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**Our Annual Iowa-Made Holiday Gift Guide**



One of our favorite times of the year is here! 'Tis the season to remind everybody once again that there are awesome Iowa-made products to give as gifts!

1. A set of heirloom quality Animal [ABC blocks](#) from [Bannor Toys](#).
2. Make a statement with a [mirror from Sticks](#).
3. Bio-based [plant markers](#) from MCG BioComposites.
4. Give coffee that gives back with [BLK & Bold](#), a pending [B-Corp](#).
5. Warm up with some white chili con queso from [La Casa](#).
6. ... or a [wool throw](#) from Amana Wollen Mill.
7. An upgraded [patio door](#) from Pella.
8. An Iowa-themed shirt from [Raygun](#) to show off their love for all things Iowa.
9. A [creeper](#) from Lisle Corp for your car enthusiast.
10. A 3D Printed light from [Fire Farm](#) for your favorite technology fan.

[Find out more!](#)

**Learn the Secrets of "Writing Federal Proposals"**



**Leah Barton**

Assistant CIRAS Director

Government contracting is a complicated and detailed process with many precise steps that must be followed. For companies that are new to the government sector, it sometimes can be overwhelming.

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to practice before you submitted that first bid?

We thought so, too.

[Read More!](#)

**Develop Talent through Internships**



Internships can feed the talent pipeline for many small- to medium-sized manufacturers facing serious workforce gaps as their senior employees near retirement. But internship success (finding, engaging, and retaining talent) requires strategy and planning to locate and groom qualified job candidates.

[Learn More!](#)

**CIRAS Scanner Captures History of Mini-campanile's Bells**

It is a bright summer day when Tin-Shi Tam climbs the steps inside Iowa State University's iconic campanile to play her daily midday concert on the Stanton Memorial Carillon.

Up above, after she's worked the carillon's bells through a mix of tunes that includes both Garth Brooks and the theme from a Hong Kong soap opera, Tam starts talking about the miniature version—a one-fifth scale model of the campanile that eventually would be unveiled to the public in October.

[Read more!](#)

**Volunteers Needed for Iowa FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL)**

Do you want to inspire Iowa youth in science, technology, engineering, and math? Celebrate their amazing learning experiences? Want to enjoy your Saturday with some grateful kids?

We would like to invite you to join our volunteer team for our FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Qualifier Event on **December 7**, in Waterloo, Estherville, Webster City, Dubuque! No technical expertise is needed. The events are open to the public.

You can help! Teamwork makes the dream work - volunteers are what make these FLL events succeed. You can help all day, just in the morning or just in the afternoon. There are a variety of volunteer positions, including judges, referees, timers, judge assistants, and more.

[Learn More about Volunteering!](#)

**Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, and Workshops**

The Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) seeks to make Iowa better by educating its businesses about the latest research-proven methods and best practices of industry. Here are just a few of the ways we plan to do that in the coming month.



**Key Construction Clauses and Considerations in Federal Construction Contracts**

December 18th

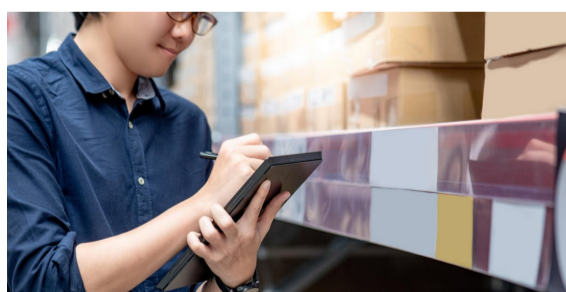
[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Writing Federal Proposals**

January 14th

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Inventory Management 101 Workshop**

January 14th

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Capture Planning: Proven Strategies to Increase RFP Win Rate**

January 16th

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