started at Olney Central College where he played for three years after having Tommy John surgery following his freshman year. Dakota then transferred to Midway University and began his coaching career. He graduated from Midway University with a bachelor's degree in Sports Management. Since 2020, Dakota has been working on his Masters Degree and he works with pitchers, along with coaching the JV baseball team.

Dakota Young is the assistant coach of the Ragin' Roosters. Dakota coaches at Iowa Lakes Community College and he previously spent time coaching at Lake Havasu High School in Arizona. Dakota worked with outfielders and hitters during his time in Arizona. He was also the JV head coach where he went 4-1, before the season was cut short due to COVID 19.

"The talent on the field is top-tier," says Steve. The Ragin' Roosters roster contains 30 players from all over the United States including

one player from Australia! The players and coaches will arrive to Bancroft starting May 24th.

The biggest challenge of bringing a new team to town is finding host families. "The host family dynamic is really neat. These kids (players) and their host families will build a lifelong bond that will last for decades and decades," Steve says. Laura Arndorfer agrees. "We have hosted three times in the past and are still in contact with all our players. Our last player met his now-wife while living with us in Bancroft and had their wedding at Okoboji in the summer of 2021. We were the only non-family members invited to the wedding." Host families receive

family season tickets, discounts on apparel, and a \$100 Hager's Grocery store gift card for each player they host. Host families do not have to live in Bancroft, but can live anywhere in the area and surrounding communities. If you're interested in hosting, please contact Laura at [laura@raginroosters.com](mailto:laura@raginroosters.com).

The Ragin' Roosters will play 62 games in 69 days, beginning with their first game on the road on May 26th in Pierre, South Dakota against the Pierre Trappers, which is also the site of this season's All-Star Game and related festivities on Sunday July 17th.

For more information about the Ragin' Roosters, including purchasing individual game and season tickets, please visit our website at [www.raginroosters.com](http://www.raginroosters.com).

**Come to  
Bancroft  
to see the  
North Iowa  
Ragin'  
Roosters!**





# NEW START-UP BUSINESS IN MALLARD

## Mallard Paint & Body



Pictured from left to right:  
Linda Knecht and Maureen Elbert with K/PACEDC,  
Andrea Rubel and Eric Rubel with their son, Bennett,  
and Kyle Auten with Iowa Trust and Savings Bank.



The Palo Alto County Revolving Loan Fund partnered with Iowa Trust and Savings Bank in loans for a new start up business, Mallard Paint & Body.

Owners Eric and Andrea Rubel will open their business in Mallard and the primary business will be collision repair and insurance work. The Rubels will provide factory and aftermarket parts to repair customer vehicles. Full service will be provided from parts to body work and paint including dent repair, parts replacement, welding, and auto glass repair. Eric Rubel has many years of experience in the auto body industry.

## Spring is here

*It's time to get your community businesses ready for the spring and summer traffic*



**Customer service**  
can maximize sales  
during these  
uncertain times

**There are 3**  
important qualities  
of customer service  
center around  
three "P"s:

- **Professionalism**
- **Patience**
- **"People-First"**  
**Attitude**





# 2022 COUNTY WIDE BREAKFAST



**SPEAKER**  
**Kit Welchlin**

**TOPIC**  
**Communicating Across  
the Generations at Work**

**LOCATION**  
**St. Michael's Parish Center,  
Whittemore**

**RSVP by JULY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**to 515-295-7979 or**  
**[kcedc@kossuthia.com](mailto:kcedc@kossuthia.com)**



**Wednesday  
August 3rd**



**TIME: 7:00am**  
**COST: \$20.00**



Kit Welchlin grew up on a hog and dairy farm in southern Minnesota and began public speaking at the age of 9 in a 4-H public speaking contest. By 16, he was organizing and facilitating presentations on leadership, citizenship, community service, and motivation for the 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

Kit purchased his first manufacturing company at age 21, and by 26 was CEO and Chairman of the Board of three manufacturing companies in three states. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech Communication, Business Administration, and Political Science. Kit received a Masters Degree in Speech Communication and Business

Administration. Kit taught part-time for 26 years for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, where he received the Teaching Excellence Award and had been repeatedly nominated as Outstanding Faculty. He is a professional member of the National Speakers Association.

Kit has personally delivered over 600 presentations on communication to associations as well as public and private organizations, helping employees to increase productivity, customer service, and engage with emotional intelligence. Kit has delivered more than 3,000 speeches and seminars to more than 500,000 people over the past 27 years.





## BUSINESS INVESTORS 1000+

Ag Processing (AGP)  
Algona Medical Clinic II  
Alliant Energy  
Bank Plus  
Bolton & Menk  
Buchanan, Bibler, Gabor & Meis  
Central Financial Group  
Corn Belt Power Cooperative  
Corteva Agriscience  
Country Maid, Inc.  
Cozzini, LLC  
Erpelding, Voigt & Company  
Evolution Driveline  
Farmers State Bank  
Fidelity Bank & Trust  
Greg Penning & Company  
Hormel Foods Corporation  
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative  
Iowa State Bank  
ITC Midwest, LLC  
Klein Insurance Agency  
Kossuth Regional Health Center  
MaxYield Cooperative  
MidAmerican Energy  
Midland Power Cooperative  
Northwest Bank  
Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company  
Precision Food Innovations/Precision Pulley & Idler  
Security State Bank  
Smithfield Hog Production  
Snap-on  
Stateline Cooperative  
Titonka Savings Bank (Now Known as NSB Bank)  
Walker Chiropractic & Wellness, PC  
West Iowa Bank  
White Transfer & Storage

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$500 - \$999

Algona Publishing Company  
Aluma  
Bancroft Municipal Utilities  
Counsel Office & Document  
Drs. Klepper & Trainer, ODS  
Erpelding Excavating Enterprise  
Farm & Home Services  
Gold Eagle Cooperative  
Good Samaritan Society of Algona  
Heartland Mutual Insurance Association  
Hy-Vee  
Kemna Auto Center  
Kossuth Abstract & Title Company  
McMahon, Stowater, Lynch & Laddusaw  
North Iowa Lumber & Design  
Reding's Gravel & Excavating / Edwards Contracting  
Suida Health & Production  
Valero Renewable Fuels Company

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$250 - \$499

AI Processors/Balchem  
Algona Dairy Queen  
Algona Floor Design  
Americinn of Algona  
Blacktop Service Company  
Bloom Floral Design Boutique  
Brenda Clark-Hamilton "Professional Growth Programs"  
Carroll Implement  
Deitering Bros., Inc  
Dump It Sanitation & Recycling  
East Fork Swine Veterinary Services  
EXIT Realty Home/Land Properties  
Farmers Cooperative Elevator  
Feed Mill Coffee Company  
Foertsch Plumbing & Heating  
Grass Masters  
Henkel Construction Company  
Henry-Olson Funeral Homes  
J & J Custom Meats  
Jack's O.K. Tire Service  
K.C. Nielsen, Ltd.  
KLGA/KLGZ  
North Iowa Appliance Center  
Northwest Communications  
Northwest Communications Cooperative Association  
Oakcrest Funeral Services  
Protein Resources  
Roethler Electric  
Standard Nutrition Services  
Stuart Simonson, CPA  
Titonka-Burt Communications

**Kossuth County Board of Supervisors and communities in Kossuth County also contribute funding dollars to assist with our programs**

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$50 - \$249

400 Rustic Station  
Algona Family YMCA  
Algona Hearing Center  
Algona Machine & Supply  
Algona Manor Care Center  
Blair & Amanda Redenius

Boyken Insurance Agency  
Columbia Events Center  
Eischen Sales  
G-Force Customs  
Innovations Salon & Spa  
Johnny's Bar & Grill

Lone Rock Cooperative  
Telephone Company  
Reutzel Excavating  
Soma Med Spa & Wellness Clinic  
spa dee dah, too!  
Steier Ag

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$1000

Ag Processing (AGP)  
Alliant Energy  
Community Lumber Supply  
Corn Belt Power Cooperative  
Erpelding, Voigt & Company  
Iowa Lakes Community College  
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative  
Iowa State Bank  
Iowa Trust & Savings Bank  
MaxYield Cooperative  
MidAmerican Energy  
Palo Alto County Health System  
POET Biorefining  
River Valley Telecommunications  
West Iowa Bank

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$500 - \$999

Aureon Grant  
Bank Plus  
Community State Bank  
Farmers State Bank  
K & W Electric  
Wild Rose Casino & Resort

## BUSINESS INVESTORS \$250 - \$499

Brownlee Management  
Graettinger Hardware/Roberts  
Street Self Storage  
Horizons Unlimited  
North Iowa Lumber & Design  
Northland Auto & Marine

Northwest Communications  
Northwest Communications Cooperative Association  
Pro Cooperative  
Protein Resources  
Wash Away Bay

**Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors and communities in Palo Alto County also contribute funding dollars to assist with our programs**

