



DEKALB COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation

DeKalb County EDC

News & Information

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Strategic Plan – Business Retention & Expansion Visits

To date DCEDC has completed 15 business visits throughout the county. The information gleaned has been very helpful and the interviews have given us an improved awareness of company needs and future plans.

We've found that many businesses are employing energy-saving and green initiatives in their work, others continue to develop new products despite the challenges that today's economy presents. Surviving the downturn is seen as a major accomplishment for all businesses.

We've been joined on many of our calls by Rob McCann of the Illinois Manufacturer's Extension Center (IMEC) as well as community representatives. DCEDC remains committed to visiting county businesses and assisting them as opportunities arise. Follow-up activities include linking firms with business financing, employment, and training and production process resources including NIU, Kishwaukee College, KEC and the First Institute/ Illinois workNet Center.

DCEDC Events

The June 23 **Business Roundtable on "The Relationship between Child Care and Economic Development"** featured Micki Chulick and Pam Wicking of Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) and Dan Templin of the DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) as speakers. The presenters gave a snapshot of existing child care programs and providers in DeKalb County and then reviewed the economic impact of the service. A few facts:

- Child care is BIG business. DK County child care programs generate over \$16 million annually and employ 686 workers.
- Child care programs allow parents to work by providing affordable, accessible child care programs.
- Quality child care has a positive impact on life skills resulting in improved language development, better math ability and fewer behavioral problems in schools.

A PowerPoint from the presentation that illustrates many of the points they raised is available in the **Members Only** section of the DCEDC website.





DeKalb County Activity

DH Blattner & Sons has leased the former FFC Palladin Light building in Lee to serve as a construction staging warehouse and workshop supporting construction of wind towers for NextEra Energy Resources.

SVI International, a supplier of parts for automotive lifts, has purchased a building on Harvestore Drive in DeKalb. They are renovating the building and will move their operations later this month.

Smart Motion Robotics (SMR) has purchased a site in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park for a 25,000 sq ft building. They are a high tech company that produces robotic equipment for both delicate and palletized shipments.

NextEra Energy Resources received approval to develop a 119 tower wind energy farm in DeKalb County. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.

The DK County Board is considering a partnership with Mendota to extend its Enterprise Zone to support the recently expanded operations of Monsanto Corporation.

The IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has awarded a \$24,000 grant to DeKalb County. Eileen Dubin, DK County Board Economic Development Committee Chair, Bob Gleeson, NIU Center for Governmental Studies and DCEDC worked cooperatively to obtain these funds which will be used to analyze trends in job creation and assess how economic development policies can support the creation of high wage jobs.

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

Meet Our Staff



Linda Heinisch joined DCEDC in 2007 as Administrator. Trained by her capable predecessor, Linda Linden, she has become comfortable with the position and its variety of responsibilities.

Many years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth, Heinisch received a BA in English Literature from the University of IL. She then embarked on a thirty year career in the hospitality business, serving as a General Manager for Hyatt, Le Meridien and Westin Hotels.

She returned to DeKalb in 1998 and spent four years with SB Yen Management Group and five years with Baxter Healthcare (BioLife Plasma Services) before joining DCEDC.

Heinisch is married to Ray, lives on a farm in DeKalb and has a very large extended family that keeps her busy when she's not employed at DCEDC.



New Idea Comes to Life: *Genoa Springboard*

Recently Mim Evans of Genoa Main Street announced plans for **Genoa Springboard**, a small business incubator. Located on Genoa's Main Street, it's anticipated that 2 – 4 tenants will occupy the building. Advantages of an incubator building include rents that are more affordable, shared business services, equipment and furnishings and access to professional, technical and financial assistance during early, critical stages of development.

For more information or an application, email genoamainstreet@atcyber.net.

Training for Tomorrow

Training for Tomorrow is a workforce training program designed to protect existing jobs while at the same time growing jobs for the future. The goal is to upgrade skill levels of current employees so they are able to compete effectively as the marketplace changes. The federal stimulus program has allocated \$500,000 to support this job training effort in DeKalb, Kendall and Kane counties.

For an application or more program details, please call **Colleen Aepli** at First Institute Training & Management. She is the contact person for DeKalb County and can be reached at caepli@firstinstitute.com or (815) 756-4893, ext. 249.

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DCEDC

421 N. California St.

Suite 200

Sycamore, IL

60178

Ph: 815/895-2711

F: 815/895-8713

borek@dcedc.org

www.dcedc.org