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APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Everyone's Voice Is Valued Around Our Table

A Message from Our President & CEO

This month, I extend sincere appreciation to the investors in our **YOU can be great here** campaign. Hard as it may be to believe, this July marks the final year of the current campaign and the beginning of an important transition as we of reset, reimagine, and recommit to the next chapter of our work.

One of the things I value most about leading Greater Dubuque Development is the breadth of stakeholders who come together around the table—private businesses, nonprofits, local governments, labor leaders, education partners, and legislators. Growing a community's economy takes all of us, and our region is strongest when every voice is engaged.

In the year ahead, our focus will be on strategies aligned with our core priorities:

- Preserving the long-term financial health of our organization
- Advancing talent recruitment, retention, and population growth
- Attracting new business investment and jobs

We have also taken deliberate steps to educate, inform, and support the key tools that sustain our competitiveness—tools such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the Iowa New Jobs Training Program (260E). These public-private mechanisms remain essential to fostering investment and strengthening our economic development partnerships.

We look forward to continuing to move our community and region forward as we listen, engage, and collaborate. On behalf of our team and board, thank you for your leadership, your investment, and your continued belief in this work we do together.



With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. White".

Jason White

President & CEO

jasonw@greaterdubuque.org | 563-557-9049

Business Support & Attraction

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



Business Expansion

Revolution Lightboards Grows Footprint in Dubuque Industrial Park West

Revolution Lightboards has relocated to a new commercial facility on Synergy Court, continuing its growth as a Dubuque-based manufacturer with global reach. From its beginnings as a local startup, the company has become a leading producer of lightboards and self-service video recording studios, serving customers in all 50 states and more than 40 countries.

Products are designed and manufactured in Dubuque, supporting local industry while reaching a worldwide client base that includes major companies, healthcare systems, and universities.

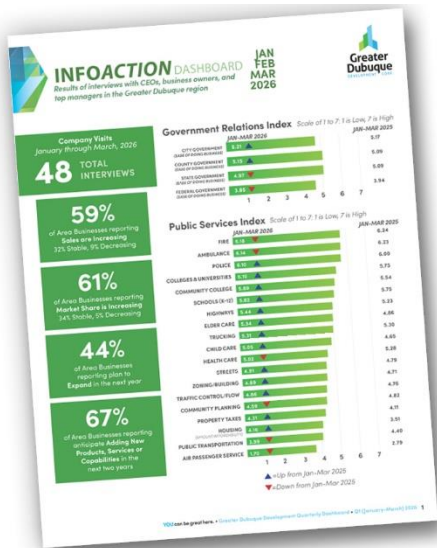
As part of its continued investment in the region, Revolution Lightboards is offering access to its on-site video recording studios at no cost to area educators and business professionals, creating new opportunities for content creation, training, and communication across the Greater Dubuque area.

[Connect with the Revolution Lightboards team to learn more](#)



Interested in learning how we can support your business expansion plans?

Contact Daniel McDonald, Director of Existing Business, at 563-557-9049 or danielm@greaterdubuque.org



Data & Resources

InfoAction Program Quarterly Report 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 program. This past quarter, we interviewed the leaders of 48 area companies to gather real-time data on their challenges, opportunities, and workforce trends.

[Download the January-March 2026 InfoAction Dashboard](#)



Interested in learning more about our InfoAction program?

Contact Daniel McDonald, Director of Existing Business, at 563-557-9049 or danielm@greaterdubuque.org



Existing Business Funding

Local Manufacturers Awarded Manufacturing 4.0 Grants

Two regional manufacturers have been awarded funding through the Iowa Economic Development Authority Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program to support the adoption of smart technologies. FH Uelner Precision Tools and Dies, of Dubuque, received \$75,000, while JEDA Polymers, of Dyersville, was awarded \$10,000.

The program helps small and mid-sized manufacturers enhance productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness by investing in advanced technologies. This fiscal year, 39 companies across Iowa received nearly \$2 million in total awards.

[**Learn more about the State of Iowa's Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment program**](#)



Interested in exploring if the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology program is a good fit for your business?

Contact Daniel McDonald, Director of Existing Business, at 563-557-9049 or danielm@greaterdubuque.org

Regional Collaboration

Tri-State Practitioners Advance Regional Collaboration

Convened by Greater Dubuque Development, the Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners met April 16 to explore new opportunities for regional collaboration across Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Representing 8 counties and a combined population over 250,000, the group is advancing shared strategies for business attraction, talent recruitment, and long-term growth.

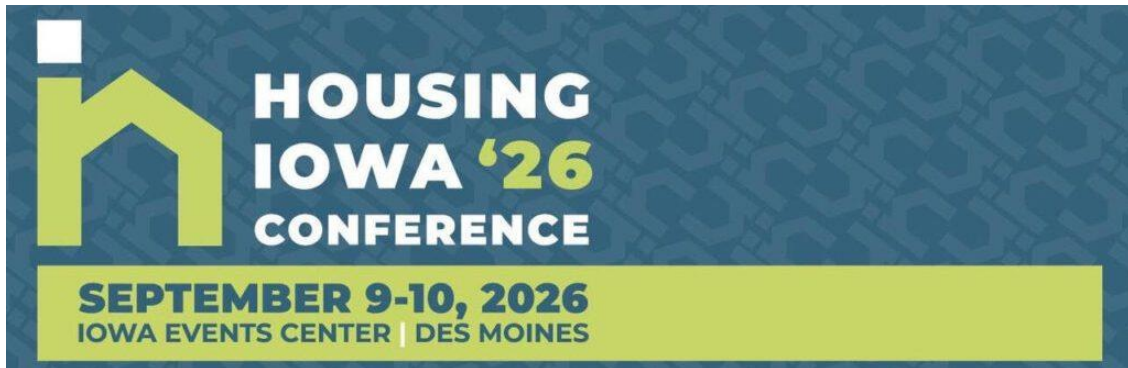


[Read more about April's convening of the Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners](#)



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

Contact Jason White, CEO & President, at 563-557-9049 or jasonw@greaterdubuque.org



Housing Development

Nominations Open for 2026 HousingIowa Awards

The Iowa Finance Authority is now [accepting nominations](#) for the 19th annual HousingIowa Awards, recognizing leadership, innovation, and impact in affordable housing across the state. Nominations are **due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026.**

The awards highlight outstanding projects and programs in the following categories:

- Multifamily Housing Development
- Single-Family Housing Development
- Special Needs Housing Development<
- Innovation

Additional honors recognize individuals making a difference in housing, including the Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award and the Mark Sertterh Friend of Housing Award.

Recipients will be recognized during the HousingIowa Conference on September 9, 2026 in Des Moines, IA, where selected projects and leaders will be featured for their impact and innovation.

[Click to learn more and submit a nomination](#)

Population Growth

YOUR FUTURE can be great here.



Retention Efforts

Enrollment Now Open for 2026 Talent Dubuque: An Intern Engagement Program

Greater Dubuque Development is excited to bring back Talent Dubuque: An Intern Engagement Program, designed to connect your summer interns with the community and one another. This free program provides unique networking and community experiences for the next generation of talent, creating connections that increase the likelihood that they will choose to stay and build their careers in the Greater Dubuque region.

Participation is free and open to interns of Workforce Solutions Investors or any student currently enrolled in a regional institution of higher education.

2026 Talent Dubuque Events

Welcome Lunch

Thursday, June 11 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Grand River Center | 500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA

Sunset Social at Swiss Valley

Wednesday, June 17 | 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Swiss Valley Park | 13069 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA

Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals (YP) Luncheons

Wednesday, July 15 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Q Casino + Resort, Reflections | 1855 Greyhound Park Rd., Dubuque, IA

Choose-Your-Saturday Dubuque Farmer's Market

Saturdays, May through October | 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Downtown Dubuque | 1100-1300 Blocks of Iowa St.

Participants receive a \$15 voucher redeemable during this summer's Dubuque Farmers' Market by Dubuque Main Street.

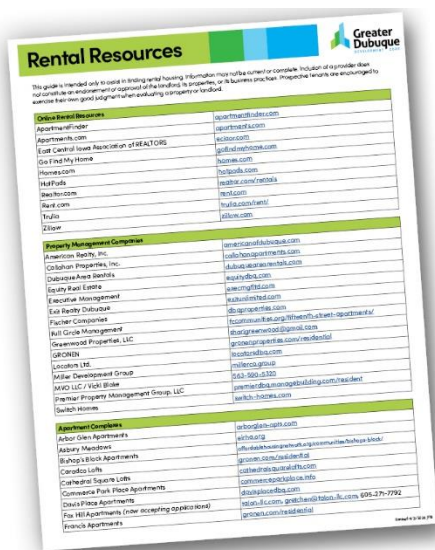
Registration is now open; [download and complete our registration spreadsheet](#) to [email to Mandi Dolson](#), Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention. Employers are responsible for enrolling their interns in the Talent Dubuque program; interns must RSVP for individual events as dates approach.

[Learn more about our 2026 Talent Dubuque: An Intern Engagement Program](#)



Interested in learning more about Talent Dubuque?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



Newcomer Resource

Updated Rental Resource Guide Now Available

Help new employees get settled with our updated [Rental Resources Guide](#)—a quick-reference tool with contacts and links to explore rental options in the Greater Dubuque region. Download it today and make it part of your onboarding support for new team members who are also new to the community.

[Download our updated Rental Resource Guide](#)



Interested in learning about our other newcomer services?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



College Outreach

That's a Wrap: YOU can be great here Community of Colleges 2025-2026

From career fairs to hockey, bowling, and movie nights, the **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges series engaged 568 students this academic year with the help of our higher education partners. These

College Bowling Night made its first appearance in the 2025–2026 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges series, striking a chord with area college students.

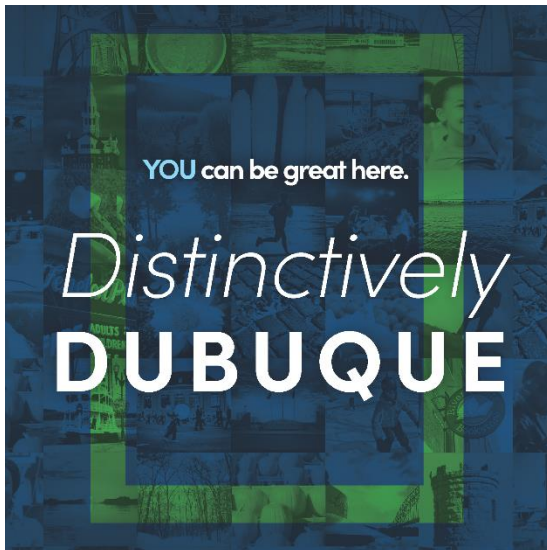
experiences introduced students to area employers and helped them build meaningful connections to the Greater Dubuque region to support population growth and facilitate talent pipelines.

[Learn more about our 2025-2026 YOU can be great here Community of Colleges events](#)



Interested in learning about our college outreach effort?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



Newcomer Resource

Distinctively Dubuque Concludes 65th Class, Returns This Fall

Greater Dubuque Development recently completed the 65th class of Distinctively Dubuque, welcoming a full cohort of 30 participants this spring. The program continues to connect new and returning residents to the region, with fall sessions beginning August 19 and September 30. The program is offered at no cost to participants.

[Download Distinctively Dubuque information to learn more and register](#)



Interested in learning about Distinctively Dubuque?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org

Data & Resources

Last Call for Workforce Solutions Breakfast Registrations

Join us **Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.** at Diamond Jo Casino for the next Workforce Solutions Breakfast. This event brings together area CEOs, HR professionals, elected officials, and community leaders to share the latest workforce strategies that support employers across the Greater Dubuque region and help deliver on the promise that YOU can be great here.

A buffet breakfast begins at 7:45 a.m., followed by a program at 8:00 a.m. featuring Greater Dubuque Development staff and partners.

Space is limited for this free event. **RSVP by Friday, May 8** through the online form or contact Anna Roling, Executive Assistant at Greater Dubuque Development, at 563-557-9049 or annar@greaterdubuque.org.

[Register now for the May 14 Workforce Solutions Breakfast](#)

YOUR SUPPORT can be great here.

Invest in 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

- American Lady Cruises/Catfish Charlies
- Black Hills Energy
- Crescent Electric Supply Co
- Double L Group, LLC
- East Dubuque Nitrogen Fertilizers
- Holy Family Catholic Schools
- John Deere Dubuque Works
- Loras College
- McCoy Group
- Nordstrom
- Northwestern Mutual
- Southwest Health
- Suttner America Company
- Webber Metal Products



Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or 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.



Jason White (far left), along with representatives from the City of Dubuque and local lending institutions, spoke to the East Central Iowa Association of REALTORS in April.



GOVERNOR'S
EMPOWER RURAL IOWA
INITIATIVE

Community News

Jason White Participates in Housing Opportunities Panel

Greater Dubuque Development President & CEO Jason White joined the *Collaborative Community Conversation on Creating Housing Opportunities* panel on April 16, hosted by the [East Central Iowa Association of REALTORS](#). The discussion brought together public, private, and lending partners to explore housing challenges, opportunities, and collaborative solutions in the Dubuque area. [Learn more about ECIAOR >](#)

Community News

Greater Dubuque's Workforce Strategies Featured by State Task Force

When the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Task Force met in Dubuque on April 8, Greater Dubuque Development was invited to share workforce strategies shaping talent attraction and retention. The region's approach is helping inform solutions for rural communities across Iowa. [Learn more >](#)



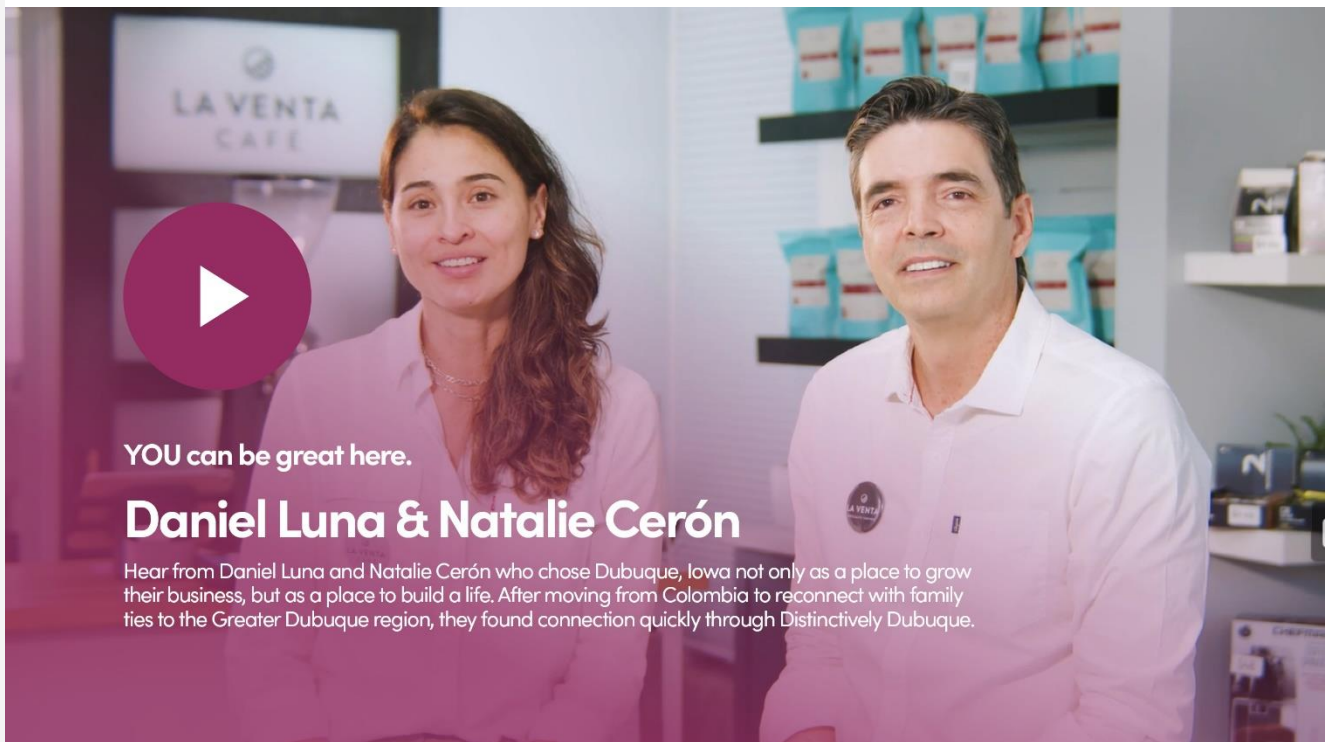
Dubuque's official community logo for 2026 RAGBRAI, inspired by the Mississippi River and other Dubuque landmarks, was unveiled on March 23.

Community News

Volunteer for RAGBRAI

As Dubuque gears up to host RAGBRAI this July, your help is needed to make it happen. Sign up to volunteer and be part of welcoming over 25,000 riders to our city on July 17 (when riders park vehicles and head to the start of the route) and July 25 (when riders will dip their tires at the end of the route in Dubuque). From monitoring parking lots to providing community information, volunteers are the heart of this event.

[Sign up to volunteer >](#)



YOU can be great here.

Daniel Luna & Natalie Cerón

Hear from Daniel Luna and Natalie Cerón who chose Dubuque, Iowa not only as a place to grow their business, but as a place to build a life. After moving from Colombia to reconnect with family ties to the Greater Dubuque region, they found connection quickly through Distinctively Dubuque.

Upcoming Events

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Monday, May 4–Thursday, May 14

Core Manufacturing Skills Training

Monday–Wednesday, 4:00–8:00 p.m. and Thursday, 3:00–8:00 p.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College Dubuque & Peosta Campuses

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) is launching a new two-week Core Manufacturing Skills Certificate program beginning May 4, 2026. Developed with employer input from Greater Dubuque Development's *InfoAction* business visits and further shaped by NICC and employers in the regional Manufacturing Alliance, this grant-funded training (a \$749 value) is free to participants and designed to build foundational skills for entry- and mid-level roles. The evening program runs May 4–14, 2026 (Monday–Wednesday, 4:00–8:00 p.m. and Thursday, 3:00–8:00 p.m.) and covers blueprint reading, measurement, shop math, safety, and workplace communication—making it a strong fit for both new hire onboarding and pipeline development.

[Learn More >](#)

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

HR Professionals Cohort: Real-World Leave Scenarios: FMLA, ADA, and Leave Options

8:00–9:30 a.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College Town Clock Business Center | 680 Main St, Dubuque, IA

Human resources professionals and managers are invited to join the next HR Professionals Cohort on **Tuesday, May 5 from 8:00–9:30 a.m.** at Northeast Iowa Community College's Town Clock Business Center in downtown Dubuque. The cohort is available at no cost to Workforce Solutions Investors. The May session will feature Tracy Boczkowski, Director of Employee Engagement with Conlon Construction Co., leading a discussion titled *Real-World Leave Scenarios: FMLA, ADA, and Leave Options*. The discussion will focus on navigating complex leave situations and applying regulations in real-world workplace settings.

[Learn More & Register >](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

NICC Business Summit 2026: The Cost of Culture

**9:00-11:00 a.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College Conference Center |
8342 NICC Dr, Peosta, IA**

Northeast Iowa Community College's 2026 Business Summit will focus on the impact of workplace culture and the role leadership plays in shaping employee experience, engagement, and retention. Keynote speaker Nora Burns, a former Fortune 200 executive and founder of The Leadership Experts, brings insights from her work as "The Undercover Employee™," where she spent time in front-line roles to better understand the employee experience. Her presentation will highlight practical strategies to strengthen communication, reduce turnover, and better align leadership with day-to-day operations. **SHRM and TRIHRA members receive a discounted rate with code BSSHRM26 through May 1.**

[Learn More & Register >](#)

Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

May | Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May | Jewish American Heritage Month

May 1 | International Worker's Day

May 2 | Visakha Puja (Buddhist)

May 3 | World Press Freedom Day

May 5 | Lab B'omer (Jewish)

May 5 | Cinco de Mayo

May 10 | Mother's Day

May 15 | Ascension Day (Western Christian)

May 21 | Ascension Day (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

May 21 | World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 22-23 | Shavuot (Jewish)

May 24 | Declaraion of the Bab (Baha'i)

May 24 | Pentecost (Western Orthodox)

May 25 | Memorial Day

May 27 | Eid Al-Adha (Islamic)

May 29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

May 31 | Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox 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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