



**DEKALB COUNTY**  
Economic Development Corporation

**DeKalb County EDC**

News & Information

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### DCEDC Business Visitation Program Continues

After the success of the 2009 Business Retention Visitation Program, DCEDC decided to take on another year of business visits. This year the methods are structured a little differently but the goal remains the same: to create opportunities for cultivating better relationships with local companies.

The 2010 Business Visit Program has already begun with companies being contacted and meetings scheduled. At these meetings DCEDC staff members utilize a survey tool to discuss the individual business's opportunities, challenges, and perceptions of DeKalb County. Once the interviews are completed a report will be compiled.

This type of information provides a clearer picture of the business environment in DeKalb County making it possible for DCEDC to be a better resource.

If your company would like to participate, please contact DCEDC staff at (815) 895-2711 or email Meghan Fish at [mfish@dcedc.org](mailto:mfish@dcedc.org).



### Small Business Resource Fair Scheduled

The Office of Congressman Bill Foster is hosting a free Small Business Resource Fair on July 19, 2010 at Elgin Community College. This will be a great opportunity to hear representatives from the Department of Energy, Small Business Administration, IL Department of Insurance, IL Small Business Development Centers and the IRS discuss resources available to small businesses.

The event begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30 am followed by a welcome from Congressman Foster and breakout sessions with the agencies. Information tables will be staffed by a variety of government agencies and networking opportunities will abound. The fair will conclude by noon.

RSVP by July 15 at <http://foster.house.gov/eventsvp/>.



## DCEDC Recent Events

### **DCEDC BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010

The internet is a pervasive component of our lives and its applications for business are ever-changing and ever-increasing. At the May Business Roundtable attendees were familiarized with "Current Practices and Emerging Applications of Business through the Internet."

The three speakers' extensive knowledge of the subject contributed to a successful event. Cohen Barnes of TBC Net, Inc. and DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC opened the presentation with an introduction to the concept of cloud computing. Then Ralph DeStefano of Direct Response Web Solutions, Inc. defined e-commerce and m-commerce, as well as possible applications of these tools. Finally, Michael Verhulst of Elegant Research, Inc. discussed the perks and challenges of open-source products versus commercial products.

For more information on the event or to view the Power Points of the presenters please visit the Members Only Section DCEDC website.



### **DCEDC BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Did you know that DeKalb County is well positioned to capitalize on globalization? Well, you would have if you had attended DCEDC's latest Business Roundtable on "Global Trade and DeKalb County: The Role of International Trade in Regional Growth and Business Development."

At this event, Dr. Bob Gleeson of the NIU Center for Governmental Studies told the audience about the growing importance of Illinois's exports, which surpassed other Mid-West states in total value of exported goods. Then Joanne Devick, Marketing Director for Driv-Lok, Inc. discussed her company's international trade practices. Larry Mix of the Monsanto Waterman Research facility wrapped up the presentations with a look at how the exchange of people, ideas, goods and services has helped Monsanto become a global entity.

Again, for more detailed information on this and other Business Roundtables please visit [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org). Also, Dr. Bob Gleeson's "State of Working Illinois" report and the PowerPoint's of the presenters are available in the Members Only Section.



## Suter U

What happens when you pair an 85 year old food manufacturing company focused on quality, value and service with specialized training opportunities? If you guessed improved productivity, skill enhancement, promotion from within, and employee retention you are correct. And that's just what's taking place at The Suter Company.

We're not talking sports teams and pom poms, but at **Suter U** it's all about helping their employees continuously improve – professionally and personally.

The process was simple – with the help of the Kishwaukee College Center for Business Development and Continuing Education training needs at The Suter Company were identified and a customized syllabus (or in other words a Suter U catalog) was created. During the first term over 85% of the employees signed up for courses as diverse as basic computer skills, personal money management, and English as a second language. The courses were done on their own time, before and after working hours, and Suter paid for the program.

The results: aside from the benefits to the company of engaged employees, many personal heartwarming stories emerged from this opportunity. Employees helping each other learn; family members that were proud of parents and siblings who took risks and learned new skills; instructors who were inspired by the efforts of their students.

Suter U is tangible evidence of The Suter Company's philosophy of the importance of "giving back" to their employees and to the community.

To find out more about how your company can create your own **Suter U** contact Karen Schmitt, [kschmitt@kishwaukeecollege.edu](mailto:kschmitt@kishwaukeecollege.edu) or 815/825-2086, ext. 5880.



## New Minimum Wage Effective July 1, 2010

On July 1, 2010 a minimum wage increase took effect. The new wages are as follows:

- Adults (18 or over) - \$8.25
- Tipped Adult Employees - \$4.95
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 90 days with employer (optional) - \$7.75
- Youths (under 18) - \$7.75
- Tipped Youth Employees - \$4.65

For more information go to the [Illinois Department of Labor](http://www.idl.state.il.us) website.



## DeKalb County Activity

**Smart Motion Robotics** in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park broke ground for their 32,000 sq. ft. building on June 1, 2010. Building completion is slated for January, 2011.

**Northern Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Associates** is opening a new physical therapy clinic in August at 232 W. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb. This will be Northern Rehab's 4<sup>th</sup> location and will allow their physical therapy specialists to serve the needs of university and DeKalb area residents more effectively.

**J & A Investors** has applied for a Special Use Permit to expand the Cavel Building to accommodate a pork processing operation by Trim-Rite of Carpentersville. The proposal represents an investment of \$9 million and would generate 35 jobs initially.

A **Hy-Vee** grocery store will anchor John Pappas' Sycamore Shopping Center. Hy-Vee will renovate the former K-Mart space to create a 93,000 sq. ft. grocery, food court and pharmacy. The Sycamore City Council supported the redevelopment with a \$150,000 grant. Employment is projected to be 350-400.

**Hobby Lobby** will open a 55,000 sq. ft. store in DeKalb's Northland Plaza. They will occupy the former Steve & Barry space and the current site of Sears. Sears will move to an available storefront near Borders. Hobby Lobby specializes in arts and crafts, fabrics, baskets, picture framing and furniture.

*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).*



## Tax Credit for Creating Jobs

In the interest of creating new jobs in the state of Illinois, the Small Business Job Creation Tax Credit is being made available to qualifying companies. It is hoped that this new tax credit will help create up to 20,000 new jobs.

If your business meets the requirements, a \$2,500 tax credit (that can be carried forward) on withholding tax will be issued per new position that is created and retained.

The requirements for companies who wish apply for the tax credit:

- Companies must have less than 50 full-time employees as of June 30, 2010.
- The new position must be created between July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011.
- The job needs to be filled by a full-time employee for at least one year and have a salary of at least \$25,025.

To apply for the credit or for more information go to the [Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) website.



## Annual Sponsors

*Castle Bank, IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC. and KishHealth System have committed to sponsor all DCEDC events in 2010.*

*We appreciate their expanded support!*

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