

# JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

October/November/December  
2021

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

Jones County Economic Development is dedicated to making sure that you have a say in the concerns and issues facing our communities. Our office is always open and you can reach out to Derek at any time. However, sometimes we know it's nice to get out and meet with people directly, hear what's going on, and give your input in real time.

Jones County Economic Development has been actively working with local and regional stakeholders on a number of issues, including the future of our region and childcare. We have put out press releases, surveys, and held some initial public meetings around both issues. We have crunched the data and continued to see that we need some more input from our local communities and we want your help.

We are having two public meetings to discuss each issue in more detail. The first one is regarding the work we are doing with our regional partners to develop a plan for the future. Under the guidance of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), we are helping the East Central Iowa region update its Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A CEDS is used to give a cohesive plan for our region to follow and can be used to help leverage federal funding for local projects. But a regional plan is made up of local county and city plans and goals as well. So we want YOU to give us ideas of where you want our county and region to go in the next ten years. This regional future meeting will be on Wednesday, October 20th from 9am-11am in the Monticello City Council Chambers. A second meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26th from 9am-11am at the Lawrence Center in Anamosa if you can't make the first. If you can't make either, make sure to send your ideas to [director@jonescountydevelopment.com](mailto:director@jonescountydevelopment.com) so they can be presented and considered.

The second public meeting will regard childcare in Jones County. As many of you probably recall, Jones County Economic Development recently did a childcare feasibility study based on survey and interview feedback from schools, cities, families, businesses, and childcare providers. Based on that feedback and comparing our data with state data over the last couple of years, we know that we are going to have to do something about childcare. But where to start and what is the appetite locally? Join us and give your input! We will be meeting on Wednesday, October 20th from 5pm-7pm in the Monticello City Council Chambers. If you can't make it, make sure to send your ideas to [director@jonescountydevelopment.com](mailto:director@jonescountydevelopment.com) so they can be presented and considered.



These meetings might seem like something that doesn't apply to you, but it does! As we look at a declining population and changes in the economic environment, we need to be ready and able to move forward and adapt. This will impact us from childcare to workforce to housing to education and more. And your input is just as important as your neighbor's input, so make sure you are there and ready to plan for the future!



## Partnering with Workplace Learning Connection to Support Workforce Development

For the last 23 years, Kirkwood Community College's Workplace Learning Connection (WLC) has been working to connect students and educators with local businesses and organizations in an effort to develop Iowa's future workforce through relevant, quality work-based learning experiences. WLC work-based learning services inform, prepare and better align local students to local careers. WLC coordinates job shadows, student internships, speaking events, worksite tours, and more for students in Kirkwood's 7 county region spanning across Eastern Iowa, including here in Jones County.

WLC is in the process of placing high school students in job shadows and internships and is looking for new businesses to get involved in hosting these students. **Engaging in WLC job shadow (1 day, 1 time experience), internship (45-90 hours) and career event opportunities is a great way for businesses to address their current and future workforce needs.** By participating in and providing work-based learning opportunities, businesses can develop relationships with potential future employees, creating a funnel for more qualified candidates down the road. In addition, participation helps get the organization's name out into the community, and gives businesses the opportunity to bring in new ideas and students eager to help with projects. In fact, 38% of school year 2020-2021 interns were offered additional opportunities or employment by their business host after their internship ended.

**Interested in helping students discover their passions, while developing your future workforce?** There are many ways to get involved. For more information, please visit [www.kirkwood.edu/wlc/volunteer](http://www.kirkwood.edu/wlc/volunteer) or contact Jones County WLC Program Coordinator, Tris Langdon at [tristan.langdon@kirkwood.edu](mailto:tristan.langdon@kirkwood.edu)

## Creative Adventure & Innovation Labs Opening Soon!

The Creative Adventure Lab out of Dubuque will soon be opening their Monticello locations, for both the Creative Adventure Lab and the Innovation Lab. Both will be in the old Dollar General building in downtown Monticello.

The Innovation Lab is geared for a November opening date. The Innovation Lab is a network of coworking spaces that foster innovation and entrepreneurship in rural communities. The Innovation Lab brings entrepreneurs together for training, collaboration, and the ability to have a place outside the home to work if desired. For interested parties, plans range from \$49-\$299 per month.

The Creative Adventure Lab is slated to open in December of this year and is the only satellite location of the Dubuque headquarters. The Creative Adventure Lab delivers play-based, creative building experiences to empower the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and change makers. The Creative Adventure Lab focuses on STEAM-related activities to help younger individuals develop a love and fascination for those skills that can help keep Iowa's manufacturing and other sectors innovative moving forward.

"Monticello is lucky to get these two satellites," said Derek Lumsden, Jones County Economic Development Director.

*(Continued on Page 4)*



# ANAMOSA ENTERS THE HOME STRETCH OF THE CDBG FAÇADE PROJECT

Anamosa is entering the final three months of construction on its massive downtown façade project. The construction began in May with Tricon Construction and their subcontractors moving in equipment and getting ready to start deconstruction. We know that the work drastically altered the look of the downtown as buildings had masonry work completed, storefronts torn out, and upper story windows removed to be rehabilitated and repaired. I know it probably seems like the work has dragged on, but be assured that our contractors have continued to work diligently, working around community events like RAGBRAI as well as weather and supply chain issues.

Barring some drastic interruption to the current supply chain delivery dates, work will be ramping up and the most glaring changes yet will start to happen! The crews are finishing up some of the work this week, including last minute masonry, carpentry preparation, and painting. And in the next week or two, the upper story windows will start to arrive and be installed. By the time the upper story work is being finalized, the storefronts should start arriving and be reopened, allowing you to see the historic look of these buildings reemerge. If the weather holds, construction should be wrapped up by Christmas!



“This project has gone incredibly well so far and we are on track to be complete by the end of the year,” stated Derek Lumsden, Jones County Economic Development Executive Director. “We know it has been tough on the businesses, but we have worked hard to stay in contact with them as changes have had to happen and the schedule moved around.”

So while construction should be over in its more disrupting phase by Christmas, please be aware that there will be some work that will still be done in the spring. There will still be some touch-ups and spot repairs in the spring as well as a final walk-through of the project, but the massive disruption to the downtown should be over by the holiday season.

“The contract date actually runs through April of next year,” noted Lumsden. “But the good weather and the fantastic focus of Tricon has helped them move more quickly than expected, even with supply chain issues and change orders. We should only have to do a quick punch list and touch-up this spring before we can get everything closed out with the state and start moving on to Phase 2 of the downtown.”

*(Continued on Page 4)*



## CDBG (Continued from Page 3)



Originally, the plan was to do the entire downtown. However, we had so much interest, that we had to split the projects into phases. So now the City is turning its attention to the north side of Main Street for Phase 2.

For those properties that were on the north side of Main Street and had to wait for Phase 2, we are starting the community meetings soon! You should have received a letter from the City of Anamosa, letting you know that we are going to have a series of informational meetings to let

you learn more about the program, the projected timeline, and talk about the cost-share of this particular grant program. The City will be getting an idea of whether or not there is enough interest to go after a second grant application.

If there is interest, the City will follow roughly the same procedure as they did for the first application. They will get letters of interest signed from each interested party and put out an RFQ for an architecture firm to start meeting with property owners. Once an architect is hired, work will begin on the design phase and working with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments to get the CDBG application started and submitted. (The application will be due sometime in the spring or summer of 2022). Stay tuned for final pictures and more Phase 2 information!



### Innovation Lab (Continued from Page 2)

“Not only will be bringing budding entrepreneurs together with the Innovation Lab component, but we are looking at creating a self-fulfilling pipeline of talent by introducing younger generations to STEAM-activities through the Creative Adventure Lab. It should be a short and long term boon to the community.”

If you would like to sponsor either the Creative Adventure or Innovation Lab components, you can check out the sponsorship opportunities on pages 7-9! To learn more, call Jordan at 563—663-7922.

### Contact Us

Jones County Economic Development has two convenient offices:

107 S. Ford Street in  
Anamosa inside City Hall

200 E. 1st Street in  
Monticello inside City Hall

Our Executive Director, Derek Lumsden, can also be reached by Phone at 319-480-7446 or by [email](#).



**Jones County Young Professionals learn about Monticello first responders**

## Remembering 9/11

It was just over 20 years ago that the United States was attacked by terrorists. The September 11th attacks were the start of a new “War on Terror” facing the world and these attacks brought the United States to the forefront.

Most people remember where they were, what they were doing, and how they spent those hours riveted to news stations. We were watching the falling of the Twin Towers, learning about the massive death count, and hoping that this was not the start of something more.

However, the younger you are, you might not realize how important that day was in our country’s history. You might also not realize the sacrifices made by countless individuals, but none more than our country’s first responders. Police, fire, EMS, etc. were the first ones in and the last ones out.

As the 20th anniversary approached, the Jones County Young Professionals were trying to think of a way to honor the memory of those terrible attacks while also growing and expanding their knowledge.

Teaming up with Monticello Police Chief Britt Smith, the organization set up an evening to learn more about the great work first responders do. Meeting at the Monticello Police Station, the Young Professionals learned about the work the police department does, including the K-9 unit and the tactical team. They also learned about the Monticello Ambulance and got to see some of the state-of-the-art equipment used to help save the lives of Jones County residents. (Continued on Page 6)

## Meet the Member!

My name is Trevor Hulett and I work for F&M Bank. I am looking forward to actively volunteering in Jones County while also improving myself in personal and professional focused meetings!

I believe JCYP will be an effective tool for our upcoming leaders to connect with one another, take advantage of opportunities in our area, and enjoy ourselves while doing it!

In my free time I enjoy hunting and



fishing of all sorts.

Fun Fact: Trevor is serving as JCYP's Membership Chair! Curious about how

## UP NEXT:

Join JCYP at the JJH Hansen Family Farm Pumpkin Patch at  
8212 Co. Rd. E-29  
on Thursday, October 14th  
at 5:30pm.

Drinks and dinner to follow at  
Rack's in Wyoming!

**Follow us on Facebook at  
Jones County  
Young Professionals!**



## 9/11 (Continued from Page 5)

Last, but not least, the group made their way to the Monticello Fire Station where Fire Chief Joe Bayne talked about the work, equipment, and training on behalf of the department. Chief Bayne also talked about the need for volunteers to make the fire department a success. Chief Bayne noted later, "I usually present to children, which is great. But it was nice to get to know some younger people in the community so they can recognize first responders and the role they play." After the presentations, the Young Professionals met at the Jitney to talk more about the event with Chief Smith, getting more insight on the difficulties and the rewards of the job.

The Jones County Young Professionals would like to thank all of our first responders for the work they do and the ways they help our communities be safer. The organization would especially like to thank the following members of the Monticello first responders that made our event so informative and fun:

- Police Chief Britt Smith
- Officer Zach Buehler
- Officer Erik Honda
- Paramedic Jenna Weih
- EMT Ben Hein
- Fire Chief Joe Bayne



The Jones County Young Professionals get a look at the Monticello Fire Department, the Monticello Ambulance, the 9/11 memorial, and the police station.





# FOUNDING SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

As a founding sponsor for our new Monticello location, you receive exclusive recognition in our facility, plus the satisfaction of supporting creativity and innovation for thousands of kids and families each year.

## FOUNDING SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Presenting Partner** - \$10,000/year; 5-year initial pledge

Our most exclusive sponsorship opportunity, limited to 1 partner. Your brand is featured as the presenting partner in highly visible ways, including all public communications and in our facility, for the duration of your sponsorship. You also get 2 complimentary 3-hour private events in our facility each year - great for office parties or customer appreciation events.

### **Play Lab Sponsor** - \$5,000/year; 5-year initial pledge

Get great visibility as a Play Lab Sponsor. Your brand will be integrated into the sponsored Play Lab name in our facility, on our website, and in all promotional materials, for the duration of your sponsorship (for example, the *Alliant Energy Light Lab*). You also get a complimentary 3-hour private event each year - perfect for a fun office party or customer appreciation event.

Play Labs (sponsorship reservations are first-come, first served):

- Light Lab
- Construction Lab
- LEGO® Lab
- Toddler Lab
- Magnetism Lab
- Virtual Reality Lab

### **Activity Sponsor** - \$1,200/year; 5-year initial pledge

A budget-friendly way to sponsor creativity and innovation! We'll put your business name & logo on signage next to the activity you sponsor, for the duration of your sponsorship, so everyone knows the fun is thanks to you! Please contact us for a list of available activities.

**To reserve or discuss sponsorship opportunities, please call Jordan at 563-663-7922 or email [jordan@creativeadventurelab.org](mailto:jordan@creativeadventurelab.org)**



# PLAY FREE(LY) SPONSORSHIPS

Affordable options for every budget

## **Champion** - \$300/month

- Name & logo on our Play Free(ly) Project sponsor wall
- 8 tickets to our annual Creative Adventure Gala
- Recognition on social media & in digital newsletters
- 4-hour private office party or family event in our facility

## **Patron** - \$100/month

- Name & logo on our Play Free(ly) Project sponsor wall
- 6 tickets to our annual Creative Adventure Gala
- Recognition on social media & in digital newsletters
- 3-hour private office party or family event in our facility

## **Believer** - \$50/month

- Name on our Play Free(ly) Project sponsor wall
- 4 tickets to our annual Creative Adventure Gala
- 2-hour private office party or family event in our facility

## **Supporter** - \$20/month

- Name on our Play Free(ly) Project sponsor wall
- 2 tickets to our annual Creative Adventure Gala

## **Friend** - \$10/month

- Name on our Play Free(ly) Project sponsor wall

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## Top 3 Reasons to Sponsor

1. You know that creativity and innovation can change lives and strengthen community.
2. For just a few dollars a month, you'll help hundreds of kids in our community exercise their creativity and innovation.
3. Communities are built by generosity. Supporting this effort to foster creative equity will undoubtedly result in hundreds, if not thousands, of good karma points ;)





# FOUNDING PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

As a founding partner in our new Monticello facility, you receive exclusive recognition in the facility, plus the satisfaction of helping new businesses launch and existing businesses grow.

## FOUNDING PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Innovation Space Partner** - \$8,000/year; 3 year pledge

You get an off-site innovation space within our facility! Your teams can reserve your space at no cost to meet off-site for the duration of our partnership. You'll also get to brand the interior and exterior of the space however you want, so everyone that uses the space knows you're invested in innovation for your company and the community. Your innovation space will comfortably seat 16-24 people, depending on table arrangement. 1 Available.

John Deere, Hodge, and Origin Design have all partnered with us in other Innovation Lab facilities and love how their spaces create value.

### **Hospitality Partner** - \$2,400/year; 3 year pledge

Help every visitor have a great experience as our hospitality station partner. The hospitality station provides complimentary coffee and tea to the businesses using our space (we all know caffeine improves bottom lines). Your name & logo will be recognized through highly visible signage at the station and you have the option to stock the station with branded coffee mugs and to-go cups as a way to increase your brand awareness. 1 Available.

### **WiFi Partner** - \$1,200/year; 3 year pledge

Fast wireless internet is the lifeblood of every Innovation Lab and we make sure to purchase the fastest speeds available. As our WiFi partner, your business name is featured in the network name so everyone knows you're powering their connections (for example *Alliant Energy Wifi*). 1 Available.

**To reserve your partnership opportunity or for help with questions, please call Jordan at 563-663-7922**