

WHY LIVE AND WORK IN THE WESTERN IOWA ADVANTAGE REGION?

Simple. Life is good here.

In Western Iowa, you can live in safe, clean communities and send your children to good schools. You can live where honesty and genuine goodwill are still valued and practiced — a place where people know their neighbors and forge long-lasting friendships. A place where it's easy to get involved in the community and make a difference. In Western Iowa, homes are affordable and time away from work is treasured. Western Iowa awaits you with a chance to live in balance.

Must-see attractions

The Western Iowa Advantage region offers a myriad of fun and interesting things to see and do. From the Donna Reed Center for the Performing Arts in Denison to the Henry Wallace Country Life Center in Greenfield, the area is home to numerous facilities and events honoring past Iowans who have made their mark on the world's stage.

Year-round the region offers numerous fun-filled events and activities for all ages. Albert the Bull salutes and celebrates the beef industry in Audubon County year-round, and the world's largest popcorn ball can be found at the Sac City Museum. Auto racing heats up the summer nights at the Crawford County Speedway, and modern aquatic centers in communities throughout the region offer a refreshing cooldown.

There's so much to do

Iowa's love affair with the outdoors is alive and well in the Western Iowa Advantage region. Amid its picturesque countryside is a playground full of recreational opportunities. Area rivers and lakes provide water recreation and excellent fishing. Wooded trails offer horseback riding. Numerous golf courses, including the challenging Lake Panorama National Golf Course in Panora, await the avid golfer. Hiking and biking through breathtaking scenery are available at area trails like the 33-mile Sauk Rail Trail that stretches from Swan Lake State Park to Black Hawk State Park. Snowmobiling is popular in the winter throughout the region. Modern campgrounds like Springbrook State Park in Guthrie Center afford a restful getaway for outdoor lovers. And hunting enthusiasts stalk trophy whitetail deer, turkey, quail, pheasant and waterfowl.

FORMER NEW YORK EXECUTIVE PICKS DENISON OVER THE BIG APPLE.

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Though she had a successful public relations career at a prominent New York firm, Denison native Sylvia Bachmann jumped at the chance to move back to her hometown to run a historic 19th century bed-and-breakfast. "I really was looking for a change in career and lifestyle and wanted to be closer to my family. I saw this opportunity in Denison and knew it was more than good timing; it was fate." While the adjustment from New York to Denison was huge, Sylvia says she quickly warmed to the considerable advantages of life in her hometown. "There's a different level of convenience here. Everything I need to shop for is still close by; it just might not be accessible all night long. But what I didn't get in the city is the level of customer service and helpfulness that greets me here every day."

Cultural opportunities

Unique cultural opportunities in Western Iowa range from the Donna Reed Center for the Performing Arts in historic Denison to the rustic charm of beautifully rendered "barn quilts" adorning the aging wooden barns of the countryside. Throughout the area, Americana is preserved at numerous national historic sites, including courthouses, opera houses, railroad depots, county jails and banks. Contemporary arts and entertainment are available at area dinner theaters, playhouses and art galleries. Additional cultural amenities are just a short drive away in Des Moines, Sioux City, Council Bluffs and Omaha.

