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Mason City Economic Development Corporation
EDCs AND CHAMBER STAFF ATTEND 6TH ANNUAL VENTURE CAPITAL
CONFERENCE

MASON CITY—Curtis Brown, Executive Director and Angela Determan, Project Manager of the Mason City Economic Development Corporation recently attended the Iowa Venture Capital & Entrepreneur Conference held October 11, 2006 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. Also attending the conference was Robin Anderson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Andy Hubbard, Chamber of Commerce board member and Mason City EDC board members Cerro Gordo County Supervisor Jay Urdahl and NIACC president Michael Morrison, PhD.

North Central Iowa Alliance members also attending the event were Brenda Dryer, Executive Director of Mitchell County EDC, Cindy Schack, Executive Director of Hancock County EDC and Teresa Nicholson, Executive Director of Winn-Worth Betco.

Introductory remarks were given by Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development Michael Blouin and Mason City native and prominent Iowa entrepreneur and investor John Pappajohn. Keynote speakers were Iowa businessman Tom Bedell, CEO of Pure Fishing and local entrepreneurs and owners of Woodharbor Doors & Cabinetry Curtis, Dennis and Jon Lewerke. Keynote speakers related to their experiences building their businesses in Iowa.

Breakout sessions in the afternoon included Know Thy Customer - Market Research, Strong Management and Team Leadership, Exporting for Entrepreneurs, Writing a Business Plan to Attract Capital, Branding with Sparks, Equity Investment and How to Approach and Present to Angel Investors and Turning Ideas Into Industry.

A highlight of the conference was the announcement of the winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award and Iowa Business Plan Competition by John Pappajohn. Pappajohn funded the awards. Latham Hi-Tech Hybrids LLC of Sheffield was awarded third place and \$10,000 in the first John Pappajohn Iowa Business Plan Competition. The Iowa Business Plan Competition, unveiled at last year's Iowa Venture Capital and Entrepreneur Conference, was designed to stimulate business development and provide support to entrepreneurs with outstanding business plans.

The annual event draws more than 500 people and was partially sponsored by the North Central Iowa Growth Partnership, a partnership between the Mason City Economic Development Corporation and Clear Lake Economic Development Corporation and the North Central Iowa Alliance, a seven county consortium focused on the economic growth and development of the region.

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