

# Workforce Solutions

## Monthly E-Newsletter

 [accessdubuquejobs.com](https://accessdubuquejobs.com)

January 2026

### Latest Workforce Updates

<b>Unemployment Rate*</b>	<b>Dubuque MSA Laborforce*</b>	<b>Workforce Solutions Investors</b>	<b>Jobs Posted on AccessDubuqueJobs.com</b>	<b>New User Accounts on AccessDubuqueJobs.com</b>
<b>2.9%</b> November 2025	<b>60,600</b> November 2025	<b>176</b> November 2025	<b>570</b> November 2025	<b>94</b> November 2025
<b>3.0%</b> September 2025	<b>60,200</b> September 2025	<b>176</b> October 2025	<b>808</b> October 2025	<b>123</b> October 2025

\* October 2025 unemployment rate and Dubuque MSA laborforce not available due to recent federal government shutdown.



*In his previous role at Greater Dubuque Development, Jason White (left) strengthened regional relationships through efforts like such as Tri-State Economic Developers Practitioners (center) and supporting business expansions like the 2025 build and opening of the new Physical Therapy Solutions facility in south Dubuque (right).*

## Welcoming Jason White, President & CEO of Greater Dubuque Development

Jason White has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, effective January 12, 2026, following a board-led nationwide search.

Jason previously served as Greater Dubuque Development's Vice President of Business Services, where he advanced business retention and expansion efforts, strengthened regional partnerships, and helped deliver record-setting results for the business community. He brings more than two decades of economic development leadership experience in Iowa and Wisconsin and has a strong track record of supporting business growth, investment, and workforce initiatives.

As President and CEO, Jason will focus on strengthening business competitiveness, advancing workforce and talent strategies, and supporting investment efforts that position the Greater Dubuque region for long-term success. The Board of Directors expressed full confidence in his leadership and extended its sincere gratitude to Rick Dickinson for more than 30 years of service and lasting contributions to the organization and the region.

[Learn more about Jason White in our January 1, 2026 press release](#)

## Recruitment Resources



*HR Professionals Cohorts bring HR leaders together for peer-to-peer learning through small-group discussions, hands-on activities, and shared expertise, helping strengthen recruitment and retention efforts across the region.*

## February's HR Professionals Cohort to Explore Non-Traditional Talent Pipelines

Join us for the next HR Professionals Cohort, focused on ***Non-Traditional Talent Pipelines***, on **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 from 8:00-9:30 a.m.** at Northeast Iowa Community College's Town Clock Business Center in downtown Dubuque. This convening will explore how employers can broaden their talent strategies by engaging often-overlooked worker populations, including career changers, immigrants, individuals re-entering the workforce, and younger workers transitioning from high school into employment.

A panel of regional partners will share insights on how their programs support these talent pathways and how employers can connect with and benefit from these non-traditional pipelines. Panelists include:

- David Moeller, Educational Support Leader, Dubuque Community School District's Vertex Initiative
- Victor Ochoa, Business Engagement Consultant, Iowa Workforce Development
- Megan Ruiz, Executive Director, Presentation Lantern Center
- Jason Rubel, Rehabilitation Supervisor, Vocational Rehabilitation Services at IowaWorks
- Amy Green, Director of Sales & Training, Northeast Iowa Community College

The HR Professionals Cohort is free to attend and open exclusively to Workforce Solutions Investors. [Register online now](#) to reserve your spot.

[Click to register for the February 3rd HR Professionals Cohort](#)



**Contact Mandi to learn more about the HR Professionals Cohort!**

**Mandi Dolson**, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention

[mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)

O: 563-557-9049



**Iowa Workforce  
Development**

## **New Funding & Tools to Support Summer Internships**

Iowa Workforce Development has opened a new round of grant funding to help employers create meaningful summer internship opportunities for Iowa youth, particularly in [high-demand fields](#). At the same time, IWD has released practical technical assistance resources, including the [4 Steps to Internship for Employers](#) toolkit, designed to help employers plan and launch internship programs.

Applications for the [Summer Youth Internship Program](#) are now open, with a deadline of February 16, 2026.

[Read more about the grant opportunity and available resources](#)



**Contact Nic with questions about IWD's funding opportunity!**

**Nic Hockenberry**, Director of Workforce Programming

[nicolash@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:nicolash@greaterdubuque.org)

O: 563-557-9049



## **Strengthen Hiring & Onboarding with Our Free Community Tours**

Employers are encouraged to take advantage of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation's free, 90-minute community tours to introduce job candidates or new employees to the community.

Facilitated by our seasoned local guides, these personalized driving tours provide a tailored look at the community, with guides prepared to answer a wide range of questions about

neighborhoods, amenities, and quality-of-life assets that support recruitment and retention. As part of the experience, participants receive helpful relocation resources packaged in a **YOU can be great here** tote bag, including a relocation guide, local event calendars and travel guides, rental resource guide, city services information, and more.

Tours must be requested in advance and are easy to schedule by completing a short online form or by contacting Mandi Dolson at [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org) or at 563-557-9049.

[Click to access the Community Tour Request Form](#)



**Contact Mandi to learn more about our Community Tours!**

**Mandi Dolson**, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention

[mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)

O: 563-557-9049

## Retention Tools

### **Earn a TRIHRA Credit at AI Unlocked: Leading the Future of Work**

HR professionals and business leaders are invited to attend [\*AI Unlocked: Leading the Future of Work\*](#), a full-day conference hosted by Northeast Iowa Community College at its Peosta Campus Conference Center on **Thursday, February 12, from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

While the conference is open to the public, TRIHRA members receive [discounted registration and are eligible to earn one continuing education credit](#) by either:

- Registering for the featured session, *Smarter Work, Safer Boundaries – Leading Ethical AI in the Workplace* which includes lunch and a panel discussion with local business leaders (10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)
- Attending the full-day *AI Unlocked* conference

Designed for HR professionals and business leaders, *AI Unlocked* focuses on practical, responsible uses of artificial intelligence, with sessions that emphasize ethical leadership, workplace boundaries, and real-world applications. Attendees will leave with actionable

frameworks to support employee well-being, creativity, and effective AI adoption.

The TRIHRA-eligible session, led by Celina Peerman, centers on leadership—not coding—offering clear guidance, discussion tools, and sample approaches to help organizations adopt AI thoughtfully and responsibly.

[Register Through TRIHRA for Member Rate and CE Credit](#)



**Contact Mandi to learn more about TRIHRA professional development opportunities!**

**Mandi Dolson**, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention

[mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)

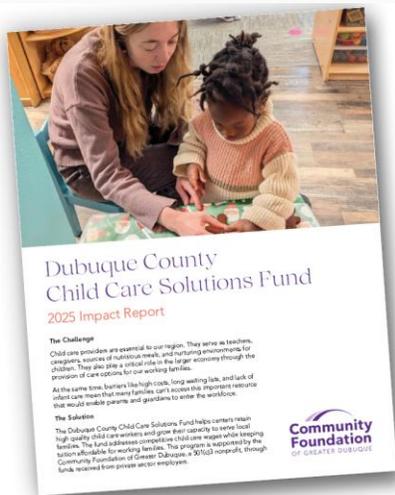
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## **Child Care Is Workforce Infrastructure—and Dubuque County Is Proving It**

Access to reliable child care is no longer a side issue—it is a critical driver of workforce stability and long-term economic growth. Through the Business Champions for Child Care initiative, or the Dubuque County Child Care Solutions Fund as it is now known, Dubuque County has reduced its child care slot gap by 47% and now leads Iowa metro counties in demand met.

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque’s newly released [2025 Impact Report](#) highlights the measurable outcomes of this work and the role employers have played in strengthening workforce stability.



[Learn more about how child care supports Dubuque County's workforce](#)



**Contact Nic to learn more about Dubuque County child care efforts!**

**Nic Hockenberry**, Director of Workforce Programming

[nicolash@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:nicolash@greaterdubuque.org)

O: 563-557-9049

## Employer Engagement

### Opportunities for Employer Engagement in the Community

#### Dubuque Community School District Seeks Employers to Participate in CTE Advisory

Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) is expanding employer participation in its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory groups to ensure career pathways remain aligned with real-world workforce needs.

CTE Advisory groups support programs in Industrial Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Information Solutions and IT, and Business Education, with work-based learning intentionally woven throughout. Employer participation helps strengthen curriculum relevance, identify emerging skill needs, and create clearer connections between classroom learning and workplace expectations.

DCSD's next advisory meeting is planned for **Friday, February 13 at 9:00 a.m.** (in person; location to follow). Employers interested in participating are encouraged to complete a brief intake survey so DCSD can connect partners with the appropriate advisory area and share next steps. [Complete the CTE Advisory Interest Survey to get involved.](#)

### **Support Career Readiness at Clarke University**

Clarke University is seeking local HR and business professionals to support Business Communication courses this spring through resume reviews and mock interviews.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- Resume Reviews: **Monday, March 16**
- Mock Interviews: **Monday, April 27**

Both sessions will be held in the Fabiano Conference Room at Clarke University.

These sessions allow employers to provide one-on-one feedback on resumes, interviewing, professionalism, and communication skills while helping students build confidence and make valuable connections with the business community. Employers can [view the program flyer for additional details and expectations](#). To volunteer or learn more, contact B'ann Dittmar at [bdittmar@clarke.edu](mailto:bdittmar@clarke.edu) or 563-588-6367.

## Upcoming Events

### **Tri-States Veterans Network Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2026 | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Backpocket Dubuque | 333 E 10th St, Dubuque, IA

The [monthly Tri-States Veterans Network meeting](#) aims to give back to veterans by connecting unemployed and under employed veterans or their families with area businesses to promote employment conversations. Each network meeting is attended by multiple employers and veterans service organizations to create a supportive atmosphere for networking, sharing, and learning with food sponsored by the Tri State Women Warriors. For more information, contact the Tri-States Veterans Network at [tristatesvetnet@gmail.com](mailto:tristatesvetnet@gmail.com) or visit them on [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

## **Distinctively Dubuque Newcomer Program**

**Wednesdays, January 28 - February 25, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Wednesdays, March 11 - April 8, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Wednesdays, August 19 - September 16, 2026 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Wednesdays, September 30 - October 28, 2026 | 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 all 2026 sessions. For more information, contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention for Greater Dubuque Development at 563-557-9049 or [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org).

### **NEW & RENEWING Workforce Solutions Investors**

As part of your investment, you have unlimited access to [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://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 November 2025:** Dyersville Die Cast • The Wanderwood Gardens

**Renewing Investors for November 2025:** 1800Tshirts • Diamond Jo Casino/Boyd Gaming • 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](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org).



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