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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Reflecting on 30 Years of Service

A Letter from Rick Dickinson

As I prepare to step down after 30 years as President & CEO of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the journey that has brought me here and the community that has shaped my life's work.

[Read Rick Dickinson's full letter on our website](#)

Business Services

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



Economic Development & Finance Authority

Housing Development

Redevelopment Tax Credits Awarded to Five Dubuque Projects

Five Dubuque redevelopment projects were awarded funding through the Iowa Economic Development Authority's 2025 Redevelopment Tax Credit Program, securing 21.7% of the total dollars awarded statewide.

The competitive program received 51 applications from across Iowa, with only [25 projects selected for funding](#). All five Dubuque applications were successful, reflecting the strength of the projects and the collaborative efforts supporting them.

Collectively, the Dubuque projects received \$4.13 million in tax credits to support the redevelopment of vacant, underutilized, and environmentally challenged properties into new housing, commercial space, and community amenities. Our team plays a supporting role where needed with these projects, assisting with application refinement, coordination, and ongoing project support.

[Read the full story and project details on our website](#)



Interested in learning more about redevelopment tax credits?

Contact Daniel McDonald, Director of Existing Business, at 563-557-9049 or danielm@greaterdubuque.org



Jason White, VP of Business Services of Greater Dubuque Development (left) with Wesley Wedewer, DPT, OCS, SCS, FAAOMPT – Physical Therapist of Physical Therapy Solutions (right).

Business Expansions

Physical Therapy Solutions Settles in to New Facility

Congratulations to Physical Therapy Solutions on their November 18th open house to celebrate the opening of their new 6,300-square-foot facility in Dubuque's south end. The move marks a significant expansion from their previous 1,100-square-foot space and reflects continued growth and investment in the community.

[Learn more about Physical Therapy Solutions expansion in our May 21, 2025 article](#)



Interested in learning more about expanding your business in our market?

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or jasonw@greaterdubuque.org



Entrepreneurs based in Dubuque County who took part in the 2024 Dubuque County Business Competition. Photo courtesy of The Innovation Lab.

Entrepreneurship Cultivation

Dubuque County Business Competition Applications Now Open

Entrepreneurs across Dubuque County are invited to apply for the [Dubuque County Business Competition](#), organized by The Innovation Lab and powered by Dupaco Credit Union. Now in its third year, the competition brings together startups, existing businesses, funders, and mentors to help entrepreneurs launch or grow their ventures.

Selected participants will compete on February 5, 2026, with each entrepreneur receiving \$250 in seed funding and a chance to share in \$20,000 of additional funding. Participants will also receive mentorship and guidance from industry experts to help refine business strategies and strengthen pitches.

Applications are due January 10.

[Learn more and apply through The Innovation Lab](#)

Workforce Solutions

YOUR GROWTH can be great here.



In November, Greater Dubuque Development hosted the Professional Developers of Iowa Board in Dubuque for their annual two-day retreat.

Leadership in the Field

PDI Board Retreat Brings Statewide Economic Development Leaders to Dubuque

The Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) held its annual two-day board retreat in Dubuque in November, focusing on strategic planning, legislative priorities, and strengthening Iowa's economic development capacity. The retreat marked the first under the leadership of Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming at Greater Dubuque Development and PDI Board President for the coming year.

[Read more about the retreat and our role in statewide economic development leadership](#)



Interested in learning more about the Professional Developers of Iowa?

Contact Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming, at 563-557-9049 or nicolash@greaterdubuque.org



Scenes from our December 3rd Future Leadership Team meeting held at Greater Dubuque Development's boardroom.

Leadership Development

Future Leadership Team Examines Housing as a Workforce Priority

At its December meeting, Greater Dubuque Development's Future Leadership Team focused on housing availability and affordability as a critical factor in workforce recruitment, retention, and growth. Using data from the [2025 Dubuque County Housing Needs Assessment](#), the group explored how current housing options impact both young professionals and working families.

The [Future Leadership Team](#) is a 30-member cohort of emerging and mid-career leaders who serve staggered terms and provide insight and feedback to Greater Dubuque Development's board and management team on both short- and long-

term strategies. Through focused, topical discussions, the team helps inform regional approaches to workforce and economic development challenges. One member of the Future Leadership Team serves as a voting member of the Greater Dubuque Development Board of Directors.

[Learn more about the meeting and key takeaways on our website](#)



Interested in learning more about our Future Leadership Team?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



Scenes from Distinctively Dubuque classes held in 2025 including a night 1 welcome from City of Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh (left), a night 5 group photo a top the Dupaco Voices Building (center), and alumni connections being made at our summer alumni meetup at Steeple Square (right).

Newcomer Program

That's a Wrap! 2025 Distinctively Dubuque Year End Highlights

This year's Distinctively Dubuque program introduced 117 newcomers to the people, places, and opportunities that make the Greater Dubuque region one where **YOU can be great here**. Sessions incorporated new venue partnerships, new local food experiences, and insights from more than 20 community experts, including Dubuque Main Street's new Executive Director, David Barba, who bought updates on Central Avenue revitalization efforts to the class for the first time.

Also new this year, a summer alumni gathering drew 42 participants, reflecting the ongoing value of the program's connections. [Registration for all 2026 sessions of Distinctively Dubuque is now open](#), with the first session kicking off on January 28, 2026.

[Read our full 2025 Distinctively Dubuque wrap up and learn more about 2026 sessions](#)



Interested in learning more about Distinctively Dubuque?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



University of Iowa students gather with alumni Hannah Lyons (far left) and Greater Dubuque team member Mandi Dolson (fourth from right) in the Caradco Building courtyard.

College Outreach

University of Iowa Career Trek Program Visits Dubuque

On Friday, November 14, we welcomed 21 University of Iowa students to Dubuque as part of their Career Trek program, introducing them to sustainability-focused careers and quality-of-life opportunities in the Greater Dubuque region. The visit included presentations showcasing Dubuque's leadership in innovation, sustainability, and community resilience.

[Read more about the University of Iowa's Career Trek Program Day in Dubuque](#)



Interested in learning more about our college outreach efforts?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Update

YOUR SUPPORT can be great here.

Invest in [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://www.accessdubuquejobs.com) and receive unlimited access to the top regional jobs site, over 10,000 resumes, expert assistance from our Workforce Solutions team, and a suite of newcomer service tools. Your investment powers these services, supports our college engagement efforts, and fuels outreach to job seekers in our market and beyond.

New Investors

- Dyersville Die Cast
- The Wanderwood Gardens

Renewed Investors

- 1800TShirts
- Diamond Jo Casino/Boyd Gaming

Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Dubuque Montessori Schools
- Eagle Point Solar
- Eide Bailly LLP
- EIMCo Inc.
- Fastenal Company
- Klauer Manufacturing Company
- Rousselot, Inc.
- Sisters of Charity, BVM



Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



AccessDubuqueJobs.com is made possible through a partnership between TH Media and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.

Community Information

YOUR LIFE can be great here.



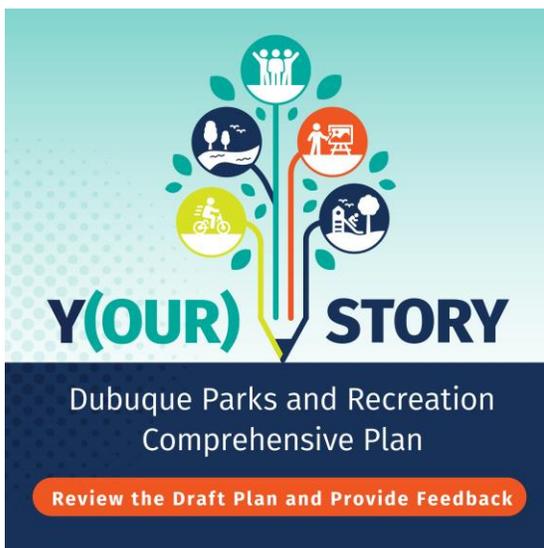
Photo courtesy of Dubuque Area Labor Management Council.

Community News

Congratulations to Derek Duehr

Congratulations to Derek Duehr, a member of the Greater Dubuque Development Executive Committee, on receiving the 2025 Community Service Award from the Dubuque Area Labor Management Council. The award was presented at the Council's annual awards banquet in recognition of his leadership and service to the community.

[Learn more >](#)



Community News

City of Dubuque Seeks Input on Parks & Recreation Master Plan

The City of Dubuque invites residents to review the draft Y(O)ur Story Dubuque Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan and share feedback by January 5, 2026. Community input will help guide parks and recreation priorities for the next decade and beyond.

[Learn more and submit input >](#)



Community News

Dubuque Winter Farmers Market Schedule Update

Due to the holiday season, Saturday, December 20 will be the final Dubuque Winter Farmers Market of 2025. The market returns on Saturday, January 3, welcoming the new year with locally sourced produce, baked goods, and more at its Kennedy Mall location in the northwest corner of the main concourse, next to Hibbett's Sports.

[Learn more >](#)



Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

Now-December 24 | Advent

Now-December 22 | Hanukkah (Jewish)

December 21 | Winter Solstice

December 24 | Christmas Eve

December 25 | Christmas

December 26-January 1 | Kwanzaa

December 29 | Wounded Knee Day

December 31 | New Year's Eve

January 1 | New Year's Day

January 3 | Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)

January 6 | Epiphany/Theophany (Christian)

January 14 | Makar Sankranti (Hindu)

YOU Can Be Great Here Campaign

Our sights are set on 5 goals through 2027.

Grow our regional workforce to over 64,000 jobs.

Support median household income to reach \$76,000.

Encourage and facilitate \$1 billion of new construction.

Reduce regional poverty by 5%.

Reach a population of 105,000 in the Greater Dubuque region.

[View Progress](#)

View past issues of the newsletter [here](#).





YOU can be great here.

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