



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

June 30, 2021

The Boone County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the appointment of Mike Hammond to the role of Executive Director.

Hammond, a Boone Native, has a background in higher education and nonprofit leadership. After graduating from Boone High School, he earned bachelor's degrees in international studies, history and Spanish from Central College in Pella and earned a master's of higher education from Iowa State University.

"I am proud to return home and serve the communities of the county where I grew up, engaging with community leaders and neighbors to come together to make living and doing business in the Boone area great. Carrying on the Chamber's mission of enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life in our county could not be more personally and professionally gratifying," said Hammond. "I am honored to be leading the Chamber's efforts in continuing to build a brighter future for Boone County together."

Hammond is joined by another recent addition to the Chamber staff, Communications and Events Director, Laura Bade.

Bade's role is to plan and execute the organization's community and member events including Pufferbilly Days™, the Golf Classic, and others throughout the year. She will also create marketing materials and communication pieces while managing the Chamber's websites and digital presence.

A Boone Native herself, Bade comes to the Chamber with 10 years of event planning experience, most recently planning conferences and events and managing membership processes for nonprofit associations. After graduating from Boone High School, she obtained a bachelor's in sociology from Central College in Pella and earned a master's of higher education administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She is excited utilize her skills in event planning, organizational leadership, and marketing creation and communications in support of Boone's events and community opportunities.

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