

# THE TRIBUNE

Ames Tribune > Business

Welcome to the winter 2009 issue

## ***Leadership: Ames***

By Dan Culhane/president and CEO, Ames Chamber of Commerce and Ames Economic Development Commission

Published: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:19 AM CST

The year 2008 was pretty remarkable for Ames. In just the last 12 months, Ames has received the following rankings:

- Sixth Smartest City in America (Forbes Magazine).
- One of the Top 100 Communities for Youth in America (America's Promise).
- No. 53 of the Top 100 Best Places to Live (Money Magazine).
- One of the Top 10 Places to Live a Long Life (CNNMoney.com).
- Ranked in the Top 25 Best Places to Find a Job (CareerBuilder.com).
- One of the Best Places to Raise Your Kids (BusinessWeek).
- Tourism Community of the 2008 (Iowa Department of Economic Development).

It makes sense, you may think, for the president of the Ames Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation to boast about ratings such as these. And while you're right, there's also something about the Ames community that tends to keep news like this quiet. Perhaps it comes down to old-fashioned Iowa humility. Maybe the community is too busy to stop to pat itself on the back. Or it may just be reveling in a sense of affirmation that can only be obtained from silent pride. Whatever the reason, Ames doesn't often toot its own horn, even though it continues to be a leader in our region, our state, our country and our world.

However, there is plenty to "toot" about in Ames. Within this issue of Ames Business Quarterly, we're pleased to share several examples of leadership in our community. From business expansions to corporate officers, to young professionals, to companies reaching global markets, you'll soon recognize — or recognize again — why Ames continues to be on the forefront in so many arenas.

Ames is more than just a town with a premier land-grant education institution. Ames is a community of leaders, from our businesses and industries to our individual contributors, to our research and development efforts, to our progressive environmental practices. Ames not only boasts great programs promoting leadership development, but it is a community that naturally leads by its own example.

Obviously, the footprint of Ames is set in great part by Iowa State University, and residents continue to benefit from the leadership of University officials including President Gregory Geoffroy, Vice President of Business and Finance Warren Madden and several others.

We benefit greatly because of the leadership shown by our elected officials such as Congressman Tom Latham, who continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the Ames community, even helping to secure a \$460 million modernization project for the USDA's National Centers for Animal Health.

Ames is what it is today because of the investments of people and businesses determined to flourish in Ames. We thrive because of the generosity of families like the Hunzikers and the Furmans, who succeeded in business and continue to donate heartily to all sectors of the community.

We're a community on the forefront because of visionaries such as Marvin Walter (Ford Street Development, W&G Marketing), Dick Johnson (Story Construction Co.), Ron McMillan (Sigler Companies), Don Heuss (Heuss Printing) and others who took their businesses to higher and higher levels while working to ensure a business environment conducive for everyone.

Ames is on the map because of entrepreneurs such as Roger Underwood and Jeff Becker (Becker Underwood), Al Myers (Ag Leader Technologies) and Clifford and Kathryn Hach (Hach Company) who had the wherewithal to start businesses that would grow into worldwide enterprises.

A tradition of leadership exists in Ames because of steadfast examples like Mayor Ann Campbell, City Manager Steve Schinker, Superintendent of the Resource Recovery Plant John Pohlman and Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Carroll, all of whom carry a long tenure serving the city coupled with a passion for excellence.

And while the above-mentioned names are the "usual suspects" to be included in any article focusing on leaders in Ames, in this issue you'll find profiles of some newer or emerging leaders in the area. While these individuals may not be quite as well-known as others, they are most certainly making a tremendous impact in Ames, and they will be included in the credits when Ames is recognized for its next round of awards.

The Ames Economic Development Commission is not only your primary resource for area business news, but it should also be your first step in establishing, growing or relocating your business in a leading, first-class community. Whether it is site location assistance, packaging of financial incentives or demonstrating an available workforce, we are eager to give you the tools you need to get business done in Ames.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2009.

Copyright © 2009 - Ames Tribune

[\[x\] Close Window](#)