



MEDIA RELEASE

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Greater Dubuque Program Ranked #1 in North America

Service to Existing Business Cited by Business Retention and Expansion International

DUBUQUE, IOWA – March 18, 2009 – Greater Dubuque Development has received a #1 ranking for its service to existing businesses. *Business Retention and Expansion International*, a world-wide trade association for economic development professionals, voted to recognize Greater Dubuque's service to existing business as the best for a mid-sized community with a population under 100,000. The large community award will go to a program from the Nashville, TN region.

An impartial panel, including experts from both the United States and Canada, voted for Greater Dubuque's program on the basis of its follow-up and superior service to existing businesses. A critical piece that differentiated Greater Dubuque from other cities and regions is the **InfoAction** program.

Greater Dubuque's **InfoAction** includes systematic meetings with 200 CEOs, business owners, and top managers every year. Information is used to identify possible business expansions, as well as to analyze trends and community needs.

Greater Dubuque Development's program was nominated by officials from the State of Iowa. Greater Dubuque's Vice President of Existing Business, Dan McDonald, and Existing Business Specialist, Bill Baum, will officially accept the award at a ceremony in Des Moines on May 14, 2009.

As part of its service to existing business, Greater Dubuque will also host a free breakfast meeting this Friday, March 20, 2009, at the Hotel Julien Dubuque from 7:00-9:00 AM. The information-packed meeting is open to any existing business, but an RSVP is required by calling Mary at 563-557-9049.

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