

Workforce Solutions

Monthly E-Newsletter



January 2025

Latest Workforce Updates

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unemployment Rate 3.3% November 2024 2.9% October 2024 | Dubuque MSA Laborforce 61,600 November 2024 61,600 October 2024 | Jobs Posted on AccessDubuqueJobs.com 927 November 2024 1,144 October 2024 | Resumes Added to ADJ Resume Bank 252 November 2024 413 October 2024 | Workforce Solution Investors 190 November 2024 185 October 2024 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Recruitment Resources

RSVP Now Open for Our Next HR Professionals Cohort

[Registration is now open](#) for our next HR Professionals Cohort gathering, scheduled for **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** at the Northeast Iowa Community College Town Clock Business Center, 680 Main Street in downtown Dubuque. We will explore the topic of **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace** with Kelly Larson, Development & Learning Manager with the City of Dubuque.

Launched in 2023, participation in the HR Professionals Cohort is open to any of our Workforce Solutions

Investors to support their HR staff with cross-sector networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.



Quarterly HR Professionals Cohort meetings incorporate collaborative problem solving activities.

[Click to RSVP for the February 5th HR Professionals Cohort meeting](#)



Contact Mandi to learn more about the HR Professionals Cohort!

Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention

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O: 563-557-9049

Calling Workforce Solutions Investors to Register for AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair

[Employer registration is now open](#) for our AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair scheduled for **Wednesday, March 26, 2025 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. Registration is free but reserved for current Workforce Solutions Investors on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 50 booths are available.

The AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair is a

widely promoted event, attracting job seekers across all industries. Thanks to our long-standing partnerships with regional higher education institutions, this event consistently attracts hundreds of current and soon-to-graduate college students seeking internships and career opportunities in the Greater Dubuque region.



Employers and potential employees connect during our October 2, 2024 AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair.

[Register now for the March 26th AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair](#)



Contact Mandi to learn more about the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair!

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Scenes from our recent Workforce Solutions Breakfast, held in the new Reflections Event Space at the Q Casino + Resort.

Workforce Solutions Breakfast Focuses on Connecting Talent, Innovation and Opportunity

On Friday, December 13, 2024, the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation welcomed 180 HR professionals, business leaders, and elected officials representing 77 community partners to the Workforce Solutions Breakfast at the Q Casino + Resort. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on workforce challenges and highlight innovative solutions that are driving progress in the Greater Dubuque region.

Presentations by Greater Dubuque Development staff and its educational partners covered an overview of our Workforce Solutions programs and resources, the power of internships, the untapped potential of international students, and achievements in increasing child care access throughout the county.

[Read the full Workforce Solution Breakfast recap and access a PDF of the presentation](#)

Retention Tools

Closing Workforce Gaps with International Student Talent Through CPT and OPT Opportunities

During our December 13, 2024 Workforce Solutions Breakfast, Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming with Greater Dubuque Development, spotlighted a promising strategy to address the Greater Dubuque region's growing workforce needs: retaining international students as local talent through Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). This initiative, developed in partnership with the Better Together Committee of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque along with area institutions of higher education, highlights a largely untapped talent pool that is ready and waiting to contribute to our regional economy.

[Learn more about Nic's presentation and download the CPT/OPT handout](#)



Contact Nic to learn more about how CPT and OPT works!

Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming

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O: 563-557-9049

Dolson Elected TRIHRA President & Joins UNI Advisory Board



YOU can be great here.

UNI is proud to
of Workforce
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versity of
Board.

TRIHRA
g human
e tri-state area.
25 and
, Mandi has
visory Board,

which held its inaugural meeting on December 9, 2024
Mandi Dolson (second row left)
in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

*pictured with fellow members of the
UNI Employer Advisory Board. Photo
courtesy of UNI.*

[Read more about Mandi's service to TRIHRA and the UNI Employer Advisory Board](#)

Opportunity Dubuque Highlight: CNC Operator Career Pathway Certificate

Manufacturers throughout the Greater Dubuque region have openings for Computer Numerical Control, better known as CNC, Operators. Filling that gap means training new workers or upskilling the current workforce with programs like the CNC Operator Career Pathway Certificate offered by Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC). A new 19-week program, on Mondays and Tuesdays from

3:30 - 7:30 p.m., starts January 13 and ends May 20, 2025. Students will learn the fundamental principles and knowledge necessary to operate CNC machines in NICC's state-of-the-art Peosta campus lab, blending classroom and hands-on experiences. Tuition assistance and child care support are available through [Opportunity Dubuque](#) for those that qualify.

[Learn more about the CNC Operator Career Pathway Certificate](#)



Contact Nic to learn more about Opportunity Dubuque!

Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming
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Distinctively Dubuque participants visit the Dubuque Museum of Art (left), receive a welcome from Mayor Brad Cavanagh at Greater Dubuque Development's boardroom (center), and connect with fellow newcomers (right) over the course of five classes.

Is Your Newest Employee a Newcomer to Dubuque? Let Us Welcome Them Through Distinctively Dubuque!

[Distinctively Dubuque](#) is a free, interactive experience designed to help newcomers learn more about their new hometown and make connections with others who have recently relocated to the area. Each session consists of five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 p.m, led by high-energy presenters with in-depth knowledge of the Greater Dubuque region. Each night, participants meet at different, unique venues and enjoy local cuisine. The session starting January 29 is full but spots are open for our March, August, and October 2025 classes.

Distinctively Dubuque is designed for individuals that have relocated or returned to the area in the last five years. Thanks to our generous sponsors DRA, the City of Dubuque, and Dubuque County,

Distinctively Dubuque is free of charge to all participants. Advanced registration is required; [register online](#) or contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention at mandid@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049.

[Review dates and register for our 2025 sessions of Distinctively Dubuque](#)



Contact Mandi to register or learn more about the Distinctively Dubuque newcomer program!

Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention

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Career Fairs

Featured: University of Dubuque Career Connections Fair



University of Dubuque Career Connections Fair from Wellness and With nearly graduate, alumni, candidates from all on and include

UD Career Connections Fair

[Register Here!](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Chlapaty Recreation & Wellness Center

[CONTACT US](#) career@dbq.edu

On-Campus Career Fairs This Spring in the Greater Dubuque Region & Beyond

The 2025 spring semester college career fair season is just around the corner! The following list, compiled with the help of our Career Service partners, highlights select upcoming career fairs taking place throughout the Greater Dubuque region and beyond. Our complete list to date is [available on our website](#). Please contact the hosting institution noted with your questions or to request more

information.

Greater Dubuque Development staff are set to attend the career fairs below accentuated with a double asterisk to represent AccessDubuqueJobs.com and our Workforce Solutions Investors. It's a great time to make sure your company profile and job postings on AccessDubuqueJobs.com are up-to-date in advance of these events.

University of Dubuque: UD Career Connections Fair

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Chlapaty Wellness and Recreation Center, UD | McCormick St., Dubuque, IA

For the first time in 10 years, area employers will have the opportunity to connect with University of Dubuque students during an on-campus career fair. Booth fee applies; includes lunch. [Registration now open.](#)

University of Wisconsin-Platteville: Spring Career Fairs

3-day event that offers major-focused days. Employers can register for multiple days. Booth fees apply. [Registration for all 3 events is now open and more information available online.](#)

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

For majors including Agriculture (Agribusiness, Animal Science, Dairy Science), Biology, Business (Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Human Resource Management, International Business, Marketing, Sales), Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation, Education, and Liberal Arts (Health and Human Performance, History, Humanities, Performing and Visual Arts, Psychology, Social Sciences)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. OR 3:00 – 6:00 p.m

For majors including Chemistry, Construction Management, Engineering (Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering), Environmental Science and Conservation, Mathematics

Thursday, February 6, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. OR 3:00 – 6:00 p.m

For majors including Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Data Science Engineering (Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Physics, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Software Engineering), Engineering Technology Management (ITM), Supply Chain Management, Sustainability and Renewable Energy Systems

Iowa State University: Engineering Career Fair

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Scheman Building and Hilton Coliseum | 1805 and 1705 Center Dr., Ames, IA

Focused on all Engineering and associated STEM majors.

Booth fees apply. [Registration now open.](#)

Iowa State University: Business, Industry, and Technology Career Fair

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 | 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Focused on relevant majors within Business, Health and Human Sciences, and Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Booth fees apply. [More information online.](#)

University of Northern Iowa: UNI Spring 2025 Career Fair

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

McLeod Center | 2501 Hudson Rd., Cedar Falls, IA

Campus-wide recruiting fair connecting UNI students to jobs, internships, and other professional experiences with a single day fair sectioned into three zones: Business & Industry, Community & Health, and Law Enforcement, Government & Graduate Schools
Booth fees apply. [Registration now open.](#)

University of Iowa: Spring All Majors Career Fair

Thursday, February 27, 2025 | 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Main Lounge & International Ballroom, Iowa Memorial Union | 125 N. Madison St., Iowa City, IA

[Registration now open.](#)

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