

NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
June 15, 2023

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## **IOWA CENTER COMPLETES LEADERSHIP TEAM**

*Recruits Top Tier Talent to Empower Entrepreneurs*

**Des Moines, Iowa** – The Iowa Center announced completion of its leadership team with the addition of Professor Mark Juffernbruch as Director of Business Coaching. Juffernbruch joins a team of passionate professionals who are committed to empowering entrepreneurs to launch and grow the small businesses that make Iowa’s communities vibrant, flavorful, and fun.

“This is an exciting time for The Iowa Center! We have grown strategically and deliberately to ensure that we have the policies and controls in place to operate and serve our clients to the best of our capacity,” said Megan Milligan, President + CEO of The Iowa Center. “We now have the administrative infrastructure and leadership team for our three lines of direct service that will allow us leverage our infrastructure for growth to meet the needs of Iowa’s small business community.”

The Iowa Center leadership team includes:

Megan Milligan, President + CEO. Megan has two decades of non-profit leadership experience as well as expertise in communications, advocacy and development. She is the public voice of the Iowa Center who protects and promotes our mission by developing our strategic growth plan, ensuring our continued success and leading outreach to the larger Iowa community.

Mark Juffernbruch, Director of Business Coaching. Mark is a CPA, attorney, and Professor at Simpson College. He leads the coaching team and structures our curriculum to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our entrepreneurs. He also works directly with our clients to help them achieve their goals.

Jose Venales, Director of Credit + Lending. Jose came from the banking and economic development sectors. He leverages his banking experience to manage and grow The Iowa Center’s SBA microlending and CDFI programs. Jose maintains a healthy loan portfolio to ensure that we can continue to provide access to capital for Iowa’s small business community.

Karla Evans, Director of Tax Services. Trained as a statistician, Karla manages The Iowa Center's VITA sites in Des Moines and leads 24 partners to deliver Iowa's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program statewide.

Donnell Wiskus, Director of Finance and Administration. Donnell has 25 years of experience as a non-profit finance and administration leader. She ensures that we achieve sound financial practices, internal controls, and focuses on detailed completion of all finance-related reporting.

Erin Strawn, Director of Advancement. Erin has led government and private sector strategies to develop public policy that supports entrepreneurship and innovation. She develops our annual advancement strategy which includes fundraising, communications, public affairs, and relationship building with community leaders in order to empower The Iowa Center to better serve our small business clients.

The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that delivers three lines of direct services to empower entrepreneurs to launch and grow their small businesses: Business Coaching, Credit + Lending, and Tax Services. Iowa Center services are available to all entrepreneurs, but many clients seek The Iowa Center's support to overcome an obstacle in the marketplace: 72% of The Iowa Center's clients are low-to-moderate income; 71% are women; and 35% are people of color. The Iowa Center's services are available to clients at low to no cost thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Learn more about The Iowa Center at [www.TheIowaCenter.org](http://www.TheIowaCenter.org).