



Corridor

JANUARY 2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Scott Smed, Chairman of the Board
Bergland + Cram

Marty Mensen, Vice Chair
Alliant Energy

Diane Fischels, Treasurer
MercyOne - North Iowa

Paul Stevenson, Secretary
Clear Lake Bank and Trust

Robert Klocke, Past Chairman
First Citizens Bank

Directors:

Chelsy Snyder Anderson
Dean Snyder Construction

Kent Brcka
Henkel Construction

Collin Davison
Laird Law Firm

Mark Ebeling
City of Clear Lake

Christy Marchand
CFO Systems, LLC

Emily Peters
Union Pacific Railroad

Chuck Schafer
North Iowa Cooperative

Ex-Officios:

Mayor Nelson Crabb
City of Clear Lake

Mayor Bill Schickel
City of Mason City

Supervisor Tim Latham
Cerro Gordo County

Dr. Steven Schulz
North Iowa Area Community College

Aaron Burnett
City of Mason City

Tom Meyer
Cerro Gordo County

Scott Flory
City of Clear Lake

A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE NORTH IOWA CORRIDOR hosted our Quarterly Partner Forum December 10th. This event is one of our favorites because it provides the opportunity to hear from our local businesses and partner organizations about the important things happening for them, as well as get input on how we can best serve them. We also provide brief updates on our activities and key priorities for the coming months. Below is a brief synopsis of the morning, but we hope you can join us for our next one coming up in March 2022!

Project Activity

The Corridor works closely with local and prospective businesses on potential expansion projects throughout the county. If your business is considering growth possibilities, please be sure to contact us to help get the process started so we can help provide you with the resources to help. Numerous area businesses are experiencing exciting growth prospects, and below are a few examples.

One of the projects discussed is expansion underway for Five Star Coop in Ventura. The company continues to grow, and is working on several new facilities on a 17 acre site. Cerro Gordo County updated its Urban Renewal Plan in order to facilitate and support the current \$8m project, as well as plans for more growth in the future.

The Corridor is also working closely with Pritchard Companies of Clear Lake, who purchased the former TeamQuest office building, and has moved about 70 of their employees into the building. The company is working on exciting things in the Electric Vehicle space, and has significant plans for growth and addition of up to 50 people over the next 5 years that the Corridor and City of Clear Lake are assisting with.

In addition to the phenomenal success of our local businesses, the Corridor has continued to have strong interest from businesses interested in expanding into the region. The primary sector has been in the bio-renewable fuel industry, as we are currently working with 3 major projects that have selected our area, pending final due diligence and pre-development work over the coming year.

This includes two projects in the renewable diesel/sustainable aviation fuel industry, and one in the cellulosic ethanol industry. These projects represent significant investment potential, ranging from \$190m to \$300m each, and creation of between 30-70 jobs at average wages over \$60,000. This sector is one of our most established areas of success, with companies like Golden Grain and REG, but these projects would give our region a very dense cluster that would lead to further spin-off opportunities and industry synergies, and exciting future growth potential in high value industries.

Workforce

While the project activity is exciting, it continues to drive home the significant need for more workforce. North Iowa is no different than the rest of the country: we need more people. To that end, the Corridor and our partners in the Vision North Iowa initiative are moving forward with a significant investment in a proactive marketing effort to recruit new workers to our region. Beginning in January, the This is North Iowa campaign will be targeting people with the skills our businesses need. New content and materials are being produced that we hope will help to drive more people to our business's job opportunities by building awareness of our region and the great quality of life our communities have to offer. We look forward to sharing more at the State of North Iowa event coming up January 13th.

CHAD SCHRECK

PRESIDENT & CEO

cschreck@northiowacorridor.com

SHAUN ARNESON

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

sarneson@northiowacorridor.com

HUNTER CALLANAN

WORKFORCE SPECIALIST

hcallanan@northiowacorridor.com

JOYCE MARTIN

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

jmartin@northiowacorridor.com