GREATER DUBUQUE DEVELOPMENT HOSTS
2018–2019 ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, July 17th, the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation’s Board of Directors was joined by nearly 200 investors, community leaders, and partners at our 2018–2019 Annual Meeting, held at the Q Casino. Speakers included Tom Woodward, the 2018–2019 Board Chair; Dr. Liang Chee Wee, the incoming 2019–2020 Board Chair, and Rick Dickinson, President & CEO.

Tom Woodward called the meeting to order, presenting the nominating committee recommendations for the 2019–2020 Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Nominations were approved by the investors present. To see the complete 2019–2020 Board of Directors and Future Leadership Team, visit our website.

Rick Dickinson reviewed the past year’s work in the six pillars of Greater Dubuque Development—Business Retention and Expansion, Workforce Solutions, National Marketing, Sustainable Innovations, StartUp Dubuque, and Dubuque’s True North. The year saw many notable successes including a five-fold expansion of broadband providers as well as ImOn Communication’s announcement to build a fiber-to-the-home initiative; the acquisition of five vacant rental properties to be rehabilitated into single family homes under Dubuque’s True North; and the Dupaco Community Credit Union Voices Project, a $37.5 million investment in the Millwork District to revitalize the historic Voices Building into a world-class headquarters for the financial cooperative.

While Dubuque boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, Greater Dubuque Development continues our work to draw talent to the area to support our existing industries. AccessDubuqueJobs.com continues to be the top job posting site in our region connecting talent to our employers. The site is a fundamental component of our Workforce Solutions efforts to attract, retain, and create talent. Launched in April 2019, we added the Big Life, Small City: You’re Home in Dubuque campaign. The campaign combines a web-based recruitment tool with a community-wide marketing effort in order to attract early- and mid-career individuals who have some experience with or interest in the Greater Dubuque area.

Working with community partners, this campaign serves to welcome people from outside our area and fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Closing remarks for the meeting were provided by the newly elected 2019–2020 Board Chair, Dr. Liang Chee Wee. In looking towards the new year, he remarked how proud he is of the impact we all have on the community—to improve lives, support the success of our employers, and enhance our community’s vitality.

Greater Dubuque Development would like to thank Tom Woodward for his leadership as our 2018–2019 Board Chair. Our achievements would not be possible without the commitment of our Board of Directors, investors, partners, and the Greater Dubuque community.

READ THE 2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT: Visit our website at www.greaterdubuque.org/who-we-are
FY 2018–2019 ACTION DASHBOARD SUMMARY NOW AVAILABLE

A fundamental component of Business Retention and Expansion is collecting boots-on-the-ground information on the business climate of the Greater Dubuque area. Through our InfoAction program, our staff conducts one-on-one interviews with area business owners, CEOs, and top managers in order to collect this actionable data. It guides our work in maximizing opportunities and navigating challenges for regional business. The data provided by these interviews remains confidential but we compile quarterly and annual summaries for our business partners and the public to review.

The FY 2018–2019 summary is now available—please visit our website’s Data & Resources page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Dan McDonald, Vice President of Existing Business, at danielm@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049

GOVERNMENT

FORTUNE 500 COMPANY PLANS OPERATIONS IN THE DUBUQUE INDUSTRIAL CENTER WEST

On Friday, July 19th, the Iowa Economic Development Authority approved $240,000 in tax credits and $250,000 in a forgiveable loan for Crown Holdings, Inc. The High-Quality Jobs Program incentive was offered in response to the company’s plan to open a facility in the Dubuque Industrial Center West. A manufacturer of packaging for consumer goods, Crown Holdings is planning to lease 111,000 square feet of an existing building at 7500 Chavenelle Road for their operations. The company would invest $4.9 million in their move to the facility and would create 42 jobs, all of which would have a starting wage of $22.85 per hour. All plans are contingent upon state and local approvals. The operations are expected to begin in Spring 2020.

EXISTING BUSINESS

GREATER DUBUQUE RELEASES 2019 STUDENT EMPLOYER CONNECTION GUIDE

More than 27,000 students from all over the globe attend college in the Greater Dubuque area, and we want every one of them to know they can launch their big life after college here—in a small city where they can have a big career and enjoy big city amenities, without a big price tag or sacrificing time with friends and family to a long commute. While other communities are working hard to recruit students from the Greater Dubuque region, we have the distinct advantage of hosting these students during their educational experience. While they are here, it is imperative that we show them a pathway to the life they want here in Dubuque. For employers, this includes being visible on their campuses, supporting their classroom learning, hosting them for internships, and making them a competitive job offer before they leave our community.

A survey of more than 400 area college students conducted in 2019 tells us that while 48% of them believe the Greater Dubuque region has job opportunities for them, 30% are unaware if we have jobs that will allow them to advance throughout their careers. This shows we still have work to do in communicating with college students the opportunities we have for them.

Available for free download, the 2019 Student Employer Connection Guide can assist local employers in building and strengthening local college and high school relationships to ensure that no student leaves our community without being fully aware of the careers and big life that awaits them here should they choose to return to stay. We already provide our college students with a world-class education, access to amenities and jobs through the Jule, and a safe campus environment to call home. Let’s now work together to offer them a big life in the Greater Dubuque area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Dan McDonald, Vice President of Existing Business, at danielm@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049

NATIONAL MARKETING

FORTUNE 500 COMPANY PLANS OPERATIONS IN THE DUBUQUE INDUSTRIAL CENTER WEST

On Friday, July 19th, the Iowa Economic Development Authority approved $240,000 in tax credits and $250,000 in a forgiveable loan for Crown Holdings, Inc. The High-Quality Jobs Program incentive was offered in response to the company’s plan to open a facility in the Dubuque Industrial Center West. A manufacturer of packaging for consumer goods, Crown Holdings is planning to lease 111,000 square feet of an existing building at 7500 Chavenelle Road for their operations. The company would invest $4.9 million in their move to the facility and would create 42 jobs, all of which would have a starting wage of $22.85 per hour. All plans are contingent upon state and local approvals. The operations are expected to begin in Spring 2020.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

GREATER DUBUQUE RELEASES 2019 STUDENT EMPLOYER CONNECTION GUIDE

More than 27,000 students from all over the globe attend college in the Greater Dubuque area, and we want every one of them to know they can launch their big life after college here—in a small city where they can have a big career and enjoy big city amenities, without a big price tag or sacrificing time with friends and family to a long commute. While other communities are working hard to recruit students from the Greater Dubuque region, we have the distinct advantage of hosting these students during their educational experience. While they are here, it is imperative that we show them a pathway to the life they want here in Dubuque. For employers, this includes being visible on their campuses, supporting their classroom learning, hosting them for internships, and making them a competitive job offer before they leave our community.

A survey of more than 400 area college students conducted in 2019 tells us that while 48% of them believe the Greater Dubuque region has job opportunities for them, 30% are unaware if we have jobs that will allow them to advance throughout their careers. This shows we still have work to do in communicating with college students the opportunities we have for them.

Available for free download, the 2019 Student Employer Connection Guide can assist local employers in building and strengthening local college and high school relationships to ensure that no student leaves our community without being fully aware of the careers and big life that awaits them here should they choose to return to stay. We already provide our college students with a world-class education, access to amenities and jobs through the Jule, and a safe campus environment to call home. Let’s now work together to offer them a big life in the Greater Dubuque area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Dan McDonald, Vice President of Existing Business, at danielm@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049
AccessDubuqueJobs.com is hosting a College Career and Professional Development Fair in partnership with Clarke University, Loras College, Emmaus Bible College, Northeast Iowa Community College, and University of Dubuque on October 15, 2019.
The fair will include employer booths offered at no cost for AccessDubuqueJobs.com investors, concurrent breakout sessions for students to expand their career learning, and a Diversity Networking event from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for employers to connect specifically with diverse students. Employers are encouraged to attend to build relationships with students, offer part-time and full-time employment options, and discuss internships. Promotion of the event and advertising starts as students return to campus. To be included in the marketing effort, register as an employer today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit our events page on the Greater Dubuque Development website: www.greaterdubuque.org/events

We’re What Works. Find a career | Post a career

startup dubuque

DUBUQUE ENTREPRENEUR NAMED A FINALIST IN STATEWIDE COMPETITION

Luxurious Hair Spa at 1464 Central Avenue in Dubuque was named a Main Street Iowa “Open 4 Business” sub-state winner and awarded $8,000. Shamika Rainer, the owner and entrepreneur, competed in local and sub-state levels before advancing to the state contest held August 27, 2019. The competition will be part of the Iowa Downtown Conference, being held this year in Dubuque. The winning small business will receive an additional $20,000.
sustainable innovations

BROADBAND AND CELLULAR SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ON KERPER BENEFITTING DAILY OPERATIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

Two years ago, through the InfoAction program of Business Retention and Expansion, we identified a consistent challenge among employers along Kerper Boulevard. By meeting with CEOs and business owners, we learned that there was a need for increased broadband access, choice, and speed as well as the need for improved cellular reception along this vital corridor. Since then, the Sustainable Innovations team at Greater Dubuque Development has collaborated with public and private entities to expand broadband options and improve cellular services in Dubuque with a specific focus on Kerper. The corridor improved from two to six active broadband providers and implemented the first “small cell” sites for enhanced cellular service.

The improved services are being noticed by our employers. Robert Smith, Information Technology Manager of Rainbo Oil Company, provided this feedback:

“...the cellular reception on Kerper has greatly improved since the implementation of the small cell network. I no longer hear any complaints about missed or dropped calls. I myself have notice a significant improvement in cellular reception and data speeds. All of our iPads also run off of Verizon cellular service and have improved online speeds. The options on Kerper for broadband service were very weak at best. With the new implementation of fiber and the other vendors we now have a great opportunity to improve our speeds and lower our costs.”

The expansion of connectivity, quality, and service throughout the Dubuque area continues to grow through our work with local government, energy partners, and service providers. It’s helping our employers like Rainbo Oil Company and our community stay nationally competitive in the modern economy.

upcoming religious celebrations & cultural events

EVENING OF AUG 31ST Muharram (Islamic)
SEPT 2ND Labor Day (Secular)

EVENING OF SEPT 29TH - EVENING OF OCT 1ST Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
SEPT 29TH - OCT 7TH Navaratri (Hindu)
JOB CREATION UPDATE

The resident unemployment rate for June 2019 was reported as 2.2% and non-farm employment was 62,200.

NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE


SOURCE: City of Dubuque and Dubuque County, incorporated and unincorporated.
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME UPDATE

As of December 2018, the median household income for Dubuque County was reported as $59,150.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$20.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$23.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$23.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$23.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$22.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


POPULATION GROWTH UPDATE

As of April 2018, the population was 96,854

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>94,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, updated annually