



## MEDIA RELEASE

To: Ames Media  
From: Ames Chamber of Commerce  
Date: July 12, 2010  
Re: Ames ranked in the Top 10 Best Places to Live in America

### AMES RANKED IN THE TOP 10 BEST PLACES TO LIVE

Ames, IA – Ames, Iowa really is your place to live, work and *thrive*. Now the rest of the country agrees.

*CNNMoney.com* and *Yahoo! Real Estate* have reported today that Ames, Iowa is number nine on the list of the Top 100 Best Places to Live in America. The annual list is compiled by investigating an optimal combination of job opportunities/unemployment rate, excellent school systems, health care, amenities/activities, economic strength and other elements that make a town perfect for raising a family. The only other two Iowa communities to make the list are Iowa City (#68) and West Des Moines (#75).

Specifically for Ames, the magazine pointed out the exceptionally low unemployment rate, biotech and agriculture job availability, and even gave a nod to our state champion boys basketball team, girls golf team and girls tennis team. According to the editors, “If the people who live [in Ames] get bored, they only have themselves to blame. Besides Iowa State’s cultural and athletic offerings, Ames boasts 36 parks, a bustling shopping district, and a new aquatic center.”

But *CNNMoney* was also quick to point out the overall friendliness of the community. Ames Chamber Board Chair Maureen Dockstader would concur. “Ames has everything we want – not just for our business to thrive, but for our whole family to succeed and, quite frankly, be happy. We consider ourselves fortunate to live in a community where we’re so comfortable.” Dockstader, a CPA with LWBJ Financial, and her husband Scott, who works for the Iowa Department of Transportation, have a son who just graduated from Ames High School and a daughter who will be a junior at Ames High.

In a year that continues to be fraught with economic upheaval and political arguments across the country, communities making this “Best of” list perhaps deserve more than just a second look. “It’s no secret that, because of our stable job market, Ames has enjoyed a certain degree of insulation from the financial roller coasters that often impact the rest of the country,” says Dan Culhane, President and CEO of the Ames Chamber of Commerce. “But I think that it’s also worth pointing out that Ames is doing more than just maintaining the status quo; there is business growth in Ames, fantastic new amenities popping up, and there’s a renewed level of engagement from our residents.”

Eve Doi, Vice President of Communications and Operations for the Chamber, adds that Ames has also been recognized in 2010 as the “6<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live the Simple Life” (AARP), #17 Best Small Place for Business and Careers (*Forbes.com*), and the seventh most attractive city in the U.S. for cyber-security operations (Boyd Co.). Ames has made the *CNNMoney* Top 100 list in the past, but prior to 2010 ranked only as high as #53.

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