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For more information, contact:

Kari McCann Boutell, President, 515-989-1188, kmccann@iowacounciloffoundations.org
6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266, www.iowacounciloffoundations.org

Iowa Council of Foundations Elects New Board Officers, Directors *Iowa's philanthropic sector puts focus on community*

The Iowa Council of Foundations, the state's largest association of philanthropic and grantmaking organizations has elected two new directors to its board for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). This year also marks the organization's 25th year as a network.

Newly elected directors are **Ena Babic Barnes**, executive director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation; and **Charla Schafer**, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine.

Returning board members elected to officer positions are: Chair **Matt Mendenhall**, president and CEO of the Regional Development Authority; Vice Chair **Nicole Brua-Behrens**, executive director of the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation; Treasurer **Beth Jones**, director of community impact for the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation; and Secretary **Kaye Englin**, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. **Rob Barron**, executive director of Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact, serves as an at-large member of the Board.

"We have recently unveiled our new strategic framework, which explicitly names our network's commitment to community- and people-focused philanthropy," said ICoF President Kari McCann Boutell. "This board couldn't be a better representation of that commitment to ensuring our vision for philanthropy to be a positive contributor to a thriving, equitable Iowa."

The Iowa Council of Foundations represents member organizations from all facets of philanthropy: community foundations, corporate foundations and giving programs, private independent and family foundations, and operating foundations, as well as individuals associated with philanthropy. Collectively, ICoF members annually grant more than \$65 million in Iowa. Founded in 1998, the ICoF was established as a way to connect those involved in grantmaking to ultimately increase the reach of philanthropy in Iowa.

In addition to naming *People & Community* as a central value to the network, the Iowa Council of Foundations has also identified *Equity & Justice*, *Integrity & Accountability*, and *Learning & Action* as core values.

McCann Boutell shared, “The ICoF board has led our organization through some meaningful evolutions over the last several years. They have seen and shown that philanthropy should be more than a source of funding – philanthropy can be a true partner in improving our communities. I’m deeply grateful to the past and retiring directors of the Board, and thrilled to welcome these thoughtful, engaged leaders who, I know, will keep pushing us and our field forward in our 25th year and beyond.”

About the Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF)

The ICoF is a membership association for Iowa grantmakers. Members are a diverse mix of Iowa community foundations, private foundations, family foundations, corporate foundations, operating foundations, and other giving programs. The only professional organization convening the funding community on a statewide basis, the ICoF strives to strengthen, guide and grow philanthropy in Iowa. Since 2004, the ICoF has served as the state of Iowa’s Lead Philanthropic Entity.

To learn more about the ICoF and inquire about membership opportunities, please visit the website (www.IowaCouncilofFoundations.org) or call 515-989-1188.

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