

Greater Dubuque's Workforce Solutions Receives Top International Award: Opportunity Dubuque Program Honored in Philadelphia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dubuque, IA - Opportunity Dubuque received a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award in the human capital category for communities with populations of 25,000 – 200,000 at the International Economic Development Council Annual Conference. The event was held October 6-9 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Opportunity Dubuque is a collaborative effort of Dubuque Works, Northeast Iowa Community College, Dubuque Community Schools, Iowa Works, East Central Intergovernmental Association, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, and Project Hope. The initiative's goal is to upgrade workers' skills, create non-credit to credit career pathways, and ultimately fill local employer demand for talent in high-wage, advanced manufacturing careers. Funding for the program includes local Workforce Investment Act dollars, NICC Gap Tuition assistance, Economic Development Administration grant dollars, funding from the local workforce umbrella "Dubuque Works" (funded by Mystique Casino, City of Dubuque, and Dubuque County), and many in-kind hours of service from all partners involved.

With numerous applicants for the award, Dubuque's workforce solution stood out from the pack. *"The Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognizes Greater Dubuque Development Corporation as being one of the leading organizations in the industry for innovation, creativity and successful strategies,"* said IEDC chair, Paul Krutko. *"These awards are meant to honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities. This organization uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from. The award represents an acknowledgment and appreciation for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation's dedication to continuous growth within itself, as well as improving the industry overall,"* added Krutko.

Greater Dubuque Development Corporation is known for aggressive and measurable solutions for local businesses and the Greater Dubuque area. Opportunity Dubuque continues to serve as a critical workforce solution for existing businesses looking to expand, as well as prospective clients weighing Dubuque against other locations around the globe. Dubuque is proactively closing the skills gap – one employee at a time. Because of Opportunity Dubuque and other robust workforce initiatives already in place, Greater Dubuque Development's team has been able to minimize the risk for key decision-makers considering Dubuque for future business needs and potential workforce. *"Since the program's inception in 2012, Opportunity Dubuque has helped hundreds of individuals improve their lives,"* said Rick Dickinson, President of Greater Dubuque Development. *"The program has also provided a sense of comfort that Dubuque has a successful mechanism in place for recruiting talent both today and tomorrow, regardless of national shortages,"* Dickinson noted.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognizes the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. To learn more, visit www.iedconline.org.

-End-