ATTENTION: EVENTS AND MEETINGS POSTPONED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

No matter how serious or overblown we might think the Coronavirus pandemic is, if we all take reasonable precautions we can minimize the impact COVID-19 has in our community. It is important that we all practice Social Distancing wherever it makes sense. Social Distancing is a proactive measure to restrict when and where people gather in order to slow the spread of an infectious disease.

Working with our partners in the City, County and Business Community, we have been monitoring the information surrounding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As circumstances continue to rapidly change, our priority is the health and safety of our staff and community. Using an abundance of caution, it has been decided to continue our most important work while also taking action to do what we can to limit the spread of COVID-19. We will achieve this through the use of social distancing measures. Greater Dubuque Development’s office will remain open, but the following actions are being taken.

Effective Monday, March 16th, Greater Dubuque Development is postponing in person meetings through May 1, 2020. This includes the postponement of:

- Distinctively Dubuque, March 18th – April 15th
- Students of Color Career Luncheon, March 24th
- Career Services Visit, April 30th and May 1st
- Spring Workforce Breakfast, May 1st
- Community Newcomer Tours

Announcements on rescheduling or cancellations of any other events will be made at a later date as more information becomes available.

Other meetings will be conducted by telephone or teleconference as circumstances dictate. This includes InfoAction and HR Action visits with our employer partners. Greater Dubuque Development staff will also limit in-person attendance to external meetings and will participate by telephone or teleconference when possible. The use of the Greater Dubuque Development Boardroom by outside groups will also be discontinued through this time.

As the situation develops, we will adjust our strategy and continue to inform our partners and the community.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURPASSES FIVE-YEAR GOAL

In December, the Census Bureau released the American Community Survey 2013-2018 five-year estimates that included new Median Household Income data for the Dubuque Metropolitan Statistical Area. For 2018, the Dubuque MSA/County Median Household Income is $61,321. The five-year goal for the Greater Dubuque 2022 campaign was $60,000 by 2022. We are pleased that our community has surpassed our five-year goal in advance of our campaign's end.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP TEAM DISCUSSES HIGHER EDUCATION

On March 4, members of Greater Dubuque Development’s Future Leadership Team gathered to discuss the vital role higher education plays in the Greater Dubuque area economy. Kristin Dietzel, Vice President of Workforce Solutions, presented results from a 2019 college student survey regarding post-college plans, community amenities, and factors influencing college students’ career decisions.

The group also reviewed data regarding projected declines in high school graduates in this decade, fallout from declining birth rates following the 2008 recession which have not rebounded. The changing demographics mean colleges will be competing for fewer students in the next decade and beyond. As the Greater Dubuque area’s demand for a skilled workforce grows, the ability to connect employers with college students and training opportunities is imperative. The Future Leadership Team discussed strategies and best practices related to business and industry and community support of higher education that might be leveraged to ensure higher education continues to thrive in the Greater Dubuque area. Feedback will be shared with the Greater Dubuque Development Board of Directors.
OUR AREA BUSINESSES HAVE ROLE AND INTEREST IN THE 2020 CENSUS

Mandated by the United States Constitution, the 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that this country has counted its population since 1790. The Dubuque area’s participation and accurate population count is very important to our collective futures. The Census determines congressional representation, directs hundreds of billions in federal funding, and provides data that will impact our community for years to come. State, local, and federal government officials use Census statistics to allocate and spend billions of dollars for critical public services including hospitals, schools, and highways, which in turn generates possible opportunities for private businesses.

Across the U.S., thousands of businesses, organizations, and individuals are voluntarily supporting a complete and accurate count in the upcoming 2020 Census. The City of Dubuque, a strong partner of Greater Dubuque Development, has asked us to remind our partners of the importance of their participation. As trusted voices in our community, our investors can play a key role in raising awareness among employees, customers, and partners that the 2020 Census is easy, safe, and important. Thank you, in advance, for communicating the importance of the Census to your employees, customers, and partners.

BUILDING LIFELONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Since 2000, Unison Solutions has been an innovator in the renewable energy industry—executing biogas conversion projects from planning to equipment fabrication through startup and maintenance support. Headquartered in Dubuque, they’ve grown from a start-up to a 50-person operation and continue to grow. Through the years, Greater Dubuque Development has had the privilege of assisting Unison Solutions—identifying challenges and opportunities through our InfoAction program, assist with workforce recruitment, and through newcomer services and community tours.

“As a start-up in the early 2000’s, we began working with Greater Dubuque Development. Over the years, we have had several, mutually beneficial interactions and dealings with the Greater Dubuque team. Today, our company employs more than 50 people. Greater Dubuque has been an especially valuable partner during the past year and in recent months as we have mapped-out a plan for growth and expansion. The Greater Dubuque team values Dubuque’s existing businesses and provides excellent guidance and advice to seize opportunities and overcome challenges.” —Dave Broihahn, PE & Co-Founder of Unison Solutions

Building strong partnerships with and celebrating the success of employers like Unison Solutions is the reward of our work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW WE CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES:
InfoAction: Dan McDonald, Vice President of Existing Business, at danielm@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049

workforce solutions

TURNOUT TOPS 140 FOR LOCAL COLLEGIATE IT NETWORKING FAIR

On February 25, Greater Dubuque Development and AccessDubuqueJobs.com sponsored the 2nd annual Dubuque Collegiate Information Technology Fair to connect local students with career opportunities in their field in the Greater Dubuque area. 143 students from Loras College, Clarke University, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Emmaus Bible College, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Dubuque Community School District attended the second year of this event, up from 80 students in 2019. This event was FREE for students and AccessDubuqueJobs.com employers to attend. Participating employers included Flexsteel Industries, Inc.; Dupaco Community Credit Union; Kendall Hunt Publishing; City of Dubuque; Grand River Medical Group; Sedona Staffing Services; PBS Systems; IBM; Cartegraph; ImOn Communications LLC.; RSM US, LLP; Medical Associates Clinic; Honkamp Krueger & Co., PC.; Hirschbach Motor Lines; HODGE; and Cottingham & Butler.

Students and IT professionals who attended participated in an innovation training session conducted by Creative Adventure Lab, listened to a panel of IT professionals over a networking lunch, and then met with area employers to learn about future job and internship opportunities at an employer fair. The event was rewarding for students and employers alike. Marcus Gruhl, Software
Engineer for Cartegraph and one of the panelists, had this to say about the event:

"Cartegraph appreciated the opportunity to talk to students at the IT Networking Fair, and I'm really glad I decided to jump in and volunteer to participate on the employer panel. I could tell during and afterwards that my message was resonating with a lot of the students. I was impressed with how many students attended the event, and I'm happy that I was able to talk about my experience as a recent graduate and represent Cartegraph at the event."

The fair was planned in partnership with the local IT Sector Partnership, a group of local industry, workforce, education, economic development, and community organizations engaged in developing solutions to skills and talent shortages in the IT sector in the region. It was co-hosted by Northeast Iowa Community College who managed the logistics for the event.
sustainable innovations

LANDFILL MOVES FORWARD WITH BIOGAS OPPORTUNITY

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) voted on March 2nd to move forward with biogas development at its regional landfill with private partner Enerdyne. In approving the project, the Board credited the work of Greater Dubuque Development in helping bring the public and private partners together and creating value for both. “Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, causing 27 times as much damage as CO2,” noted Dave Lyons, Sustainable Innovations Consultant. “The DMASWA was going to need to upgrade and expand its gas control systems and now it can do that in partnership with a private company that will create revenue and cost reductions for DMASWA. Enerdyne will also invest millions into a new facility that turns that environmental problem into renewable natural gas.” A previous planned project at the landfill did not proceed due to uncertainty in the renewable energy credits market caused by the Federal Government. “Enerdyne’s contracts extend beyond just the credits market so they are a great partner at this time,” noted Lyons.

startup dubuque

DUBUQUE-BASED NONPROFIT AWARDED $150,000 FOR FIVE NEW INNOVATION LABS

On February 21, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) approved a $150,000 grant to Creative Adventure Lab to support the expansion of their innovation and entrepreneurship work in Iowa communities. Awarded through the Entrepreneurial Investment Awards program, the grant will be used to develop five new Innovation Labs in Eastern Iowa and make an Innovation Lab licensing option available for rural communities throughout the state. The five new labs are being developed for Monticello, Cascade, Dyersville, Bellevue, and Maquoketa to be opened over the next year.

Creative Adventure Lab was founded in 2008 and launched its first Innovation Lab in 2018 in Dubuque. It offers incubator space and entrepreneurial coaching. Similar services will be offered to startups and existing small businesses in those communities.

IEDA’s Entrepreneurial Investment Awards program offers financial assistance to service providers that offer technical and financial assistance to entrepreneurs and startup companies seeking to create, locate or expand a business in Iowa. The maximum amount the IEDA board will award, in the form of a grant, to any one provider is $200,000 per fiscal year. Award recommendations for funds are made by a review panel, comprised of individuals from IEDA and VentureNet Iowa to the IEDA board for final approval.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Creative Adventure Lab: hello@creativeadventurelab.org
IEDA Award: Visit the IEDA Newsroom
JOB CREATION UPDATE

The resident unemployment rate for January 2020 was reported as 4.0% and non-farm employment was 60,100. Annual benchmarking was conducted by Iowa Workforce Development between the January 2020 and February 2020 data release.

DUBUQUE MSA LABOR FORCE | GOAL: 64,000

![Graph showing labor force from January to December]

SOURCE: Iowa Workforce Development

NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE


CONSTRUCTION | GOAL: $800,000,000

![Graph showing construction totals from 2017 to 2022]

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

As of December 2019, the median household income for Dubuque County was reported as $61,321.

SOURCE: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018), updated annually

POPULATION GROWTH UPDATE

As of April 2018, the population was 96,854

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

upcoming religious celebrations & cultural events

APR 5TH Palm Sunday (Christian)
EVENING OF APR 8TH - EVENING OF APR 16TH Passover (Jewish)
APR 12TH Easter (Christian)
APR 13TH - APR 15TH Songkran (Thai New Year)
EVENING OF APR 23RD - EVENING OF MAY 23RD Ramadan (Muslim)