

NEWS RELEASE  
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## IOWA CENTER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Tej Dhawan and Elisabeth Tursi will provide Strategic Leadership*

**Des Moines, Iowa** – The Iowa Center proudly announces the election of two new members to its Board of Directors: Tej Dhawan, a leader in Iowa's innovation and startup community; and Elisabeth Tursi, partner and co-founder of the legal firm Fautsch Tursi. Tej and Elisabeth will join The Iowa Center Board of twelve community leaders led by Chairman Franklin Codel and Vice-Chair Jingkan Gu of Principal.

Tej Dhawan co-founded and led a technology firm, and has fostered Iowa's entrepreneurial ecosystem through stewardship of StartupCity Des Moines, the Startup Iowa initiative, Plains Angels investment network, and as a member of the Iowa Venture Capital Association, the Midwest Angel Syndicate, and Rise of the Rest Iowa team. Tej was also a founding team and board member for the Global Insurance Accelerator.

Elisabeth Tursi is founder and partner in the law firm Fautsch Tursi. Elisabeth embraces the traditional legal title of "attorney and counselor at law" because she is passionate about helping people. Elisabeth is honored to serve people at the most difficult times of their lives, and is committed to using simple, direct, and pragmatic strategies.

"I am thrilled to welcome Tej Dhawan and Elisabeth Tursi to The Iowa Center board," said Erin Strawn, President + CEO of The Iowa Center. "Tej's leadership in Iowa's entrepreneurial ecosystem and Elisabeth's thoughtful perspective as an attorney and small business owner will support the continued growth of The Iowa Center and success for the small businesses that we serve."

The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that delivers three lines of direct service to empower small business ownership: Business Coaching, Credit + Lending, and Tax Services. The Iowa Center is home to The Iowa Center Women's Business Center in partnership with the US Small Business Administration; and The Iowa Center Loan Fund, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the US Treasury. The Iowa Center's services are available to any Iowan seeking support to launch, manage, grow or finance a small business.

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