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Contact: Rick Dickinson (563) 557.9049 (office) | (563) 580.0267 (cell)
rickd@greaterdubuque.org

What's Next?

Greater Dubuque Hires Top Talent

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DUBUQUE, IA — Neither resting nor satisfied with recent U.S. Top 20 rankings for job growth (*Moody.com* and *Forbes.com*), the Greater Dubuque Development Board of Directors, investors, and local public officials are pleased to announce that Mark Seckman has joined Greater Dubuque Development as Vice President of National Marketing.

As Vice President of National Marketing, Seckman will be responsible for growing employment by recruiting businesses to the Dubuque area. Mark will build upon and execute Greater Dubuque's regional and national marketing strategy that highlights Dubuque as an outstanding business community and an ideal place to raise a family. As prospects are identified, Mark will work with our public sector officials to define the best strategy for enticing them to choose Dubuque.

Building on the tremendous successes of Mike Blouin in his capacity as President of Greater Dubuque Development, Mark brings 18 years of experience and success to the effort of recruiting new companies to our region. Mike Blouin will continue in his current role as President of Greater Dubuque Development through December 31, 2011.

During his decade-long tenure as President of Priority One, the economic development division of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Seckman created and implemented an industry cluster program that allowed Cedar Rapids to compete globally. Mark's approach led to the attraction of 59 new companies, of which 16 were foreign owned. Some of the new companies include Clipper Windpower, ACP Inc, Cole's Quality Foods, Red Star Yeast, J. Rettenmaier USA, Bio Springer and Go Daddy.com. During that same period, over 200 existing businesses expanded within the community. In total, these developments resulted in the creation of 14,385 new jobs and \$2.143 billion in new capital investment.

"No one can top the star quality of Mike Blouin when it comes to economic development," said Rick Dickinson, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Greater Dubuque Development. "Our recruitment of Mark Seckman continues the mission of making Greater Dubuque Development a model for the nation. When we combine Mark's work ethic and proven track record with the unique public-private partnership that exists in our community, great things will result," said Dickinson. Dickinson added that recruitment efforts will begin immediately. "Mark and our team will hit the ground running."

"I am very excited to become a member of the Greater Dubuque Development team. Dubuque is regarded as one of the most progressive communities in the Midwest. I look forward to playing a role in building on this momentum," said Seckman.

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