

# The Iowa County

magazine



April 2023  
ISAC  
Education Foundation



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# The Iowa County

April 2023 \* Volume 52, Number 4

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the  
Iowa State Association of Counties  
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
515.244.7181 FAX 515.244.6397  
[www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)  
Rachel Bennett, EDITOR  
Courtney Biere, PRODUCTION AND LAYOUT

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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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# 2023 ISAC Scholarship Awards

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ISAC received yet another round of outstanding scholarship applications for the 2023 program year. We would like to thank the volunteers on the 2023 ISAC Scholarship Selection Committee for their time and effort reviewing the applications and interviewing the finalists.

District 1 – Eugene Meiners, Carroll County Supervisor  
District 2 – Denise Beyer, Allamakee County Auditor  
District 3 – Sheri Neddermeyer, Crawford County Treasurer  
District 4 – Pam Jensen, Adair County Assessor  
District 5 – Dawn Goldman, Keokuk County Recorder  
District 6 – Mike Kindschi, Black Hawk County Engineer Technician  
ISAC Board Representative – John Werden, Carroll County Attorney

The recipients of the 2023 ISAC Scholarship awards are highlighted below. They are another incredible group of hardworking and accomplished young adults. We wish them all the best in their education and future endeavors. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients and their families!

## **District 1 - Mackenzie Braun**

Kenzie is the dependent of Shelly Schossow. Shelly works in the Calhoun County Public Health Department. Kenzie will be attending the University of New Mexico and studying health sciences.

## **District 2 - Preston Deike**

Preston's mother is Maria Deike. Maria is the Cerro Gordo County Veteran Affairs Director. Preston has joined the diesel technology program at North Iowa Area Community College.

## **District 3 - Adriana Van Maanen**

Adriana's parents are Kristin and Micah Van Maanen. Micah is the IT Director in Sioux County. Adriana will be attending Dordt University to study social work.



## **District 4 - Ally Birt**

Ally's parents are Doug Birt and Michelle Kennedy. Doug is an Adams County Supervisor. Hannah plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and will study agriculture, education, and criminal justice.

## **District 5 - Makayla Jasper**

Makayla's parents are Marc and Victoria Jasper. Victoria works in the Black Hawk County Assessor's Office. Makayla plans to attend Iowa State University and study aerospace engineering.

## **District 6 - Evan Lacina**

Evan's parents are James and Rachel Lacina. James works as a Johnson County Environmental Health Specialist. Evan plans to attend the University of Iowa to study medicine.

## **Past Presidents Award - Grace Royer**

Grace's parents are Duane Royer and Tara Arreola. Duane works in the Washington County GIS Department. Grace plans to attend Indian Hills Community College to study criminal justice and then law.

# 2023 ISAC Scholarship Awards

Four of the scholarship recipients attended the scholarship awards ceremony during the 2023 ISAC Spring Conference on March 9 in Des Moines to receive their award certificate and to be acknowledged by the ISAC membership.



District 2 Recipient -  
Preston Deike



District 3 Recipient -  
Adriana Van Maanen



District 4 Recipient -  
Ally Birt



Past President Recipient -  
Grace Royer



ISAC Education Foundation -  
Venmo Donations (Blue)



ISAC Education Foundation -  
GoFundMe Donations (Black)



# ISAC Scholarship Award Winners: Where Are They Now?

## Katelyn Sandholdt, 2018 Scholarship Recipient

(Daughter of Jason Sandholdt, Marion County Sheriff)

Hi! My name is Katelyn Sandholdt. I graduated from Mercy College of Health Sciences with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2021. After graduation, I worked as a Labor and Delivery nurse at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. I now live in Pella and work at Pella Regional Health Center in the surgery department. I love my coworkers and coming to work every day. My favorite part of my job is talking to patients and building a connection with them before surgery. It makes me happy receiving cards or hearing comments about the positive impact I have made on my patient's life.

I have a mini goldendoodle named Paisley who turned one at the beginning of March. I love spending my free time with my friends and family. I enjoy going on long walks with Paisley and on vacations. I am thankful for the ISAC scholarship in helping me lessen the financial burden of receiving my degree and allowing me to make a difference in the lives of others.



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# SAVE THE DATE!

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023**

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ISAC  
Scholarship Golf Fundraiser**

Toad Valley Golf Course

237 NE 80th Street

Pleasant Hill, IA, 50327

Registration is now available on the ISAC website! All proceeds of the event go to the 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 that are children or dependents of county officials and employees.





## **The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser**

Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill, IA  
Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Sponsorship registration is now open for the 18th Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser being held at Toad Valley Golf Course on Wednesday, July 12. All proceeds of the event go to the ISAC Education Foundation that funds scholarships for the children of county officials and employees. In an effort to raise funds, please consider supporting the ISAC Education Foundation's scholarship program through the following sponsorship opportunities.

**Title Sponsor - \$3,000:** Exclusive; Premium signage at event; chance to briefly address attendees; listed in program; four golf registrations; and a website and magazine listing.

**Lunch Sponsor - \$2,000:** Exclusive; Premium signage displayed at registration; listed in program; four golf registrations; and a website and magazine listing.

**Reception Sponsor - \$2,000:** Exclusive; Premium signage displayed during post-golf reception at clubhouse; listed in program; four golf registrations; and a website and magazine listing.

**Dinner Sponsor - \$2,000:** Exclusive Premium signage displayed during dinner; listed in program; four golf registrations; and a website and magazine listing.

**Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$2,000:** Premium signage displayed on beverage cart; company name listed on beverage tickets; listed in program; four golf registration; and a website and magazine listing.

**Hole Sponsor - \$750:** Exclusive hole sponsorship; signage at tee box; listed in program; opportunity to display company material at tee box; opportunity to provide non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, or small items to golfers; and a website and magazine listing. **Add team of four for \$250.**

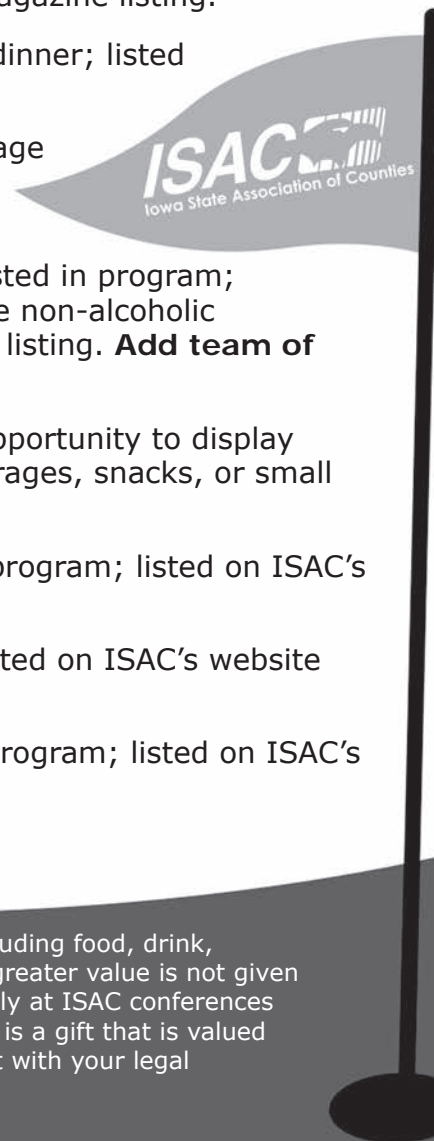
**Affiliate Hole Sponsor - \$500:** Signage at tee box; listed in program; opportunity to display association material at tee box; opportunity to provide non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, or small items to golfers; and a website and magazine listing.

**Driving Range Sponsor - \$250:** Signage at the driving range; listed in program; listed on ISAC's website and in one issue of ISAC's magazine.

**Muligan Sponsor - \$250:** Logo on mulligan tickets, listed in program; listed on ISAC's website and in one issue of ISAC's magazine.

**Eagle Level - \$300, Birdie Level - \$200, Par Level - \$100:** Listed in program; listed on ISAC's website and in one issue of ISAC's magazine.

**\*\*A reminder to sponsors 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 legal representative.**







## 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: innovation and creativity; leadership; replication; cost savings; increased efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance. Awards will be presented at the 2023 ISAC Annual Conference General Session on August 23 in Des Moines. Winners will also be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release.

- ✓ **INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY**
- ✓ **LEADERSHIP**
- ✓ **REPLICATION**
- ✓ **COST SAVINGS**
- ✓ **EFFICIENCY**
- ✓ **COOPERATION**
- ✓ **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, 2023** (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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

## CRITERIA

### **Programs nominated must be innovative and do one or more of the following:**

- Offer a new service to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of existing services, or tap new revenue sources.
- Improve the administration or enhance the cost effectiveness of an existing county government program.
- Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees.
- Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs.
- Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.
- Provide a model from which other counties or affiliates may learn.

### **Nominated individuals must demonstrate innovative thinking and do one or more of the following:**

- Ability to offer new and innovative ideas or methods to citizens, staff, or stakeholders.
- Improve the administration or enhance the cost effectiveness within their county or a specific county program.
- Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees.
- Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs.
- Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.
- Provide exemplary leadership from which other counties, officials, and/or affiliates may learn.

## JUDGING

The Excellence in Action Award Committee will rate each application based on the following seven attributes: innovation and creativity; leadership; replication; cost savings; increased efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance.

## GUIDELINES

- Nominated programs must have become operational after January 1, 2022.
- Individual nominations should reflect the individual actions of the last 24 months.
- Nominations must be made using included application form.
- A detailed narrative of the county program or individual's actions must be included (one page minimum; three-page maximum).
- Please include two pictures to accompany your narrative.

## AWARD PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented during the 2023 ISAC Annual Conference General Session on August 23 in Des Moines. Winners will also be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release sent to local or statewide media. When appropriate, an ISAC staff member will also attend the board of supervisors meeting to present the award.

## QUESTIONS

Contact:

Jacy Ripperger  
jripperger@iowacounties.org  
515.244.7181

Lucas Beenken  
lbeenken@iowacounties.org  
515.244.7181



# Preferred Vendor of the Month: Summit Carbon Solutions

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Over the past two years, there has been an extensive debate around carbon capture, transportation, and storage projects like Summit Carbon Solutions where I have the privilege of serving as CEO. Of course, part of that debate has been happening at the county level where supervisors, their staff, and local policymakers are regularly hearing a wide range of opinions on these investments. In hopes of sorting fact from fiction, we believe it's important to highlight why our project was initiated in the first place, the benefits we believe it will provide to the public, and how the system will operate if we are provided a permit by the Iowa Utilities Board.



**Lee Blank**

CEO, Summit Carbon Solutions  
[summitcarbonsolutions.com](https://summitcarbonsolutions.com)

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First, there is broad consensus across the state and across party lines that ethanol is vital to Iowa. The ethanol industry today supports more than 50,000 Iowa jobs, contributes \$6.1 billion to the state's gross domestic product every year, and, perhaps most importantly, purchases nearly 60% of the corn grown across the state. Because ethanol producers are the largest and most important purchaser of corn, the industry is indispensable to our ag economy by helping support strong commodity prices and land values.

Simply put, Summit Carbon Solutions was formed to ensure that the ethanol industry remains just as strong in the years to come by allowing plants to sell their product in the growing number of markets that pay more for low carbon fuels. On that point, you don't have to take my word for it. The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association just released a new report underscoring how important carbon capture is for the future of ethanol. Without carbon capture projects, according to the report, Iowa's ethanol industry will lose \$10 billion every year, and as a result, eliminate the demand for one billion bushels of Iowa corn ([Iowa Renewable Fuels Association](#)).

Maintaining a strong marketplace for corn will also provide additional value to farmers across the state. If carbon capture projects increase the value of corn even by a conservative figure like \$0.05 per bushel, that would provide an extra \$6,400 per year to the average Iowa corn grower (the average corn farm is [725 acres](#) and each acre produces [177 bushels](#)). That's ongoing value to farmers and our broader economy as those dollars are more often than not reinvested locally.

These economic benefits are the reason why many of the Iowa landowners who are on our route are embracing the project. As of today, 1,100 landowners across Iowa have voluntarily signed 1,930 easement agreements accounting for a full two-thirds of the project route or 462 total miles. That includes 100% in Boone County, 92% in Chickasaw County, 87% in Crawford County, 91% in Greene County, and 91% in Pottawattamie County as several examples.

I also understand that the safety of carbon capture projects has been a regular topic of discussion across many counties, and we want to address this point head on. Our team has full confidence in the safety of this project because the entire system, from carbon capture technology to the pipeline to sequestration, utilizes long-standing, proven, and reliable technologies that are extensively researched and highly regulated.

CO2 capture technology has been safely and successfully deployed at more than 40 ethanol plants across the United States. Moreover, there are 47,000 miles of pipelines in operation in Iowa today, which is the same distance as making nearly four round trips from Ames to Tokyo. These systems, including CO2 pipeline systems, are highly and extensively regulated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, including regulations on design, materials, construction, operation, maintenance, emergency response, and more. Finally, the safe and permanent sequestration of CO2 has been researched for years and supported by a wide range of stakeholders across the political spectrum at the federal and state level, along with engineers and scientists.



# Preferred Vendor of the Month: Summit Carbon Solutions

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Finally, as a company rooted in agriculture, I want to reiterate our commitment to restoring farmland to pre-construction conditions. Summit Carbon Solutions submitted a comprehensive Agricultural Impact Mitigation plan with the Iowa Utilities Board that you can also find on our [company website](#). This document provides details on critical topics such as topsoil separation and replacement, erosion prevention, repair of drain tile, soil restoration, and more. And to be 100% clear, it is Summit Carbon Solutions' responsibility to pay for and address any impact to drain tile or other aspects of a landowner's property throughout the entire life of the project.

There are likely other topics you may want to know more about. Please always feel free to contact our team if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach us at [info@summitcarbon.com](mailto:info@summitcarbon.com) or 515.531.2635. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you as the project continues to progress.

*\*\*\*Editorial Note: ISAC Preferred Vendors are commercial enterprises, professional associations, or private groups who pay a fee to be associated with ISAC. The fee allows preferred vendors the opportunity to market their services to ISAC members. Becoming an ISAC Preferred Vendor does not offer an endorsement from our association. The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by anyone other than ISAC staff are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC. To learn more about our preferred vendor program, please visit [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org) or contact us at [support@iowacounties.org](mailto:support@iowacounties.org).*

# February Board Minutes Summary

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## **ISAC Board of Directors Summary of Minutes - Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

President Gardner called the meeting to order, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and swore in members of the Board who were absent in January.

The meeting minutes of the January 20, 2023, ISAC Board of Directors meeting, and the February 8, 2023, ISAC Executive Committee meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

President Gardner: recessed the ISAC Board; convened and adjourned the ICTS Board; convened and adjourned the IGBP Board; and reconvened the ISAC Board.

Rachel Bennett reported that ISAC is now accepting nominations for the 2023 ISAC Golden Eagle. She reviewed the process, eligibility, and timeline for honoring the Golden Eagle.

Kristi Harshbarger reviewed the history of the sales tax dispute specifically related to ISAC's status as an instrumentality of government. Further clarification is now needed because rules have changed so that non-profits can only offer 401-K retirement plans and instrumentalities can only offer 457(b) retirement plans. To guarantee that ISAC's employee retirement plan offerings comply, ISAC needs to request a private letter ruling from the IRS. Fees for the letter would be around \$38,000, and attorney's fees will also need to be expended. A response is not expected for around six months. The Board unanimously approved directing staff to submit the IRS request as presented.

Kristi gave an update on the opioid litigation and settlement.

Katie Cook gave a history of the office redesign project. ISAC has been contracting with BBS Architects for the project, but since the smaller scale option was decided upon, staff also reached out to Knapp Properties to receive a proposal. A rough draft of Knapp's drawing as well as a proposal from BBS were included in the materials. Knapp proposed a five-year lease extension with allowance for construction and design built into the lease. A/V would be separate, and we would avoid permanent fixtures when possible. The timeline is to have the Board approve the final plan during the May meeting and preferably have construction commence this summer/fall. The Board unanimously approved proceeding with Knapp Properties for planning of the smaller scope office remodel project.

Bill Peterson gave an overview of the budget approval process. Staff met with the ISAC Executive Committee in February. The Committee recommended the included FY 2024 budget for Board recommendation to the ISAC membership. The membership will be asked to approve the budget during the ISAC Spring Conference General Session on March 9.

Brad highlighted FY 2023 budget projections and gave an overview of the FY 2024 budget changes. Decision points that the Board was asked to recommend to the membership include:

- \$200 dues increase (3.28%)
- \$30,000 Health Fund Admin Fee Increase
- Increase ISAC University Registration Fee to \$225
- ISAC Technology Services Bureau
- Recommended salary and benefit changes.

Bill reviewed details of the job evaluation and compensation study that is included in the proposed budget. The timeline for the study and related action will occur from July 1, 2023, to June 2025. Money will be set aside in those two budget years.

# February Board Minutes Summary

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The Board unanimously recommended to the membership the adoption of the FY 2024 ISAC Budget as presented.

Rachel Bennett gave an overview of the 2023 NACo Legislative Conference, and board members who attended encouraged future increased attendance at NACo events by ISAC members.

Kelsey Sebern and Jacy Ripperger reported increases in expected number of attendees and vendors for the ISAC Spring Conference, and Kelsey reviewed the board scenario for the event.

Rachel reported that NACo Annual Conference registration is open. The event will be on July 21-24 in Austin, Texas.

Kristi and Bill reported that ISAC is planning a strategic planning session related to the expenditure of opioid settlement funds. The Opioid Response Network (ORN) has offered to sponsor the event as one of its regional grant-funded trainings. A proposed agreement with ORN to jointly provide the session is included in materials. ISAC would be reimbursed for related staff time, facility rental fees, etc. The dates of May 24 and 25 are tentatively being held for the one or two-day training. The Board unanimously gave staff discretion and authority to enter into the ORN agreement as presented.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken reviewed the status of ISAC's legislative objectives and top priorities as well as a variety of bills that would have an impact on counties. Board members discussed legislation and asked questions.

Katie Cook reported that the scholarship interviews were held on February 7, and the Scholarship Selection Committee made its decisions for awarding the 2023 ISAC Education Foundation Scholarships during the ISAC Spring Conference General Session on March 9. Details of the winners and amounts were highlighted and included in the materials.

President Gardner adjourned the meeting.



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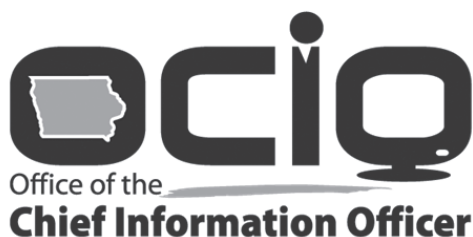
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**Opening economic opportunities for ethanol producers, supporting our ag economy, and delivering tens of millions of dollars in new revenue to Iowa counties.**



- Summit Carbon Solutions will open new economic opportunities for Iowa's ethanol industry that supports **44,000 jobs and contributes \$4.5 billion** to the state's GDP every year.
- Keeping ethanol strong will allow the industry to continue purchasing nearly 60% of the corn grown in Iowa, **helping keep commodity prices and land values strong in the years to come.**
- Summit Carbon Solutions will **pay an average of \$1.2 million in new property taxes** in every county the project is proposed to operate, helping local communities support schools, infrastructure, public safety, and more.
- Summit Carbon Solutions, working in partnership with Iowa landowners, has secured easement agreements for **two-thirds of the proposed route** in the state, with more signing every day.

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**Green Plains, Inc.** – Shenandoah (IA)  
**Green Plains, Inc.** – Superior (IA)  
**Homeland Energy Solutions** – Lawler (IA)  
**Lincolnway Energy** – Nevada (IA)  
**Little Sioux Corn Processors** – Marcus (IA)  
**Louis Dreyfus** – Grand Junction (IA)  
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## 2023 Calendar

### April 2023

16-19 ISSDA Spring Civil School  
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

### May 2023

3 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(ISAC Office)  
4-5 Supervisors Board of Directors Retreat  
(Webster County)  
9-12 Treasurers May School  
(Pella, Iowa)  
17-19 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference  
(Washington County, Utah)

### June 2023

15-16 Records Summer Conference  
(Burlington, Iowa)  
20-23 ISACA Summer Conference  
(Hilton Garden Inn West Des Moines)  
28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(Virtual)

### July 2023

12 ISAC Education Foundation Golf Fundraiser  
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)  
21-24 NACo Annual Conference  
(Travis County/Austin, Texas)

### August 2023

22 LPC Retreat  
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit  
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)  
23-25 ISAC Annual Conference  
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit  
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

### September 2023

19-22 ISSDA Fall Jail School  
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)  
20-22 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat  
(Linn County, Iowa)

### October 2023

8-11 Assessors Fall Conference  
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

### November 2023

15 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(ISAC Office)

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](mailto:ksebern@iowacounties.org).

### 2023 ISAC Preferred Vendors

#### Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendors

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

#### Elite Preferred Vendors

IP Pathways  
Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co.  
Summit Carbon Solutions

#### Endorsed Platinum Preferred Vendor

Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust  
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#### Platinum Preferred Vendors

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UMB Bank  
U.S. Imaging, Inc.  
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.  
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa  
Ziegler CAT

#### Silver Preferred Vendors

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MercyOne  
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**Investment Advisor/  
Administrator/Marketer:**

**Contacts:**



Paul Kruse  
Senior Vice President, Director-Iowa  
515.554.1555  
pkruse@pmanetwork.com

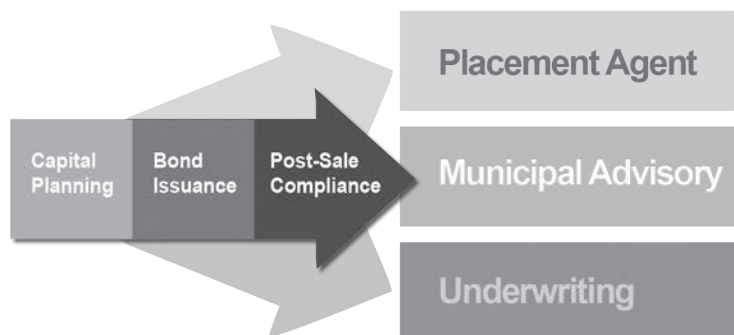


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515.224.2721  
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- *Creative solutions to complex issues*
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**Heidi Kuhl**  
Director  
[hkuhl@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:hkuhl@northlandsecurities.com)  
515-657-4684

**Chip Schultz**  
Managing Director  
[cschultz@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:cschultz@northlandsecurities.com)  
515-657-4688

**Jeff Heil**  
Managing Director  
[jheil@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:jheil@northlandsecurities.com)  
641-750-5720



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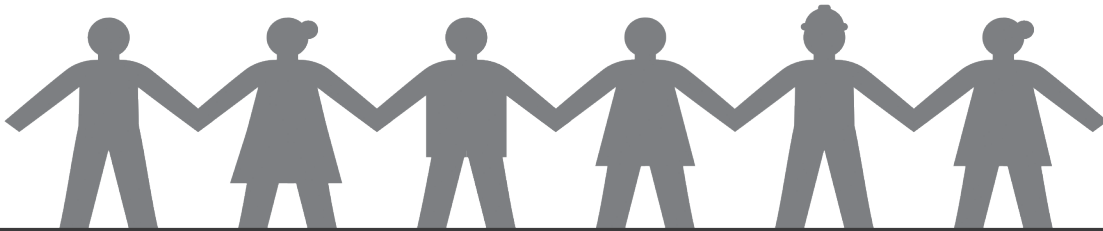
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# ISAC GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM

PARTNERING WITH COUNTIES ACROSS IOWA



## Health Program

- Early release of renewal rates
- Experience and wellness discounts
- Multiple networks and plan designs
- 28 participating counties



## Worksite & Ancillary Program

- Group accident and critical illness plans
- Accident includes wellness benefit
- Voluntary Life and Voluntary AD&D
- Group disability products



## Dental Program

- Comprehensive plan portfolio
- Voluntary and contributory pricing
- Broad network of providers
- 29 participating counties



## Complimentary ISAC Benefits

- Wellness Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- COBRA administration
- Consolidated Billing



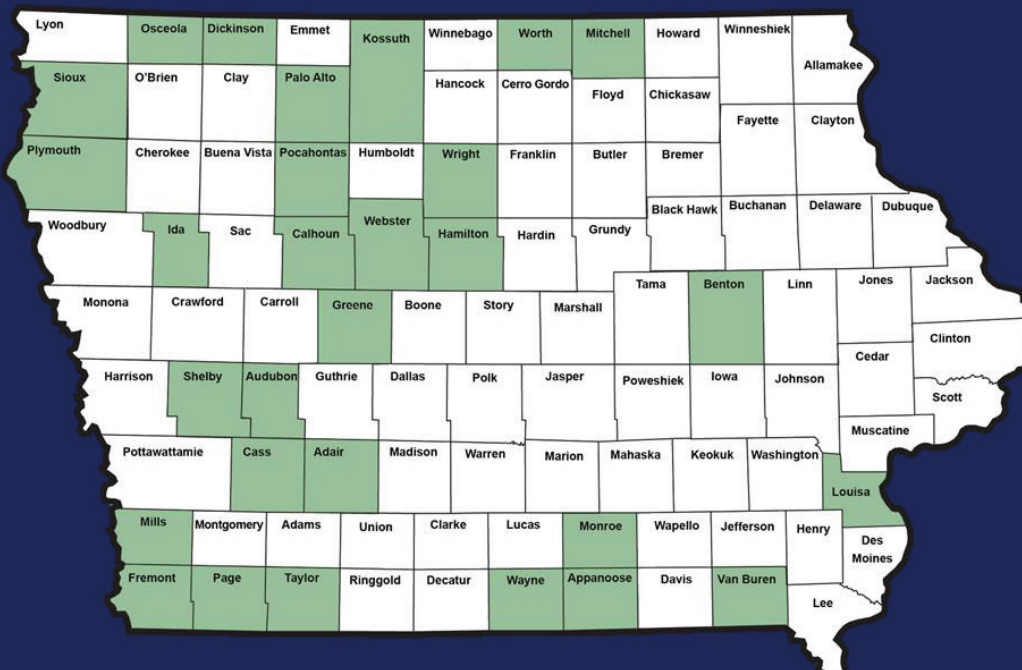
## Vision Program

- Multiple carriers and plan options
- Exclusive fully insured county pricing
- Robust provider networks
- 23 participating counties



## AssuredPartners

- Employee benefits consulting
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