

JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

October/November/December 2025

Lumsden Attends Laneshift Transportation Academy

Jones County Economic Development Director Derek Lumsden recently returned from Bentonville, Arkansas where he attended the Laneshift Active Transportation Academy. This Academy is a four-day professional development course designed to accelerate the learning of how to strengthen people and places through active transportation. The Academy helps participants gain a new understanding that will help utilize active forms of transportation (walking, biking, etc) to guide them in strengthening their cities, communities, and regions.

“The Academy looks at all forms of transportation as necessities, not amenities. Walking trails and bike lanes are great for exercise and recreation, but viewing it through different lenses, such as transportation for people to actively get to work really makes you view it from another angle,” noted Lumsden after the event.

Laneshift attendees learned and were able to apply the following concepts by the end of the workshops:

- Apply knowledge of the technical details and best practices for building safe, comfortable, and connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Describe the role that an active transportation network can play in supporting sustainable land use, housing, and complementing multi-modal transportation networks and will be able to provide examples of its application.
- Illustrate and apply the best practices and/or strategies for developing a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly culture that can increase usage and ridership.
- Integrate effective public engagement strategies that include a wide array of voices and perspectives.
- Describe the role that active transportation connectivity plays in increasing economic development and tourism.
- Demonstrate how active transportation can increase community health outcomes through the creation of safer neighborhoods, recreation, and a culture of activity.



KNIGHT MOVES KICKS OFF IN JONES COUNTY!

The fall semester has recently kicked off and for several students at local schools, there is a new twist to their curriculum this year! High school students at Anamosa and Midland were introduced to a new opportunity last spring regarding computer science. Students would be able to sign up for an independent-study style learning opportunity with an organization called Knight Moves.

The Knight Moves training program is an intensive, hands-on model that serves as a bridge between education and employment in the computer science world. Linc Kroger developed the idea after working for 30+ years in Silicon Valley and finally returning to his native Iowa. Through his connection with Jones County Economic Development, he was in turn introduced to the local high schools to discuss how they could be involved.

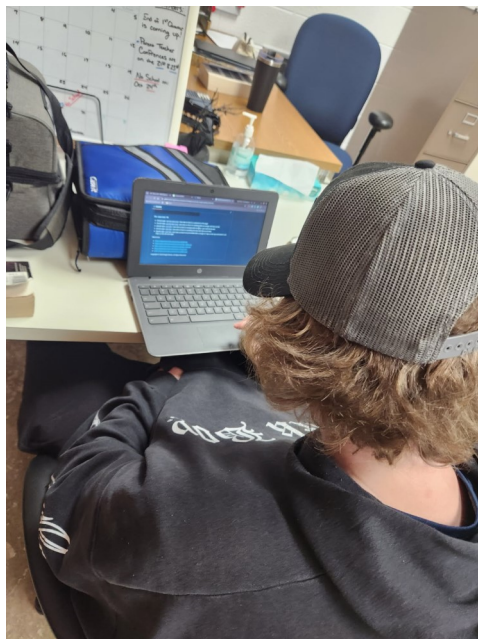


The Knight Moves program provides high school students with a comprehensive four semesters program structured to incorporate experiential learning, expert coaching in technology, skill development, team-based problem-solving, and agile modeling while working on real-world client projects. Graduates rival four-year computer science degree

graduates due to its modern in-depth software craftsmanship training, modern software development techniques and domain training, and extensive hands-on experience as members of agile commercial product development teams creating real-world technology solutions. Students work as team members of commercial product development teams while being led by experienced technologists. Upon completion of the program, students will have direct access to employers looking for these skillsets and who are already familiar with their work through training opportunities.

Teachers at both school districts have been impressed by the rigorous study, the hands-on attention by the online instructor, and the dedication and interest level on behalf of the students.

There is excitement for this program to continue to build and grow as long as there is interest by the students and funding to get it through the pilot stages. If you have questions or would like to support this work at the local high schools, contact Derek at director@jonescountydevelopment.com or by calling him at 319-480-7446



Laneshift

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Coursework involved riding bikes along trails through countryside and through communities, meeting with different partners that make active transportation possible, and doing a capstone project on how to address a connectivity issue in Bentonville regarding active transportation with a group of professionals.

"It was an exhausting, but rewarding week out on the bikes and looking at active transportation avenues and challenges," Lumsden continued. "But it really does open your eyes to be more aware of how people use different forms of transportation for jobs, exercise, etc. And our communities need to get better about recognizing that active transportation is a NEED, not a want."

Jones County Economic Development would like to thank Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSU TAB) program for granting a scholarship for Lumsden to attend the conference.

If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about active transportation, you can learn more about Laneshift and their Academy at:

<https://laneshift.net/academy>

Top 20 in the Nation: Jones Regional Medical Center Leads with Innovation and Excellence

UnityPoint Health – Jones Regional Medical Center (JRMC) is celebrating national recognition while investing in major upgrades that will benefit patients for years to come.

In February, Chartis Center for Rural Health named JRMC to its prestigious Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals list for the ninth time. The Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX evaluates eight key areas, including quality, outcomes, patient perspective, inpatient and outpatient market share, cost, charges, and overall financial stability.

Building on that achievement, JRMC was named by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals from the Top 100 list. NRHA identifies hospitals that demonstrate the highest performance across all eight categories of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX. JRMC's outstanding results in these areas earned it a place among the top 1.5 percent of the nation's 1,353 critical access hospitals, recognizing it as one of the very best rural hospitals in the country.

"We are humbled and honored to be recognized among the top 20 critical access hospitals in the nation," said Eric Briesemeister, JRMC Chief Executive Officer. "This award is a tribute to our incredible providers and dedicated team members who serve our community with compassion and excellence every day."

Critical access hospitals like JRMC ensure rural communities have access to timely, high-quality care close to home. The Top 20 designation highlights strong clinical outcomes, exceptional patient satisfaction, and careful use of resources. JRMC leaders formally accepted the award at the NRHA's Critical Access Hospital Conference in September in Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition to national recognition, JRMC is moving forward with advancements in care, including a \$5 million magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) expansion project. The upgrade will replace the current mobile MRI unit with a permanent, state-of-the-art MRI suite inside the hospital, providing patients faster scheduling, advanced imaging capabilities, and a more comfortable experience.

MRI scans are essential for diagnosing sports injuries, joint problems, neurological conditions, and cancers. By bringing a fixed MRI on site, JRMC will offer full-time imaging services, eliminating the limitations of the mobile unit. Patients will benefit from quicker results, more timely treatment, and the convenience of receiving care without the need to travel.



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Hospital *(continued from page 3)*

Construction on the new MRI suite began this summer. The suite is expected to open in early 2026.

Over recent years, JRMC has continued to expand outpatient services, enhance surgical capabilities, and incorporate telehealth services to connect patients with providers. Last year, a new pharmacy drive-thru was added to provide convenient prescription pickup. Many of these projects were made possible through strong community support, including grants and generous donations to the Jones Regional Medical Center Foundation, which continues to fund essential equipment and programs.

“A combination of national recognition and strong community support demonstrates that JRMC is not only sustaining rural health care but advancing it,” Briesemeister said. “Our team’s ability to provide outstanding care, earn national accolades, and expand key services shows our commitment to this community.”



Jones Regional Medical Center continues to be a vital part of healthcare in Jones County, delivering high quality care today while investing in innovations that will benefit patients well into the future.

Experience nationally recognized care close to home – learn more about the services at JRMC at unitypoint.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jones County Economic Development will be hosting a Lunch N Learn on Tuesday, October 21st from 11:30am-1pm in the Metal Design Systems Community Room at 103 Chamber Drive in Anamosa.

The program will consist of learning about the Jones County Business Lab and the Rural Ideas network.

RSVPs must be received by October 14th.

A flyer will be page 5 of the newsletter.

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 at: director@jonescountydevelopment.com



BUILD YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!

Free Lunch n Learn Tuesday
October 21st from 12 to 1 pm at the
Metal Design Community Room
103 Chamber Drive Anamosa

- **Learn about the Jones County Business Lab and how its services can benefit your business! Presented by Jordan DeGree of Rural Ideas Network.**
- **The Business Lab provides 1:1 business coaching, Website eval, website design coaching, business succession and more**



**RSVP to Derek Lumsden by October 14th to reserve
your seat
director@jonescountyeconomicdevelopment.com**