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JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



A look into the child care spaces at the Dubuque Y's Early Learning Center, part of the Bright Minds Campus on Chavenelle Road in Dubuque, IA.

Dubuque County Secures Over \$1.9 Million from State Child Care Business Incentive Grant Program

Continued efforts to address child care shortages in Dubuque County have received another significant boost, with the Bright Minds Campus securing \$845,000 through the Child Care Business Incentives funding program, bringing the initiative's total support from this state program to \$3,000,000. The phase 2 funds will add 100 new child care slots to the already innovative workforce child care facility, further enhancing support for area families and regional employers.

Additionally, Dubuque's Area Residential Care in partnership with St. Mark Early Childhood received \$395,326 to undertake activities that will create 35 new child care slots and Dyersville Industries, Inc. received \$675,000 to add 25 new child care slots to its the Michael & Jean Knepper Child Care Center, which already serves 131 children, and support outdoor improvements, including fencing and trails for play areas.

[Read more about Dubuque County's efforts to increase child care capacity](#)

Business Services

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



YOU can be great here.

Business Expansion

Rite-Hite Plans Expansion in Dubuque Industrial Center

The Greater Dubuque region continues to grow as a hub for innovation and industry with Rite-Hite recently announcing a significant expansion in the coming year that will increase their footprint by nearly two-thirds and increase operational collaboration and efficiencies.

[Learn More >](#)



Interested in learning how we can assist your business in it's next expansion project?

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



Data & Resources

Quarterly Report from InfoAction and HR Action Programs Available for Download

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering actionable insights to our partners, we are proud to share the [latest quarterly dashboard](#) featuring key findings from our award-winning InfoAction and HR Action programs. Through these initiatives, we connect directly with existing businesses to gather real-time data on their challenges, opportunities, and workforce trends. These insights allow us to provide tailored

support, ensuring your business has the resources and strategic advantage needed to thrive in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Download the Dashboard >](#)



Interested in how our InfoAction program can help your business grow and overcome challenges?

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



Interested in how our HR Action program can empower your HR team and address workforce challenges?

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



Air Service

Fly Dubuque First

On November 4, 2024, Dubuque celebrated the return of daily commercial air service. The new service provides over 240 same-day connections to 200+ destinations from Chicago. Through Denver Air Connection's ticketing and baggage agreements with American and United Airlines, passengers enjoy seamless connections beyond O'Hare, without the need for separate bookings, baggage checks, or security screenings.

[Book a Flight >](#)



Questions about our role in attracting and retaining air service for the Greater Dubuque region?

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

Workforce Solutions

YOUR CAREER can be great here.



Distinctively Dubuque participants connect with fellow newcomers (left), receive a welcome from Mayor Brad Cavanagh at Greater Dubuque Development's boardroom (center), explore the Dubuque Museum of Art (right), and more over the course of five classes.

Newcomer Services

January 2025 Marks the 60th Session of Distinctively Dubuque

On January 29, 2025, we will proudly kick off of our 60th session of Distinctively Dubuque. Launched in 2010 in partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College, this signature newcomer program has become a cornerstone of our efforts to welcome new residents, foster meaningful connections for newcomers, and showcase all the Greater Dubuque region has to offer. Over the past 15 years, 1,397 newcomers have been welcomed to the Greater Dubuque region through Distinctively Dubuque.

As we prepare for our 2025 sessions of Distinctively Dubuque, now is the time to share this opportunity with your new employees, clients, and colleagues who have relocated to the region within the past five years. The program offers an interactive and informative experience over the course of 5 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. In 2025, Distinctively Dubuque will continue to be offered at no charge thanks to funding from the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, and the DRA.

[Learn more about Distinctively Dubuque or register for a 2025 session](#)



Interested in learning more about Distinctively Dubuque?

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



Scenes from a recent HR Professionals Cohort meeting held at Northeast Iowa Community College's Town Clock Business Center.

Professional Development

RSVP Now for February 5th HR Professionals Cohort

[Registration is now open](#) for our next HR Professionals Cohort gathering, scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at the Northeast Iowa Community College Town Clock Business Center, 680 Main Street in downtown Dubuque. We will explore the topic of *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace* with Kelly Larson, Development & Learning Manager with the City of Dubuque.

Launched in 2023, participation in the HR Professionals Cohort is open to any of our Workforce Solutions Investors to support their HR staff with cross-sector networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

[Click to RSVP for the February 5th HR Professionals Cohort](#)



Interested in learning more about the HR Professionals Cohort?

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



Our AccessDubuqueJobs.com career fairs, like the one held on October 2, 2024 pictured above at the Grand River Center, are a prime opportunity for regional employers to meet face-to-face with the next generation of talent.

Career Fair

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair Now Accepting Employer Registrations

[Employer registration is now open](#) for our AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. Registration is free but reserved for current Workforce Solutions Investors on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 50 booths are available.

The AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair is a widely promoted event, attracting job seekers across all industries. Thanks to our long-standing partnerships with regional higher education institutions, this event consistently attracts hundreds of current and soon-to-graduate college students seeking internships and career opportunities in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Register now for the March 26th AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair](#)



Interested in learning more about the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair?

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](#) and receive unlimited access to the top regional jobs site, expert assistance from our Workforce Solutions team, and a suite of newcomer service tools.

NEW Investors

- EXIT Realty Unlimited

Renewed Investors

- Cottingham & Butler

Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Engineering Services & Products Company
- Green Industrial Supply, Inc.
- Hawkeye Care Center
- Medical Associates
- Medline Industries
- National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
- Origin Design
- River City Logistics

- Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- The Metrix Company
- Travel Dubuque
- Tucker Freight Lines



Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor and access our complete suite of recruitment and retention tools?

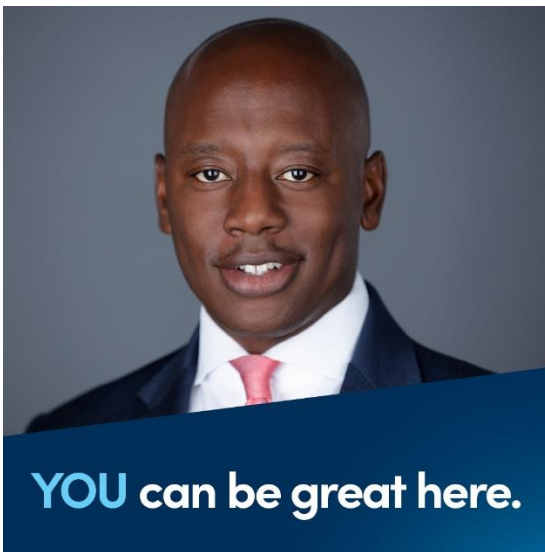
Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



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

Community Information

YOUR LIFE can be great here.



Alex Dixon lead the DRA and Q Casino + Resort as President & CEO from August 2021 through January 15, 2025.

Community News

Gratitude and Best Wishes to Alex Dixon

Throughout our 2023-2024 fiscal year, Alex Dixon, the now former President & CEO of DRA and Q Casino + Resort, served as board chair for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. As he takes on a new role with Resorts World Las Vegas, we thank Alex for his visionary leadership and proving that **YOU can be great here.**

[Learn More >](#)



Community News

365ink Features Cool Things Coming Soon to Dubuque

Thanks to 365ink, Dubuque's biweekly event and entertainment magazine, for their January 2 issue that captures many of the great things coming to Dubuque in 2025. With 365ink's permission, we've created a downloadable PDF of the article to use in your recruitment and retention efforts.

[Read and Download the Article >](#)



Photo courtesy of the Michael & Jean Knepper Child Care Center.

Community News

Dyersville Celebrates Opening of New Child Care Center

As of November 8, 2024, the new Michael & Jean Knepper Child Care Center is now open in Dyersville, IA. Thanks to the new facility, supported by 2 State Child Care Business Incentives grants, adds 131 child care slots for families in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Learn More >](#)



Upcoming Events

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Dubuque County Business Competition

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. | The Innovation Lab | 210 Jones St, Dubuque, IA

Join The Innovation Lab for an exciting event that will help shape the future of startups and existing businesses in Dubuque County. Attendees will witness the birth of new business ideas, connect with visionary entrepreneurs, hear inspiring business pitches, and vote to help a business get to the live pitch event. Whether a seasoned investor, a budding entrepreneur, or simply curious about the entrepreneur ecosystem in Dubuque County, you don't want to miss the Dubuque County Business Competition.

[Learn More and RSVP Online >](#)

Thursday, February 6 - Sunday, February 9, 2025

Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival

Various Times | Washington Park | 700 Locust St, Dubuque, IA

The City of Dubuque Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the Dubuque Museum of Art will host the 8th annual Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival in Dubuque's downtown Washington Park, February 6-9, 2025. To prepare for the event, organizers are seeking volunteers from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. on

Tuesday, February 4 to 'stomp snow' in wooden forms to create the blocks of snow that will be carved by sculpting teams and the community during festival activities.

[Learn More >](#)

Saturdays through April 2025

Dubuque Winter Farmers' Market

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Kennedy Mall | 555 John F. Kennedy Rd, Dubuque, IA

On Saturday mornings from November through April, local farmers and food vendors gather for the Dubuque Winter Farmers' Market. Goods available include locally-grown produce, fresh baked goods, meat, eggs, and sweets. Artisan made products like soaps, candles, and more are also available. The Winter Farmers' Market is held in the Kennedy Mall's North Concourse next to Bath & Body Works in the former Rue21 storefront; the market is always open and free to the public.

[Learn More >](#)

Recent & Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

January 20 | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 29 | Lunar New Year

February 1 | National Freedom Day

February 1-28 | Black History Month

February 12 | Magha Puja (Buddhist)

February 13 | Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)

February 15 | Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

February 17 | Presidents' Day

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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