

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



To: Area Media  
From: Ames Economic Development Commission  
Date: April 11, 2016  
Re: 2016 Ames Seed Capital Annual Meeting

**Ames Seed Capital Holds Successful Annual Meeting**

AMES, IA – The Ames Seed Capital LLC (ASCF) reviewed their 2015 accomplishments during their 2016 Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at Scheman Building in the Iowa State Center.

Dr. Steven Leath, Iowa State University President attended the event as the keynote speaker and praised innovation in central Iowa and the booming prospects for startup companies at the Iowa State University Research Park. He emphasized the need for collaboration between Iowa State University and the Ames community to further growth.

Ames Seed Capital LLC President, Jeff Taylor reported on the successful investments of Ames Seed Capital Funds and noted that since May 2013 the Ames Seed Capital fund has distributed nearly \$1.8 million back to investors.

“We had a great turnout for our annual meeting again this year,” said Ron Hallenbeck, Executive Vice President of Existing Business and Industry at the Ames Economic Development Commission. “The high attendance from investors and individuals interested in becoming investors shows that people are taking notice of our group. We owe our success not only to the fund’s investors, but largely to the bright ideas being developing into new start-ups and the favorable economic environment of Ames, Story County and Central Iowa.”

The annual Seed Capital event had a record number of attendees again this year. Among the 375 in attendance were Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa State University Research Park Director Steven Carter, Senior Vice President for business and finance at ISU Warren Madden and Ames Mayor Ann Campbell.

The ASCF is a for profit investment group that is affiliated with the Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC). ASCF and a predecessor entity, Ames Seed Capital, Inc. (ASCI) have been investing in Ames area start-up companies since 1987 and have been a key part of the success of many well-known Ames/Story County companies. ASCF aims to create a profit for each investor and has an investment window of five to seven years. The rate of return varies by each investment, and neither the rate of return nor the investment window period can be assured or guaranteed.

ASCF and its predecessor, ASCI, were initially established by the AEDC to fund start-up companies locating in the Iowa State University (ISU) Research Park. Over time, ASCF began investing in start-ups and other earlier stage companies around the Ames/Story County/Nevada/Story City/Huxley area.

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