

Fall 2009



# EDD News



North Central Illinois Council of Governments  
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## Articles:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual EED Summit
- NCICG Website Update
- Business Retention
- Webinars Hosted
- Marshall County Vista Volunteer
- Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Economic Development Summit

NCICG held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Economic Development Summit April 21, 2009 at Celebrations 150 in LaSalle. The half day program was filled with excellent speakers who discussed; a developer's first-hand perspective of doing business in our area, IDOT projects in the region, comparing IL with other states' incentives, how to develop an entrepreneurship program in school systems and EDA funding programs.

**Todd Abrahamson**, Superintendent, of Sigourney Community School District, in Iowa, discussed an entrepreneurship program they have in their school system for students in grades 7-12 e-Sigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL). Todd described efforts underway with their program, including the program's objectives, how it was started, its accomplishments, and the lessons learned. Their focus is on how to prepare youth to be an essential part of a community's future. The eSEAL program illustrates that schools are crucial to any solution and offer the best alternatives for helping youth gain a positive perspective on starting and/or operating businesses.

(see Summit page 2)



Don Kathan, EDA



Todd Abrahamson, Superintendent, Sigourney Iowa



Above: Jerry Corcoran, IVCC President and Tom Setchell, IVCC Trustee



Left: Nora Fesco-Ballerine, NCICG Executive Director; OJ Stoutner of Senator Gary Dahl's Office and Don Kathan, EDA



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### Websites:

**Synchronist Program:**  
[www.blanecanada.com](http://www.blanecanada.com)

**Business Retention and  
Expansion International**  
[www.brei.org](http://www.brei.org)

**Economic Development  
Administration**  
[www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov)

Illinois River Road  
[www.illinoisriverroad.com](http://www.illinoisriverroad.com)

Sigourney Iowa School  
District

[www.sigourneyschools.com](http://www.sigourneyschools.com)



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## Summit (continued)

**Justin Fierz** and **Mike Androwich** of Lee and Associates from Chicago discussed why they are attracted to the Western I-80/I-39 corridor for real estate development. Some of the contributing factors as to why this area is a future real estate growth corridor are land prices, I-80 is busiest east/west trucking thoroughfare in U.S. and the BNSF Joliet/Elwood Intermodal success. Industrial development is one of the main focuses of the company. They are the 4<sup>th</sup> largest commercial real estate service provider nationally. They also discussed their involvement in the Clover Technology expansion in Ottawa.

**Don Kathan** Area Director within the Chicago regional office of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) came to discuss American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds available through EDA and project development. Don is responsibility for the states if Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, He guides EDA investment decisions which help create jobs and foster private sector investment in the 3 state area. Following the Summit, Don met with several communities about developing projects in the Region.

We thank our sponsors of the Summit: Ameren, NICOR and Citizens First National Bank. Presentations from all the speakers are available on our website at [www.ncicg.org](http://www.ncicg.org).



John Gremmer, KPMG



Tom Lacy and Rick Powell, IDOT



Above: Justin Fierz and Mike Androwich, Lee & Associates

Left: Summit Audience at Celebrations 150



## NCICG Website Redesign in the Works

NCICG is in the process of redesigning our website and will soon have a new look. See preview of homepage to the right. The website will have additional regional economic development information. The staff is working with a website designer to redesign and improve the NCICG website



## Business Retention

In today's economy, business retention is more important than ever. Synchronist is a program that is available for our region to use for tracking information gathered during business retention visits. *Synchronist* is a good resource for communities thinking of doing retention programs as well as those that already have a program. After a community's retention data is input into the system NCICG can assist in printing reports that show trends and issues in a community, county or the region.

Com Ed has been using *Synchronist* for 10 years. Ameren started using the program for their service area in Illinois during this last year. Free monthly training webinars are available from Blane Canada of Chicago developer the *Synchronist* system. If you are interested in learn more about the program please contact Kevin Lindeman at [klindeman@ncicg.org](mailto:klindeman@ncicg.org).

## Applications submitted to EDA

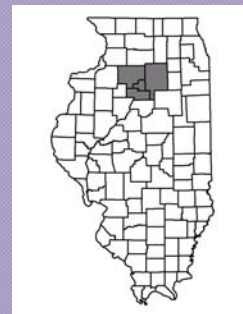
Because of the flooding last year, the EDA regional office in Chicago had \$80 million in funds for economic adjustment projects instead of their normal \$3 million. NCICG has assisted in submitting 4 applications for this funding.

- **Princeton** submitted an application for road, sewer, water, electric and internet infrastructure to 140 acre site north of I-80 purchased by the City for Logistics development
- **Seneca** submitted an application for upgrading Shipyard Road to 80,000 lb which services a private industrial park
- **Ottawa** submitted an application for a 500,000 gallon water tower on the west end of the City.
- **Spring Valley** submitted an application to increase the size of the sewermain to service 1,100 acres of industrial zoned property near I-80.

NCICG is working on a couple of other projects to submit to EDA for funding. One of them is applying for **IVCC** for funds to purchase necessary equipment for technology center that the college will be constructing soon.

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## EDD Hosts Webinars

The Economic Development District has been able to host several webinars this year. Most of these have been hosted at **IVCC**. We have added the **Extension** Office in Henry as an additional site for the webinars. Past webinars have been:



- **Broadband - July 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **Community and Regional Branding - What, Why and How - July 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction - Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **Keys to Business Retention — How to Keep What You Got – May 14<sup>th</sup>**
- **The Intersection of Economic Development and Social Media – March 31<sup>st</sup>**
- **Collaboration for Success: Higher Education-Community Partnerships – February 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **How the Decline in the Economy will Effect Site Selection in 2009 – January**
- **NADO Economic Stimulus Webinar – February 6<sup>th</sup>**

We plan to continue to host webinars when topics of interest come up. Please let us know of topics that interest your community.

## Marshall County Vista Volunteer

Marshall County has a Vista Volunteer **Mike Hiell**. Mike is the former mayor of Lacon, working on economic and community development across the county. Mike will be collaborating with the communities and the Marshall County Economic Development Council. Congratulations Marshall County and Mike and we look forward to working with you.

## Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway

The *Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway* runs 140 miles from Ottawa to Havana on both sides of the Illinois River. Communities can submit their byway related community events for possible advertisement on the Illinois River Road website. One event or a list can be submitted. For details go to their website at <http://illinoisriverroad.com/events.cfm> .

*A Taste of the Region – Recipes from the Illinois River Road* by David Alan Badger is now available for sale at various locations along the Byway. See the list of locations on the website at [www.illinoisriverroad.com](http://www.illinoisriverroad.com). The book has recipes from 60 businesses in 18 communities along the byway. The book also includes architectural drawings of these 60 businesses.



## Economic Development District

### North Central Illinois Council of Governments

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