



DEKALB COUNTY  
Economic Development Corporation

## DeKalb County EDC

News & Information

November 5, 2009

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### **Strategic Plan Update – Business Visits Continue**

By the end of November 50 business visits will be completed. We have consistently been impressed by the diverse, energetic, committed and creative leadership that we have found in companies throughout DeKalb County. While surviving the economic downturn is a frequently cited accomplishment, this is coupled with a quiet optimism and thoughtful long range planning. Product development and expanding into new markets has been a common theme.

### **DCEDC Upcoming Events**

#### **Business Roundtable: An Inside Look at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET)**

On Tuesday, November 24 a special Business Roundtable will take place, one you cannot miss. This event will begin with a reception at 5:00 PM at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, on Northern Illinois University's Campus.

Then Dr. Promod Vohra, Dean of the CEET, and his team will review some of their successful business education partnerships and share possibilities for future links with DeKalb County industry. After the presentation guests will be invited to tour the engineering laboratories. This will give attendees an exclusive opportunity to see the hands-on approach of the college.

To register for this event go to the DCEDC website, [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org) or call 815/895-2711.

#### **Save the Date – DCEDC Announces Economic Outlook Event**

This not to be missed Annual DCEDC event will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. The luncheon meeting will begin at 11:30 am and will be followed by a presentation by William Strauss, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. More details will be forthcoming closer to the date. Mark Your Calendars NOW!





## **Small Business Development Expo**

Dreaming about starting your own business? Wondering how to expand market share? Looking for professional advice on financing your company?

Get answers to these questions and more on Saturday, November 14. From 8:30 am until noon a **Small Business Development Expo** will be held at the DeKalb County Legislative Center, 200 North Main Street in Sycamore. Exhibitors will give introductory presentations and then consult with attendees one-on-one to make entrepreneurs and small business owner/operators aware of resources available to them.

Reservations can be made by calling 815/895-7189.

## **DCEDC Recent Events**

### **Business Roundtable - Fiber Optics & Telecommunications Technology: What's Next?**

Attendees of the recent September 29 **Business Roundtable** received an excellent education on *Fiber Optics & Telecommunications Technology* thanks to the guest speakers.

First Herb Kuryliw, Chief Network Architect for NIU, presented information on the possible fiber optic network that could materialize from six proposed Illinois initiatives. Then Dan Halverson, Vice President of DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC, talked specifically about the status of DeKalb County. Lastly, Ahmed Kamel, Chairman and CEO of DNA Communications gave the audience an overview of the past, present and future of telecommunications.

The detailed Power Points of the presenters are available in the *Members Only* section of our website, [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).

### **Industrial Focus - Automation and Robotics**

The Annual **Industrial Focus Program** took place with great success on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

Presentations were given by Dean Panettieri, Auto Meter Products, Inc.; Scott Gilmore, Smart Motion Robotics, Inc; and Sam Walt, WALT LTD. Each speaker gave an overview of their company with a focus on how *Automation and Robotics* are employed in their operation. According to the presentations, automation in the workplaces ensures consistency in quality, reduces injuries sustained from repetitive motion, and results in improved productivity.

The Power Points from the presentations are available in the *Members Only* section of our website, [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).





## DeKalb County Activity

The **Village of Shabbona** has annexed 272 acres for industrial development on the western edge of the village. The land has been zoned industrial and the first tenant will be **NextEra Energy Resources** who is constructing an operations and maintenance building on the site.

**SVI International, Inc.**, the lift industries leading supplier of parts used in both the repair and production of all types of automotive lifts has remodeled and moved into their building on Harvestore Drive in DeKalb.

**Amtrak** in DeKalb County is now feasible as the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has selected the Canadian National RR route through Genoa to include in funding applications to the Federal Railroad Administration.

The **High Wage Job Growth Feasibility Study Task Force** met to review completed research and select target industries for detailed analysis. The next step is focus group meetings with leaders from these sectors.

*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 Education to Careers Partnership (KETCP)

This partnership consists of more than 50 business, community and educational entities that collaborate to: develop curriculum that is meaningful and current; provide opportunities for learning to occur in the workplace; and coordinate activities that link a qualified workforce to business and industry. More succinctly they work to give students the skills needed to move into quality employment or further education.

You can learn more about KETCP at their **fall partnership luncheon meeting**, scheduled for December 8 at 11:30am at Kishwaukee College. Highlighted at this event will be the KEC Early Childhood Program and the Linking Leaders effort.

RSVP at 815/825-2000, ext. 121 or by email to [kbaum@kecprograms.com](mailto:kbaum@kecprograms.com).

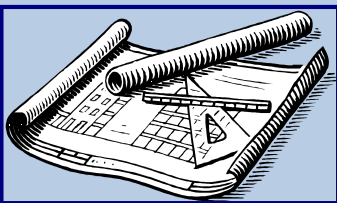


## **The Community Cares Clinic**

What was a community to do when reduced reimbursements caused local practices to close their doors to Medicaid patients? Just what Rep. Bob Pritchard did, call leaders of the community to action. A private and public partnership, including The National Bank and Trust Company, Zea Mays Holdings, Dave and Suzanne Juday, NIU and KishHealth System, stepped up to create a primary care clinic for area residents.

The new clinic provides for the community on many different levels. First, the clinic guarantees primary care for all people. Secondly, it provides this service regardless of insurance coverage type by accepting those on Medicare, Medicaid, private group insurance, and those with no coverage. Finally, the clinic creates a training ground for students in all of the healthcare professions under the guidance of nationally-recognized professors.

Since its doors opened on August 17, 2009, at the NIU Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center, the Community Cares Clinic has seen more than 500 patients. Hopefully, the clinic will be sustained for years to come through federal funding and community philanthropy.

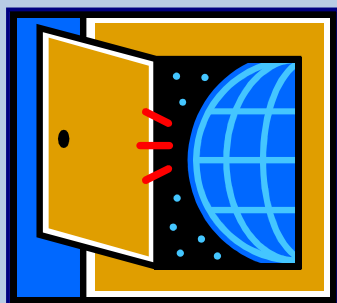


## **Back to the Drawing Board**

Drafting, blueprints, schematics – sounds technical and it is – that’s why the **Kishwaukee College Automated Engineering Technology Program** is such a great asset for DeKalb County!

Whether your need is to expand expertise in the areas of computer-aided design, tool making, production engineering, welding, or print reading there is an available class to build skill levels and improve work force preparedness.

Manufacturing plays a key role in economic development. Partnering with Kish College is an affordable and local way to enhance employee capabilities while preparing for future growth. For more information on these programs, contact Kishwaukee College at 815/825-2086, ext. 2830.



## **Opportunity Knocks – Recovery Zone Private Facility Bonds**

With county designation by the DeKalb County Board as a “recovery zone”, private industry is now eligible to apply for **tax-exempt private activity bonds** authorized by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program. The bonds can be used to finance capital improvements including new building construction or expansion and the purchase of equipment used in trade or business. The benefit of tax exempt bonds to private industry is that interest rates are typically lower than conventional financing resulting in a lower cost of financing. DeKalb County may issue up to \$8.9 million in private activity bonds prior to January 1, 2011.

For program guidelines and an application contact Paul Borek at [borek@dcedc.org](mailto:borek@dcedc.org) or 815/895-2711.

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**Introducing WOTC**

Another acronym to figure out, but this one is designed to benefit employers by helping reduce the cost of doing business. **WOTC** is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit a program that provides tax savings to employers who hire people from certain target groups, including welfare recipients, veterans, youth and ex-felons.

The amount of the credit is dependent on new hire qualifications, hours worked, etc. – guidelines are available at [www.ides.state.il.us](http://www.ides.state.il.us) under the Employer tab.

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