



DEKALB COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation

DeKalb County EDC

News & Information

January 14, 2010

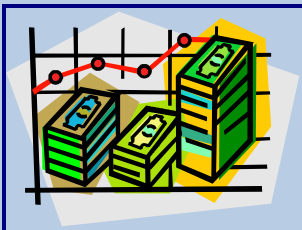
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Strategic Plan – Looking Forward



Our 2010 Strategic Plan focus is Goal Four: Enhance and Promote the DeKalb County Business Climate to Support Expansion and Encourage New Business Formation. How will we do this? Specific plans include: greater collaboration with NIU and Kishwaukee College; an effort to promote entrepreneurship and encourage development of business incubators; promoting innovation, emerging technologies and targeted industry development; working on incentives to support business development; and assisting in development of business and technology parks. The DCEDC website, www.dcedc.org will give periodic updates on our accomplishments.

DCEDC Upcoming Events



Our **Economic Outlook** event will be a luncheon on February 9, 2010 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. Featured speaker will be William Strauss, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Strauss will discuss trends and projections of various sectors of the economy; review key factors as we look at 2010; and highlight the impact of recent/proposed legislation on the economy. Reservation forms are available at www.dcedc.org. We appreciate the financial support of the sponsors who make this event possible. A listing of their names is available on our website.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the **DCEDC Annual Dinner & State of the County Program** which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. This update on activity in the county is a not-to-be missed event. Details on the program, exhibit and sponsorship opportunities and reservation forms will be available after February 1st.

DCEDC Recent Events



A **Business Roundtable** was held on November 24, 2009 at NIU. The topic was *An Inside Look at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology* and the event afforded a unique opportunity to hear Dean Promod Vohra talk about the school's focus, meet staff and students and tour the engineering labs. Check out the Members Only section of the DCEDC website, www.dcedc.org to see how CEET reaches out to youth.



The Value of LEAN

A one day introductory seminar on LEAN practices was hosted in December by the Center for Business Development and Continuing Education at Kishwaukee College. Rob McCann of IMEC led the presentation, which was the first in a series of LEAN workshops. The sessions are designed to help local business and industry become more efficient, cost-effective and competitive in a global economy. For more information on the LEAN series, contact Kishwaukee College at 815/825-2086, ext. 2050.



Election Day

Exercise this important right and **vote** on the general primary election day FEBRUARY 2, 2010. This is your opportunity to vote for countywide offices (County Clerk, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, Treasurer and State's Attorney). Additionally there are County Board Member, Circuit Judge and Precinct Committeemen elections. There is also a referendum on replacement of the 35+ year old Hopkins Park Pool – check out the Park District website, www.dekalbparkdistrict.com for more information.

We need to be informed, active citizens – don't miss this opportunity to speak your mind by VOTING.



DeKalb County Activity

The **Village of Shabbona** is considering creation of a TIF District to support their new industrial park. DCEDC and the NIU Center for Governmental Studies are working with Shabbona to identify resources the village can use in advancing development.

The **School to Work Grant** that DCEDC, Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC) and Kishwaukee College received from the State of IL has been put to good use. A flight simulator, which will be used in the aviation program has been purchased and installed. Fifty students are enrolled in the aviation class and are directly benefiting from this grant. KEC used the simulator in their exhibit at the Association of Career and Technical Educators conference in Nashville.

DCEDC continues to respond to requests for proposal from the State of IL **Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity** (DCEO). Recently we were asked to identify existing 30,000 square foot buildings for a potential engineering design center site.

For information on available sites, buildings and commercial space check out the Sites & Buildings section of the DCEDC website at www.dcedc.org.



Internship and Cooperative Education Programs

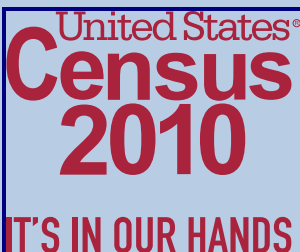
Would your company or organization benefit from the addition of a highly motivated pre-professional who can bring new perspectives to old problems and free up other professional staff to pursue more creative projects? If you are unsure about making a long-term commitment to a new employee then the Internship and Cooperative Education Programs at Northern Illinois University may be the answer.

Through this program, employers can offer paid or unpaid, full or part-time positions or projects to students for one semester or more as the employer deems necessary. This program allows employers to evaluate potential future employees, become more visible on campus, enhance their image as they contribute to the educational enterprise, all while helping students build their resume.

Visit <http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/erecruiting/employer.shtml> to request a login. Then post a job description, review resumes, and set up interviews. Once a student is identified, offer them a position and notify the Career Services of your selection. After hiring, provide the student with supervision and assign duties that are career-related, progressive and challenging.

For more information contact Career Services Employer Relations at (815) 753-8346 or email careerservices@niu.edu.

2010 Census



Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau attempts to count all residents of the United States. The purpose of this census is to determine the number of seats a state will get in the U.S. House of Representatives, allocate more than \$400 billion of federal funding for infrastructure and services, and help local advocacy groups in their campaigns.

How does this affect DeKalb County? After population figures are released in July 2010, cities get funding from tax money proportional to the size of the population living in their area. State sales tax money is used for such things as paying emergency response teams, like police and fire fighters. Gas and Motor Fuel tax money is used to repair roads as well as keep them safe in winter months. Grant programs are also dependent on these numbers. The bottom line is: the more residents, the more funding the city will receive which is why it is critical that an accurate response is received.

Starting in March, questionnaires of 8-10 questions will be mailed and must be returned to the U.S. Census Bureau before April 1. Participation is required by law and failure to complete and return the form will result in enumerators visiting individual residences to get the needed information.

For more information go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census> the official website of the United States Census 2010.



Engineers in Residence (EIR) Program at NIU

At the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering the department's goal is to foster a long-term partnership with local manufacturing and service industries. The EIR Program is one method of encouraging this relationship. Through this program industries with a need for progressive solutions are given the opportunity to sponsor graduate student(s), who are highly skilled to use theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom and practically apply it to finding these solutions.

After a sponsor commits, the EIR members complete a needs analysis and assign a student or group of students to the project under the supervision of a faculty member who has extensive experience. Also, support from other departments is recruited if the project calls for it. The members of the EIR have expertise in a wide variety of areas such as LEAN Manufacturing, Six Sigma, supply chain, quality systems, ergonomics, etc.

For more information on this resource and to improve productivity and profitability contact Dr. Omar Ghrayeb, Chair of Industrial and Systems Engineering at (815) 753-5660 or oghrayeb@niu.edu or visit the website www.niu.edu/isye.

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