

SAVE THE DATE

to celebrate 50 years of building on success at

SALUTE TO INDUSTRY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016
5:00 - 7:00 PM

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Please Welcome Our New Members!

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Entrepreneur Gets Boost from Ankeny Angels

Ankeny Seed Capital Investors are helping a local inventor take her product beyond boutiques and into big box retailers. Amy Vohs is a mom with a vision. Not satisfied with what was on the market for keeping her son's essentials off the floor, Vohs created a safe, easy-to clean strap to secure his toys and utensils. The resulting food grade, plastic tether will secure all the things kids drop or throw.

When her Lil' Sidekick product started getting interest from large retailers like Kohl's, she needed to invest in improved packaging and marketing. Both come at a cost higher than what her personal resources would allow.

That's where Ankeny Seed Capital Investors were able to help. They not only helped with critical growth capital but have provided connections to experts and resources to take her product to the next level. "I am delighted these investors saw value in me and my business," said Vohs. "I'm excited about where we can take this product. The investment came at a critical time for us."

Lil'Sidekick was also recently awarded a \$100,000 loan through the Innovation Acceleration Fund. Lil' Sidekick is currently available on Kohl's.com, in Babies R' Us stores and working with Walmart to get online soon and in stores next year. Lil' Sidekick is also being distributed in multiple countries including Canada, France, United Kingdom and Spain. You can also order direct from LilSidekick.com.



Ankeny Seed Capital Investors is a local version of Plains Angels. The group is focused on local area investment opportunities of high growth companies. If you are interested as a business or investor contact Joey Beech at jbeech@ankeny.org or 515-964-0747 for more information.

Business Advisor Group

Two area business owners recently took advantage of the Business Advisory Group's willingness to provide objective and confidential insight and suggestions on their business plans. Here is what they had to say about the experience.

New Business Owner: "I appreciate the group's time to help small businesses in the community. It is a great service and the information given to small businesses is not only helpful but greatly appreciated by those who don't have a lot of experience starting up a business."

Existing Business Owner considering strategic change: "I would absolutely recommend the Business Advisory Group to other business owners. The opportunity to talk confidentially with objective professionals was invaluable."

The Business Advisor Group is made up of experienced business and financial professionals who are willing to share some of their time and experience. Strategic business planning, expanding, launching or shifting are all examples where this group can help. If you know a business owner who might benefit from the Business Advisor Group, suggest they contact Joey Beech to learn more and get a meeting scheduled.

Classroom to Career Connections

The Ankeny Educator Internship is a week-long program designed to give educators experience with career opportunities in today's workplace and generate ideas to incorporate workplace skills into classroom lessons. With the growing school district it has the additional benefit of connecting educators from different buildings, subject specialties and grade levels. This year's program had ten educators from six different Ankeny schools (grades 6-12) and a wide range of subject matter.

Throughout the week teachers looked for ways to connect their class lessons to real world problems and opportunities. These valuable career connections would not be possible without the time and support of the employers who provide access to executives, managers and frontline employees. We owe a big THANK YOU to this year's participating employers: John Deere, Manpower, Monsanto, City of Ankeny, Accumold, Iowa Soybean Association, PurFoods, Casey's General Stores and the State of Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.



The photo here is of this year's class in the Casey's General Stores distribution center. From left to right: Steve VanGundy, Nicki Simonis, Rose Davila, Jen Gebhart, Nicole McFarland, Sasha Webster, Sheryl Knuth, Ryan Ridout, Greg Brcka, Guy Loraine



Brian Hoey of PurFoods answers questions about the business before giving a tour of their headquarters on the southeast side of Ankeny

New OSHA Reporting Requirements

Area safety directors recently met with Mike Whitmore, compliance assistance specialist of Iowa Occupational Safety and Health. Much of the meeting was focused on the new Electronic Report of Injuries and Illnesses requirements. A key point in the discussion was that with the reporting of this information it becomes public. Other topics included

- Penalties will go up 85% July 1, 2017.
- New OSHA posters came out in April. To get your free copies contact Mike Whitmore (515-281-0862, whitmore.mike@dol.gov).
- Mike and others on his team are available to take calls or come on-site to consult and educate.

[A document outlining the new electronic report of injuries and illnesses requirements is available on the AEDC website.](#)

View from My Chair

2016 AEDC Chairperson, Steve Krob



In a world of special interest group overload it is easy to become cynical. There are many cases you can point to showing how politics have gotten out of hand. But what is great about local and state operations is that they are just that--local. The people making the decisions and running for office live in our area and are accessible.

It is easy to sit in our living rooms and rant about an issue but our approach changes when we are talking face-to-face to someone who may not share our opinion. Being an engaged and active citizen is not about the rants in our living room. It is about listening to those who are running for office; finding out what they stand for and asking questions.

We encourage all our members to be informed about the business issues in our area. Taking time to talk and listen. Even if we don't agree a face-to-face helps raise the level of discussion.

Mark Your Calendars

2016 Member/Board Luncheons

These are the 3rd Thursday of every other month at noon. Please RSVP to mking@ankeny.org if you plan to attend. The remaining 2016 dates are:

August 18, DRA Properties/Albaugh HQ, Brent Willett, Cultivation Corridor Executive Director will present

October 20, Courtyard by Marriott, Kathryn Kunert will present on MidAmerican strategic initiatives

December 15, TBD

Coffee, Conversation and Inspiration

Professional Women of Ankeny, please join Karen Stiles, Joey Beech and others for coffee, conversation and inspiration. This is an opportunity to connect and be inspired by other professional women in our area. Our next gathering is September 9, 7-8am in the conference room at Café Diem.

Entrepreneur Connection

Third Wednesday of every month (except Dec.), 5-6pm at Firetrucker Brewery. Have an invention? Starting a business in your basement or spare bedroom? This group is for you. Come join the conversation and learn from other entrepreneurs in a casual atmosphere.

Thanks to Ron Nagel and Community State Bank!

For the past year Community State Bank has provided the funding for the Ankeny Entrepreneur Connection. The Entrepreneur Connection is a monthly casual gathering of entrepreneurs in the area. If you are interested in sponsoring this group for the remainder of 2016 let Joey or someone on the executive board know. At \$100 a month it is a great opportunity to support local entrepreneurs.

Platinum Investors

Ankeny Stock Index

price as of 7/27/16

Casey's General Stores	CASY	\$132.77
John Deere	DE	\$78.45
Monsanto	MON	\$106.75
NewLink Genetics	NLNK	\$11.37
Sysco	SYG	\$51.58
Ankeny Index (Ave)		\$76.18
Business Record Iowa Index		\$33.91



JOHN DEERE

