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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE

**AMERICA’S SBDC IOWA ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO CHAIR THE ASSOCIATION OF SBDCS RESEARCH & DATA COMMITTEE**

AMES, Iowa – America’s Small Business Development Center Iowa (SBDC) is pleased to share that Austin Strawhacker, Associate State Director, has been appointed Chair of the Association of SBDCs Research & Data Committee. He started his term in February 2021.

The Association of SBDCs Research & Data Committee’s main goal is to advise the America’s SBDC Board and work collectively with the America’s SBDC President and staff to identify, collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate statistical data strategically important to achieving the strategic objectives of America’s SBDC.

“Austin has been instrumental across the nation on data conversion projects,” says SBDC State Director Lisa Shimkat. “He has stepped up and shown that Iowa is a leader nationally and I look forward to his work leading this group.”

Strawhacker supports the 15 regional centers across the state, as well as leading database management, compliance and regulatory oversight efforts for the organization.

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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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