

JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

January/February/March 2026

JONES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EQUALS A GREAT RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT!

With the start of the new year, many people and communities are looking at how they budget and how to spend their money in ways that maximize the output. Maybe this was a new year's resolution or maybe you have different investment targets you are trying to hit. Either way, when you invest intelligently, you get a large return on your investment over time. For businesses and communities in Jones County, there is NO better investment than an annual contribution to Jones County Economic Development!

Jones County Economic Development (JCED) is a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in Jones County by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investments and jobs, and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth. And over the last eight years, JCED has consistently shown an ability to maximize returns on investments for the businesses and communities of Jones County.

Over the last eight years, Jones County Economic Development has either directly secured or was vital in helping secure just under \$15 million in grants for projects throughout Jones County. These grant projects alone have helped new businesses start, existing businesses expand operations, and help update quality of life amenities around the county. While most of these grants were either community or county specific, several were also used to help businesses expand operations or plan on how to expand through figuring out ways to help them solve certain problems in their facilities, such as childcare or housing issues.



Throughout the county, JCED has worked tirelessly in conjunction with Jones County Tourism, the Chambers of Commerce, Monticello Main Street, and other regional partners to help showcase all of the great amenities Jones County has to offer. From Central Park to Pictured Rocks to our ever-growing trail system, Jones County has a lot to offer for everyone looking to escape into nature. JCED has worked with Parks to People to get money for the Central Park renovation; with the Iowa DOT to get money for the Wapsipinicon Trail in Anamosa; and with the Dubuque Racing Association to find ways to

market about how spectacular Jones County is and continues to be!

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COMMUNITY CAREER TOURS SHOWCASE A FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Every year, Jones County graduates dozens of talented students from their respective school districts. These graduates are ready to pursue their next chapter in life, be that to going to college or going straight to work in some capacity. While going to college has an outright path that gets a lot of guidance, helping those students that want to go straight to work can seem limited at times.

Each year, Jones County Economic Development works with high school students to explore potential career paths that exist inside Jones County businesses. JCED partners with area high schools to take their 9th grade classes out on Community Career Tours each year. These tours focus on a different business sector each year (manufacturing, healthcare, small business, agriculture, etc.) and the students visit two businesses representing each field. Additionally, the tours move around the different communities in Jones County, showcasing all of the great businesses as well as the ample opportunities to work locally.



This year, students from Anamosa, Cascade, and Midland high schools came to Anamosa to explore some different jobs in the healthcare field. Students were able to visit the Jones Regional Medical Center to learn about physical therapy, the ambulance/ EMT department, and more.

Additionally, those students also visited Pinicon Senior Living to see what services and unique job possibilities exist in the care center world. From food service and events coordinator to memory care health and more, students were able to see the types of jobs needed and the variety of residents that might be in such a facility. Students also learned about the rules on working in such facilities as well as the criteria to volunteer at local businesses in the healthcare world.



Jones County Economic Development is proud to work with area businesses to help showcase the great businesses, talent, and opportunity in our region. JCED is also proud to work with Kirkwood Community College to help students gain an understanding of the local work possibilities before they sign up for career academies in their junior and senior years of high school.

Workplace Learning Connections Job Shadows & Internships

The Workplace Learning Connection's last Job Shadow Portal opening for the 2025-26 academic year is Monday, Jan. 5, through Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 3pm. Encourage 10th-12th graders to sign up during this timeframe. Students can find all of the job shadow listings on the WLC website: [Job Shadowing | Kirkwood Community College | Cedar Rapids, Iowa](#)

Also, 10th & 11th grade students interested in learning more about a career field can apply for an Internship for dual credit this summer. The Summer Internship Portal will be open for applications between Monday, Dec. 15, through Friday, Feb. 6, at 3pm. Students wanting to apply for an internship should go to: [Internships | Kirkwood Community College | Cedar Rapids, Iowa](#)

If you are interested in hosting a job shadow, intern, or if you would like to host a Career Exploration Day for multiple students, reach out to Julie Welter at julie.welter@kirkwood.edu.

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RETURN ON INVESTMENT *(Continued from Page 1)*



In Anamosa, JCED has overseen two successful Community Development Block Grant projects for 20 façade restorations with another 11 facades being rehabilitated in 2026 and 2027. Those projects have not only increased the historic integrity of the downtown and made it more attractive to residents and visitors alike, but so too has it helped decrease the number of vacancies in downtown buildings! These three projects alone will have over \$1.8 million invested in Anamosa's downtown. While some of the transformations may seem minor, others

have completely revolutionized some of the downtown buildings and made them even more vibrant than before! And the final project is expected to commence this spring, so stay tuned to see even more revitalization happening in the downtown!

Additionally, JCED has worked with the City of Anamosa on three projects aimed at getting buildings back into service. The first was an Emergency Catalyst Grant for the Arts Court building in downtown Anamosa. After a fire gutted the building, this grant helped bring it back to life with the gallery refurbished on the first floor and two upper story housing units on the second floor. JCED also has worked with ECIA out of Dubuque and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to get money to do assessment work on the old Collins building and the old Anamosa hospital. These grants helped test for different hazards such as asbestos and lead paint while also allowing JCED to host community meetings to get input from residents on what should happen with those buildings to fill community needs.

In Monticello, JCED has worked to help renovate a dilapidated building, formerly known as Compadres, into a usable and beautiful space now known as Market at the Tap. This building was renovated with \$150,000 in grant funding secured by JCED, helping kick off some other great projects in the community. JCED was instrumental in helping bring down the old Energy building in Monticello and encouraging Hy-Vee Dollar Fresh to town. JCED was also helpful in working with the City on the old Dollar General Building restoration as well as the Fountain Park project over by the Aquatic Center. Finally, JCED was directly responsible for bringing the Main Street program and approach to Monticello, allowing them access to free services for businesses in the downtown district while helping it retain its historic charm.



Jones County Economic Development has also helped numerous businesses with projects over the last eight years. In the last few years, JCED has helped secure multiple \$75,000 grants through the State of Iowa for businesses to expand their technology needs and grow their businesses. These grants have allowed businesses to try and develop new ways of developing workforce and grow at a faster rate in a more technological world. Between these direct grants and indirect ones that assisted with childcare and housing needs, JCED is always ready to help serve the Jones County business community.

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Working with local businesses and community partners is what makes it possible for Jones County to be so successful. But don't take our word for it! Take it from local businesses and community officials for why they continue to partner with JCED year after year:

Eric Briesemeister, CEO of Jones Regional Medical Center:

"Jones Regional Medical Center (JRMC) participates in and helps annually fund the projects and programs of Jones County Economic Development to help improve public health by addressing healthy living in areas like available housing, education, and employment. These investments create a healthier, more stable community, reducing healthcare disparities and costs. By supporting local economies, JRMC helps to ensure a sustainable environment for not only our patients and families but also for staff to live and grow. Ultimately, these efforts lead to better health outcomes and a stronger, more resilient community where we all can thrive."

Emily Kaiser, Senior Key Account Manager for Alliant Energy:

"Alliant Energy values Jones County Economic Development (JCED) as a partner. Their successful programs enhance existing industry and the community, directly impacting our purpose-driven strategy to serve customers and build stronger communities."

Mary Phelan, Monticello City Councilwoman:

"I am a dedicated local volunteer committed to maintaining sustainable growth in Jones County and enhancing our quality of life. I value partnerships between our government, businesses, and the community to drive our success. I believe in the power of community engagement and strive to listen to all voices and ideas that will keep Jones County healthy and strong."

Over the last eight years, Jones County Economic Development has issued a 137 times return on local investment! Partner with us in 2026 and see what all we can do for you! Investment information is on Page 5 of this newsletter!

UPCOMING EVENTS*

JCED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Friday, January 30th at 12pm
Monticello City Council Chambers

JCED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Friday, February 27th at 12pm
Anamosa Library and Learning Center

**Please follow our Facebook page for any changes to locations, dates, or times of events.*

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



☐ YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT JONES COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Catalyst Circle-\$5,000/year

All other increased giving levels come with additional recognition or perks. *The Catalyst Circle* is different. *The Catalyst Circle* is for those that are deeply aligned with improved opportunities for all citizens of Jones County. You receive all the benefits of our Gold Level but your increased giving further supports the JCED mission, allows us to be more sustainable, and plan boldly for the future.

Gold-\$3,000/year

- Recognition as a sponsor of one of our Legislative forums. Ability to put up a banner and hand out promotional materials.
- Logo placement on JCED marketing pieces, including two advertisements in the JCED Bulletin Newsletter.
- Annual Business Spotlight on the website and in our newsletter.
- Community Career Tour video created for your business for the website and distribution to the schools.
- And, all benefits below.

Silver- \$1,500/year

- Up to 10 hours of assistance for grant opportunities or tax credit assistance for your business.
- Up to 5 hours of business plan, marketing, and/or succession planning assistance for your business.
- 1 conference registration provided for either the DEV 2025 conference or the Iowa Downtown Summit.
- And, all benefits below

Bronze- \$500/year

- Post jobs on the Careers feature of the Jones County Economic Development website.
- Business promoted locally and regionally to industries and companies
- Recognition as a sponsor of our Community Career tours with the area schools.
- Up to 5 hours of event coordination and execution for marketing/social events hosted by your business.
- And, benefits below

Associate- \$250/year

- Listing on the Jones County Economic Development website with a link to your website.
- 1 advertisement in the JCED Bulletin Newsletter.

Individual-\$50/year

- Friend of JCED.

Please send form to:

JONES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
107 S. FORD ST., ANAMOSA, IA 52205
OR director@jonescountydevelopment.com

"Organization dues may be deductible as professional or business expenses, to the extent allowable by law."