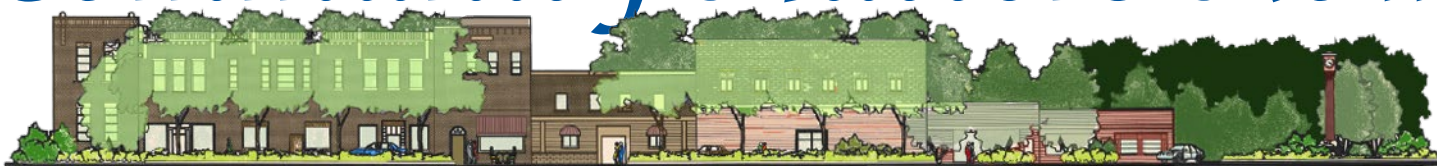


# Community Matters Now



A bi-monthly publication for Iowa leaders from Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development

## EGGERS, PADILLA BEGAN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAREERS UNDER PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

### Amanda Eggers

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach welcomed new program specialist Amanda Eggers to the Community and Economic Development (CED) unit in March 2020, just after the global shutdown caused by the pandemic.

Eggers joined CED from Iowa League of Cities, where she was a database and program assistant. Her role with the League helped with her successful transition to ISU Extension and Outreach, allowing her to engage and find successes without any delay during this unprecedented time.

Eggers has a diverse background in database and system model work. Her experiences and roles in human resources, securities management and state/federal reporting have helped align CED's program reporting within Extension and Outreach's new database structure.

Eggers also plays a significant role in the success of CED's Municipal Professionals Institute and Academy. She has full-cycle knowledge of running both the Institute and Academy, bringing in her database and LMS (learning management system) knowledge to move these established programs to a virtual (and now hybrid) experience.

Outside of work, Eggers keeps busy with her husband and four kids. The most recent excitement has been moving cities and school districts. While trying to get settled, keep up with her high school daughters and their academics and sports (track, volleyball, cross country) as well as all the joys and chaos that come with younger children (1st grade and Pre-K), there has been very little time for personal pursuits. When allowed, Eggers enjoys reading and motivational endeavors.

### Omar Padilla

Omar Padilla joined Iowa State University Extension Community and Economic Development (CED) in March 2020. Omar is a field specialist in the Local Government and Housing team. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminal justice from Simpson College.

Padilla came to ISU Extension and Outreach from Habitat for Humanity, where he spent five years working to improve affordable housing in Dallas, Polk, and Jasper Counties. Prior to his time at Habitat for Humanity, Padilla worked for five years for US Senator Tom Harkin, helping Iowans understand federal programs and navigate federal and state agencies.

Padilla brings to ISU Extension and Outreach significant experience with state politics and local government, having served one-term as chair of the Iowa Democratic Party Latino Caucus and another term as a vice-chair for the Iowa Democratic Party. Additionally, Padilla cofounded the Iowa Latino Political Network, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to identifying,



educating, and empowering Latinos in Iowa to run for elected office and to become civically engaged.

During his first year with CED, Padilla has been primarily focused on delivering the Rural Housing Readiness Assessment to rural communities around the state. He loves to meet new people from all walks of life and is particularly adept at helping people come together to strategize tactics and rally support to achieve complex goals.

Padilla considers Iowa home even though he is a California native and spent his childhood in Guatemala and Mexico. Padilla shares his idea of a perfect day: "Help Iowans improve their life, even in some small way, and go home to spend time with my wife and kid."

### ONLINE RESOURCES

[LEADING COMMUNITIES: A PLACE-BASED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)

[GOAL SETTING, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND FACILITATION](#)

[RURAL HOUSING READINESS ASSESSMENT](#)

[BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TOURISM STRATEGIES](#)

## INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

We don't often (ever) go on hiring binges in CED. I can't say that the theme of this issue of *Community Matters Now* is "CED's Hiring Binge," because it captures new hires dating back to March 2020. Nevertheless, I am very excited to be able to use this issue to introduce our newest staff and specialists and provide you with a little background on the skills and experiences they will bring to our work in your communities.

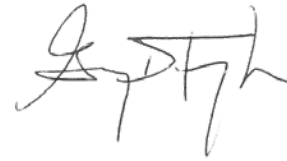
This is a great group of people, and I know you will learn this fact very soon, if you haven't already. These five people suddenly represent about 20% of CED's total

faculty, specialists, and staff. Maybe it was a hiring binge after all?!

My letter also carries a bittersweet message, for at the time I write this Jon Wolseth is only two weeks away from leaving us to start a new chapter of his life in Ohio. Jon has been with CED since 2014 and has been instrumental in almost every programming effort we have made since that time. We will miss him greatly.

His departure does mean that our hiring binge must continue. If you are interested in joining our team please check out our [job posting](#):

[https://isu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/IowaStateJobs/job/Location-To-Be-Determined/Industry-Extension-Specialist--Local-Government-Education-Community-and-Economic-Development\\_R6540](https://isu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/IowaStateJobs/job/Location-To-Be-Determined/Industry-Extension-Specialist--Local-Government-Education-Community-and-Economic-Development_R6540)



Gary Taylor  
Program Director, Iowa State University  
Extension and Outreach Community and  
Economic Development

## WEINAND JOINS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT AS LEADERSHIP SPECIALIST

Mary M. Weinand has joined Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development team as a leadership and community development specialist. She began the position August 12.

Weinand comes to CED with a background in ISU Extension and Outreach, adult education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and diversity and inclusion. Before transitioning to CED, she served as a human sciences extension specialist in family finance for 12 counties in Southeast Iowa.

As a human sciences specialist, she provided leadership, delivery and support for integrated content areas including family resource management, consumer education, family economics, entrepreneurship, decision making, leadership development and public policy. She also has experience in banking, equity research, and workforce and economic development. As part of CED's civic engagement and equity team, she will work in areas of community leadership, equity and processes.

Weinand earned her bachelor's degree in marketing and finance from St. Mary's of Notre Dame, her master's in business administration from De Paul University, and her master's in adult education from Iowa State University. She also holds certifications in ToP online facilitation and remote work, entrepreneurship and nonprofit management.

"ISU Extension and Outreach builds a strong Iowa by engaging all Iowans in research, education and extension experiences to address real-life challenges. Under that framework I have been very fortunate to work with many outstanding organizations and projects. The current economy is changing quickly, and we no longer operate under the 'expert model.' Instead, we need to work more collaboratively to address the complex, systemic challenges within our communities," said Weinand.

"I am excited about my new role with CED as a leadership and community development specialist. I look forward to supporting Iowa communities and



leaders through community engagement, facilitation and leadership and equity education.

Weinand is officed at the ISU Extension and Outreach Henry County office in Mt. Pleasant and can be reached at [mweinand@iastate.edu](mailto:mweinand@iastate.edu).

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## SEABERG JOINS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT AS INDUSTRY EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Luke Seaberg recently joined Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development (CED) program unit as an industry extension specialist.

Seaberg brings a passion for housing, planning, and sustainable economies to the role, where he will support the local housing and government team.

Prior to coming to ISU, Seaberg worked in Madison, Wisconsin, as the program director for Tenant Services at Tenant Resource Center, a housing nonprofit specializing in housing counseling, eviction prevention, and homeless case management services. Among other duties, he led trainings and seminars on subjects related to housing and housing law on topics including the eviction process, fair housing, environmental health, and rental assistance.

"I am excited to bring my experience with and enthusiasm for educational programming aimed at working professionals to CED," said Seaberg.

"It's always great to be in a room with a group of people who are committed to improving their community. Being able to facilitate and participate in those conversations is really special. It's where the change happens," he said.

Seaberg has a master's degree in urban planning and development from Cleveland State University, where he also worked as a research assistant in the university's Center for Economic Development, studying the economic impact of industrial sectors, anchor institutions, and major events such as the 2016 Republican National Convention. In addition to his master's degree, Seaberg also holds a graduate certificate in GIS.



"I've always loved looking at maps, old, current, or even fictional. I appreciate their capacity to convey information and data in a visual and relatable way. People love maps and can connect to them in a way that they often can't to a report or a graph," he said.

"I am excited to be able to work at the intersection of my interests, where I can blend my experiences with GIS into my broader goal of working in the realms of housing and local government," he added.

Seaberg earned two bachelor's degrees in economics and social thought and political economy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he also studied the economics of cooperative enterprise, an area of local development with a rich history in Iowa and the rest of the Midwest.

As an industry extension specialist, Seaberg will deliver educational programming in rural housing, planning and zoning, and strategic planning, as well as work with team members to develop new programming and engage with county and municipal officials, as well as community stakeholders, to meet the needs of all Iowans in the realm of community and economic development.

Seaberg will be officed at Extension and Outreach's main office in Ames and can be reached at [seaberg@iastate.edu](mailto:seaberg@iastate.edu).

## HENDERSON JOINS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING TEAM

On July 5, Lindsay Henderson returned to her alma mater as a field specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development focusing on local government and housing.

Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in community development, both at ISU.

"I am excited and honored for this next chapter in my ISU adventure as a Community and Economic Development Extension and Outreach team member," Henderson said.

Previously Henderson served as the community vitality director for her hometown of Webster City, Iowa. She contributed to several significant initiatives for the community, including the city's rebranding and marketing, the Twin Parks Revitalization campaign, a municipal fiber pre-feasibility study, and the formation of a local housing trust fund. Earlier she served as the workforce director for Iowa Central Community College.

Henderson also is a founding member and board president of the nonprofit LIFT-WC, leading the rehabilitation of the historic



Elks lodge in Webster City. The hope is for the building to catalyze downtown revitalization, eventually holding multiple commercial businesses and serving as an entertainment venue for live music and special events, Henderson said.

Henderson will be officed at the Hamilton County Extension and Outreach office in Webster City and can be reached at [lindsayh@iastate.edu](mailto:lindsayh@iastate.edu).

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