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For Immediate Release

**Former UI Employee Pleads Guilty to Theft, Fraudulent Practice**

October 13, 2025 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – Today in Iowa District Court, former University of Iowa employee Brian Busch pled guilty to Theft in the First Degree – Deceive Labor/Service/Property \$10,000+, a Class C Felony; and Fraudulent Practice in the First Degree – Alter/Make False Entry, \$10,000+, a Class C Felony. Charges of Tampering with Records, an Aggravated Misdemeanor; and Commit a Specified Unlawful Act – Ongoing Activity, a Class B Felony, were both dismissed, and Busch will have to pay financial restitution to the University of Iowa in the amount of \$173,097.60 as part of the plea agreement.

The charges and guilty plea come from a 2021 investigation which revealed that Busch's privately-owned company, D3signtech, was getting paid for completing jobs for an outside company at the UI physics machine shop where Busch worked. The jobs were completed by either Busch or his D3signtech employees while they were getting paid by the University of Iowa machine shop.

The date for Busch's sentencing is currently pending.

-END-

**Attached: Memorandum of Plea Agreement**

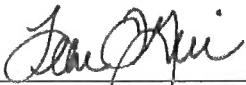
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

STATE OF IOWA, Plaintiff,  vs.  BRIAN WILLIAM BUSCH Defendant.	<b>FECR143743</b>  MEMORANDUM OF PLEA AGREEMENT
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**COME NOW**, the parties in the above captioned matter, providing notice to the Court that the parties have reached the following plea agreement:

- Defendant pleads guilty as charged to Count 1 (Theft in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree), in violation of Iowa Code Sections 714.1(3) and 714.2(1), a Class C Felony
- Defendant pleads guilty as charged to Count 4 (Fraudulent Practice in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree), in violation of Iowa Code Sections 714.8(4) and 714.9, a Class C Felony
- Counts 2 and 3 shall be dismissed at Sentencing with costs assessed to the Defendant
- The Defendant shall pay restitution to the University of Iowa in the amount of \$173,097.60
- The matter shall proceed to a contested sentencing hearing:
  - o The State shall recommend that the Court run Counts 1 and 4 concurrently, for a total of 10 years. The State shall recommend that the Court suspend the entire sentence, and place the Defendant on probation with the Iowa Department of Corrections for a 3-year term. The State resists the Defendant's request for a deferred judgment.
  - o The Defense may request any legal sentence, including a deferred judgment.
  - o Both parties will recommend that criminal fines shall be suspended.
  - o In accordance with Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.10, the Defendant's guilty plea is conditioned on the court's imposition of a suspended sentence or deferred judgment

The parties will request that the Court order a Pre-Sentence Investigation. The parties will request that the Court cancel all pending hearings and trial.

  
Leon Spies, Counsel for Defendant

  
Jeffrey Brunelle, Assistant Johnson County Attorney