



DEKALB COUNTY  
Economic Development Corporation

## DeKalb County EDC

News & Information

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### DCEDC Strategic Plan – The Year Ahead

One of DCEDC's accomplishments has been development and implementation of a five year Strategic Plan. During 2009 while conducting an extensive Business Retention and Expansion Visitation Program (Goal 2), we learned that 59% of the industries surveyed planned to expand during the next three years.

During 2010, we focused on **Goal 4 - Enhance and Promote DeKalb County Business Climate to Support Expansion and Encourage New Business Formation**. Significant expansion and new construction took place with the newest 3M Distribution Center in DeKalb's Park 88 and SK Professional Tools in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park. These projects were two of the largest industrial buildings developed in all of Northern Illinois during this period. Smart Motion Robotics relocated to Sycamore. SK Express and Elgiloy expanded in the Sycamore Industrial Park. Aligus purchased the former D. B. Hess plant on Peace Road & Route 38. Tegrant is expanding within their Pleasant Street headquarters.

During 2011, we plan to promote these successes and our friendly business climate to site selectors and businesses by focusing on **Goal 1 – Attract New Business and Industry and Capitalize on Distinct Advantages and Strengths of DeKalb County**. More companies are anticipated to make investments and we intend to ensure that DeKalb County is top-of-mind when companies shop for sites. Meetings with site selectors, an email marketing campaign and trade and news media promotions are planned.

We also plan to focus on **Goal 3 – Provide Leadership and Support for Workforce Development Initiatives** by addressing skill and occupational needs identified by companies during the business retention visits with education and training providers including NIU, Kishwaukee College and the County school districts.



## DCEDC Upcoming Events

Our **Economic Outlook** Event will be held on February 15, 2011 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. Due to the warm response of last year's event, William Strauss of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has been invited back as the presenter. Strauss is the Senior Economist and Economic Advisor at the Federal Reserve.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors that make this event a possibility through their financial support. These sponsors are recognized on our website. To register visit the website at [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).

Mark your calendar for the **DCEDC Annual Dinner & State of the County Program** which is scheduled for March 29, 2011 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. This event is a recap of activity in DeKalb County over the past year, as presented by our Executive Director, Paul Borek.

Details concerning the program, registration, exhibit and sponsorship opportunities will be available soon on our website at [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).



## DCEDC Recent Event

### **"Managing Business During Economic Swings"**

DCEDC held this new program on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. The **Management Roundtable** was designed to respond to business owners, executives and managers who have asked for a mentoring, collaboration and information-sharing forum to address best practices and resolve business challenges.



Over lunch Jim James, CEO of IDEAL INDUSTRIES, talked about his experience coming into the company just before the recession hit and the best management practices he uses. He told the crowd of about 80, that downturns in the economy can provide opportunities for dealing with inefficiencies and solving problems.

After the presentation small groups formed to discuss topics like: "Innovation on Low Budgets" and Creative Approaches to Investing in Your Company when Dollars are Short". The groups were moderated by representatives from the IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC., Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center, Kishwaukee College and the NIU College of Business.

For more information on the event or to see Jim James presentation visit [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).



## **IDOT Selects Option through Genoa as Best**

In recent years IDOT had been weighing options for the optimal route between Chicago and Dubuque. A 2007 study found the Southern Route through Genoa to Rockford to be the most economically feasible option, but this was challenged by Belvidere who wanted the route to travel through their jurisdiction. The debate carried on for most of the past year with strong support from area organizations and residents.

Then, in early December, the route to be developed was chosen; the Southern Route through Genoa and DeKalb County. IDOT cited overall expenses, number of riders, safety factors and performance as the variables that led to the ultimate decision. The Southern option was the best when compared to other options on all these fronts.

Starting in 2014 the first trains should be making at least one round-trip daily from Chicago's Union Station to Dubuque with other stops in South Elgin, Genoa, Rockford, Freeport and Galena. The project will be funded by \$60 million from the state's capital budget and create 650 construction jobs. Stations and equipment are not covered in this grant.

Through dedicated perseverance, the people, businesses, communities, and organizations throughout DeKalb County were able to influence a final decision in favor of the more cost-effective Southern Route.



## **Northern Illinois University Spring Career Fairs**

NIU offers many opportunities for area employers to find and fill their position vacancies with talented individuals. Here is a list of the upcoming career fairs on campus this spring.

### **Internship Fair**

- 10:00-3:00pm on February 22, 2011
- Find your new intern, co-op or part-time employee

### **Job Fair**

- 10:00-3:00pm on February 23, 2011
- Fill a full-time employment position

### **Mid-America Educators' Job Fair**

- 9:00-2:00pm on February 28, 2011
- Hire a candidate in the education-related fields

Don't miss your chance to be involved. Call (815) 753-8346 or email [jobfair@niu.edu](mailto:jobfair@niu.edu) or visit [www.niu.edu/careerservices](http://www.niu.edu/careerservices).



## DeKalb County Activity

**3M** is on schedule to complete their new 650,000 sq. ft. building on Macom Drive in Park 88 in April.

**Smart Motion Robotics** in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park has completed their 32,000 sq. ft. building. They moved in and commenced operations in early January.

Construction of the **Hy-Vee** grocery store located for the Pappas' Sycamore Shopping Center is progressing.

The **Hobby Lobby** store in DeKalb's Northland Plaza is completed and open for business.

**Noodles & Company** and **Radio Shack** have been operating since September in the Oakland Shopping Center.

**IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC.** has completed a 130,000 sq. ft. building in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park to accommodate **SK Professional Tools**, a company they acquired in August. They manufacture sockets, ratchets, hammers and wrenches.

**SK Express, Inc.** has leased an additional 11,000 sq. ft. of space in the Sycamore Industrial Park.

**Stewart Family Chiropractic** has established a start-up clinic in DeKalb County. The clinic was supported by a \$44,223 loan from the DeKalb County Community Services Department.

*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).*



## Kishwaukee College Referendum

Congratulations to Kishwaukee College on the referendum that passed with 64% of the vote in November. In May 2010, the referendum was proposed to the public and the work of organizations, school officials and residents helped to solicit approval from voters.

Over the past two years Kishwaukee College has seen enrollment increase by 20% and so needs to make enhancements to continue to serve the community. The passage of the referendum allows the school to issue bonds up to \$52.6 million in order to help fund a two-phase \$67 million campus improvement plan.

Improvements will include completion of a road ring around campus, renovation of existing space and two new buildings to host Student Services and Campus Operations.

Kishwaukee College is a valuable asset of our community and offers classes and training for students of all types. For more information visit [www.kishwaukeecollege.edu](http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu).



## Annual Sponsors

Castle Bank, IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC., KishHealth System, and The National Bank and Trust Company have committed to sponsor all DCEDC events in 2011.

We appreciate their expanded support!

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