

Summer 2008

NCICG
North Central Illinois Council of Governments

EDD News

Economic Development District

Special Interest Articles:

- ED Summit a Success
- LOIS – Community Profiles
- Incubator Study Completed
- NBIA Conference
- No Place Like Home Campaign
- Scenic Byway Board Tour
- Webinars

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Come see us at:
www.ncicg.org

North Central Illinois Council of Governments
110 North Main * Princeton IL 61356 * (815) 875-3396

2ND Annual Economic Development Summit a Success

The 2nd Annual Economic Development Summit was held Thursday, May 22, 2008 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at Celebrations 150 in LaSalle.

Site selector **Bob Ady, of Ady International** was the featured speaker. ***New Trends in Site Selection*** addressed changes that have taken place in site selection and what site selectors are looking for.

Other speakers were:

Ralph Matire, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, who addressed ***Enhancing & Retaining Your Work Force and Economic Development/ Workforce Issues: Tax Policy Changes***.

Ed Sitar, Commonwealth Edison and **Steve Warren, Ameren IP** shared ***Synchronist – Business Retention and Expansion Programs***.

Pam Furlan, Business Employment Skills Team (BEST) presented the ***State of the Workforce Report***.

Mike Wakeland from the **Illinois Treasurer's Office** provided information about programs they have available.

We thank our Sponsors **Gold Level: Ameren and ComEd**

Silver Level: Citizens First National Bank.

3rd Annual Summit will be scheduled for April/May, 2009 and from comments received will likely be a half-day program.



Welcome from Nora Fesco-Ballerine & Kevin Lindeman



Bob Ady of Ady International Co.



Ralph Matire, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability with Kevin Lindeman

Websites:

Ady International:
www.adyinternational.com

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability:
www.ctbaonline.org

Synchronist:
www.blancanada.com

BEST
www.best-inc.org

Illinois Treasurer's Office
www.treasurer.il.gov



Pam Furlan, Business Employment Skills Team (Best)



Ed Sitar, Commonwealth Edison and Steve Warren, Ameren IP with Kevin Lindeman

EDD Assisting with LOIS Community Profiles

LocationOne Information System (LOIS) is a real-time, on-line economic development/GIS-enhanced site selection engine.

Community Profiles (city and county) as well as available buildings and sites can be listed for a community and county. As part of the services to the District we will be offering to communities the service of collecting and inputting community profile information. Communities that

currently have a chamber or someone else inputting this data can continue to do so. Letters have been sent out to communities to inquire about their willingness to participate in the program and what information the community will have to gather for their profile. If you would like to participate contact Kevin at 815/875-3396

Community profiles, available sites and buildings can be seen on Ameren, DCEO's and NCICG's website.

Illinois Valley Area – Business Incubator Study Completed

Recently the Illinois Valley Business Incubator – Project Feasibility Study was completed for the District by Northern Illinois University (NIU) Center for Governmental Studies.

The National Business Incubation Association states, “Business incubators help emerging growth companies survive and grow during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable”.

The study states, “...a business incubator can be economically feasible and will play a valuable role in increasing business vitality, as well as job and wealth creation in the Illinois Valley Region.”

The study also indicates that among the community stakeholders surveyed during the study there is substantial support for creating a business incubator.

For more information on business incubators visit the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) website at www.nbia.org.

The EDD will be holding a meeting soon for those who might be interested in participating in this incubator project. If you would like to be included please contact Kevin at kliindeman@ncicg.org.

Printed as well as electronic copies of the Illinois Valley Business Incubator – Project Feasibility Study are available by contacting NCICG.

National Business Incubations Association Conference

In looking at the development of a business incubator in the EDD region Kevin attend the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) Conference in at the beginning of May in San Antonio. More than 630 people from 44 countries attended NBIA's 2008 conference in San Antonio

He attended a daylong preconference institute on Developing a Successful Incubator. Some of the conference sessions attended include: Understanding EDA Funding Requirements, Incubators in Small Towns and Rural Areas, Characteristics of an Effective Feasibility

Study and Getting Serious About Your Board.

Kevin also picked up several publications about business incubator development. If you would like more details about any of these sessions please contact Kevin at kliindeman@ncicg.org.

The National Business Incubation Association website is www.nbia.org



Economic Development District

North Central Illinois Council of Governments

Acronyms

BEST - Business Employment Skills Team

CEDS- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

DCEO – Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

EDA – Economic Development Administration

EDD – Economic Development District

LOIS – LocationOne Information System

NBIA - National Business Incubation Association

Scenic Byway Board members take a ride on the **Volunteer** Canal Boat



Scenic Byway Board Visits the Volunteer and Heritage Harbor Projects

Members of the Illinois River Road Scenic Byway Board held their board meeting at Lock 16, the visitor and education center for the Port of LaSalle attraction. The remodeled and restored 1910 building, which houses Lock 16, features a small meeting area and is located at the SW corner of the intersection of First and Joliet (IL Rt. 351) Streets in downtown LaSalle. Their meeting followed an enjoyable ride on the Volunteer Canal boat. The Volunteer was christened on June 27th with invited

officials taking the first official rides on the Volunteer. The Canal boat has been 30 years in the making.

The Illinois River Road Board also visited the Heritage Harbor Marina project in Ottawa. The Heritage Harbor Project is a marina-resort vacation community development on the Illinois River in Ottawa. This project features a full-service marina offering over 450 slips, plus marine sales and service. When completed there will be over 700 residential units of condominiums, cottages and river row cottages. Construction of the residential units began this spring following the completion of the 32-acre marina.



The Volunteer Canal Boat at Lock 14 in LaSalle



The marina at Heritage Harbor project in Ottawa

Websites:

Heritage Harbor:

www.heritageharborottawa.com

Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway

www.illinoisriverroad.org

LaSalle Canal Boat

www.lasallecanalboat.org

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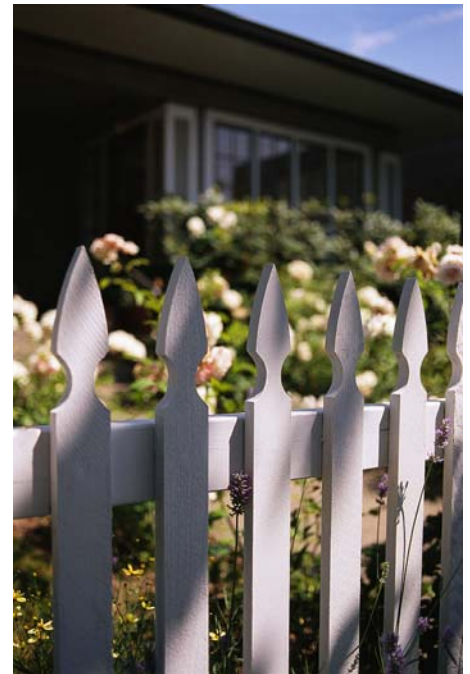
NCI Works' to Launch "No Place Like Home" Campaign

Recent studies conducted by North Central Illinois Works (NCI Works), the local workforce board for Bureau, LaSalle, Lee and Putnam Counties; indicate that many young people leave the area for college, jobs or simply to try out life in the Big City. On the other hand, area employers have expressed concerns that they cannot find local talent to fill their higher skilled, higher paying jobs.

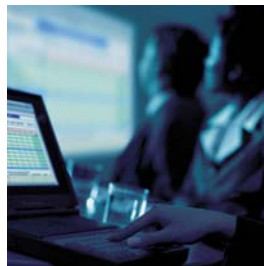
In searching for a solution to this dilemma, often referred to as "brain drain" or "youth flight", NCI Works came up with the idea of "No Place Like Home", a campaign designed to attract young people back to the 4-county area by making them aware of good career opportunities back home. Jobs paying at least \$15/hour, or a salaried equivalent, along with information on how interested persons can apply will be posted on www.nciworks.org. NCI Works will tap into a variety of resources to publicize the campaign to as wide an audience as possible, hoping that moms and dads, family and

friends will encourage those who moved away to visit the website if they're considering a career change.

The Workforce Board's Business Service Team staff will soon begin contacting area employers to see if they would like to participate in "No Place Like Home". Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the campaign may contact Pam Furlan at (815) 224-7930



Webinars: Websites and Marketing to Site Selectors



NCICG has hosted two webinars at IVCC since the Economic Development Summit. The webinars were Marketing to Site Selectors and Creating Dynamic Economic Development Websites. The EDD plans to continue hosting the annual summit and applicable webinars. If you know of a webinar that would benefit the region please contact Kevin at 815-875-3396