

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **IOWA CENTER PROMOTES ERIN STRAWN TO PRESIDENT + CEO**

*Strawn will succeed Megan Milligan who departs to serve as leader of Anawim Housing*

**Des Moines, Iowa** – The Iowa Center Board of Directors announced plans to promote its Director of Advancement Erin Strawn to the role of President + CEO. Erin will assume the new role effective August 1, 2025 and will succeed Megan Milligan who previously announced that she would depart The Iowa Center to assume the leadership of Anawim Housing.

Erin joined The Iowa Center's executive leadership team as Director of Advancement in 2023 following a successful career as a public affairs executive with over three decades of experience advising governmental leaders, globally recognized brands, and non-profit organizations. She joined The Iowa Center out of a desire to positively impact her community and state, and a passion for the organization's small business mission. As The Iowa Center's first Director of Advancement, Erin fostered partnerships and investments that position The Iowa Center for continued growth.

"The Iowa Center's executive leadership is a team of seasoned and talented professionals who are relentlessly dedicated to the success of Iowa's small business owners. The Board is proud to advance a member of this team to lead the organization," said Franklin Codel, Chair of The Iowa Center's Board of Directors. "Erin has the talent and skillset that The Iowa Center needs in its next leader. She is a strong communicator who can elevate The Iowa Center's profile, and has demonstrated the ability to craft a compelling narrative about our impact, and secure the support required to continue our strategic, calibrated growth. I am excited about the continued growth of The Iowa Center's impact on our community's small business economy in this next chapter." Departing CEO Megan Milligan endorsed Strawn's promotion stating, "I am intensely proud of the entire Iowa Center team and confident that their positive impact for our small business community will only grow under Erin's leadership."

"Small business has always been a part of my life, and I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization that has such a tremendous impact on our state's small business economy," said Erin Strawn. "I grew up in my family's small business, and I understand all of the joy, fear, pain, pride, excitement, and responsibility involved with launching and growing a small business. I look forward to working with The Iowa Center's board and leadership to ensure that more Iowans have access to the support and services that they need to launch and grow successful and sustainable small businesses."

The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that delivers three lines of direct services to empower Iowans to launch, manage, grow and finance their small businesses: Business Coaching, Credit + Lending, and Tax Services. Learn more about The Iowa Center at [www.TheIowaCenter.org](http://www.TheIowaCenter.org).