

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urbandale Chamber Representatives Strengthen Partnership's 26th Annual DC Trip

Urbandale – Representatives of the **Urbandale Chamber of Commerce** joined more than 170 other local business, civic and community leaders for the Greater Des Moines Partnership's 2005 lobbying trip to Washington D.C. The 2005 trip, dubbed "Destiny DC 2005," was the Partnership's largest ever. The itinerary underscored a range of educational and networking opportunities for **Marian Gall, 2005 Chamber President, Jack Fries, Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, and Tiffany Menke, Executive Director of the Urbandale Chamber**, who participated in the trip June 8-10. In addition, others from the Urbandale Chamber, City and School participated as well. The regional policy agenda focused on quality of life initiatives driven by the Partnership's ongoing efforts to follow through with recommendations in its 2003 Project Destiny report. DC trip participants also contributed to a broader metropolitan area agenda of regional economic development, education and transportation projects.

"There really is strength in numbers and we are successful in our federal lobbying efforts because we present a unified voice for central Iowa to our U.S. Congressional delegation and other federal officials with whom we visit while in Washington," said Steve Roberts, chair of the Partnership's Government Policy Council. "The DC trip is an opportunity for local leaders to present our vision for the region and to advocate for the projects which will help make that vision a reality. On behalf of the Partnership, we appreciate all the participants who gave their time and effort this year to make the trip such a success."

The 2005 Congressional Leadership luncheons featured presentations by Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana and Senator John Thune of South Dakota. All seven members of Iowa's Congressional delegation addressed the group at a Thursday breakfast.

The Urbandale delegation also attended workshops on federal information technology policy and the future of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Policy experts from the White House Office of Science and Technology, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development shared their insights. Participants also attended the announcement of the 2005 World Food Prize Laureate at the U.S. State Department, and a White House briefing focused on Social Security reform, the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and general policy strategy. Other issues addressed during the three-day program included transportation, healthcare, education, agriculture, international trade and economic development.

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“The opportunity to represent the Urbandale Chamber on the trip is greatly appreciated. The seeds of progress planted during this three day trip are sure to improve the quality of life and doing business in Urbandale and Central Iowa,” said Fries.

This year marks the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Partnership’s D.C. trip, which was launched in 1979 by former Des Moines Mayor Arthur Davis, who was then Chair of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation, one of the four organizations which later merged to become the Partnership. Over the years, the trip has evolved to include civic, business and community leaders from nearly every community in the Des Moines metro area. The 2004 D.C. trip alone generated an estimated \$120 million for metro area projects such as the Principal Riverwalk, I-235 improvements, interstate interchanges in West Des Moines and other areas, and support for the new Science Center of Iowa. Over its history, the trip has proven to be a valuable investment for communities, with well over \$1.5 billion of federal appropriations to local projects attributed to the effort in the past ten years.

For more information about “Destiny DC 2005,” please contact Jay Byers at jbyers@desmoinesmetro.com or visit www.desmoinesmetro.com/dctrip. The dates for the 2006 DC trip are June 7-9, 2006.

For more information about Urbandale participation in this delegation, please contact Tiffany Menke at 515-331-6855.

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