



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1/12/16

SBDC announces new regional director for its Davenport regional center
Former Illinois man will assist entrepreneurs and business owners in four Iowa counties

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa has hired Joel Youngs of Moline, Illinois to advise and train entrepreneurs and existing businesses for the Eastern Iowa SBDC in Davenport, which is hosted by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. Youngs started work for the Eastern Iowa SBDC as its regional director on January 11, 2016.

"America's SBDC Iowa is pleased to announce the hiring of Joel Youngs as director of our Eastern Iowa center," says SBDC State Director Lisa Shimkat. "Joel has considerable business and counseling experience and will provide excellent service to the region's clients, promoting new business and economic growth in Eastern Iowa."

Youngs served as the regional director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center in Moline since 2010, working with entrepreneurs in ten counties in northwest Illinois. In 2012, he was recognized as the Illinois Department of Commerce and Opportunity's "State Star."

Prior to his work at the Illinois SBDC, Youngs owned and operated his own insurance and financial services business for eight years. He also has six years of banking experience in the Quad Cities and five years as a consultant with MidAmerican Energy.

The Eastern Iowa SBDC, headquartered in Davenport, provides complimentary, customized and confidential business counseling, plus affordable, practical workshops, to business owners and entrepreneurs in Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine, and Scott counties.

America's SBDC Iowa is an outreach program of Iowa State University's College of Business. Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the organization has 15 regional assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the SBDC has helped hundreds of thousands of 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.

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