

NEWS RELEASE
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IOWA CENTER BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS TO GUIDE NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH

Jingkan Gu of Principal will Chair Board of Directors with Community Leaders Dave Everett as Vice-Chair and Franklin Codel as Immediate Past Chair/Treasurer

Des Moines, Iowa – The Iowa Center announced that its next phase of growth for The Iowa Center and The Iowa Center Loan Fund CDFI will be led by Board Chair Jingkan Gu, a strategist for Principal Financial Group, and Vice Chair Dave Everett, a community leader and retired Corteva executive. Gu succeeds Franklin Codel who transitions to Immediate Past-Chair and Treasurer at the conclusion of his two-year term as Chair on June 30, 2026.

“At The Iowa Center, small business *is* our business. Our Board of Directors have diverse backgrounds, experiences and expertise. But they all share one important thing: a same deep passion for our mission to strengthen Iowa’s economy one small business at a time,” said Erin Strawn, President and CEO of The Iowa Center. “Our new Board leadership will oversee continued growth of our work to provide access to capital, education, and resources for the small businesses that we serve. I am excited about the good work that we will do together!”

Board Chair Jingkan Gu, a seasoned strategist at Principal Financial Group, will leverage over two decades of global financial experience to evaluate long-term growth strategies and governance initiatives for The Iowa Center. Vice-Chair Dave Everett is well-positioned to advise expansion of The Iowa Center’s rural and micropolitan impact expansion with a perspective shaped by his leadership at Corteva Agriscience. And Treasurer Franklin Codel will lend financial services insights into capital access and risk management to strengthen The Iowa Center Loan Fund as the CDFI scales its portfolio. Travis Sheets, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of GuideOne Insurance, and Courtney Culp, Associate Account Supervisor at Flynn Wright, will bring new energy, insight and experience to The Iowa Center’s Board of twelve community leaders.

“The Iowa Center is a one-stop shop for education, capital, and access to professional networks for Iowans who want to achieve the American Dream of small business ownership,” said Jingkan Gu. “I am honored to support an organization that aligns so closely with Principal’s commitment to empowering financial security and small business growth. And I am proud to work alongside such a talented staff and dedicated Board of Directors to advance The Iowa Center’s small business mission.”

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.