

**Quick Links**

- [View the latest CIRAS News](#)
- [ILC Annual Conference](#)
- [CIRAS Staff Updates](#)
- [New DOT Funding](#)
- [June Events](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

ILC Annual Conference  
October 26th & 27th 2021  
Virtual & In-Person  
Experiences Available

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**ILC**  
IOWA LEAN CONSORTIUM

**ILC Annual Conference**

The Iowa Lean Consortium's Annual Conference will take a step closer to its familiar format this fall – but this time, it will be as part of a new hybrid model designed to accommodate a variety of different comfort levels related to COVID-19.

This year's conference, slated for **October 26-27** will have a variety of ways for people to attend. Options will include a large in-person event based at Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona, a live-streamed online feed, and six satellite locations around the state.

All attendees virtual or in-person will have the opportunity to hear keynote speeches from **John Foley** and **Neil Pasricha**. Foley teaches that high performance is a mindset, a process, and a state of being that accelerates everyday achievement, while Pasricha speaks on resilience and breakthrough performance in times of change.

[Learn More](#)



**CIRAS Receives a Department of Transportation Grant for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises**



CIRAS has received a \$133,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to help economically and socially disadvantaged businesses develop as companies so they are better able to compete for highway construction projects and other DOT-funded projects.

As part of the grant, CIRAS will provide one-on-one assistance to companies who qualify as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) – generally defined as small business that are at least 51 percent owned by women or minorities – about the best ways to position themselves for government bidding opportunities and market themselves to prime contractors and government agencies.

The program is expected to dovetail with government contracting services now available through the CIRAS Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). It will be overseen by CIRAS government contracting specialist **Mary Zimmerman**.

[Learn More](#)

**Upcoming Conferences, Trainings & 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. [View full event list.](#)

- [Food Talks](#)**  
June 9th 9:00 AM
- [Operations, Engineering, Sustainability, and You](#)**  
June 9th 12:00 PM
- [Growth Strategies to Build a Resilient Food Business](#)**  
June 10th 9:00 AM
- [Iowa's TSB Program, plus Introduction to a State Program/Agency](#)**  
June 10th 10:45 AM
- [Data Security - CMMC, Regulations, and Business Development](#)**  
June 15th 10:00 AM
- [Inventory Management System and Robot Process Automation](#)**  
June 15th 12:00 PM
- [ILC Virtual Lean Coffee](#)**  
June 18th 9:00 AM
- [Leveraging Technology to Improve Cash Flow](#)**  
June 22nd 10:00 AM
- [ILC Training Within Industry: Job Relations Webinar](#)**  
June 22nd 11:00 AM
- [Warehouse Management 101 Webinar Series \(3 Parts\)](#)**  
June 23rd 8:30 AM
- [Lost in Translation: Technical vs. Business Value](#)**  
June 23rd 10:00 AM
- [CIRAS - An Introduction and Overview](#)**  
June 23rd 11:30 AM
- [CIRAS Service Showcase Series - Finite Element Analysis](#)**  
June 24th 11:30 AM
- [ISU Supplier Orientation](#)**  
June 29th 10:00 AM
- [Capabilities Statement Webinar](#)**  
July 7th 11:00 AM
- [Buy American and Trade Agreements Act Compliance for Federal Procurement](#)**  
July 13th 9:00 AM

**CIRAS News**



**Warehouse Uses COVID-19 Slump to Spark Future Growth**

View the latest CIRAS News online [here](#). To sign up for the mailing [click here](#).

**Staff Updates**

Two longtime CIRAS employees are taking on new roles in an attempt to serve Iowans better.



**Brenda Martin**, an account manager who has spent the last five years focusing on helping the Iowa food industry grow and improve, will spend the summer transitioning to a new role overseeing CIRAS efforts to improve Iowa's workforce. Martin will take charge of a growing number of CIRAS programs aimed at helping Iowa companies solve their workforce concerns.

Martin's switch to her new role is expected to take place gradually between now and this fall, depending on the timing of CIRAS hiring a new food industry account manager. In the meantime, food manufacturers with concerns should still contact [Brenda Martin](#).



Melissa Burant is in the process of transitioning from her role as a government contracting specialist to a new position leading strategic supply chain initiatives. In her new role, Melissa will be responsible for supplier scouting, helping Iowa Defense Department suppliers become more resilient, and developing relationships with OEM purchasing leaders throughout Iowa as a means of increasing reshoring and growth opportunities for smaller companies.

Burant's transition to her new role is expected to be gradual between now and September. If you have government contracting questions or concerns in Scott or Clinton counties, please contact [Samantha Ferm](#).

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