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FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

## **FEH Design Announces Plans to Expand New Life Coming to Corner of 9th and Main**



**FEH DESIGN**



FEH Design Architecture firm, FEH Design plans to double its office space in downtown Dubuque with the rehabilitation and relocation to 5,000 square feet at 902 Main Street. The new location is one of the busiest and most visible corners in downtown Dubuque.

Greater Dubuque Development had the privilege of working with FEH as they considered this exciting expansion. Greater Dubuque Development provided early and ongoing coordination with the City of Dubuque and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) for Grayfield Tax Credits. FEH Design was awarded tax credits from IEDA in late 2024. Additionally, as part of a pending development agreement with the City of Dubuque, FEH Design plans to hire 10 new employees by October 2028.

Greater Dubuque Development congratulates and salutes FEH Design for their continued investment and confidence in downtown Dubuque and our regional economy.

[Read the February 15, 2025 Telegraph Herald article for more on FEH Designs' expansion](#)

## Business Services

**YOUR BUSINESS** can be great here.

Business Services

### **Save the Date: Succession Planning for Family-Owned, Legacy Businesses**

In the Greater Dubuque region, family-owned and legacy businesses are the foundation of our economic fabric. To support these businesses and help them plan for the future, Greater Dubuque Development will host the UNI Family Business Center on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**, for a program acknowledging the need for succession planning and helping you identify resources available to assist you.

The process of succession differs for each family. Attendees will hear stories about how families navigated generational leadership and ownership succession plans. Learn tips and tools on who to choose for managing the company and communicating such changes with family, employees, vendors, and customers. Explore methods for letting go of control and empowering trust with the next generation of leadership.

The *Succession Planning for Family-Owned, Legacy Businesses* breakfast event will be held at the Diamond Jo Casino. More details and RSVP opportunity will be forthcoming.



#### **Interested in learning more about the Success Planning for Family-Owned, Legacy Businesses Business Services Breakfast?**

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or [jasonw@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:jasonw@greaterdubuque.org)

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## Regional Collaboration

### **Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners Gather at Greater Dubuque Development**

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, Greater Dubuque Development hosted the quarterly Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners meeting, bringing together nonprofit and quasi-governmental professional economic developers from eastern Iowa, northwest Illinois, and southwest Wisconsin. More than a dozen practitioners in attendance discussed opportunities and initiatives related to retail strategies, community development, workforce solutions as well as support of existing business. The cohort will meet again on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

These meetings, organized by Greater Dubuque Development and hosted at rotating locations in the region, promote an informal network of peer-to-peer assistance and resource sharing that help ensure **YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.**



**Interested in learning more about the Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners network?**

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or [jasonw@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:jasonw@greaterdubuque.org)



**Housing**

**Creation of New Housing Continues Momentum**

In response to a [2022 Dubuque Housing Needs Assessment](#) commissioned by Greater Dubuque Development, there are now 2,145 new housing units approved, under review, under construction, or recently completed in Dubuque. This boom in new housing stock creation is spurred in part by [development tools such as tax abatement, TIF, and other city incentives](#).

[Review the City of Dubuque Housing Handout released January 27, 2025](#)



**Questions about our role in addressing the availability and affordability of housing in the Greater Dubuque region?**

Contact Dave Lyons, Strategic Initiatives Consultant, at 563-557-9049 or [davel@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:davel@greaterdubuque.org)

**YOUR CAREER** can be great here.



Our recent **YOU can be great here** Community of College event provided a fun off-campus evening for regional college students with the 75+ arcade games at Island Social, the newest attraction on Schmitt Island.

College Outreach

### **Fun and Games at Island Social for Area College Students**

On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 127 college students from Clarke University, Loras College, Northeast Iowa Community College, and the University of Dubuque gathered for College Night @ Island Social. The fun-filled evening was part of our 2024-2025 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges series, a lineup of events designed to connect college students to the community through fun and engaging experiences that demonstrate all that our community has to offer. This night proved to be no exception!

Held at Island Social, the newest attraction on Schmitt Island, each attendee took advantage of \$10 in credits towards any of the 75+ arcade games, free pizza and pop, and exclusive access to all six lanes of duckpin bowling.

This event was more than just a night of fun—it was an opportunity for students to connect with peers, experience local entertainment, and see firsthand why **YOUR FUTURE can be great here.**

**Learn more about our 2024-2025 YOU can be great here Community of Colleges events**



**Interested in learning more about the YOU can be great here Community of Colleges event series?**

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)



HR Professionals break into small groups during the February 5th HR Professionals Cohort meeting to share and discuss an aspect of their personal or professional background that makes them unique and how that influences their perspective at work.

### Training & Upskilling

### **DEI in the Workplace Topic of Quarterly HR Professionals Cohort; RSVP Now for May Meeting**

Held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at Northeast Iowa Community College's Town Clock Business Center, our latest HR Professionals Cohort meeting centered on the topic of *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in the Workplace*, presented by Kelly Larson, Development & Learning Manager with the City of Dubuque. The session began with introductions, where the 32 participants shared unique personal and professional experiences that shape their perspectives and the skill sets they bring to their work. They then explored the definition of DEI by breaking down each term—diversity, equity, and inclusion—and discussing how they intersect and impact the workplace.

Our next HR Professionals Cohort quarterly meeting, *Connecting Employers with Future Talent*, will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.** at the the Northeast Iowa Community College Town Clock Business Center, 680 Main Street in downtown Dubuque. For this session, we will bring together career services staff from our regional institutions of higher education for a panel discussion on how employers can better connect with college students—whether for internships, full-time positions, or general career development opportunities. [Registration is now open.](#)

[Click for more on our February 5th HR Professionals Cohort and to register for May 6th](#)



### **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](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)



### Mid-Year Performance Report: Opportunity Dubuque

As we pass the halfway mark of Fiscal Year 2025, [Opportunity Dubuque](#) continues to provide tuition-free, skills-based training that connects job seekers with high-demand career paths. Since its launch in 2011, this program has trained or up-skilled over 4,000 individuals, helping to bridge the gap between employer needs and workforce skills. This collaborative workforce initiative—funded by the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, the Dubuque Racing Association (DRA), Greater Dubuque Development, Northeast Iowa Community College, and local employers—remains a key driver in building a strong regional talent pipeline.

### Mid-Year Performance Highlights:

- Greater Dubuque Development has funded 27 students in high demand certificate programs, positioning them for success in the regional workforce.
- An additional 147 students are enrolled in Opportunity Dubuque approved certificate programs, with tuition supported by other funding sources.
- Career coaches continue to take a boots on-the-ground approach to engaging the community and identifying Opportunity Dubuque candidates, making 34 separate connections through public events and outreach efforts, ensuring access to training opportunities.

Since its inception, of those reporting, [Opportunity Dubuque](#) has maintained a remarkable 93% continuing education and/or employment rate among its graduates, meaning nearly all students completing training find jobs in their field or continue their education.

[Learn more about the mid-year Opportunity Dubuque progress report](#)



### Interested in learning more about Opportunity Dubuque?

Contact Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming, at 563-557-9049 or [nicolash@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:nicolash@greaterdubuque.org)



# SPRING CAREER FAIR

## Recruitment

### Over 70 Regional Employers Signed Up for Spring Career Fair

Set for Wednesday, March 26, 2025 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center, the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair will feature over 70 employers from the Greater Dubuque region.

[Learn More >](#)



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

## AccessDubuqueJobs.com Update

**YOUR SUPPORT** can be great here.

Invest in [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://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.

### Renewed Investors

- Aquin Little Angels Early Childhood Center & Preschool
- Carlisle Ryan Digital Print and Services
- City of Dubuque
- ClarkeUniversity

### Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Dubuque Regional Humane Society
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc
- Hillcrest Family Services
- Managed Solutions Group
- Modernfold
- Rite Hite Corp
- Sedona Staffing Services
- Simmons Pet Food
- Sisters of the Presentation
- Stonehill Communities
- The Fountain of Youth



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

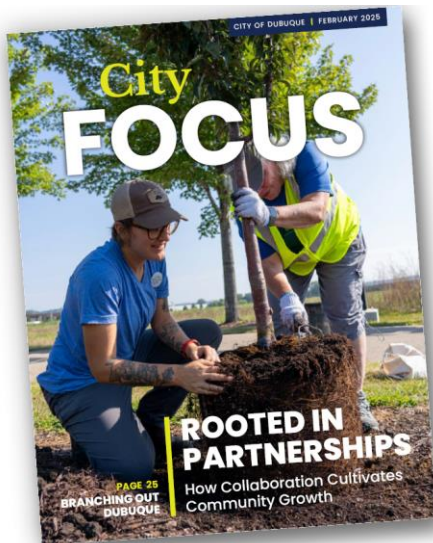
Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)



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

## Community Information

**YOUR LIFE** can be great here.



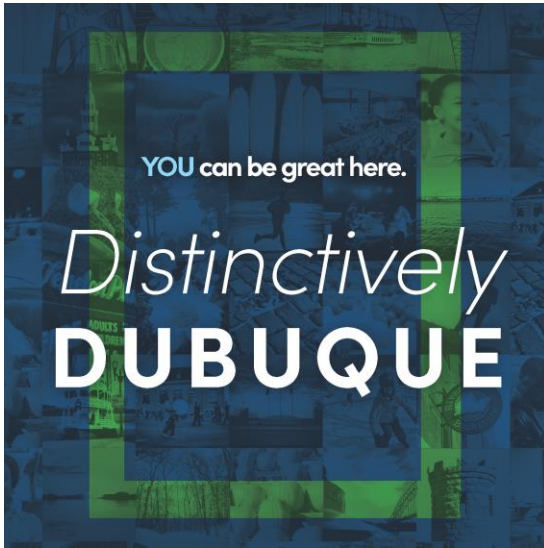
## Community News

### New Issue of City of Dubuque's City Focus Now Available

Check out the newest edition of the City of Dubuque's City Focus filled with the latest information on projects, partnerships, and the people creating progress in the Greater Dubuque region to ensure that **YOU can be great here.**

[Learn More >](#)



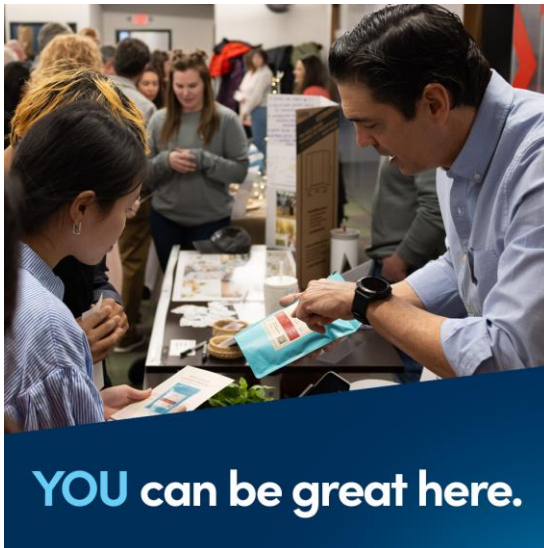


## Community News

### Spots Open in March Session of Distinctively Dubuque

If you or someone you know is new to the Greater Dubuque region, [Distinctively Dubuque](#) is a free, interactive experience designed to help newcomers learn more about their new hometown and make connections with others who have recently relocated to the area. Next session begins Wednesday, March 12 with spots open.

[Register Now >](#)



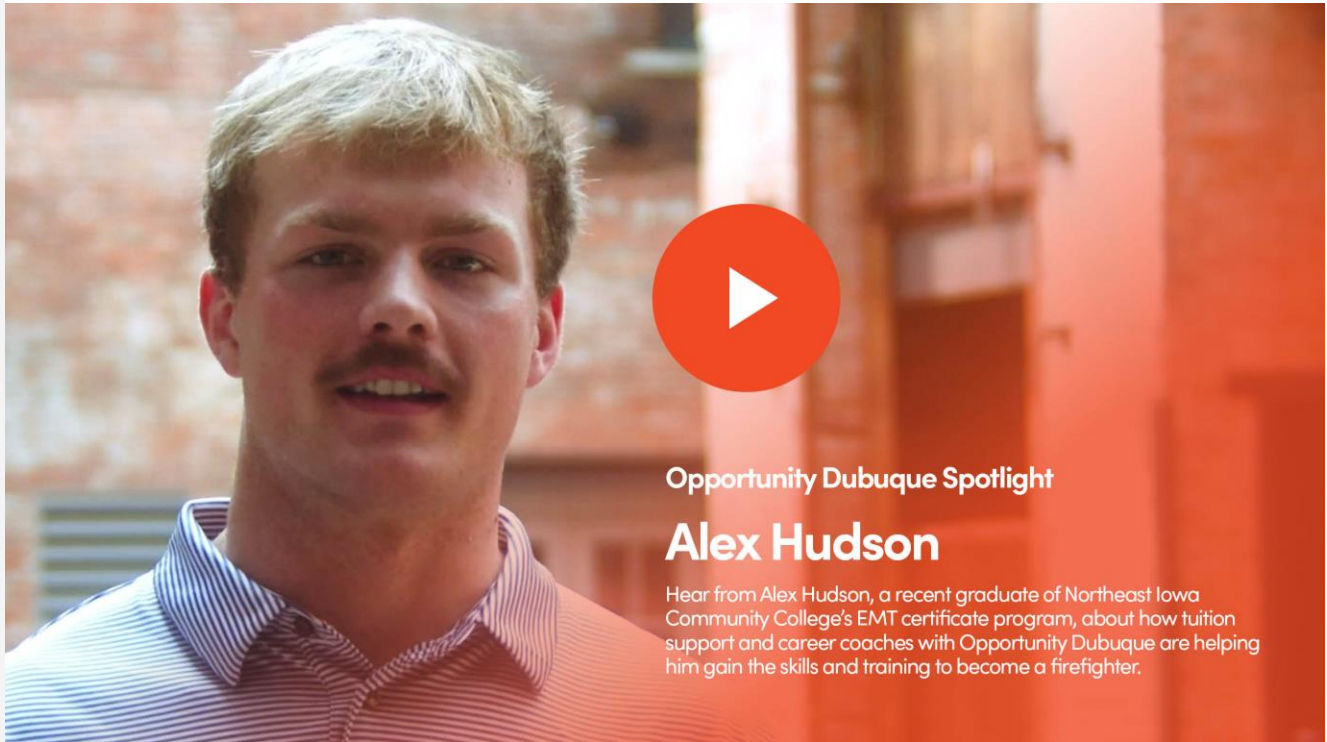
## Community News

### Dubuque County Business Competition Highlights Regional Entrepreneurship

On Thursday, February 6, fifteen businesses from Dubuque County pitched their business ideas in hopes of landing seed funding during the 2nd annual Dubuque County Business Competition hosted by the Innovation Lab.

[Learn More >](#)

Daniel Luna (*right*) of La Venta Coffee & Cafe pitches their products to potential customers and investors during the 2025 Dubuque County Business Competition. Photo courtesy of the Innovation Lab.



## Upcoming Events

**YOUR NETWORK** can be great here.

**Friday, February 28, 2025**

### **State of Air Service: Membership Breakfast**

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m. | Hotel Julien Dubuque | 200 Main St, Dubuque, IA**

The Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce State of Air Service Breakfast brings together business leaders, community members, and aviation experts to discuss the current state and future of air service in the Greater Dubuque region. This breakfast event provides a platform for attendees to hear about local air service developments via DBQ Air, air service industry trends and happenings at the Dubuque Regional Airport. This event is complimentary for Chamber members. Advance registration is required. All registrants will be entered to win 2 free tickets on Denver Air Connections.

[Learn More and RSVP Online >](#)

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**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

### **2025 Regional Arts Forum**

**1:00 - 4:00 p.m. | National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Bickel Gallery | 350 E. 3rd St., Dubuque, IA**

Join the Iowa Arts Council for their Dubuque Regional Arts Forum, one of seven being hosted across Iowa in February and March 2025. This in-person event will provide an opportunity for local artists, arts and civic leaders, and community members to gather and discuss opportunities for strengthening arts and culture in their region and across the state. This year's Forums align with the Iowa Arts Caucus, which the Iowa Arts Council hosts every four years. Participants will make recommendations to the Arts Council, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the General Assembly regarding funding allocations and priorities for arts and cultural enhancement in our state. Advance registration is free and required.

[Learn More and RSVP Online >](#)

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**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

**Dubuque Night in Des Moines**

**5:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Curate | 322 E. Court Ave, Des Moines, IA**

Experience a fun-filled evening, along with casual conversation, with Iowa's elected officials at Dubuque Night in Des Moines, Iowa's longest-running legislative reception. Complimentary hor d'oeuvres and beverages are provided. This event is open to all Dubuque business members and is made possible by the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Dubuque, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, and Travel Dubuque.

[Learn More and RSVP Online >](#)

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## **Recent & Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances**

**March | National Women's History Month**

**March 1-30 | Ramadan (Islamic)**

**March 5 | Ash Wednesday (Christian)**

**March 13 | Palm Sunday (Christian)**

**March 14 | Holi (Hindu)**

**March 15 | Hola Mohalla (Sikh)**

**March 17 | St. Patrick's Day (Christian)**

## **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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