

## ***Senator Ernst's Entrepreneur Expo:***

A Small-Business Government Contracting and Innovation Conference  
**Iowa State University, Memorial Union Building**  
**2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50011**  
**August 6, 2024**

- 8:00-9:00AM      **Registration Opens & Light Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:30AM      **Welcome & Small Business Agenda on the Senate Small Business Committee**  
*Lisa Shimkat*, State Director, Iowa Small Business Development Center  
*Wendy Wintersteen*, President, Iowa State University  
*Senator Joni Ernst*, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- 9:30-9:40AM      **Keynote Speaker**  
*Krista Taylor*, Owner & President, Taylor Construction
- 9:40-10:20AM     **Engaging American Small Businesses in Mission Critical Contracting Opportunities**  
*Senator Joni Ernst*  
*Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon*, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
*Moderator Stephen Voline*, National Security Advisor, Office of Senator Joni Ernst
- 10:20-11:00AM    **Break and Networking Opportunity with Agency Exhibitors**
- 11:00AM-12:00 PM **Breakout Session #1**  
How to Start Selling in the Government Market  
*Samantha Ferm-LeClere*, CIRAS APEX Accelerator
- Small Business Certifications  
*Julie Fagle & Mary Zimmerman*, CIRAS APEX Accelerator
- America's Seed Fund – Harnessing the Power of Small Business to Build Next-Generation Technologies (Second Floor, Campanile Room)  
Moderator: *Anne McMahon*, Iowa Economic Development Authority
- Edward Metz*, SBIR Program Manager, Department of Education  
*David Songstad*, National SBIR/STTR Program Leader, United States Department of Agriculture  
*Matt McMahon*, Small Business Education and Entrepreneurial Development Director, National Institutes of Health

*Annette Finsterbusch*, Acting Section Head for Small Business Programs, National Science Foundation  
*Richard Mann*, Program Manager of Small Business Programs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

12:00-12:30 PM      **Break/Lunch and Networking Opportunity with Agency Exhibitors**  
*Break for self-provided lunch in the Memorial Union food court, or continue networking with agencies in the Great Hall*

12:30-1:30 PM      **Breakout Session #2**  
Finding Opportunities in Your Government Market – Who is Buying What You’re Selling?  
*Kelly Freel*, CIRAS APEX Accelerator

Preparing a Winning Proposal  
*Jodi Essex*, CIRAS APEX Accelerator

Subcontracting 101  
*Jessica Keith*, Small Business Liaison Officer, Collins Aerospace  
*Inna Clasen*, Subcontracts Manager, Collins Aerospace  
*Tom Pientok*, President & CEO, Timberline Manufacturing

Blueprint for Defense – Identifying Nontraditional Small Business Opportunities within the DoD  
Moderator: *Stephen Voline*, Office of Senator Joni Ernst

*Brian Shipley*, Acting SBIR/STTR Director and Commercialization Program Manager, Department of the Navy  
*Col. Elliott Leigh*, Director of AFWERX and the Chief Commercialization Officer, Department of the Air Force  
*Paul Reid*, SBIR Portfolio Manager, Department of the Army  
*Katherine Koleski*, Director of Congressional Affairs and Policy, Defense Innovation Unit  
*Lisa Sanders*, Director of Science and Technology for Special Operations Forces, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (SOF AT&L), U.S. Special Operations Command

1:30-3:00 PM      **Networking Opportunity with Agency Exhibitors**

3:00 PM              **Closing**