



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMERICA'S SBDC IOWA ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ITS DES MOINES CENTER  
Justin Akers is the new regional director for the Mid Iowa SBDC**

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa (SBDC) is pleased to announce that Justin Akers is the new regional director for the Mid Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Des Moines. He started his new position on May 11, 2017.

Akers will be advising and training entrepreneurs and existing business owners in the Des Moines metro and surrounding area, including Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, and Warren counties.

"America's SBDC Iowa is pleased to add Justin Akers to our team of professional, experienced, and knowledgeable business advisors," says SBDC State Director Lisa Shimkat. "He brings years of teaching and counseling experience to our organization, plus valuable experience as a small business owner and operator. He will build stronger connections with area resource partners and encourage new business growth in his central Iowa region."

In addition to owning and operating his own small business for the past two years, Akers has 14 years of experience managing his family's diversified farming operation, seven years of college-level teaching experience, plus sales and insurance experience. He was the director of the Sandage Center for the Study of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Graceland University for six years. Akers is a board member of Southern Iowa Parks and Recreation and has served on other county and community boards and clubs.

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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>.

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