



Iowa Institute for  
Cooperatives

# CO-OPVIEWS

News and information for the benefit of Iowa cooperatives.

September 2021 Vol. 51 No. 4

## Following Her Passions

### IIC Welcomes Rebecca Boyer as the New Director of Government Affairs

Rebecca Boyer grew up in a small town in northwest Iowa called Ringsted. It was there where she also took part in her family's farming operation consisting of corn, soybeans, and an independent hog operation. With roots having been planted deep in agriculture from an early age, Rebecca also found that experience gave way to an interest in policy.

"I grew up on a farm with a family that was really engaged in policy, how it affects our operation, and specifically the industry that we were in. So, I was always aware of the role that politics plays in agriculture, and I was very passionate about this from a young age," states Rebecca.

While attending Armstrong-Ringsted High School, Rebecca attended the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives REC Youth Tour in Washington D.C. Instantly, her passion was sparked for the world of advocacy. Rebecca said, "By attending the youth tour to Washington D.C., my eyes were opened to the cooperative model and the way that cooperatives structure their businesses to best serve their members."

Recently graduated from Drake University Law School in the Spring of 2021, Rebecca now holds the role of IIC's new Director of Government Affairs. With two years of previous experience working in legislature and lobbying, Rebecca is the primary liaison for the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and its members to the legislative and regulatory branches of state and federal government. Additionally, she is the member contact relating to government affairs and encouraging their grassroots participation in legislative issues.

"If our members have issues that come up that they think should be addressed through governmental action, I'm the person to contact to connect them with the right person, whether it's their state representative, state senator, or an agency," says Rebecca.

Rebecca directly lobbies with legislators about issues regarding cooperatives, and she plans to take action on Capitol Hill representing all IIC members. Her primary goal is to increase member engagement with Iowa legislators, and boost co-op representation with our state and federal elected officials.

The process to setting IIC legislative priorities begins with the Legislative Committee meeting on November 5, and resolutions to the priorities are approved at the annual meeting. Rebecca's role is to lobby on behalf of those member-set priorities. "It is completely from the bottom-up what our members think needs to be tackled at the legislature," states Rebecca.

Rebecca is excited to begin as the new Director of Government Affairs. This job focuses on a lot of agricultural issues, as well as those overreaching cooperative issues, Rebecca explains, "This job position really matches my two passions, which are advocating for people who need advocacy, and that community," in reference to all IIC members.

IIC members are encouraged to contact Rebecca at (712) 363-4397 or [rboyer@iowainstitute.coop](mailto:rboyer@iowainstitute.coop) with any concerns or lobbying requests.



***This job position really matches my two passions, which are advocating for people who need advocacy, and that community.***

**REBECCA BOYER**  
IIC Director of  
Government Affairs



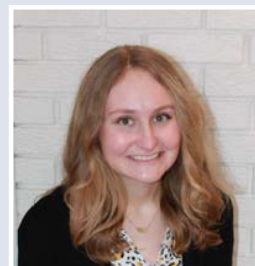
# The Winner's Circle **2021 Scholarship Recipients**

The Iowa Institute for Cooperatives is pleased to announce the thirteen recipients of the 2021 Iowa Institute Scholarships. Congratulations to all of these hard working students, and a special thank you to our members for their support of the IIC scholarship program. All IIC member cooperatives are strongly encouraged to promote this scholarship program to their student employees.

Students selected to receive the 2021 Iowa Institute Scholarship are awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic school year. Recipients are from both two- and four-year universities who have work experience or an internship with an IIC member cooperative.



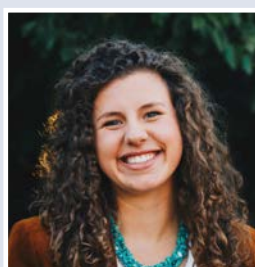
**Wyatt Bailey**  
Mitchellville, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Agronomy & Seed Science  
Key Cooperative



**Carla Endleman**  
Cambridge, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Ag Studies  
Key Cooperative



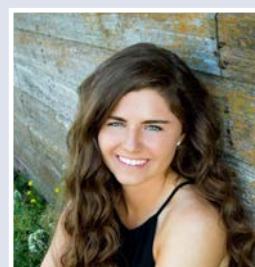
**Will Feucht**  
Princeville, Illinois  
Iowa State University  
Ag Business  
Ag Processing Inc



**Maria Harthoorn**  
Ainsworth, Nebraska  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Ag Economics & Entrepreneurship  
Frontier Cooperative, NE



**Corben Monzon**  
Concordia, Kansas  
Kansas State University  
Biological Systems Engineering  
Central Valley Ag



**Rachel Ross**  
Lisbon, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Ag Business & Management  
Pro Cooperative



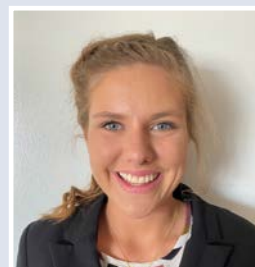
**Betty Sue Strohmman**  
Mallard, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Ag Studies  
Cooperative Farmers Elevator



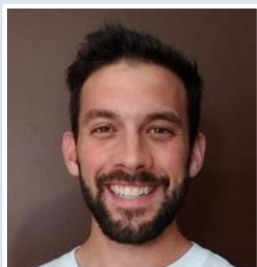
**Ben Vos**  
Pella, Iowa  
Dordt University  
General Agriculture  
Key Cooperative



**Parker Werling**  
Atalissa, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Agronomy  
Heartland Cooperative



**Elizabeth Yrkoski**  
Fullerton, Nebraska  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Ag Economics  
Central Valley Ag



**Kristoff Poole**  
Coralville, Iowa  
University of Iowa  
Marketing Analytics,  
Entrepreneurship & Sustainability  
Frontier Cooperative, IA



**Logan Schmitt**  
Birmingham, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Ag Communications &  
International Ag  
Farm Service Cooperative

The Associated Benefits Corporation (ABC) donated \$1,000 to be awarded in honor of retiring ABC board member Scott Simmelink, former AGP, Inc. CFO.



**Dillon Mohling**  
Waverly, Iowa  
Iowa State University  
Chemical Engineering  
Ag Processing Inc





***"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected to hold this position, especially because it comes from the cooperatives in the state of Iowa and their members."***

**DR. BOBBY MARTENS**  
IIC Economics  
Endowed Professor

farming operation in North Dakota, so when IIC's endowed professorship opened, it was a chance to return to his agricultural roots.

The endowment position was created through the generous support of IIC's local and regional cooperatives. In 2010, Dr. Roger Ginder, ISU Economics and Extension Specialist, who was instrumental in the development of IIC's Director Certification Program (DCP), retired. At the time, ISU was going through a budget crisis. ISU President, Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, then Dean of the College of Agriculture, recognized the need and importance of continuing Dr. Ginder's work with cooperatives and approached IIC with a funding plan.

With the opportunity at hand from Dr. Wintersteen to ensure the continuation of cooperative education at ISU, the

## Bobby Martens Receives IIC's Endowed Professorship

Dr. Bobby Martens, professor at Iowa State University, was selected this fall for the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Endowed Economics Professorship at Iowa State University.

Dr. Martens earned his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University, and spent the past fifteen years as a professor at the Iowa State University (ISU) Ivy College of Business focusing on Supply Chain Management.

Dr. Martens grew up working on his family's

IIC board gave their support and turned to the member cooperatives. Thanks to strong monetary gifting by many IIC members, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Endowed Economics Professorship now exists to serve students, ISU economics and extension, and member cooperatives.

Dr. Martens began his new role in the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Economics this fall. He will begin his professorship by teaching the undergraduate economics course in cooperatives (ECON 332). This course helps students gather a well rounded understanding of how cooperatives operate, the historical development of U.S. cooperatives, state and federal authorization for cooperative activity, governance, marketing and pricing strategies, financing, and capitalization and taxation considerations. Students will learn how the cooperative model is applied in a variety of markets.

Through this position, Dr. Martens works with ISU's Extension and Outreach 55 percent of the time. He has already begun developing relationships with various cooperatives around the state of Iowa, and he looks forward to working with IIC. He will lead the DCP program, as well as informational and educational programs at IIC workshops. From a research and outreach perspective, Dr. Martens will be looking at how the current food and agricultural supply chains are impacting cooperatives.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected to hold this position, especially because it comes from the cooperatives in the state of Iowa and their members," says Dr. Martens. "The very fact that it's the cooperatives that ultimately support this position makes it extremely meaningful, and I want to be able to work in this position giving back to them, the same way that they gave back to me, by endowing this professorship."

*The recognized central campus of Iowa State University where Dr. Bobby Martens, IIC Endowed Professor, offices in ISU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Economics.*

## OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH!



Watch for our email newsletter covering all October Co-op Month details - and how your co-op can get involved!

## Iowa Institute for Cooperatives

2515 University Blvd., Suite 104  
Ames, Iowa 50010

### IIC Staff

**Dave Holm**, Executive Director

**Nancy Cyr**, Office Manager

**Rebecca Boyer**, Director of Government Affairs

**Mike St. Clair**, Lobbyist

### Contact Info

P: 515-292-2667

F: 515-292-1672

E: [info@iowainstitute.coop](mailto:info@iowainstitute.coop)

W: [www.iowainstitute.coop](http://www.iowainstitute.coop)



## Annual Meeting Facing Forward

The annual members meeting for Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will be held in person on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will vote on legislative resolutions for the upcoming year, celebrate our Hall of Fame recipients, and learn on a range of topics important to the cooperative industry.

## IOWA INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES ANNUAL MEETING

**November 23, 2021**

**9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Ames, IA**

### Breakout Sessions

- Transportation Liability Panel with Dr. Bobby Martens
- What the Census tells us about Iowa and its Impact on Legislative Districts
- Update on African Swine Fever
- Economic Outlook with ISU's Dr. Lee Schulz and Dr. Chad Hart

### Keynote Speaker

ISU Athletic Director, Jamie Pollard is the longest-tenured Director of Athletics in Iowa State history. Jamie will discuss the challenges of leading during the constantly changing environment of a global pandemic in the fishbowl that is Division I college athletics.

### Hall of Fame Awards

- **Jim Carlson**, retired GM from First Cooperative Association
- **Brad Davis**, retired GM of GoldEagle Cooperative and retired board president of AGP, Inc.

**Registration information will be sent out later this month, so keep an eye on your inbox and mailbox!**