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**Skilled Iowa Welcomes Leading Central Iowa Employers as Members**

DES MOINES - The Skilled Iowa Initiative continues to grow across the state, recently welcoming Principal Financial Group, City of Des Moines, Kum & Go, Des Moines Register, United Way of Central Iowa, Prairie Meadows, Davis Brown Law Firm, HCI Care Services, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa and more. With these additions, member companies have grown to more than 4,800 across the state.

"The Skilled Iowa Initiative continues to demonstrate successes across the state," said Iowa Workforce Development director, Teresa Wahlert. "In order to overcome the skills gap facing the state, initiatives like Skilled Iowa are critical for providing upskilling opportunities to Iowans and connections to Iowa employers."

The Skilled Iowa Initiative is dedicated to providing assurances to employers that potential employees in the workforce have the skills and abilities to fill current and future job openings. The initiative promotes the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) to potential job seekers and encourages businesses to hire certified workers.

The NCRC test measures several skills, including critical thinking and applied mathematics. Those who earn the certificate can use it to easily showcase their skills on resumes and in portfolios. The process of earning an NCRC also helps individuals understand their strengths and areas for growth, arming them for a competitive job market.

Visit [skillediowa.org](http://skillediowa.org) to learn more about the Skilled Iowa Initiative and the opportunities it provides students, workers and employers.

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