



*The DCEDC Board approved the new Strategic Plan at its January 2009 meeting. The full plan can be viewed on the DCEDC website, [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).*



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**Strategic Plan Finalized & Approved**

The approved DCEDC Strategic Plan identifies five key goals, specific objectives and strategies for accomplishing the work and desired outcomes. In 2009 the plan focuses on Business Retention and Expansion. Specific staff and Board activities will be: Visiting local companies; Working to save companies in danger of relocation or closure; Helping to facilitate expansions and; Collecting data and preparing reports that will identify issues, trends and opportunities. In future years the plan will focus on: Enhancing the County business climate to support business growth and new business formation; Attracting new business and industry; Leading and supporting work force development initiatives; and Strengthening the DCEDC public/private partnership.

From time to time we'll update our progress on the DCEDC website and we welcome your ideas and feedback on the plan as your participation will make us more effective.

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, February 24— Economic Outlook Breakfast:** Dr. Asha Bangalore, Northern Trust, Vice President and Economist, will be the featured speaker. She will discuss trends, share her outlook on 2009 and review the expected impact of the election on the economy. Event is being held at 7:30 AM at the Kishwaukee College Conference Center, Malta, IL.

**Tuesday, March 31** —Mark your calendars for our **Annual Dinner & State of the County** presentation at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. Programs are slated for 4:45 PM and 6:30 PM. This year we are introducing a pasta bar buffet. Member displays will be in the foyer. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

**Reservation forms for both events are available online at [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).**

**DeKalb County Activity**



While the slowdown in economic activity has affected DeKalb County, we continue to receive requests for proposals from realtors, site selectors, business owners and the State of Illinois. Recent prospects have included data centers requiring significant electric power capacity and high speed fiber optic capability. These capabilities are available at the DeKalb Business Center site located adjacent to and south of I-88 between Route 23 and Crego Road. ComEd and Northern Illinois University have been instrumental in working with the developer's agent Jones Lang LaSalle in competing for these projects. Other prospects have included manufacturers and distribution centers.

Additional prospects are "in the works". We are also meeting with major employers to review our Strategic Plan, review their business plans for 2009 and identify how our office can better assist them in the future.

*For information on available sites, buildings and commercial space check out the Sites & Buildings section of the DCEDC website at [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).*

## **SCORE Office Opens!**



**On the good news front, SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives) opened an office at the Resource Bank on Bethany Road in DeKalb. SCORE works with both existing and new small business owners. They review business plans, help develop marketing ideas, and share their considerable expertise at no charge to you! To make an appointment call 815/748-1649.**

## **Meet our Staff**



Gregory Roberts, NIU Graduate student in Urban and Economic Geography has been with our team since fall, 2007. Greg has done many special projects for DCEDC, but perhaps the one with the most impact has been the updating of our website. He continues to add new features and upgrade existing ones.

Greg received his Bachelor of Science in Geography from Eastern Illinois University. Prior to coming to DCEDC Greg worked in both city and regional planning for two years. He's finished his course work at NIU and is now completing his thesis. When he finishes his Master's degree in August 2009 he'll be leaving the DCEDC office and we will certainly miss the special skills he brings to our team. Upon leaving Greg plans on working as an urban planner in the private sector or in local government.

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