

Contact: Ann McCarthy

BATTELLE STUDY UPDATE

Recommended Action: Receive a report regarding the updating of Iowa's comprehensive economic development strategy.

Executive Summary: The Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress has started the process of updating Iowa's comprehensive economic development strategy. The last time such a comprehensive analysis was undertaken was in the 2004-2005 time frame when the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice prepared detailed roadmaps for Iowa's biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology industry clusters. The update will focus on how the state is doing on advancing innovation, attraction and retention. A stated goal of this strategic planning effort is to examine Iowa's industry drivers and their growth opportunities. The most promising development opportunities for Iowa's industry drivers draw upon the core competencies of Iowa's businesses and universities to serve growing markets.

As a first step, a Project Taskforce has been formed to review the Battelle approach and inform key economic development stakeholders. Randy Pilkington, from the University of Northern Iowa, serves on the Project Taskforce.

Pilkington serves as Executive Director of Business and Community Services (BCS). BCS is the economic and community development division of the College of Business and Administration at the University of Northern Iowa. BCS consists of eight outreach programs that provide an integrated approach to meeting the needs of businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities throughout Iowa and beyond. Pilkington also serves as the Director of the Institute for Decision Making, a statewide program that assists communities in the creation and implementation of community and economic development initiatives, as well as the director of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

Pilkington has worked in all 99 Iowa counties and guided economic development plans and projects in more than 300 Iowa communities. In addition, Pilkington has helped establish a community-based equity fund for Northeast Iowa, assisted with student entrepreneurship programming, and facilitated public and private funding for student-based business incubator.