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OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Fly DBQ Updates: New Connections, Earlier Flights, Extended Rebates

### New Delta Connections

Travelers flying out of or into Dubuque can now connect to Delta Airlines flights via Denver Air Connection. Delta joins major carriers American Airlines and United Airlines in having interline ticketing and baggage agreements with Denver Air Connection, which operates the daily flights between Dubuque and O’Hare International Airport. [Learn more >](#)

### Earlier Morning Departures

Beginning November 1, Denver Air Connection’s daily morning flight from Dubuque to O’Hare International Airport will depart at 7:15 a.m. and arrive in Chicago at 8:20 a.m.—35 minutes earlier than the current schedule. The earlier departure time offers more flexibility for business and leisure travelers making

same-day connections or attending morning meetings in Chicago and beyond. [Learn more >](#)

### **Rebate Program Extended**

The \$100 Fly DBQ rebate program—offering travelers an incentive to book round-trip flights between Dubuque and O’Hare International—has been extended through December 31, 2025. The program continues to be facilitated by Greater Dubuque Development, with funding from Dubuque Initiatives. [Learn more >](#)

Together, these updates continue to strengthen Dubuque’s air service offerings and reinforce ongoing efforts by regional partners to restore and grow commercial flight access for the Greater Dubuque region.

[Explore flights at FlyDBQ.com](#)

### **Business Services**

**YOUR BUSINESS** can be great here.



**INFOACTION** DASHBOARD  
*Results of interviews with CEOs, business owners, and top managers in the Greater Dubuque region*

**JULY  
AUG  
SEPT  
2025**

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 72 area companies to gather real-time data on their challenges, opportunities, and workforce trends.

These insights allow us to provide tailored support, ensuring existing businesses have the resources and strategic advantages needed to thrive in the Greater Dubuque region. Overall findings and perspectives are also made available to municipal and county leadership, helping them to shape priorities and ensure **YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.**

[Download the July-September 2025 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](mailto:danielm@greaterdubuque.org)



Economic development practitioners from across the Greater Dubuque region gather for a group photo against the backdrop of downtown Dubuque's skyline during their October 2nd quarterly meeting.

Regional Collaboration

### **Tri-State Practitioners Convene in Downtown Dubuque**

The Tri-State Economic Development Practitioners convened on Thursday, October 2 atop the Dupaco Voices Building for their quarterly meeting. Discussion topics included college student engagement, commercial air service, and income tax reciprocity across state lines.

Following lunch, conversation, and a group photo on the rooftop, Dupaco CEO Joe Hearn led attendees on a tour of the fourth floor of the building. Economic development colleagues from Platteville will host the next meeting, scheduled for January 15, 2026.



## 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)



Left, Unison Solutions' Adam Klass, Cass Lundgren, and Dave Broihahn talk with Allan J. Edwards, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner with the Consulate General of Canada. Right, Edwards meets with PBS Systems' Colleen Callahan.

### Business Outreach

#### Canadian Trade Commissioner Visits Dubuque

Greater Dubuque Development coordinated a visit on Monday, October 13 from Allan J. Edwards, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner with the Consulate General of Canada, connecting him with local business leaders at PBS Systems and Unison Solutions. Both Dubuque-based companies have active trade and business ties to Canada. The visit fostered new opportunities for cross-border collaboration and reinforced the value of partnerships in advancing regional growth.

[Learn more about Canadian Trade Commissioner, Allan J. Edwards' visit](#)



## Interested in learning more about our Business Services?

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



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

## Workforce Solutions

YOUR GROWTH can be great here.



## Data & Resources

### 2025 Wage & Occupations Report Now Available for Download

We are pleased to reshare the release of the [2025 Dubuque County Wage and Occupations Report](#). This annual report provides valuable insights into job distribution and compensation trends across the region, allowing you to assess how your wages align with the local, state, and national markets.

Beyond the data, our Workforce Solutions team is here to support your business with a range of services so that **YOU can be great here**. From training and upskilling through Opportunity Dubuque to recruitment via AccessDubuqueJobs.com and relocation resources to help integrate new employees into the Greater Dubuque region, we are here to help you meet your workforce goals.

[Download the 2025 Dubuque County Wage & Occupation Report](#)



**Interested in learning more about the Wage & Occupations Report?**

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



Nic Hockenberry (left) and Jason White (right) attend PDI's Fall Conference in Ankeny, Iowa in September.

Statewide Leadership

### **Hockenberry Elected President of Professional Developers of Iowa**

Greater Dubuque Development Corporation is proud to share that Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming, has been elected President of the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI), the statewide association representing economic development professionals and organizations advancing Iowa's communities and economy.

Hockenberry was officially recognized as President during the 2025 PDI Fall Conference, held September 24–26 in Ankeny, Iowa. His election follows a strong legacy of leadership from within the Greater Dubuque team—Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, also previously served as President of PDI.

[Read more on Nic's election to PDI President and learn about the organization's work](#)



#### **Interested in learning more about PDI?**

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



Scenes from the 2nd annual International Student Welcome Event held on Friday, September 19 at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. Photos courtesy of the Loras College and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

Leadership Development

### **Retaining International Student Talent Supports Building a Stronger Workforce**

Now in its second year, the International Student Welcome Event helps students from around the world feel at home in Dubuque and begin building networks beyond their campuses. Hosted by Greater Dubuque Development and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in partnership with our higher education partners in the region, the 2025 event took place on Friday, September 19, at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium.

The event welcomed 63 students and featured keynote speaker Cami Saenz, a Dubuque-area alumna now working locally on an H-1B visa. National research underscores the importance of this work—international students make up more than 70% of graduate students in electrical engineering, computer and information sciences, and manufacturing engineering.

[Read more about community and career connections for international students](#)



**Interested in learning more about our international student retention efforts?**

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

## 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, 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

- Mary's Inn Maternity Home

### Renewed Investors

- Amcor Containers & Closures North America (Berry Plastics)
- Cummer Masonry Inc.
- Days Inn

### Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Dubuque Community School District
- Dubuque County
- Express Employment Professionals
- HODGE
- O'Connor & Thomas PC
- PBS Systems
- Progressive Processing, LLC-A Hormel Company
- Steeple Square
- TRICOR, LLC



### Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor?

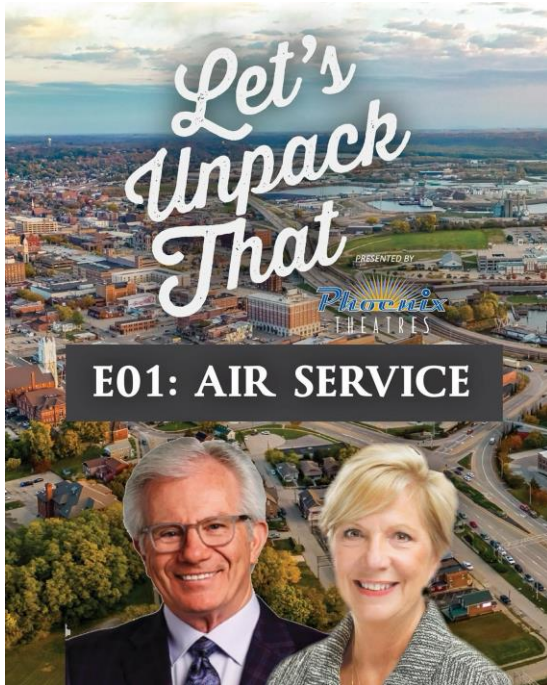
Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org)



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

## Community Information

**YOUR LIFE** can be great here.



## Community News

### **New Podcast Dives into Issues Shaping the Greater Dubuque Region**

*Let's Unpack That*, a new podcast by the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and presented by Phoenix Theatres, devoted its launch to the topic of air service at the Dubuque Regional Airport, featuring a conversation between Molly Grover, Chamber President & CEO, and Rick Dickinson, President & CEO of Greater Dubuque Development.

[Listen to the podcast on YouTube >](#)



## Community News

### **Petersen-Brant Recognized at 2025 State of Main Awards**

Jenni Petersen-Brant, Director of Communications for Greater Dubuque Development, was recently honored with the 2025 Russ & Ruth Nash Cultural Corridor Award during Dubuque Main Street's State of Main Awards. The annual award celebrates

From left to right: Laura Bertjens (Dubuque Main Street), Travis Brant, Jenni Petersen-Brant, David Barba (Dubuque Main Street), and Jason White (Greater Dubuque Development). Photo courtesy of Dubuque Main Street



Photo courtesy of Digital Dubuque.

a person or group enriching downtown through arts, culture, and creativity.

[Learn about all 2025 award winners](#)

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Community News

### **Talon Development Celebrates Fox Hills Groundbreaking**

On Tuesday, September 30, Talon Development, in partnership with Eagle Construction, officially broke ground on the Fox Hills Apartments. This \$50 million+ project will bring 390 market-rate apartments to Dubuque's West End with the first residents being welcomed in late 2026.

[Learn more about Fox Hills >](#)



Partnership Spotlight

## Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce

Hear from Molly Grover, President & CEO of the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, on how partnering with Greater Dubuque Development Corporation and others, working towards common goals and community priorities, is the secret sauce of creating progress in the Greater Dubuque region.

### Upcoming Events

**YOUR NETWORK** can be great here.

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

**2025 PDI Legislative Roundtable**

**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Camp Courageous, Durgin Pavilion | 12101 190th St.,  
Monticello, IA**

Hosted by Jones County Economic Development and Prosperity Eastern Iowa, this regional discussion is part of a statewide series organized by the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI), bringing together legislators, economic developers, and community leaders to discuss the tools and strategies that drive local growth. Roundtable discussions will explore key legislative priorities impacting workforce, housing, child care, and infrastructure—issues are central to strengthening communities across Iowa.

[Learn More and Register Online >](#)

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**Thursday, November 6, 2025**

**Ribbon Cutting: Dubuque County 911 Emergency Communications Center**

**4:30 p.m. | Bright Minds Campus | 7880 Chavenelle Rd., Dubuque, IA**

The City of Dubuque and Dubuque County invite the community to celebrate the opening of the new 911 Emergency Communications Center on Thursday, November 6, at 4:30 p.m. The ribbon cutting will take place at 7880 Chavenelle Road, Dubuque. This new facility represents a significant investment in public safety and regional collaboration. Join local leaders, first responders, and community partners in recognizing this important milestone for Dubuque County.

[Learn More >](#)

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**Monday, November 10, 2025**

**Make It Real: Bringing the Envision 2030 Ideas to Life**

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m. | Q Casino + Resort | 1855 Greyhound Park Rd., Dubuque, IA**

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque invites community members to help shape Dubuque's future at [Make It Real: Bringing the Envision 2030 Ideas to Life](#), taking place Monday, November 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Q Casino. Following The Big Reveal event in October, where Dubuque's [top 10 ideas for the future](#) were revealed, this session will focus on moving those ideas from vision to action. Participants will collaborate with others who share their interests, discuss next steps, and leave with a plan for turning ideas into transformational community projects. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

[Learn More and RSVP Online >](#)

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**Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances**

**October 31 | Reformation Day (Christian)**

**October 31 | Halloween**

**November | National American Indian Heritage Month**

**November 1-2 | Dia de los Muertos (Mexican)**

**November 5 | Guru Nanak De Ji's Birthday (Sikh)**

**November 9-10 | Kristallnacht**

**November 11 | Veterans' Day**

**November 16 | International Day for Tolerance**

**November 17-21 | American Education Week**

### **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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