



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM CHOSEN FOR IOWA SBDC AWARD**

***Venture School named Resource Partner of the Year***

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa has chosen the University of Iowa's Venture School as the 2017 Resource Partner of the Year. Nominated by both the University of Iowa SBDC and Kirkwood Community College SBDC, the Venture School is offering classes in four Iowa locations this spring (Iowa City, Des Moines, Quad Cities, and Sioux City).

Venture School programs are designed to aid aspiring entrepreneurs in accelerating the startup process through real-world experimentation and valuable mentor feedback. With Venture School training, entrepreneurs not only can accelerate the start-up process, but also increase chance of success by 20%.

America's SBDC Iowa has helped to mentor participants in the Venture School Program, and in many cases have continued to work with Venture School teams after they have completed the program. In fact, it has become common for SBDC counselors to refer certain clients to Venture School, and for Venture School instructors to refer program participants to SBDC for ongoing counseling and support. Scott Swenson, Director of the Kirkwood SBDC says, "It is extremely beneficial to start-ups to have a method for de-risking the process and finding market success."

State Director Lisa Shimkat also added "This shows the strength of partnership to reach more entrepreneurs and really strengthen our communities."

America's SBDC Iowa is an outreach program of Iowa State University's College of Business and the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations. Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Office

of Equal Opportunity, 3350 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, email [eooffice@iastate.edu](mailto:eooffice@iastate.edu).

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, America's SBDC Iowa has 15 regional assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the SBDC has helped Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs through no fee, confidential, customized, professional business counseling and practical, affordable training workshops.

For more information on America's SBDC Iowa programs or services, call (515) 294-2030 or visit [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org), <https://www.facebook.com/AmericasSBDCIowa>, or <https://twitter.com/IowaSBDC>.

**Press Contacts:**

Paul Heath, University of Iowa SBDC, 319-335-3742, [paul-heath@uiowa.edu](mailto:paul-heath@uiowa.edu)

Scott Swenson, Kirkwood SBDC, 319-377-8256, [scott.swenson@kirkwood.edu](mailto:scott.swenson@kirkwood.edu)

Tricia Janes, [America's SBDC Iowa](http://www.iowasbdc.org), 515-294-2030, [triciaj@iastate.edu](mailto:triciaj@iastate.edu)

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