

QUARTER 4, 2025

RETRAINING PROGRAM



Programs Offered in Q4:

- Office Specialist, IT Help Desk, Sterile Processing, CNA, Phlebotomy, CDL, MIG Welding

16 Participants (Ames, Nevada, Boone)

Average Age: 43 Years Old

2025 Totals:

- 48 participants
- Ames, Collins, Slater, Madrid, Nevada, Boone
- 1961-2005 birthdate range
- CNA, Sterile Processing, Phlebotomy, CDL, Office Specialist, IT Help Desk, CPR, MIG Welding



**LIVABILITY
MEDIA**

“Inside America’s Best Cities” Livability Media Podcast
– Maximize Your Workforce with Short Term Training



Rodah Runanu-Ndlela



Hanna Petrova

Live Work Play in Ames

- **798 Job Postings** (632 in Story County)
- **154,071 Views** on Facebook in 2025
- LWP in Ames brand on **Fareway Semi**
- **Story County Unemployment Rate: 3.2%**

“Coming from Kenya, I wasn’t sure what to expect, but people here went out of their way to make me feel included and cared for. I was also pleasantly surprised by how diverse and connected the community is — despite being a smaller city, there’s a real sense of belonging and togetherness.” - Rodah Runanu-Ndlela

Q4 EVENTS RECAP

- Young Professionals of Iowa Conference
- State of the AREA
- UEA Ribbon Cutting
- Downtown Trick or Treat
- Campustown Fall Classic
- Huxley Business Breakfast
- Annual Event - Breakfast & Luncheon

UPCOMING Q1 EVENTS

- 2026 Economic Outlook Breakfast
- Rising Leaders City & County Govt’ Day
- AREA Housing Summit
- 2026 State of Wellness
- Women in Leadership International Women’s Day
- 2026 Agr Breakfast/ Rising Leaders Agriculture & Manufacturing Day

WORKFORCE EVENTS



AREA YP Lunch & Learn with Debi Durham

Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Finance Authority and Economic Development Authority, shared the latest updates on economic development in Iowa and the Ames region, and highlighted the opportunities that make our state a thriving place to live, work, and play.



AREA YP Fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County

AREA YP raised \$5,000 for The Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County by hosting a Bags Tournament.

These funds will help serve 1,667 hot meals to our youth.



Highway 30 Career Fairs

40 employers with 200 job seekers in Central Iowa

Cities included: Tama, Marshalltown, Ames, Boone



Rising Leaders Academy Entrepreneurism and College Day

Students toured the Iowa State University Student Innovation Center, visited the Des Moines Area Community College Ames Hunziker Center, and participated in a presentation and activity with the ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship.



Rising Leaders Academy Resume Building, Interview Skills, and AREA Annual Luncheon



Story County Child Care Feasibility Study

Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions conducting community survey to better understand current and future need of child care.

Partners include: Ames Regional Economic Alliance, United Way of Story County, Iowa State University, City of Ames, Story County Board of Supervisors, Story County Medical Center, Nevada Economic Development Council