

Workforce Solutions

Monthly E-Newsletter

 accessdubuquejobs.com

August 2026

Latest Workforce Updates

Unemployment
Rate

3.1%
June 2026

2.8%
May 2026

Dubuque MSA
Laborforce

58,800
June 2026

59,200
May 2026

Jobs Posted on
AccessDubuqueJobs.com

758
July 2026

636
June 2026

New User Accounts on
AccessDubuqueJobs.com

93
July 2026

134
June 2026

Workforce Solution
Investors

176
July 2026

160
June 2026



Scenes from our 2025-2026 Annual Meeting: Outgoing Board Chair Zach Keeling and incoming Board Chair Jordan Fullan; the Field of Dreams' This is Iowa Ballpark – Event Center welcomes attendees to Greater Dubuque Development's 2025–2026 Annual Meeting; and President & CEO Jason White presents Keeling with a plaque recognizing his 2025-2026 board leadership.

Solid Foundations. Greater Future.

On July 14, 2026, more than 230 investors, partners, board members, and community leaders gathered at the Field of Dreams' new This is Iowa Ballpark – Event Center in Dyersville for Greater Dubuque Development's 2025–2026 Annual Meeting. The evening celebrated the foundational partnerships and innovative progress strengthening the Greater Dubuque region, recognized outgoing Board Chair Zach Keeling, welcomed Jordan Fullan of HODGE as 2026–2027 Board Chair, and highlighted the priorities guiding Greater Dubuque Development's work in the years ahead.

[Read the full Annual Meeting recap and download our 2025-2026 Annual Report](#)



From left: Mandi Dolson welcomes interns during the kickoff lunch for the 2026 Talent Dubuque program; Mandi represents AccessDubuqueJobs.com and our Workforce Solutions Investors at the 2026 Skilled Trades Expo at Portzen Construction; and Nic Hockenberry shares findings from our latest Skills Gap Analysis at the May 2026 Workforce Solutions Breakfast.

New Roles, Continued Support for Employers

Employers and HR professionals throughout the Greater Dubuque region have two familiar partners serving in new roles. Effective July 1, 2026, Mandi Dolson became Director of Workforce Solutions, expanding her leadership of the tools, programs, and partnerships that help employers recruit, retain, and develop talent.

Nic Hockenberry transitioned to Director of Regional Development, where he will focus on strengthening collaboration and advancing long-term growth across the region. The changes are part of a broader staff realignment following Greater Dubuque Development's January leadership transition and reflect the priorities of its five-year strategic plan.

[Learn more about Mandi and Nic's new roles](#)

Talent Attraction



Thursday, October 22
1:00–4:00 p.m.
Grand River Center
500 Bell St., Dubuque

CAREER FAIR

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

Employer Registration Open for AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair

Connect with job seekers from across the Greater Dubuque region at the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair on **Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 1:00–4:00 p.m.** at the Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street in Dubuque.

Workforce Solutions Investors may now register for a complimentary employer booth on a first-come, first-served basis as part of their current investment. The career fair will be open to all job seekers, with targeted outreach to students at regional higher education institutions through our 2026–2027 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series.

[Register now for the October 22nd AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair](#)



From left: Scenes from past **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges events include a

student connecting with a Fidelity Bank & Trust representative at an AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair; students enjoying College Bowling Night at Cherry Lanes; and students cheering from the stands at ImOn Arena during College Hockey Night.

Community of Colleges Series Creates Off-Campus Connections

A new school year means new opportunities to help college students connect with the Greater Dubuque region. The 2026–2027 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges series offers four events designed to help students build connections, experience the community, and see the region as a place to build their future. This year's series includes:

Community of Colleges Kickoff: Celebrating Our Worldwide Connections

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium | 350 East 3rd St., Dubuque

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair

Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Grand River Center | 500 Bell St.,

Dubuque College Bowling Night

Friday, November 6, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Cherry Lanes Bowling at Diamond Jo Casino | 301 Bell St.,

Dubuque College Hockey Night

Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | Game time, 7:05 p.m.

ImOn Arena | 1800 Admiral Sheehy Dr., Dubuque

[Explore the 2026–2027 YOU can be great here Community of Colleges series](#)



Greater Dubuque Development's Nic Hockenberry and Jason White join Mayor Brad Cavanagh and representatives from Community of Colleges institutions in the Greater

Dubuque region following the reading and signing of the 2026 Community of Colleges Week proclamation at the July 20 Dubuque City Council meeting.

Celebrating Higher Education, Welcoming Students to the Region

It's Community of Colleges Week! **August 3–7, 2026**, Greater Dubuque is celebrating the 10 colleges and universities serving our region and the students, faculty, and staff who contribute to our workforce, economy, and community.

Held alongside [Dubuque College Visit Week](#), the celebration is also an opportunity to extend a warm welcome to prospective and returning students and their families. Greater Dubuque Development is helping spread that message this week through social media and a welcome billboard at University Avenue and Asbury Road.

The week was officially recognized through a proclamation read and signed by Mayor Brad Cavanagh at the July 20, 2026, Dubuque City Council meeting.

[Learn more about Community of Colleges Week](#)

Retention Tools

Each year, Greater Dubuque Development conducts more than 30 HR Action interviews to gather data and perspectives from human resources managers across the Greater Dubuque region.

The [FY 2025–2026 HR Action Dashboard](#) summarizes insights collected over the past 12 months, providing a snapshot of regional workforce trends, employer experiences, and emerging priorities. Comparing results year over year helps inform our workforce solutions and identify opportunities to better support area employers and employees.



[Download the FY 2025-2026 HR Action Dashboard](#)



Spots Available in September 30th Distinctively Dubuque Class

Following a summer break, Distinctively Dubuque returns August 19, 2026, with a new group of area newcomers ready to explore the people, places, and opportunities that make the Greater Dubuque region unique. The August session is now full, but registration is open for the next session **beginning September 30, 2026.**

Employers are encouraged to register newly hired and recently relocated employees who have moved or returned to the area within the last five years. The five-week program helps participants build connections beyond the workplace and establish roots in the community.

Upcoming Sessions

September 30 - October 28, 2026

January 27 - February 24, 2027

March 10 - April 7, 2027

August 18 - September 15, 2027

September 29 - October 27, 2027

Distinctively Dubuque is offered at no cost thanks to support from the DRA, City of Dubuque, and Dubuque County Board of Supervisors.

[Learn more and register for an upcoming session of Distinctively Dubuque](#)

Professional Development Opportunities



Above: Tracy Boczkowski, Director of Human Resources at Conlon Construction, lead the May HR Professionals Cohort on workplace leave and accommodation scenarios.

Register Now for the Upcoming August 25th HR Professionals Cohort

Greater Dubuque Development's HR Professionals Cohort returns on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.** at Northeast Iowa Community College's Town Clock Business Center.

This session will feature Eric Shelley, Assistant Vice President – Development at Fidelity Bank & Trust, presenting on *Fueling Employee Engagement*. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with fellow HR professionals while exploring strategies for strengthening workplace engagement and organizational culture.

Please note this session has been rescheduled from its originally announced date of August 11. The HR Professionals Cohort is a complimentary benefit available to Workforce Solutions Investors.

[Register for the August 25th HR Professionals Cohort](#)

Employer Engagement

New NICC Electrician Program Responds to Regional Employer Needs

Beginning in January 2027, Northeast Iowa Community College will [launch a new Electrician program at its Peosta campus](#), expanding local access to training for an occupation area employers have consistently identified as a workforce need. Greater Dubuque Development has long advocated for expanded electrician training on behalf of commercial clients who have shared challenges finding qualified electrical professionals.

The new program will offer both a 12-month Commercial-Residential Electrician diploma and a two-year Industrial Electrician degree, creating new pathways to build the region's skilled workforce.



[Learn more about NICC's new Peosta-campus Electrician program](#)

Connect with Emerging Talent Through Back2Work

St. Vincent de Paul Dubuque's [Back2Work program](#) prepares participants for entry-level employment while connecting area businesses with emerging talent. The program has graduated 125 participants, with approximately 85% securing employment or an internship after graduation.

Each session needs 10–14 business community partners to serve as presenters, conduct mock interviews, mentor graduates, or share employment opportunities. New employer partners are welcomed.



[Learn more about partnering with Back2Work](#)

NEW & RENEWING Workforce Solutions Investors

As part of your investment, you have unlimited access to AccessDubuqueJobs.com-- the top regional jobs site--with 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 for June & July 2026: Addadent Dental • Home Instead • Seniors Helping Seniors Greater Dubuque • The Dubuque Food Pantry

Renewing Investors for June & July 2026: BARD Materials • Bodensteiner Implement Co • Bodine Electric Company • Community Foundation Of Greater Dubuque • CROWN Cork & Seal USA, Inc. • Dubuque County Fairgrounds & Event Center • Dubuque Fire Equipment • Dubuque Museum Of Art • Eagle Point Software Corporation • Grand River Center • Monastery Candy, Inc. • Mount Carmel Bluffs • Portzen Construction • Premier Bank • RIE Coatings, LLC • Sedgwick • The Adams Company • Theisen Home Farm Auto • TriState Quality Metals • Wartburg Theological Seminary

Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor? Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Solutions, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org.



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