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MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Connecting People & Opportunity

### A Message from Our President & CEO

There are moments when serving individuals and serving our business community align—and when they do, we at Greater Dubuque Development are grateful to play a role. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the *Lighting the Lantern* event hosted by the Presentation Lantern Center, an organization many of us partner with to support newcomers in learning English and engaging in the Dubuque community. During the event, Alex Baum of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque noted that much of Dubuque’s net population growth in recent years has come from our immigrant residents.

Supporting that growth matters to all of us. At Greater Dubuque Development, we remain committed to helping employers identify and recruit talent while assisting our colleges in attracting and retaining students.

Through our international student retention efforts with the Better Together Committee, alongside the Community Foundation, we are working to create clearer pathways for these students to build their careers in the Greater Dubuque region. This month, I encourage you to learn more about how the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program can help connect employers with this emerging talent pipeline.

Thank you for taking time to read this month's newsletter. We appreciate your continued partnership and collaboration to amplify the message that **YOU can be great here.**



With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason E. White".

**Jason White**

President & CEO

[jasonw@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:jasonw@greaterdubuque.org) | 563-557-9049

## **Business Support & Attraction**

**YOUR BUSINESS** can be great here.



Scenes from Universal Tank & Fabrication's March 6th ribbon cutting where employees and community members had the opportunity to explore the new 28,000-square-foot facility.

## **Business Expansion**

### **Universal Tank & Fabrication Celebrates New Facility Opening**

Universal Tank & Fabrication marked the opening of its new 28,000-square-foot facility with a ribbon cutting on Friday, March 6. The more than \$7 million expansion is expected to create at least 15 new jobs while improving workflow efficiency and increasing production capacity, supporting the company's continued growth in the Greater Dubuque region.

We recognize GRONEN and their subcontractors for their work on this project and value our collaboration with the City of Dubuque and the Iowa Economic Development Authority in securing critical financial incentives that supported its success.

[Watch coverage of Universal Tank & Fabrication's facility opening from KCRG](#)



**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](mailto:danielm@greaterdubuque.org)



Housing Incentives

### **Workforce Housing Tax Credits Help Drive New Housing Development**

The [State of Iowa's Workforce Housing Tax Credit program](#) continues to support new housing investment in Dubuque. In the past two years alone, six local projects representing more than 230 housing units have received over \$3 million in tax credits.

Applications for the next round of funding are due Wednesday, June 10, 2026. Developers interested in applying should request a required letter of support from the City of Dubuque by Friday, April 10.

[Learn more about the program and the recent impact in Dubuque](#)



**Interested in learning more about the Workforce Housing Tax Credit program?**

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

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Utility Partners

**Dubuque Area Businesses Recognized at Alliant Energy Event**

Several Dubuque-area businesses were recognized at the Alliant Energy Breakfast Bites and Energy Insights event held on Friday, February 27, highlighting innovation, energy efficiency, and investment across the region.

Local businesses recognized with Premiere Energy Champion awards included Eagle Window & Door and JEDA Polymers LLC, while Energy Impact Saver awards were presented to 799 Main LLC for their mixed use building renovation project and CBDC, LLC for the C&B Childcare Center.

The event also highlighted programs available to support Iowa businesses, including how to [request a free energy audit](#) and [submit a custom rebate request](#), helping companies identify efficiency opportunities, offset project costs, and reduce long-term operating expenses.

Businesses in the Greater Dubuque region are encouraged to explore these resources as part of future planning and investment.

[Explore more ways Alliant Energy can help commercial customers](#)



**Interested in learning how we can support you in working with your utility partners?**

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

## Population Growth

**YOUR FUTURE** can be great here.



Scenes from the 1 Million Cups event held at Collins Community Credit Union in Dubuque, attended by Greater Dubuque Development's Future Leadership Team where they learned about regional entrepreneurial resources and made connections with local entrepreneurs.

### Event Recap

#### **Future Leadership Team Explores Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

Members of the Future Leadership Team gathered on Wednesday, March 4 for a session focused on entrepreneurship, centered around a [1 Million Cups](#) event hosted at Collins Community Credit Union in Dubuque. The session included an overview of regional entrepreneurial resources, followed by a 1 Million Cups presentation by Molly Knuth of The Restoration Project and a collaborative discussion with attendees.

Accounting for both our Future Leadership Team and members of the general public, more than 70 people participated in the event, highlighting strong engagement with the local entrepreneurial community.

[Click to read the full recap of the March 4th Future Leadership Team meeting](#)



**Interested in learning more about our Future Leadership Team?**

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



Scenes from the 2nd annual International Student Welcome Event held in September 2025 as part of collaborative efforts help international students connect to places, people, and potential careers in the Greater Dubuque region. Photos courtesy of the Loras College and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

Talent Retention

### **Connecting Employers with International Talent in the Greater Dubuque Region**

Employers in the Greater Dubuque region have an opportunity to connect with a growing pool of international students preparing to enter the workforce. More than 300 international students are currently enrolled across regional colleges and universities, representing a range of in-demand skills and fields of study.

Through the [Optional Practical Training](#) (OPT) program, graduates can work in the United States in roles related to their degree—without requiring employer sponsorship. This provides businesses with a streamlined way to access talent while supporting long-term retention in the Greater Dubuque region.

Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, and regional partners are working together to help employers better understand and utilize this opportunity.

[Learn more about the OPT program & download our FAQ handout](#)



#### **Interested in learning more about the Optional Practical Training program?**

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

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## Talent Recruitment

### **Connecting Displaced Workers with Greater Dubuque Opportunities**

On Monday, March 9, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation participated in a hiring event hosted by IowaWORKS in Cedar Rapids to connect with more than 300 workers impacted by the recent Whirlpool layoffs. Staff joined 15 additional employers and partner organizations to share information about the wide range of career opportunities available in the Greater Dubuque region.

During the event, our team highlighted current openings listed on [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://www.accessdubuquejobs.com) and introduced job seekers to the strengths of the Greater Dubuque area as a place to build both a career and community. Efforts like this help expand outreach beyond the immediate Dubuque area and connect skilled workers navigating layoffs or career transitions with employers in our region.

Employers interested in learning more about connecting with displaced workers through IowaWORKS are encouraged to contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at [mandid@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:mandid@greaterdubuque.org) or 563-557-9049.



#### **Interested in learning more about our displaced worker outreach efforts?**

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

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## Registration Open for May 14 Workforce Solutions Breakfast

Join us for our Workforce Solutions Breakfast on Thursday, May 14, from 8:00–9:30 a.m. at the Diamond Jo Casino. Connect with fellow HR professionals, area CEOs, elected officials, and community leaders to learn about the latest workforce strategies supporting employers of the Greater Dubuque region. [RSVP online](#) or by contacting Anna Roling, Executive Assistant at 563-557-9049 or [annar@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:annar@greaterdubuque.org).

Staff from the City of Dubuque’s Department of Community Engagement & Neighborhood Support and Multicultural Family Center attend the May 2025 Workforce Solutions Breakfast.

[Click to RSVP online for our May 14th Workforce Solutions Breakfast](#)

## YOUR SUPPORT can be great here.

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

### New Investors

- Top Notch Plumbing
- RT&T Repair Inc.

### Renewed Investors

- Dubuque Community Y

### Renewed Investors, cont’d

- Hirschbach Motor Lines, Inc.
- Home+Floor Show
- IBI Scientific
- Kendall Hunt Publishing Company

- DuTrac Community Credit Union
- Frog Hollow Kids Campus
- Hills & Dales
- MedOne Pharmacy Benefit Solutions
- Midwest Janitorial Service
- O'Connor, Brooks & Co, P.C.
- University of Dubuque
- Welu, Inc.



**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

**Get Involved in RAGBRAI Dubuque**

Dubuque is gearing up to host RAGBRAI this July, and it's time to get involved. Local businesses and community members can explore sponsorship opportunities or sign up to volunteer and be part of this statewide event that will impact Dubuque on July 17 and 25, 2026.

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

Help create an unforgettable welcome to Dubuque for over 25,000 riders this summer!

[Explore Opportunities >](#)



Screenshot from the February 27 IRDC Zoominar of Jason White, President & CEO of Greater Dubuque Development, discussing our April 2025 Succession Planning for Family Businesses event.

Community News

### **Jason White Shares Insights on Family Business Support**

The Iowa Rural Development Council's February "Zoominar" featured the University of Northern Iowa Family Business Center with Jason White joining to share perspectives on supporting family-owned businesses and strengthening their long-term success in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Access the full IRDC Zoominar >](#)

Goldman Sachs 10,000 small businesses

## Calling All Small Business Owners

Apply now to take your business to the next level

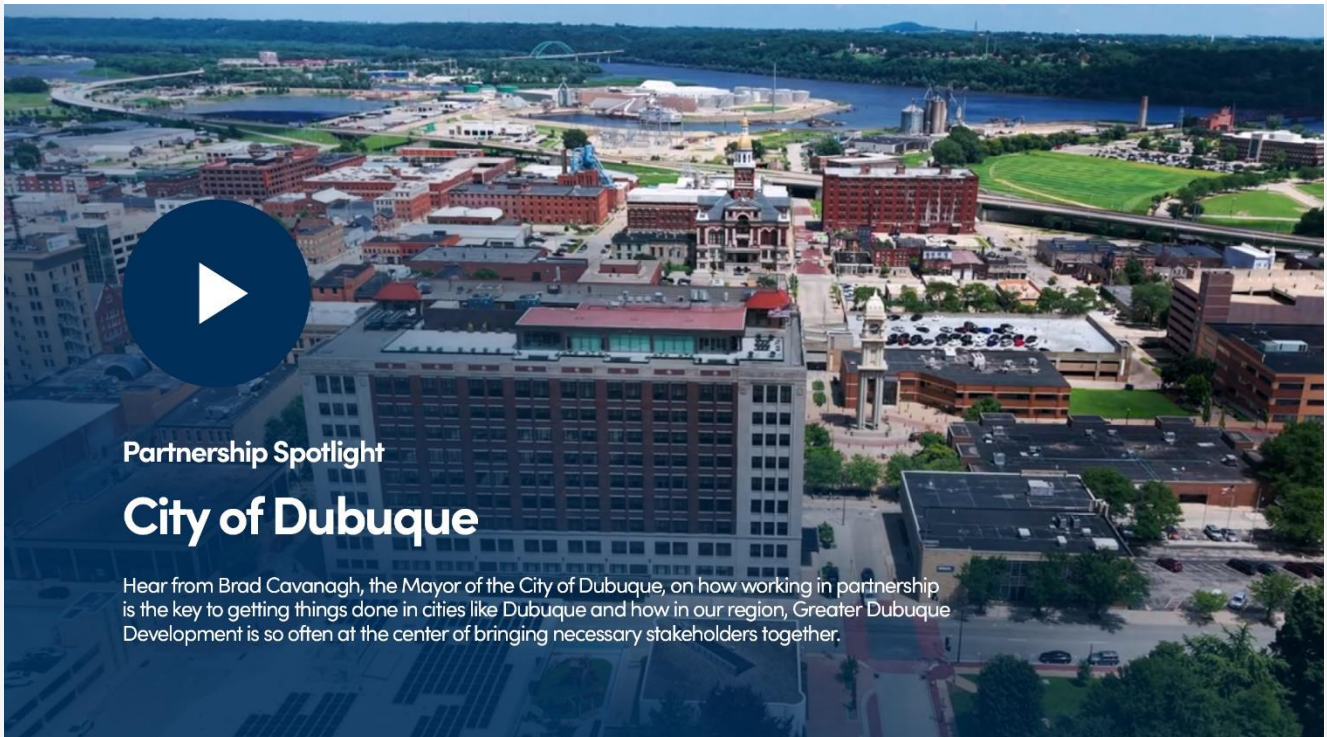
Fully funded business education program

### Community News

#### Applications Open for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program

Apply now for the Iowa cohort of [Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses](#), a fully funded 12-week program for established business owners looking to grow. The initiative includes partnerships with community colleges across the state, including Northeast Iowa Community College. Applications due June 1, 2026.

[Learn more >](#)



#### Partnership Spotlight

### City of Dubuque

Hear from Brad Cavanagh, the Mayor of the City of Dubuque, on how working in partnership is the key to getting things done in cities like Dubuque and how in our region, Greater Dubuque Development is so often at the center of bringing necessary stakeholders together.

### Upcoming Events

**YOUR NETWORK** can be great here.

## **Various Dates for Public Open Houses**

### **Dubuque County Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Plan Update**

#### **Various Times & Locations Below**

Dubuque County Conservation is updating its Comprehensive Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Plan and invites the public to share input at upcoming open house sessions. Community feedback will help guide priorities for park improvements and system-wide enhancements over the next several years.

#### **Open house dates:**

- Tuesday, March 31 | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Asbury Public Library
- Thursday, April 2 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Backpocket Events Space, Dubuque
- Thursday, April 2 | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Cascade Public Library

Light refreshments will be provided. These events are family-friendly, informative, and open to all. For questions about the plan or event accessibility, please contact the Conservation Board office at 563-556-6745.

[Learn More >](#)

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## **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

### **In-Person Monthly Meetups for Small-Scale Developers**

**5:30-6:45 p.m. | Key City Creative Center, 1781 White Street | Dubuque, IA**

A series of free, in-person monthly meetups for those interested in small-scale development is underway in Dubuque. Held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Key City Creative Center, these gatherings offer a welcoming space to connect, share ideas, and learn from others. Participants can collaborate on projects, exchange experiences, and receive support in a relaxed, informal setting. Whether you're actively working on a project or simply exploring an interest in development, the meetups are open to all, with no registration required.

[Learn More >](#)

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**Thursday-Friday, April 9-10, 2026**

**RISE: Iowa Rural Summit 2026**

**Grand River Center | 500 Bell Street | Dubuque, IA**

The 2026 Iowa Rural Summit marks the 10th annual gathering of leaders from across the state focused on strengthening rural economies, workforce development, housing, and community vitality. Hosted in Dubuque, this two-day conference offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and advance solutions that support long-term economic growth.

[Learn More & Register >](#)

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**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**12 Steps to Town Making: Transforming Ideas Into Real Projects**

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Virtual**

Following the “Catalyzing Change: Small-Scale Development for Big Impact” events held in Dubuque in October, a free workshop virtual series is being offered to Dubuque residents and stakeholders interested in transforming ideas into real projects in their neighborhoods and community. The virtual workshops are held the third Thursday each month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. through November 17, 2026. Sessions address topics essential for small-scale developers to complete a successful project such as bank interviews, running project numbers, design, property management, and more. The workshop series is especially relevant for small-scale developers, realtors, builders, and property owners. Questions? Contact the City of Dubuque Economic Development Department at 563.589.4393.

[Learn More & Register >](#)

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**Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances**

**April 1-30 | Arab American Heritage Month**

**April 1-30 | Genocide Awareness Month**

**April 1-30 | National Poetry Month**

**April 2-9 | Passover (Jewish)**

**April 2 | Theravada New Year (Buddhist)**

**April 2 | Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox)**

**April 3 | Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox)**

**April 3 | Good Friday (Western Orthodox)**

**April 5 | Easter**

**April 12 | Pascha (Eastern Orthodox)**

**April 14 | Vaisakhi (Sikh)**

**April 14 | Yom Hashoah (Jewish)**

### **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](#).

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**YOU** can be great here.

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