

The Iowa County

magazine



April 2021

ISAC Education Foundation
ISAC Illustrated Essay Contest

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Rachel Bennett, EDITOR

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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government
for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation,
information and services for and about county government
in Iowa.

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**** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by
anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do
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About this Issue - ISAC Education Foundation

The ISAC Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds for the ISAC Scholarship Program, which awards annual scholarships to high school seniors who are the children or dependent of county officials or employees. This program is funded through fundraising events, vendor sponsorships, and private, tax deductible donations. Throughout this issue, we'll feature this year's scholarship winners and upcoming events.

This year's scholarship award amounts were decreased due to the cancelation of last year's fundraising events. Please plan to support the program however you can this year, so that it remains a viable source of scholarships that directly help the children of Iowa county employees.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Katie Cook at kcook@iowacounties.org or 515.369.7028.

**THANK
YOU!**



Thank you to our generous sponsors of the ISAC Friends of the Education Foundation program. The ISAC Education Foundation is proud to offer scholarships to the children of county officials and county employees.



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Interested in supporting the ISAC Education Foundation?
Contact Jacy Ripperger at jripperger@iowacounties.org

About this Issue - ISAC Illustrated Essay Contest

In January of this year, ISAC made a call for Iowa's youth to tell us what they think about county government in Iowa and why it is so important through an illustrated essay competition. We accepted 32 illustrated essays from Iowa children age 12 and under across the state. Essays were judged by an internal committee based on essay and illustration creativity, positivity, originality, and overall impression. The three top award-winning submissions are featured in this magazine. The top award winners and six grade-level winners received prize packages. Additionally, all submissions received a certificate of participation. Enjoy!

We are interested in making this program bigger and better next year. If you have an interest in assisting, please let me know at rbennett@iowacounties.org or 515.369.7010.

SAVE THE DATE!



The 16th Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser

Toad Valley Golf Course
Pleasant Hill, IA
Thursday, July 29, 2021



2021 ISAC Scholarship Awards

2021 ISAC Scholarship Awards

This year ISAC received 47 outstanding scholarship applications from across Iowa. The following members of the 2021 scholarship selection committee worked hard to review the applications and to interview the finalists.

District 1 – Eugene Meiners, Carroll County Supervisor
District 2 – Doug Miller, Kossuth County Engineer
District 3 – Sheri Neddermeyer, Crawford County Treasurer
District 4 – Carol Robertson, Mills County Auditor
District 5 – Megan Clyman, Davis County Recorder
District 6 – Jenni Pirc, Linn County Attorney's Office
ISAC Board Representative – Brian Gardner, Linn County Sheriff

The following, incredible group of hard-working and accomplished young adults won this year's scholarship awards. Congratulations to them and their families!



District 1 Carson Hoffman

Carson's father is BJ Hoffman, Hardin County Supervisor. Carson is joining the Army ROTC program at the University of Dubuque and will be majoring in flight operations.



District 2 Mercedes Latham

Sadie is the daughter of Crystal Willier and Joseph Latham. Crystal is a 911 Dispatcher for Cerro Gordo County. Sadie plans to attend North Iowa Area Community College to study general education and business.



District 3 Victor Tapia

Victor is the son of Sonia Banuelos and Victor Tapia. Sonia works in the Motor Vehicles department for Buena Vista County. Victor will be attending Iowa State University to major in mechanical engineering.

2021 ISAC Scholarship Awards

Future ISAC Scholarships

If you have a child or dependent who will be graduating from high school next year or know of a county member who does, the scholarship applications will be available in August.

Fundraising is vital to keep this program going strong, and we would like to extend a special thank you to the sponsors of ISAC's Friends of the Education Foundation Program. This program was created to assist in raising funds to award ISAC scholarships.

Two fundraising events are being held this year to support the program as well. The 16th Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser is being held on Thursday, July 29 at the Toad Valley Golf Course in Pleasant Hill. Registration is now open! Also, in conjunction with the Annual Conference in August, ISAC will hold a Casino Night Fundraiser.

Attending an event, becoming a Friend of the Education Foundation, or making a small, tax-deductible donation helps these amazing kids realize their dreams. We cannot do this without your support!



District 4 Gracie Simmons

Gracie's parents are Amy and Mitchel Rydl. Mitchel works for the Audubon County Secondary Roads Department. Gracie will attend Iowa State University and major in elementary education.



District 5 Wyatt Stout

Wyatt is the son of Julie and Tim Stout. Tim works for the Washington County Secondary Roads department. Wyatt plans to attend Iowa State University and study agricultural business and finance.



District 6 Maddilyn Klemme

Maddi is the daughter of Erin and Matthew Klemme. Matthew works for the Jackson County Secondary Roads department. Maddi will be attending Simpson College to study pre-veterinary medicine and biology.



The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) announces the 16th Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser to be held Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Toad Valley Golf Course in Pleasant Hill, Iowa. The event raises money for the ISAC Education Foundation, which awards scholarships to high school seniors who are children of county officials or county employees.

The 18-hole scramble (best-shot) with a shotgun start will begin promptly at 10:00 am. Registration begins at 9:00 am. You may register individually or in a group of up to four people. The \$80/golfer fee includes golf with a shared cart, driving range balls, lunch, and beverage tickets.

Individuals wishing to golf or just attend the meal/s should fill out and return the registration form by Friday, July 2, 2021. Payment must accompany your registration and is non-refundable. The course is limited to 144 golfers, and we have sold out in the past, so register early to reserve your spot! If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Sebern at 515.244.7181 or ksebern@iowacounties.org.

****A reminder to participants that Iowa law prohibits county officials from accepting gifts (including food, drink, registration fees, and anything of value in return for which legal consideration of equal or greater value is not given and received) from restricted donors unless an exception applies. Exceptions that may apply at ISAC conferences likely do not apply to this event and generally speaking the only exemption likely available is a gift that is valued at \$3 or less. If you have questions about your compliance with the gift law, please consult with your county attorney.**

Directions:

Please find detailed directions at www.iowacounties.org. Toad Valley Golf Course is located at 237 NE 80th Street, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327.



We look forward to seeing you on July 29! Remember, registration begins at 9:00 am and golf begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 am sharp - please be prompt.



When: **Thursday, July 29, 2021**
 9:00 am – Registration
 10:00 am – Golf - four-person scramble (best-shot)

Where: **Toad Valley Golf Course**
 237 NE 80th Street, Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327
 515.967.9575

Cost: **\$80 (18 holes of golf with a shared cart, lunch, and beverages)**

___ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on July 29. My \$80 is enclosed.

___ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on July 29. As a qualifying sponsor my fee is waived.

___ I have organized a group to play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser. Our total entry fee is enclosed.

****A reminder to participants that Iowa law prohibits county officials from accepting gifts from restricted donors unless an exemption applies.*

Contact Name: _____

County/Company: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

If you wish to arrange a group of players, please confirm your group prior to indicating the names on this form. Individuals and groups of less than four will be paired with other players.

1) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

4) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment MUST accompany registration and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to the *ISAC Education Foundation*. Entries must be received by Friday, July 2, 2021, and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Mail to: ISAC, Attn: Golf Fundraiser, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Sebern at 515.244.7181 or ksebern@iowacounties.org.

ISAC Illustrated Essay Contest

County Essay

Counties do a lot of important things for their citizens. They provide human services and home health care nurses, run elections, preserve county parks, maintain county roads, and so much more. Some of the people working for the county are elected, and some are appointed. To me, elections, community services, and the County Engineer are the most important jobs and functions.

The County Auditor (who is elected) runs elections, is in charge of budgeting/accounting, keeps board meeting records, manages alcohol/cigarette permits, land/tax records, and payroll. He/she makes sure everyone gets a chance to vote, and that there is no election fraud. Elections are super important. This way, the citizens can help decide who the next government officials will be.

Community Services provide many necessary things, such as helping people with mental disabilities, short-term assistance for the poor and needy, and women's shelters, which are safe places for abused women and children. Public Health Nurses are in charge of preventative education and vaccinations.

The County Engineer (who is appointed) is in charge of county road construction and repairs, bridge maintenance, snow removal on county roads, and much, much more.

These are only three out of many services the county provides. Counties are very important. All county officials are very important. Though you may not realize it, your life is so much easier with a county.



Phoebe Morgan is from Black Hawk County and is in 5th grade in homeschool. She plays the violin. She also enjoys drawing.



ISAC Illustrated Essay Contest

What Do People In County Government Do?

This essay is about people in county government and what they do. There are many places in county government, but I find these the most important. The people I have listed are both elected and appointed. I hope you enjoy this essay!

Conservationists develop, maintain, and provide public access to county parks and properties. Say you like to go to the park. Think what it would be like if vines covered the swing set so you couldn't swing, and you tripped every time you entered, because the ground was covered with overgrown grass. See? Now you're glad you have a county conservationist.

Sheriffs take care of cars and vans that have been lost. If someone stole your car, the sheriff would find it for you. Sheriffs also help capture convicts and keep the courthouse protected. See? Now you are glad to have a county sheriff!

Public health nurses work towards preventing sickness and disability. If you want to prevent an illness, they are the ones who help do it. See? Now you're glad you have county public health nurses!

Engineers help clear snow, build roads, and repair bridges. If you are snowed in, they will clear the roads. See? Now you're glad you have a county engineer!

Auditors help run elections, and collect taxes. If a person tampered with the election results, auditors are the ones who take care of it. See? Now you're glad that you have a county auditor!

There are many more places in the county government, but I personally think that these are the most important, and the Engineer is the most important of all. How would you get around without them? This is Delia Morgan, signing off.



Delia Morgan is from Black Hawk County and is in 3rd grade in homeschool. Her favorite hobbies include horse riding and reading. She also enjoys playing the piano and basketball.



ISAC Illustrated Essay Contest

I would like to discuss the importance of our county road crews, emergency medical service teams, and the local policemen. These groups are all here to keep us safe, both on the roads and in our homes. They are essential to our daily lives because they make improvements in our communities, are there to help when needed, and many other tasks that make life easier and often go unnoticed.

County road workers haul and spread rock throughout the year to keep the gravel roads usable for rural residents. Crews also build and maintain bridges during the warmer months, so they are up to code and safe to drive on. If something happens to a road surface (like pavement heat buckles - pictured at the end of my essay), the county workers will fix it. In the winter, the road crew will clear snow and spread material (salt or sand) to melt the snow and ice off the roads, so that the public can get to their jobs, school, activities, and holiday celebrations - this sometimes means long hours for the road workers. Their main priority is to keep the roads safe for people to travel on, especially so emergency services can get to those in need of help. One reason I chose the road crew is because my dad works in the county engineer's office as a surveyor. He also helps oversee projects done by the road and bridge crews.

Emergency medical services (EMS) will come to your rescue. If you are badly injured and can't get to the hospital, a local ambulance will come and take you. They are often the first line of medical attention you will receive in an emergency. These men and women may even be real life heroes when lifesaving practices are needed in serious situations. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, paramedics are risking their lives every day to help us stay safe .

The local police will help you in many situations. They enforce the laws, assist in emergencies, solve crimes, and protect property. If you call 911, they will come! If your home or business is robbed, they will try to find who did it. They also keep our roads safe by watching for unsafe driving (speeding or drunk drivers). County deputies are trained in first aid and rescue, because they are often some of the first to arrive where people are sick or injured, such as a car accident or fire. When you get in an accident they will respond to help, often along with an EMS team.

I think all of these county workers are important and should be appreciated. They make our daily lives run smoothly, and are there to help when help is needed, especially in rural areas.

Photo caption: My dad took this picture of a heat buckle in northwest Madison county (IA) when he was on call last summer (June 2020). County workers had it fixed by the next business day.



Ella Scott is from Madison County and is a fifth grader at I-35 School. Her favorite hobbies include sports, animals, and art. She enjoys riding her four-wheeler and exploring with her metal detector. Her dad works in the Madison county engineer's office and was the inspiration for her illustrated essay. Her illustration is on the cover of the magazine.





ISAC EXCELLENCE IN ACTION AWARD

A competitive awards program that seeks to identify and recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and ISAC affiliates.

The ISAC Excellence in Action Award committee will rate each nomination based on the following seven attributes: creativity, innovation, cost savings, replication, leadership, increased efficiency, cooperation with others, and perseverance. Awards will be presented at the 2021 ISAC Annual Conference General Session on August 25 in Des Moines. Winners will also be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release.



INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



LEADERSHIP



REPLICATION



COST SAVINGS



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PERSERVERANCE

NOMINATION FORM

- Attach a narrative of the program or individual (three page limit) Criteria and guidelines included on the next page.
- Return all nominations by June 1, 2021 (postmarked date) to:
Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: Jacy Ripperger
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
- OR email your application form (containing all the information on the form below) to **jripperger@iowacounties.org**.

Please fill out each field completely:

Please indicate nomination type: Program ____ Individual ____

Name of program/individual: _____ County or affiliate: _____

Name of nominator: _____ Title: _____

Nominator's phone: _____ Nominator's email: _____

SAVE THE DATE



AUGUST 26, 2021
HILTON DES MOINES DOWNTOWN

Join us on Thursday, August 26 at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown for the ISAC Casino Night Fundraiser. This event will be taking place in conjunction with the ISAC Annual Conference on August 25-27. The option to register for this event will be available once ISAC Annual Conference registration opens on the ISAC website.

You won't want to miss this fun and memorable event!

Event questions? Contact Kelsey Sebern, ksebern@iowacounties.org
Sponsorship inquiries? Contact Jacy Ripperger, jripperger@iowacounties.org





AUGUST 26, 2021 HILTON DES MOINES DOWNTOWN

Help us raise money for scholarships for the children of county officials and county employees. Please consider supporting the ISAC Education Foundation's scholarship program through the following tax deductible sponsorship opportunities.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSORSHIP - \$3,000

Exclusive - Premium signage at event, logo in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, chance to briefly address attendees during event, includes four casino night registrations.

BEVERAGE SPONSOR - \$1,500

Exclusive - Signage at beverage stations, logo in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, includes two casino night registrations.

BINGO SPONSOR - \$1,500

Exclusive - Signage at bingo station, logo in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, includes two casino night registrations.

SNACK SPONSOR - \$1,500

Exclusive - Signage at snack stations, logo in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, includes two casino night registrations.

TABLE SPONSOR - \$500

Signage on choice of black jack, craps, Texas hold'em, or roulette, listing in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, includes one casino night registration.

PRIZE SPONSOR - \$250

Signage on prize table, listing in conference program, conference app, and on the ISAC website, includes one casino night registration.

Register for ISAC Casino Night Sponsorships at www.iowacounties.org.
Sponsorship questions? Contact Jacy Ripperger at jripperger@iowacounties.org

ISAC Brief

Summary of Minutes – Wednesday, February 10, 2021

President Carla Becker called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. She swore in board members that had not previously been sworn in. The meeting minutes of the January 15, 2021 ISAC Board of Directors and the January 27, 2021 ISAC Executive Committee were approved.

Brad Holtan reviewed and the Board approved ISAC's 990.

Rachel Bennett reported that 2021 ISAC Golden Eagle nominations are now being accepted and that ISAC is partnering with the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy to host an Iowa Counties Cohort beginning April 26.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an update on legal matters.

Bill Peterson gave an overview of ISAC's financial position and what it means for the FY 2022 budget. Brad highlighted line items of note and specific effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bill reviewed and the Board approved recommendation to the membership during the Spring Conference the following summary of proposed recommendations:

- County dues – no change recommended.
- ISAC conference registration fees – no increase in spring and annual conference registration. ISAC University registration increased by \$15.
- Approve 3.0% increase cost of living adjustment for staff salaries.
- Approve salary adjustment fund of \$30,000.
- Executive Director salary recommendation to be \$181,868 according to three-year salary adjustment plan adopted in 2019.
- Approve recommended health benefit adjustments.
- Approve student loan repayment program.

Bottom line = Operating fund balance of \$439,976

Reserve Fund balance = \$893,705

Depreciation Fund balance = \$175,000

Building Development Fund = \$250,000

***The ISAC membership approved the recommended FY 2022 ISAC Budget during the ISAC Virtual Spring Conference on March 24.

Brett Halley and Andrea James, Wells Fargo Investment Services, gave an overview and summary of ISAC's investment portfolio.

Rachel Bennett reported that ISAC Virtual County Day at the Capitol originally scheduled for February 17 was canceled due to logistical and scheduling concerns.

Kristi Harshbarger reported that ISAC reached a cancellation penalty agreement with the Hilton and the Iowa Events Center for the 2021 ISAC Spring Conference. She recommended and the Board approved paying penalties of \$15,000 with \$5,000 going toward a future event to the Hilton and \$15,000 to the Events Center.

Kelsey Sebern reviewed the ISAC Virtual Spring Conference schedule of events. Jacy Ripperger gave an update on sponsorships and preferred vendor opportunities.

Rachel reviewed details of the 2021 NACo Virtual Legislative Conference being held throughout the month of March and reported that the status of the 2021 NACo Annual Conference is unknown at this time.

Katie Cook presented the 2021 ISAC Scholarship winners to the ISAC Board.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken reported on the status of ISAC's legislative priorities and objectives. Jamie gave an update on state and federal COVID-19 pandemic relief.



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2021 Calendar

April 2021

- 5-9 Iowa Public Health Conference
(Virtual)
- 11-14 ISSDA Civil School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(Virtual)

May 2021

- 11-14 Treasurers May School
(Doubletree Hilton Conference Center, Cedar Rapids)

June 2021

- 22-25 ISACA Summer Conference
(Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront, Sioux City)

July 2021

- 7 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(Virtual)
- 9-12 NACo Annual Conference
(Hybrid - Virtual/Prince George's County, MD)
- 29 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley, Pleasant Hill)

August 2021

- 25-27 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
- 26 ISAC Casino Night Fundraiser
(Hilton Des Moines Downtown)

September 2021

- 12-15 ISSDA Fall Jail School
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)
- 15-17 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Delaware County)

October 2021

- 10-13 Assessors Fall School
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)
- 12-14 Records Annual School
(Dubuque)

November 2021

- 17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(YTBD)

December 2021

- 1-3 ICEA Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
- 5-8 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

2022

- October 9-12 Assessors Fall School (Des Moines)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

2021 ISAC Preferred Vendors

Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendors

County Risk Management Services, Inc.
representing ICAP and IMWCA
Group Benefit Partners

Elite Preferred Vendor

IP Pathways

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(IPAIT)

Platinum Preferred Vendors

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Northland Securities, Inc.
Schneider Geospatial

Endorsed Gold Preferred Vendor

No Wait Inside LLC

Gold Preferred Vendor

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Speer Financial, Inc.
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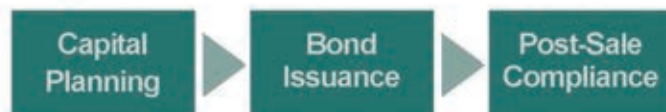
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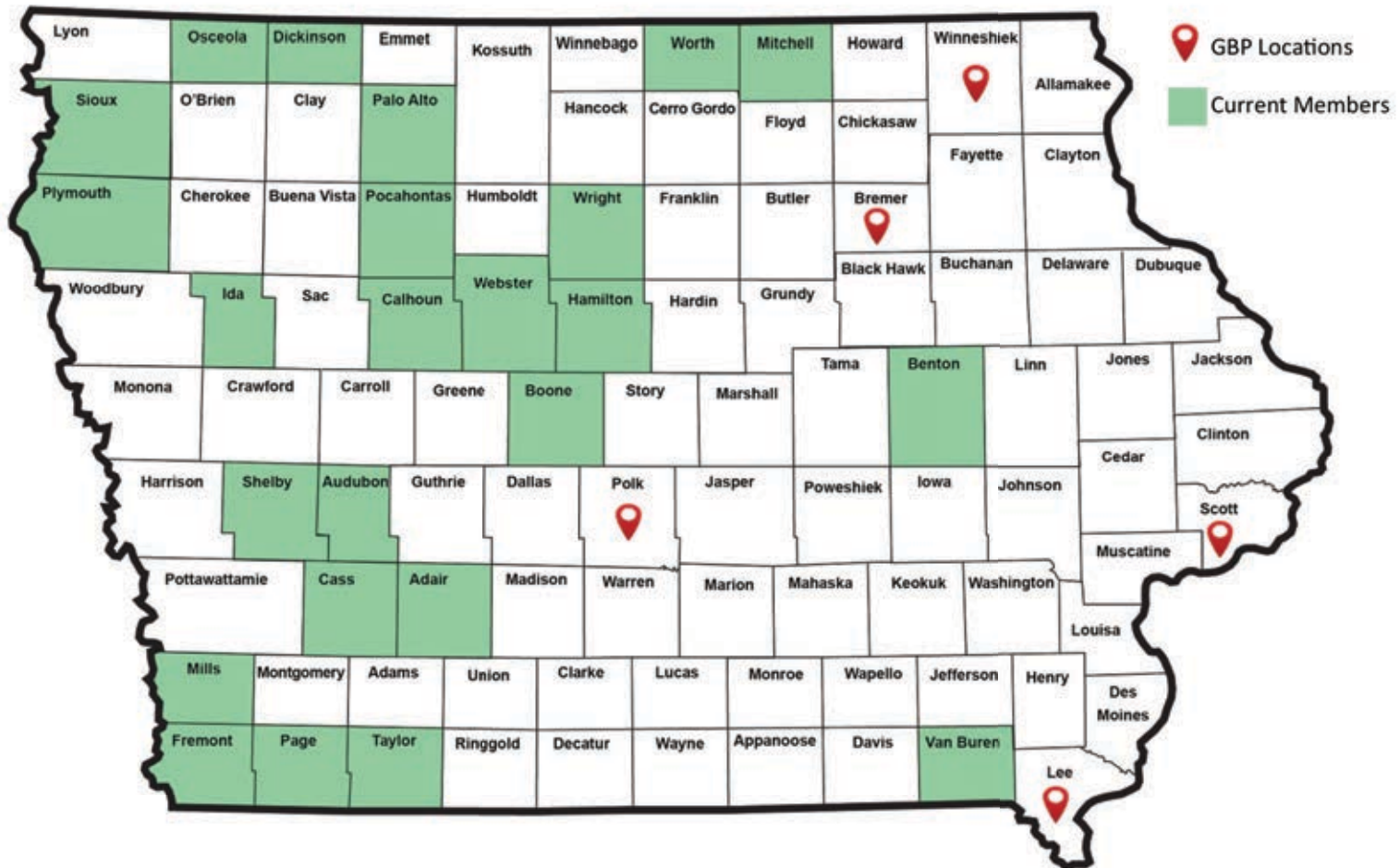
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