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## **Fifteen Iowa long-term care professionals graduate from statewide leadership program**

**West Des Moines, Iowa** — Fifteen professionals from long-term care organizations across Iowa have completed a 10-month-long leadership program focused on improving care quality, strengthening teams and preparing the next generation of leaders serving older Iowans.

The 2025-26 Executive Health Care Leadership Institute, offered by the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA), concluded June 11 with a graduation ceremony and final project presentations in West Des Moines. Participants represented a variety of leadership roles, including nursing home administrators, nurses, assisted living program directors, social services professionals, food and nutrition directors, clinical leaders and marketing directors.

Throughout the program, participants completed leadership training focused on communication, team development, strategic planning and organizational leadership. Each participant also developed and presented a quality improvement project addressing challenges and opportunities within their organization.

Projects focused on initiatives such as reducing staff turnover, improving resident oral health, strengthening communication with residents and families, implementing resident mentorship programs, reducing falls, enhancing strategic planning efforts and improving early identification of skin and wound care concerns.

"Strong leadership is one of the most important factors in delivering high-quality care," said Brenda Irlbeck, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for the Iowa Health Care Association. "These professionals are investing in their own growth so they can better support residents, tenants, patients, families and staff. Their commitment reflects the dedication we see every day from long-term care professionals across Iowa."

The following graduates completed the program:

- Megan Abbas – Franklin General Hospital (Hampton)
- Shelbi Bengford – Odebolt Specialty Care
- Barbara Courtney – Bethany Life (Story City)
- Ashley Eischeid – Bethany Life (Story City)
- Joseph Herst – Accura HealthCare of South Des Moines
- Jacquelyne Jasek – Panora Specialty Care
- Alyssa Poland – Kennybrook Village (Grimes)
- Megan Rinner – Corning Specialty Care
- Kelsey Seabold – Montrose Health Center

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- Jessica Sellner – Kennybrook Village (Grimes)
- Katie Seydel – Green Hills Community (Ames)
- Jordan Tjaden – Midlands Living Center (Council Bluffs)
- Jessica Wagner – Homestead of Algona
- Tyler Whitcanack – Good Samaritan Society – LeMars
- Jalissa Winn – English Valley Nursing Care Center (North English)

The program was sponsored by Brighton Consulting Group.

**About the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA)**

The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) represents more than 800 Iowa long-term care and senior living providers, including nursing homes, assisted living programs, independent senior living and residential care facilities, home health providers, home care providers and care continuum providers. IHCA represents nearly 8 out of 10 nonprofit and for-profit long-term care providers across the state.

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