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JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



## **A New Year, New Leadership**

### **Welcoming Jason White as President & CEO**

Jason White stepped into the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation on January 12, following a board-led nationwide search.

Most recently, Jason served as Greater Dubuque Development's Vice President of Business Services, where he helped advance business retention and expansion efforts, strengthen regional partnerships, and support record-setting outcomes for the business community. He brings more than two decades of economic development experience in Iowa and Wisconsin.

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 also extends its sincere appreciation to Rick

Dickinson for more than 30 years of leadership and lasting contributions to the organization and the region.

[Read the January 1, 2026 press release for more on Jason White](#)

## Business Services

**YOUR BUSINESS** can be great here.



## Street Closure & Construction Updates

### Project Scheduling

#### **U.S. 20 / Dodge Street Catfish Creek Bridge Project Update**

The Iowa Department of Transportation has notified the City of Dubuque that the U.S. 20 / Dodge Street westbound Catfish Creek Bridge replacement project, originally anticipated for the 2026 construction season, has been postponed until 2027.

While Greater Dubuque Development does not manage or fund public infrastructure projects, we are sharing this update as a courtesy to help businesses, residents, and visitors alike stay informed about changes that may affect travel and logistics. Questions regarding this project should be directed to Hugh Holak, Iowa DOT Resident Construction Engineer, at 563-927-2397.



**Economic Development &  
Finance Authority**

## **New IEDA Business Growth Incentive Program Now Available**

Launched January 1, 2026, the Iowa Economic Development Authority's new [Business Incentives for Growth \(BIG\) program](#) replaces the High Quality Jobs program and provides up to \$50 million in refundable tax credits to support projects that are ready to invest, expand, or modernize in Iowa.

The BIG program supports capital investment and quality job creation in targeted industries—advanced manufacturing, bioscience, insurance and finance, and innovation and technology. Incentives may include investment tax credits, refunds of sales tax paid on construction materials, and potential local property tax exemptions, with eligibility based on economic impact, productivity, competitiveness, and contributions to Iowa's economy.

No local matching funds are required—only a city or county resolution of support—and rural communities may be eligible for enhanced incentives of up to 7.5%. Projects must receive approval before construction or major purchases begin.

Greater Dubuque Development is serving as the local point of contact for the BIG program and is sharing this information to support businesses considering expansion or growth. Businesses should contact Greater Dubuque Development first to discuss project readiness, eligibility, and next steps before engaging with IEDA.

[Learn more about IEDA's new Business Incentives for Growth program](#)



**Interested in exploring how incentive programs can support plans to expand your business in the Greater Dubuque region?**

Contact Daniel McDonald, Director of Existing Business, at 563-557-9049 or [danielm@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:danielm@greaterdubuque.org)



A look inside the Huff Family Innovation Center, located on the main floor of Sesquicentennial Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's campus.

## Regional Collaboration

### UW-Platteville Hosts Tri-State Practitioners

The Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners convened on January 15 at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's [Huff Family Innovation Center](#) to explore opportunities for regional collaboration. The meeting highlighted UW-Platteville's [Senior Design program](#), which connects businesses with student teams to tackle real-world challenges while strengthening workforce pipelines across Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

[Read more about the January 15 convening and UW-Platteville's Senior Design program](#)



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

Contact Jason White, President & CEO, at 563-557-9049 or [jasonw@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:jasonw@greaterdubuque.org)

## Workforce Solutions

YOUR GROWTH can be great here.



COUNTY	DEMAND MET
DUBUQUE	73%
SCOTT	66%
JOHNSON	61%
BLACK HAWK	58%
LINN	58%
POLK	57%

Source: Iowa Child Care Connect

## Workforce Infrastructure

### **Closing the Child Care Gap to Power Workforce Stability**

Access to reliable child care is a critical driver of workforce stability and long-term economic growth. Through the Business Champions for Child Care initiative, now known as the Dubuque County Child Care Solutions Fund, 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 important role employers continue to play in strengthening workforce stability across the region.

[Learn more about how Dubuque County continues to improve child care access](#)



#### **Interested in learning more about Dubuque County's child care efforts?**

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

## Professional Development

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

Business leaders and HR professionals 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](#)



**Interested in learning more about TRIHRA professional development opportunities?**

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



Data & Resources

**Save the Date: Workforce Solutions Breakfast**

Mark your calendar for our next Workforce Solutions Breakfast on Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 8:00–9:30 a.m. at the Diamond Jo Casino, bringing together area CEOs, HR professionals, elected officials, and

The stories of Opportunity Dubuque graduates, Jerry Russell (left) and Natalie Meyer (right), were featured during the Workforce Solutions Breakfast program in May 2025.

community leaders to connect and learn more about the latest workforce solution initiatives supporting employers across the Greater Dubuque region. Details and registration information to come.

### AccessDubuqueJobs.com Update

**YOUR SUPPORT can be great here.**

Invest in [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://www.accessdubuquejobs.com) and receive unlimited access to the top regional jobs site, 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.

#### Renewed Investors

- Cottingham & Butler / SISCO
- Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- Engineering Services & Products Company (FarmTek)
- Green Industrial Supply, Inc.
- Hawkeye Care Center of Dubuque
- Medical Associates Clinic, P.C.

#### Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Medline Industries, Inc.
- National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
- Origin Design
- River City Logistics
- The Metrix Company
- Travel Dubuque



#### 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)



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

## Community Information

**YOUR LIFE** can be great here.



The 2026 RAGBRAI logo, designed by Primal Wear, Inc., draws inspiration from one of Iowa's most recognizable landmarks — the small-town water tower.

## Community News

### Dyersville and Dubuque Named RAGBRAI Host Communities

Dyersville and Dubuque have been announced as host communities for RAGBRAI LIII, welcoming thousands of riders and visitors to the area this summer. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved and help showcase the best of the Greater Dubuque region to statewide and national audiences.

[Learn more >](#)



Interior of the Milwaukee Public Market, one model being researched by the local volunteer group exploring a public market concept for Dubuque. Photo By Jeramey Jannene from Milwaukee, WI.

## Community News

### **Entrepreneurs Invited to Share Input on Public Market Concept**

A volunteer group launched through Dubuque Forward is exploring a public market concept in Dubuque and is seeking input from potential vendors. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to complete a brief survey, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), to help inform next steps.

[Learn more >](#)



## Community News

### **Women in the Trades Invited to Participate in April Career Event**

The Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council seeks women working in the trades to participate in an April 8 event at Northeast Iowa Community College's Peosta campus introducing high school girls to careers in advanced manufacturing and construction.

[Contact DALMC for more details >](#)



Partnership Spotlight

## Northeast Iowa Community College

Hear from Amy Lasack, Vice President of Business and Community Solutions with Northeast Iowa Community College, on how partnering with Greater Dubuque Development helps both organizations achieve their goals of supporting regional employers while helping individuals gain new skills and reach new heights.

### Upcoming Events

**YOUR NETWORK can be great here.**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**Dubuque County Business Competition**

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

The Dubuque County Business Competition brings together bold ideas, passionate entrepreneurs, and a community eager to support local business growth. Attendees will hear live pitches from emerging and growing businesses, learn about new products and services, and play an active role by voting to help advance a business to the live pitch round. The event offers a front-row seat to innovation in action and an opportunity to connect with the people shaping Dubuque County's future.

[Learn More & Get Tickets Online >](#)

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**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**Membership Breakfast: 2025 Iowa Talent Poll Results**

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

Hosted by the Dubuque Area Chamber, this Membership Breakfast will feature a presentation by Dustin Miller, Executive Director of the Iowa Chamber Alliance. Miller will share insights from the 2025 Iowa Talent Poll, highlighting workforce challenges, talent attraction and retention trends, and what the findings mean for Dubuque-area employers planning for future growth in a tight labor market.

[Learn More & Register Online >](#)

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**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**Successful Rental Property Management Training**

**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College Town Clock Business Center | Dubuque, IA**

The City of Dubuque is hosting a Successful Rental Property Management (SRPM) training for rental property owners and managers seeking a better understanding of laws, regulations, and best practices related to residential rental properties. The full-day training features presenters from local law firms and City departments and covers topics including rental agreements, evictions, property security, police services, and inspections. Participants receive a comprehensive guide to support crime-free and code-compliant properties. [Register online](#) or contact NICC at 844-642-2338 and reference class number 105670.

[Learn More >](#)

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## Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

February 1-28 | Black History Month

February 1 | National Freedom Day

February 2 | Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)

February 14 | Valentine's Day

February 15 | Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

February 15 | Susan B. Anthony Day

February 15 | Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)

February 16 | Presidents' Day

February 17 | Lunar New Year

February 18 | Ash Wednesday

February 18-March 18 | Ramadan (Islamic)

### 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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