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AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Recognition of a Greater Strategy

A Message from Our President & CEO

Awards are worth celebrating—but the strongest recognition confirms that the work itself is making a difference.

This month, the International Economic Development Council honored two Greater Dubuque Development initiatives. Our **YOU can be great here** Relocation Guide received a Silver Award for Print Promotion, and Distinctively Dubuque earned a Bronze Award for Talent Development and Retention.

This isn't about tooting our own horn. It's about promoting the community and informing the community of the tools that are available to them so they feel a part of the community.

Attracting people and creating jobs are the same work. A company expands here because the workforce exists; a family moves here because the career does. That is why we invest on both sides at once.

On the people side, that means helping people see the opportunities available here, understanding what makes the Greater Dubuque region distinctive, and developing the relationships that turn a new address into a true sense of belonging. The Relocation Guide introduces prospective residents to the careers, communities, amenities, and quality of life found across our region; 319 copies reached prospective and new residents during our 2025–2026 fiscal year. Distinctively Dubuque builds on that introduction by connecting newcomers with the people, places, and experiences that can make them feel at home—four times a year, with 21 employers represented in the class that began August 19.

These initiatives succeed because they are collaborative. Employers place these resources directly into the hands of candidates and new hires. Northeast Iowa Community College, Dubuque Works, and partners across the Tri-state region help tell our region's story. Local leaders, businesses, and residents welcome participants and share the experiences that make this region special. We're grateful to all of them.

This recognition comes as we push toward 100,000 residents in Dubuque County—work that runs from attracting talent and supporting employers to welcoming newcomers and giving people compelling reasons to build their lives here. These award-winning initiatives demonstrate that we have the partnerships, creativity, and momentum to do it.

The awards are an honor. The people who choose the Greater Dubuque region—and choose to stay—are the real measure of success.

Let's keep building a region where **YOU can be great here.**



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jason F. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jason White

President & CEO

jasonw@greaterdubuque.org | 563-557-9049



Awards Recognize Population-Growth Initiatives

Greater Dubuque Development has earned two 2026 Excellence in Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council. The **YOU can be great here** Relocation Guide received a Silver Award, while the Distinctively Dubuque Newcomer Program earned a Bronze Award. Both were recognized in the population category of 25,000 to 200,000, honoring two complementary initiatives that help people envision a future in the Greater Dubuque region and build the connections that encourage them to stay.

[Read the full announcement on our 2026 IEDC Excellence Awards](#)

Business Support & Attraction

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



Attendees gather at Lock 11 inside The Key Hotel during a dinner hosted and sponsored by Greater Dubuque Development as part of the City of Dubuque's annual Congressional Staff Visit. The evening brought together congressional staff, state and local elected officials, city staff, higher education representatives, economic development professionals from across the region, and other community leaders.

Congressional Staff Visit Highlights Regional Priorities and Partnerships

Congressional staff visited Dubuque August 19–21, 2026, for an annual program organized by the City of Dubuque in partnership with local organizations. Through presentations, tours, and conversations, the visit highlighted projects and priorities related to economic and population growth, infrastructure, housing, brownfield redevelopment, tourism, education, workforce needs, and air service.

Greater Dubuque Development welcomed the delegation to its boardroom, where President and CEO Jason White presented “How We Grow the Dubuque Region.” Greater Dubuque Development also sponsored and hosted Thursday evening’s dinner, creating another opportunity to build relationships and reinforce how partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels help turn important projects and initiatives into reality.

By bringing congressional staff together with organizations and leaders from across the community, the annual visit helps ensure that federal partners understand both the work underway in the Greater Dubuque region and the importance of their continued advocacy and support.

[Read more about the Congressional Staff Visit in the Telegraph Herald](#)



From left: Economic and community development leaders representing the Greater Burlington Partnership, Lee County Economic Development Group, and Des Moines County Conservation tour the Innovation Lab with Director Eric Dregne; gather with Greater Dubuque Development staff; and visit the Dubuque Y Early Learning Center with Director of Childcare Brooke Finn.

Regional Economic Development Leaders Exchange Ideas in Dubuque

Greater Dubuque Development welcomed leaders from the Greater Burlington Partnership and Lee County Economic Development Group to Dubuque on August 11, 2026, for a day of discussion, shared learning, and regional connection. Conversations explored organizational and funding models, business support, workforce recruitment and retention, Opportunity Dubuque, and child care.

The visiting delegation also toured the Innovation Lab and the Dubuque YMCA Early Learning Center for a closer look at local approaches to entrepreneurship, workforce development, and child care infrastructure. Following the visit, members of the Burlington delegation shared that they left inspired and discussing new ideas throughout their trip home, highlighting Greater Dubuque Development's workforce initiatives and creative collaborations with colleges and organizations across state lines. The organizations plan to continue the conversation and look for additional opportunities to learn from one another.



From left: Greater Dubuque Development President & CEO Jason White leads a discussion on data-center development, economic and community development professionals representing eastern Iowa, southwest Wisconsin, and northwest Illinois gather at Greater Dubuque Development, and Director of Regional Development Nic Hockenberry discusses the upcoming Congressional Staff Visit.

Tri-State Practitioners Advance Shared Economic Development Priorities

Data-center readiness and coordinated regional promotion were the focus of the latest Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners meeting, held at Greater Dubuque Development. The group connects economic development professionals serving communities across northeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin, and northwest Illinois—communities that share a labor market as well as many of the same opportunities and challenges.

[Learn more about the July 16th Tri-State Practitioners meeting](#)

Population Growth

YOUR FUTURE can be great here.



CAREER FAIR

Thursday, October 22
1:00–4:00 p.m.

Grand River Center
500 Bell St., Dubuque

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

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair Opens Employer Registration

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: Members of the 66th Distinctively Dubuque class connect during an opening-night icebreaker; City of Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh welcomes participants; and a newcomer shares their career, previous home, interests, and fun facts with the group.

66th Distinctively Dubuque Class Welcomes 25 Newcomers

Twenty-five newcomers began their Distinctively Dubuque experience on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, as the award-winning program, facilitated in partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College, welcomed its 66th class. Participants represent 22 area employers and organizations and have lived in the Greater Dubuque region for as little as one week and as long as five years. They arrived from communities across 12 states and from as far away as Mexico and Germany—all ready to build connections, explore their new community, and discover how **YOU can be great here.**

Openings remain in the next Distinctively Dubuque class, beginning September 30. The program is free to participants thanks to funding from the DRA, the City of Dubuque, and the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors.

[Read more about the kickoff of Class #66 and register for the September 30th session](#)



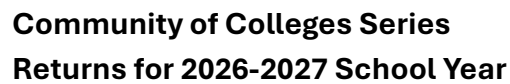
**Economic Development &
Finance Authority**

Project Connecting Housing Stability and Career Training Named State Finalist

Greater Dubuque Development, in partnership with Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa, is one of three finalists in the 2026 Iowa Innovation in Homelessness Pitch Competition. The proposed pilot would provide rental assistance to eligible participants earning career pathway certificates through Northeast Iowa Community College, helping households living paycheck to paycheck remain stably housed while preparing for living-wage, high-demand careers.

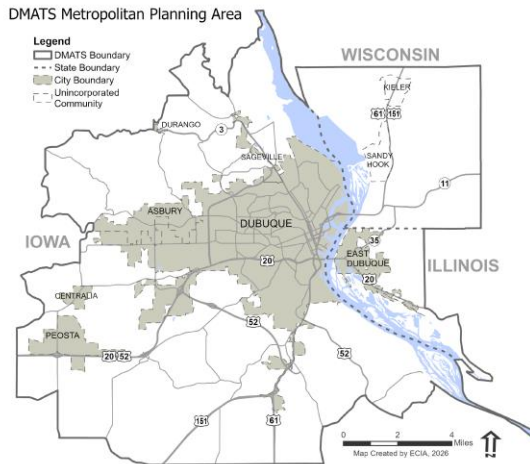
Building upon the nationally recognized Opportunity Dubuque program, the project could receive up to \$100,000 in state funding. Greater Dubuque Development and its fellow finalists will pitch their proposals September 9 at the 2026 HousingIowa Conference in Des Moines.

[Learn more about the proposed pilot and the statewide competition](#)



Explore the full **YOU can be great** here **Community of Colleges** schedule and event details

Learn more & RSVP >



Help Shape the Region's Transportation Future

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) is seeking public input on its draft 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan, which outlines a regional vision for roads, bridges, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel, freight movement, safety, and more. Review the plan and submit comments by September 28, 2026.

[Explore & share your feedback >](#)



September/October Edition of City News Available

The latest edition of City News, the City of Dubuque's bi-monthly newsletter is now available and coming to a utility bill near you! Download today for updates on library renovations, fire & EMS careers explorer program, the 2026 water quality report, and so much more.

[Download the newest City News >](#)

Upcoming Events

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Wednesdays, September 16-October 21, 2026

City Life

6:00 - 8:30 p.m. | Various Locations | Dubuque, IA

The City of Dubuque is now accepting applications for the next session of City Life, a free, interactive program that gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at local government. Applications are open through Tuesday, September 8, 2026. City Life offers the opportunity to explore the people, programs, and services that make Dubuque a great place to live, work, and play. Through presentations, behind-the-scenes tours, and conversations with City staff and fellow residents, participants gain a deeper understanding of how local government works, see taxpayer investments in action, and share their ideas. The six-session program will be held on Wednesday evenings this fall on September 16-October 21. Sessions begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner provided each evening. Residents that may need accommodations for dietary restrictions, transportation, or childcare are encouraged to contact the Office of Community Impact and Neighborhood Support at 563-564-5644.

[Learn more and apply for City Life >](#)

Wednesdays, September 30 - October 28, 2026

Wednesdays, January 17 - February 24, 2027

Wednesdays, March 10 - April 7, 2027

Wednesdays, August 18 - September 15, 2027

Wednesdays, September 29 - October 27, 2027

Distinctively Dubuque Newcomer Program

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Various Locations | Dubuque, IA

Distinctively Dubuque is a five-night course taught by high-energy presenters with in-depth knowledge of the Greater Dubuque region. This course is designed for individuals who are new to the area within the last five years. Thanks to our generous sponsors of the DRA, City of Dubuque and Dubuque County Board of Supervisors, Distinctively Dubuque is offered free of charge. [Online registration is](#)

[now available](#) for the last session of 2026 and all 2027 dates. For more information, contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Solutions at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org.

[Learn more about Distinctively Dubuque >](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2026

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Grand River Center | 500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA

Our next AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair will be on Thursday, October 22, 2026 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. This career fair is open to the public with targeted outreach to regional higher ed institutions as part of our 2026-2027 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series. [Registration for the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair is now open](#) for our Workforce Solutions Investors. Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Solutions at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org.

[Access employer registration >](#)

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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