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SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

\$100 Fly DBQ
rebate program.



\$100 Airfare Rebate Program Extended to October 31

Due to an overwhelming response to the program, Dubuque Initiatives is extending its \$100 airfare rebate program for travelers who purchase round-trip tickets on Denver Air Connection flights at the Dubuque Regional Airport. As of September 23, nearly 500 rebate requests have been received!

The new deadline to purchase tickets that are eligible for the \$100 rebate is Friday, October 31, 2025. There are no restrictions on when the flights take place; however, round trip tickets must be purchased between August 11 and October 31, 2025. Rebates can be requested by contacting Karen Kluesner, Vice President of Operations at karenk@greaterdubuque.org or by completing the [online rebate request form](#).

[Read the Dubuque Regional Airport's recent e-newsletter to learn more](#)

Business Services

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



Existing Business

Assessments for New Round of Manufacturing 4.0 Grant Applications Can Now be Scheduled

The Iowa Economic Development Authority's Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program provides grants to assist small and mid-sized manufacturers in Iowa with the adoption and integration of smart technologies into their existing operations. The grants offered through the program—up to \$75,000 with a 1:1 cost share—are aimed at increasing productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness.

Prior to applying, interested companies must undergo an assessment with the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) through Iowa State University. Assessments will help businesses identify Industry 4.0 technology opportunities while evaluating potential impact and ROI to submit as part of the grant application process. The assessment window is open now through November 21, 2025. Grant applications will open in January 2026.

[Assessment Information and Process](#)

[Manufacturing 4.0 Grant Information](#)



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

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or jasonw@greaterdubuque.org



Business Resources

Register Now for Free Workshop on Locally Led, Small-Scale Development Set for October 8

Dubuque residents and stakeholders interested in community improvement through small-scale, neighborhood-led development are invited to attend, *Catalyzing Change: Small-Scale Development for Big Impact*, on October 8, 2025 to learn more about developing real estate in their own neighborhoods. This free event will offer practical tools, frameworks, success stories, and inspiration to help people reinvest in their neighborhoods and transform ideas into real projects.

Being held at Voices Studios at 1585 Central Avenue in downtown Dubuque, the *Catalyzing Change: Small-Scale Development for Big Impact* event kicks off with a luncheon and presentation on small-scale development at 12:00 p.m. Focused project discussions will follow from 1:45 to 3:00 p.m. and a round table on capital and collaboration will close out the workshop from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

There is no cost to attend this event. Space is limited and registration is required. [RSVP online](#) or by calling 563-589-4105.

[Learn more about the Catalyzing Change: Small-Scale Development for Big Impact event](#)

YOUR CAREER can be great here.



Scenes from our Hello Dubuque! event at the University of Northern Iowa where students enjoyed interactive activities, connecting with Dubuque residents and employers, and a chance at giveaways like a mountain bike from Bicycle World.

College Outreach

Hello Dubuque! Helps UNI Students Envision a Future in the Greater Dubuque Region

Greater Dubuque Development and partners launched the first *Hello Dubuque!* event at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) to connect students with the people, culture, and opportunities that make our region unique. More than 50 students met with community connectors, enjoyed live music and art, and heard directly from peers who experienced internships in Dubuque this summer.

The event was designed to give students a true sense of what it's like to live in the Greater Dubuque region—welcoming, creative, and full of opportunity. With strong turnout and enthusiastic participation, *Hello Dubuque!* is already helping to build the next generation of talent in our community.

[**Click to read the full wrap up of our inaugural Hello Dubuque! event**](#)



Interested in learning more about our talent attraction efforts?

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



College Outreach

Welcoming Students to College Campuses Across Dubuque

On Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, in partnership with Clarke University, Emmaus University, Loras College, Northeast Iowa Community College, the University of Dubuque, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, delivered emails to more than 4,200 college students as part of the 2025 Welcome Students campaign. Opened over 3,700 times, the email featured a [video message from Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh](#), produced in collaboration with the City of Dubuque's Media Services staff.

Along with the mayor's message, helpful information about life in Dubuque was provided, including:

- [Free bus fare for local college students](#) on The Jule within the city of Dubuque, with links to routes and bus stop locations.
- Overview of the **YOU can be great here** [Community of Colleges event series](#) with a career fair and social outings — including a hockey night, bowling night, and movie night — scheduled during the 2025–2026 academic year.
- Connection to [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](#), a resource for students seeking employment opportunities in the region that is made possible in partnership with TH Media.

The Welcome Students campaign is part of Greater Dubuque Development's broader **YOU can be great here** initiative, which is focused on growing the regional population and retaining top talent.

[Click to learn about the full scope of our 2025 Welcome Students campaign](#)



Interested in learning more about our Welcome Students campaign?

Contact Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming, at 563-557-9049 or nicolash@greaterdubuque.org



Members of our Future Leadership Team engage in small group and full membership discussions during their September 3, 2025 meeting at Greater Dubuque Development's board room.

Leadership Development

Population Growth Strategies Central to Future Leadership Team Discussion

On Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Greater Dubuque Development's Future Leadership Team convened to focus on one of the organization's most pressing strategic pillars: population growth.

As part of the [Greater Dubuque 2025–2030 Strategic Plan](#), growing the region's population is essential to strengthening the workforce, regional prosperity, and overall quality of life. The Future Leadership Team, made up of emerging leaders from Dubuque's major employers and institutions, play a critical role by providing feedback on population growth strategies that go directly to the Greater Dubuque

Development Board of Directors. The September meeting also welcomed newly appointed Future Leadership Team members.

[Click to for a full recap of our September 3rd Future Leadership Team meeting](#)



Interested in learning more about our Future Leadership Team?

Contact Nic Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Programming, at 563-557-9049 or nicolash@greaterdubuque.org

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. Your investment powers these services, supports our college engagement efforts, and fuels outreach to job seekers in our market and beyond.

New Investors

- Nurtiva Pelvic Therapy
- Offal Food Group (Brazen, Birds, Otto's)

Renewed Investors

- ACC Premiere
- City of Dyersville
- Honkamp, P.C.

Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Innovative Ag Services
- Morrison Bros. Co.
- Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, LLC
- Rainbo Oil Company
- RT&T Enterprises, Inc.
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- Uelner Precision Tools & Dies
- Universal Tank & Fabrication
- Zero Zone Inc



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.



Photo courtesy of the City of Dubuque

Community News

Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh Receives Mayor of the Year Award

On Wednesday, September 17, during the Iowa League of Cities' Annual Conference, Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh was recognized as Mayor of the Year in the Over 10,000 in Population category by the Iowa Mayors Association.

[Read the full press release >](#)

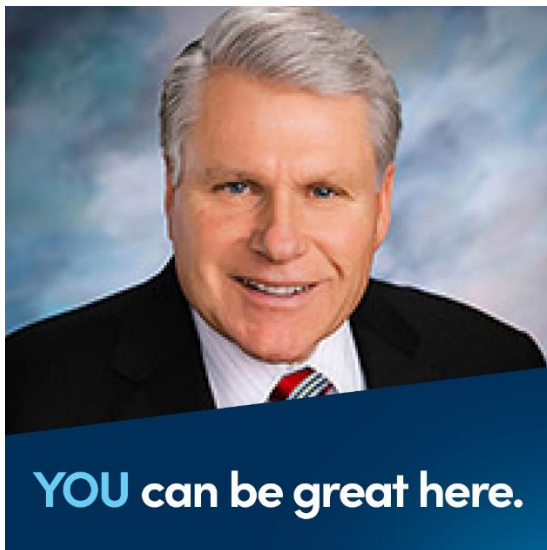


Photo courtesy of the City of Dubuque

Community News

Dubuque's Longest Serving City Manager to Retire June 2027

It was announced on Friday, September 5, that Dubuque City Manager Mike Van Milligen notified the Dubuque City Council of his plan to retire in June 2027. He has served as the Dubuque's city manager since January 1993, the longest tenure for that role in the city's history.

[Read the full press release >](#)

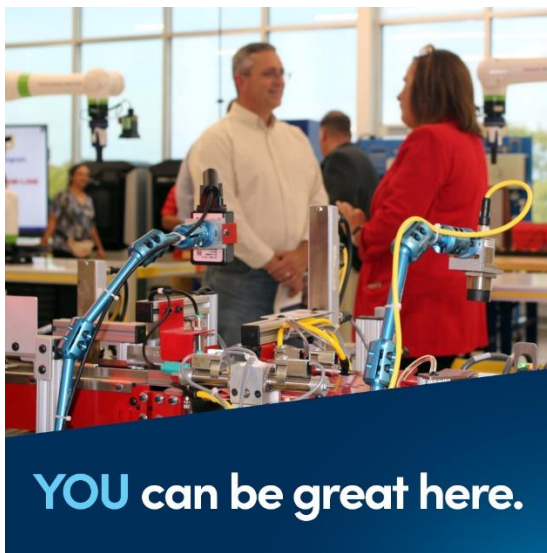


Photo courtesy of the Northeast Iowa Community College

Community News

Advanced Technology Center Opens at Northeast Iowa Community College

Congratulations to Northeast Iowa Community College on the recent opening of the new Advanced Technology Center on their Peosta campus. The center will provide versatile training solutions empowering the region to succeed in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

[Learn more about the new facility >](#)



Community News

Input Sought on Community Space for Historic Millwork District

The City of Dubuque Planning Services Department is seeking public input on the design of an outdoor community space to replace a temporary parking lot in the Historic Millwork District.

This effort aligns with the implementation of the 2024 Historic Millwork District Master Plan.

[Survey open through October 12 >](#)



Upcoming Events

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Business Summit Workshop: Igniting Innovation with AI

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

Unleash the transformative power of AI with renowned entrepreneur and speaker Susan Frew at the [Business Summit Workshop: Igniting Innovation with AI](#). Known for her energetic delivery and practical insights, Susan will explore the game-changing impact of artificial intelligence across diverse industries. Through real-world applications and compelling success stories, she'll demonstrate how AI is revolutionizing business operations and strategy.

[Learn More and Register Online >](#)

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Latinx Fiesta

1:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Historic Millwork District & Dubuque Museum of Art | 1000 Jackson St., Dubuque, IA

Latinx Fiesta will transform the Millwork District with authentic food and artisan vendors, live performances by La Combi, El Alto Del Maíz, and Danza Folklórica del Oeste, plus cultural highlights including a quinceañera dress showcase, Lotería, and more. The celebration also features the grand opening of the Dubuque Museum of Art in the Dupaco Voices Building with exhibitions by Latinx and Indigenous artists and hands-on family activities, followed by a Latin Night afterparty at The Smokestack.

[Learn More >](#)

Thursday, October 16, 2025

The Big Reveal: Envision 2030 Finale

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Dubuque Museum of Art | 1000 Jackson St., Dubuque, IA

Envision 2030 will unveil the community's top 10 ideas to strengthen our region, brought to life through local artists' interpretations at the Dubuque Museum of

Art's Dupaco Voices Building gallery in the Historic Millwork District. Enjoy drinks and appetizers while celebrating Dubuque's future with neighbors. The initiative is facilitated by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, with sponsorship support from TH Media and Radio Dubuque.

[Learn More >](#)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Grand River Center | 500 Bell St., Dubuque, IA

Connect with the region's top employers hiring for entry-level to professional roles in Administration, Manufacturing, Financial and Insurance Services, Warehouse Logistics, IT and more! Details will be posted at [online](#) as we get closer to the event. The AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair is part of our 2025-2026 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series, connecting area college talent with career opportunities in the Greater Dubuque region. The event is FREE and open to any and all job seekers. AccessDubuqueJobs.com is made possible through a partnership between Greater Dubuque Development Corporation and TH Media.

[Employer Registration Now Open >](#)

Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

September 22-October 1 | Navaratri (Hindu)

September 26 | Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

October 1-31 | LGBT History Month

October 1-31 | National Bully Prevention Month

October 1-31 | National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October 2 | International Day of Non-Violence

October 2 | Yom Kippur (Jewish)

October 5 | World Teacher's Day

October 7-13 | Sukkot (Jewish)

October 11 | Coming Out Day

October 13 | Indigenous People's Day

October 17 | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

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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