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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2025 Central Iowa Workforce Development Chief Lead Elected Official Announced

Des Moines, IA — The **Central Iowa Workforce Development Board** (CIWDB) is proud to announce the election of **Story County Supervisor Lisa Heddens** as the new Chief Lead Elected Official (CLEO), effective January 1, 2025. This peer appointment marks a continued commitment to leadership in Central Iowa and the ongoing implementation of regional workforce development strategies.

As CLEO, Supervisor Heddens will serve as the primary point of contact for the Iowa Workforce Development Agency, facilitating communication among the eight Chief Elected Officials in the Central Iowa Workforce Development Area (CIWDA). The CLEO, alongside the 19 local CIWDB members and staff, plays a pivotal role in shaping the local workforce system to address the region's evolving workforce needs.

The CIWDB is responsible for overseeing the Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth/Young Adult programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These programs offer job training, education, and support services that help participants increase their employability and earning potential while addressing industry needs through tailored skills development. WIOA programs help bridge the gap between workforce skills and local industry demands, ultimately fostering sustainable economic growth in the region.

"The continued success of Central Iowa's workforce development efforts relies on collaboration and strong leadership," said Eric Kress, Executive Director. "We're excited to have Supervisor Heddens in this leadership role, and we look forward to the continued transformation of our local workforce system under her guidance."

Supervisor Heddens brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served on the CEO board since 2021. Her professional background includes over twenty years working in the disability arena, including as the former Executive Director of NAMI Central Iowa. Supervisor Heddens is passionate about addressing the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations and promoting community-driven change.

"I'm honored to serve as the new CLEO and look forward to advancing the workforce development initiatives in Central Iowa," said **Supervisor Heddens**. "Together, we can continue to strengthen the local economy and provide the tools and resources necessary for our residents to succeed in the workforce."



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For more information about Supervisor Heddens or to connect with her, visit:
<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/directory>

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About Central Iowa Workforce Development Board (CIWDB)

The Central Iowa Workforce Development Board (CIWDB) is committed to providing high-quality workforce development services in the Central Iowa region. Through collaborative partnerships and strategic initiatives, the CIWDB works to connect businesses with a skilled workforce and empower individuals with the training and resources needed to succeed in the modern economy.

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