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Bales Attends Annual Venture Capital Conference

Mason City - Ken Bales, Development Specialist for the Mason City Economic Development Corporation recently attended the Iowa Venture Capital and Entrepreneur Conference in Des Moines on October 5, 2004, held at the Polk County Convention Complex. This was the fifth annual conference, which brings together Iowa's entrepreneurial community by offering entrepreneurs, investors, entrepreneurial students, economic developers community leaders a broad range of networking opportunities, workshops and presentations.

The conference included opening comments from Mason City native and Iowa venture capitalist John Pappajohn followed by the keynote speaker, Andrew Scott, Senior Investment Banker for the Maxim Group, LLC. Maxim has raised approximately \$50 million for non-sector specific growth over the past 12 months.

Jude Conway from Hopewell Ventures, Hal Calhoun from Menlo Ventures and Dick Schwab, president of Eastern Iowa Angel Investors were part of a panel discussion which discussed the progress and current status of venture capital in the state of Iowa.

The breakout sessions in the afternoon included, The Process of Successfully Raising Capital, Entrepreneurial Roundtable – Lessons Learned, Creating a Community-Based Seed Fund and Insight Into Investors' Due Diligence.

This annual event draws more than 500 people and was partially sponsored by the North Central Iowa Growth Partnership, which is the marketing group made up of the Mason City Economic Development Corporation and Clear Lake Economic Development Corporation.

For more information on the North Central Iowa Growth Partnership, log onto www.ncigp.com.

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