



[Business Development](#) | [Live Here](#) | [Work Here](#) | [Who We Are](#)

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

**Dubuque County. Working Hard. Pushing Through.**

# Top Rate of Annual Job Growth in Iowa



## Dubuque County MSA Leads Iowa in Annual Job Growth Rate

On September 24, 2024, Greater Dubuque Development received new labor force statistics from the Iowa Workforce Development highlighting the Dubuque County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as the top performer in year-over-year job growth among Iowa's nine major metros. From August 2023 to August 2024, the Dubuque County MSA experienced 2.2% job growth with the addition of 1,300 jobs.

[Read more about the latest job growth data for the Dubuque County MSA](#)

# NEXT GEN perceptions survey.

## Results Summary:

What we heard from the next generation of talent to help us deliver on our promise that **YOU can be great here.**

## Download the NEXT GEN Perceptions Survey Result Summary

As presented to the Dubuque City Council on August 19, 2024, a summary of our NEXT GEN Perceptions Survey results is now available for download. Explore what over 1,100 individuals, between the ages of 18 and 30, living in the Greater Dubuque region identify as their top priorities and where they feel the region currently stacks up on 35 critical community factors.

[Learn More >](#)

## Business Services

**YOUR BUSINESS** can be great here.

Business Development

## Iowa Industry 4.0 Funding: Assessment Portal Open

The State of Iowa recently opened the portal for manufacturers to request an assessment in order to apply for the [Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program](#), which will begin accepting submissions in 2025. This program offers grants aimed at helping Iowa manufacturers with 3 to 125 employees increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness. Awards are capped at \$75,000 over the lifetime of the business and require a one-to-one match.

To pre-qualify for the funding program, manufacturers must first undergo an assessment performed by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) with Iowa State University. Assessments will include a plant tour and discussion about how to best utilize funding. The deadline to [request an assessment is November 22, 2024](#) but companies should sign up early, as this program is projected to have significant interest from businesses across the state.

[Request an Assessment >](#)



## Interested in learning more the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program?

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



From left to right: Brad Frisvold (International Agriculture Marketing Manager, IEDA), Thao Pham (Singapore/Southeast Asia Consultant), Andrea Smith (International Marketing Manager, IEDA), Anne McMahon (Business Development Manager, IEDA), Anke Goebel (Germany/Europe Consultant), Luis Domenech (Mexico/Latin America Consultant), Jason White (VP Business Services, Greater Dubuque Development), Dan McDonald (Director of Existing Business, Greater Dubuque Development), Leigh Carlson (International Partner States Program Coordinator, IEDA), Andrew Clutz (Northern Asia Consultant) and Anuj Kumar (Northern Asia Consultant)

Business Development

### **Greater Dubuque Development Links Regional Employers to Global Business Resources**

On Thursday, October 3, 2024, Greater Dubuque Development hosted a business breakfast titled "Global Business Help for Greater Dubuque Businesses," featuring the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). The IEDA team and their consultants represent Iowa's business opportunities across the globe, with a focus on markets in Mexico, Latin America, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Northern Asia.

During the event, IEDA delivered a [comprehensive presentation outlining state-level services for international trade](#), as well as grant funding opportunities available to Iowa companies. Following the presentation, the IEDA team toured manufacturing businesses in Dubuque, Peosta, and Dyersville, culminating in a visit to the iconic Field of Dreams.

**[Learn more about our October 3rd event and additional global business resources](#)**



#### **Questions about connecting with global business resources?**

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



**Interested in how our HR 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](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)

**Workforce Solutions**

**YOUR CAREER** can be great here.



On Wednesday, October 2, our AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair connected job seekers and college students with over 50 employers and resource booths from the Greater Dubuque region.

## Event Recap

### **Over 220 Job Seekers Connect with 50+ Employers and Resource Booths at AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair**

Greater Dubuque Development hosted the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 from 1-4 p.m. in the main ballroom at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. The event drew more than 220 job seekers, including 60 students from local institutions of higher education, reflecting the region's commitment to growing and retaining a skilled workforce.

This event was part of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation's [2024-2025 YOU can be great here Community of Colleges event series](#). Greater Dubuque Development worked closely with career services staff at higher education institutions in the region to promote the event to students. The goal was to connect students with internships, part-time, and long-term career opportunities in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Read more about the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair](#)



### **Interested in learning more about participating in future AccessDubuqueJobs.com career fairs?**

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

## College Outreach

### **2024 Student Welcome Letter Campaign Connects College Students to Dubuque**

This fall, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, in partnership with local higher education institutions and the City of Dubuque, carried out its annual Student Welcome Letter Campaign. With more than 1,200 physical letters mailed and over 4,300 emails



sent, the initiative reached incoming and current students, connecting them to valuable resources and showcasing Dubuque's vibrant community.

[Dive into the details and outcomes of our 2024 student welcome letter campaign](#)



### **Interested in learning more about the Future Leadership Team?**

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



International students from higher education institutions in the region, alongside members of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque's Better Together Committee, enjoy the inaugural International Student Retention Welcome Event. Photo courtesy of Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

### **Event Recap**

### **Building a Stronger Workforce through International Student Retention**

On Friday, September 6, 2024, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, in partnership with Greater Dubuque Development and the region's Community of Colleges, hosted the inaugural International Student Retention Welcome Event at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. The event drew 88 international students from all colleges and universities in the region—a pivotal step in integrating these talented individuals into our community and encouraging them to envision their futures in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Read more about the inaugural International Student Retention Welcome Event](#)



### **Questions about our work with the Community of Foundation of Greater Dubuque to retain international students?**

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



## Strategic Initiatives

### State of Iowa Unveils Child Care Search Portal

To support Iowa's families, the new Iowa Child Care Connect (C3) portal offers a [Child Care Search Tool](#), displaying child care providers with vacancies by geography or along a designated driving route. With this interactive tool, Iowa families can conveniently identify child care providers near them or between their home and office.

[Learn More >](#)

## 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

- BAC CPA
- Cummer Masonry
- Grainwell Puffed Grains

### Renewed Investors

- Days Inn
- Dubuque Community School District

### Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Dubuque County
- Express Employment Professionals
- FedEx Ground
- Hodge Company
- Molo Companies
- Mulgrew Oil & Propane
- O'Connor & Thomas PC
- PBS Systems
- Progressive Processing, LLC - A Hormel Company
- Steeple Square
- TRICOR, LLC



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.



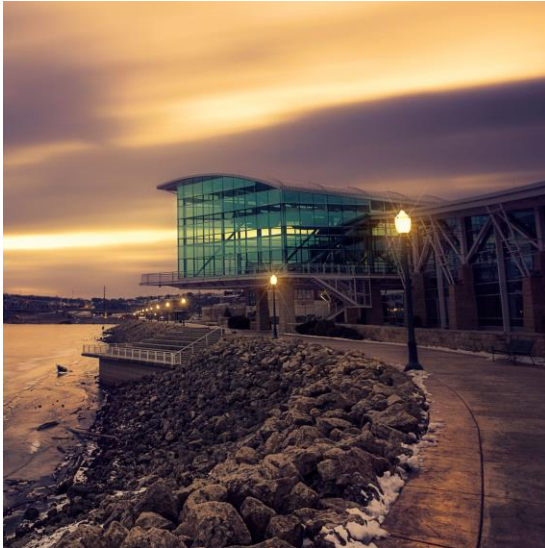
## Community News

### Call for Input for Schmitt Island Sports Complex Feasibility Study

The DRA, in collaboration with Dubuque Initiatives and Greater Dubuque Development, is leading a feasibility study for a potential sports and recreation development on Schmitt Island. Your input is vital to understand the demand and identify potential use. **Survey closes Wednesday, October 30, 2024.**

[Learn more >](#)





## Community News

### Grand River Center Receives Stella Award

Northstar Meeting Group's Stella Awards honor excellence in the group meetings industry. Congratulations to the Grand River Center for being named the [Midwest's Gold Winner for Best Convention Center](#) as part of the 2024 Stella Awards.

[Learn more >](#)



## Community News

### Dubuque Cited Among Top 13 Destinations for Creative Spirits

Travel website, [onlyinyourstate.com](https://onlyinyourstate.com), has cited Dubuque among the top 13 creative destinations in the U.S. Dubuque came in at #7 alongside other arts-filled cities like Austin, TX; Portland, OR; Telluride, CO; and Sedona, AZ.

[Learn more >](#)

Photo courtesy of Dubuque County Fine Arts Society



## Community News

### Dubuque Named to 'Best Small Cities' List

Dubuque is among the best small cities in the nation, according to a 2024 study by [WalletHub](#), ranking in the 86th percentile and 6th among Iowa cities. The study compared more than 1,300 U.S. cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000 based on five key areas: affordability, economic health, education and health, quality of life, and safety.

[Learn more >](#)



### Strategic Initiatives Spotlight

## Conlon Construction Co.

Hear from Matt Mulligan, President and Chief Operating Officer of Conlon Construction Co. about his experience of working with Greater Dubuque Development to respond to the need for more housing stock in the region.

## Upcoming Events

**YOUR NETWORK** can be great here.

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

**Brain Health Summit 2024**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College | 8342 NICC Dr., Peosta, IA**

At Northeast Iowa Community College's Brain Health Summit 2024, join author and speaker Sam Eaton for his inspiring, personal story of overcoming struggles with brain health and depression. This year's event takes a deep dive into society's misconceptions and barriers surrounding brain health and stigma, and the importance of creating "mindful workplaces." Participants will learn ways to create safe spaces for conversations in professional environments and the changes that can be made to language to fight stigma.

[Learn More >](#)

---

**Friday, December 6, 2024**

**Workforce Solutions Breakfast**

**8:00 - 9:30 a.m. | Q Casino + Resort | 1855 Greyhound Park Rd, Dubuque, IA**

Join us for our semiannual Workforce Solutions Breakfast on Friday, December 6, 2024 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. in the new Reflections event spaces at the Q Casino + Resort. Our Workforce Solutions Breakfast events provide an opportunity to come together with area CEOs, HR professionals, elected officials and community leaders while learning about the latest developments in our Workforce Solutions program delivering on our promise that **YOU can be great here**. A buffet breakfast is served promptly at 8:00 a.m. followed by a robust program with speakers from Greater Dubuque Development staff and partners. Space is limited for this FREE event. RSVP today [via our online form](#) or by contacting Anna Roling, Executive Assistant at Greater Dubuque Development, at 563-557-9049 or [annar@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:annar@greaterdubuque.org).

[RSVP Today >](#)

---

**Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances**

**November | National Native American Heritage Month**

**November 1 | Diwali (Hindu)**

**November 1 | Dia de los Muertos (Mexican)**

**November 2 | Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í)**

**November 5 | Election Day (U.S.)**

**November 11 | Veteran's Day (U.S.)**

**November 15 | Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday (Sikh)**

**November 26 | Day of the Covenant (Bahá'í)**

**November 28 | Thanksgiving (U.S.)**

### **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.

*Copyright (C) 2024 Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)