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The most recent unemployment data from Iowa Workforce Development for Jones County indicates a 7.1% unemployment rate for December of 2009. This is slightly higher than previous months in 2009 that averaged 6.6% unemployment for the year. Jones County's unemployment rate was as low as 3.4% in October of 2008 and as high as 7.7% in January of 2009.

How does this compare? The state of Iowa's unemployment rate is 6.6% with a 2009 average of 6.0%. In comparison to surrounding county's:

Dubuque County:	6.7% December '09	(6.2% average for 2009)
Linn County:	6.4% December '09	(5.7% average for 2009)
Delaware County:	6.5% December '09	(6.3% average for 2009)
Jackson County:	8.5% December '09	(7.7% average for 2009)

The industrial sector in Jones County remains resilient, strategies have been put in place within our industries that will allow for them to come out of the economic downturn even better than they were before. In fact, recently there has been some positive momentum within our industries with large contracts being signed and production levels increasing to a point that would certainly indicate that Jones County's unemployment rate will decline due to the rehiring that has occurred throughout the industrial sector.

In this month's edition of the JCED Business Network Newsletter are the dates and times of the upcoming Economic Development Roundtable meetings. Make special note to these upcoming meetings, we are continuing the "Get to Know Jones County Industries" series. We invite everyone to these informative presentations and look forward to seeing you there!

In addition, notice a special recognition award that was given to one of our businesses from the Iowa Area Development Group, a new young professional group for Jones County, and this month's featured business on page 2.

As always, Jones County Economic Development is committed to assisting with the needs of your company.

Marty Kelzer
Executive Director

Economic Development Roundtable

The next Economic Development Roundtable meeting is **Tuesday March 9, 2010 (12:00 noon - 1:00p.m.)**. The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Center in downtown Monticello. Lunch - \$5.00

The February Roundtable will continue our "Get To Know Jones County Industries" series featuring presentations from Mike Szymaszek, President, Energy Manufacturing and Doug Wortman, Operations Manager, ORBIS Corporation.

Attendee's will have the opportunity to learn about what each of these companies manufacture, their workforce, and their presence in a global economy.

We encourage you to be part of this excellent opportunity to hear what is happening in our industries in Jones County, as we continue this series of presentations.

Please RSVP Kris at the Monticello Chamber (319-465-5626 or chamber@macc-ia.us)

Upcoming Roundtable: April 13th, 2010. Continuation of the "Get To Know Jones County Industries" series. Presenters: Joel Althoff, President, Infrastructure Technology Solutions (ITS) and Brian Weber, Vice President, Polo Custom Products

If you have not yet attended one of these events, it would be to your advantage to do so. Not only can you hear an informative presentation, it is also an opportunity to network with your peers in the county!



ALLIANT ENERGY



Executive Board



Dale Mescher
Cascade



Mike Szymaszek
Energy



Matt Behrends
Citizens Bank



Don Kopp
Bennett



Infrastructure Technology Solutions Honored



The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) on behalf of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives and member municipal electric systems has honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award. The Iowa Venture Award ceremony began in 1988 and is among the most enduring and prestigious business recognition events in Iowa. Iowa Area Development Group has recognized and honored over 170 of Iowa’s finest business leaders and companies with the prestigious Iowa Venture Award.

The Iowa Venture Award was presented to Infrastructure Technology Solutions (ITS) located in Monticello, Iowa. ITS specializes in secure data storage, virtual servers, website design and hosting and offers technology remote backup solutions from its state-of-the-art facility near Monticello.. Founded in 2007, ITS is a spin-off from the information technology department and operates as a fully owned subsidiary of Cascade Lumber Company in Cascade, Iowa. ITS employs six people and provides technology services to a number of industries in the northeast Iowa region. The company also provides disaster recovery education and solutions. ITS hosts all of their customer’s websites in a 3,200-square-foot below-grade, secure data center on the edge of Monticello. The company has personal experience in the area of disaster recovery, as their electronic files narrowly survived a major fire in 1997 at the Cascade Lumber Company. Infrastructure Technology Solutions was nominated by Maquoketa Valley REC.



“Iowa Area Development Group is grateful to have the opportunity to honor and recognize outstanding Iowa companies,” said IADG president, Rand Fisher. “Each year we honor the achievement of Iowa business leaders and entrepreneurs with the Iowa Venture Award. Our ceremony allows our sponsors to thank these accomplished companies for their commitment to Iowa through capital investment and job creation,” added Fisher. Since 1985 the powerful partnerships and economic development efforts of IADG and their sponsoring utilities have helped generate over \$5.6 billion dollars of capital investment and create or retain nearly 38,000 jobs for Iowa.

Featured Business: Energy Manufacturing

Energy Manufacturing is this month’s featured business!

Founded in 1944, Energy Manufacturing Company, Inc. is headquartered in Monticello, Iowa, with over 115,000 square feet (10,684 m²) dedicated to the world-class design and manufacture of fluid power components and systems.

Energy Manufacturing
204 Plastic Lane
Monticello, IA 52310
319-465-3537
www.energymfg.com

Strategically located in the nations heartland, close to many of its customers and important sources of raw materials and components, Energy Manufacturing combines these advantages with the dedication and work ethic of a rural Midwestern community, providing their customers with:

- Excellent product quality
- Outstanding delivery
- Competitive pricing
- Strong engineering capabilities
- Superior customer service

Energy’s track record has earned it a leading reputation among OEMs who seek the optimum combination of performance, reliability, value, and responsiveness. Today, Energy’s products are found everywhere, on machines such as material handling equipment, on-highway trucks, grounds care equipment, aerial lifts, medical chairs and tables, forestry equipment, trash compactors and recycling bailers, agricultural equipment, construction equipment, industrial equipment, log splitters, and many more.



In addition, some Energy products are available to the aftermarket and end-user customers through a variety of catalog houses, fluid power distributors, and Internet retailers, including Energy’s own on-line store.

Young Professionals Group for Jones County

Jones County is developing a new organization of young professionals thanks to the commitment of local individuals that see the benefit to our County.

This organization is a welcomed addition to the county. The organization will be an excellent opportunity for young professionals to create a platform of members that would build relationships, develop professionally, become politically and philanthropically active, and contribute to the economic development and high quality living of Jones County.

The name that has been established for this young professionals group is "Ignite" and arrangements have been made for an event organized by the originators of the Ignite Group to discuss in detail what the group will entail for February 18th at Tyler & Downing in downtown Anamosa.

This is an exciting group for Young Professionals throughout the County to be part of. This is the type of organization that can welcome new young professionals to the county as well as assist existing young professionals in their careers.

Jones County Economic Development applauds the efforts of those that have taken the initiative to move this organization forward and proceed with the limitless possibilities this type of group can be part of.

If you have any questions or you would like to inquire about the upcoming meeting of the Ignite group please contact Jones County Economic Development.

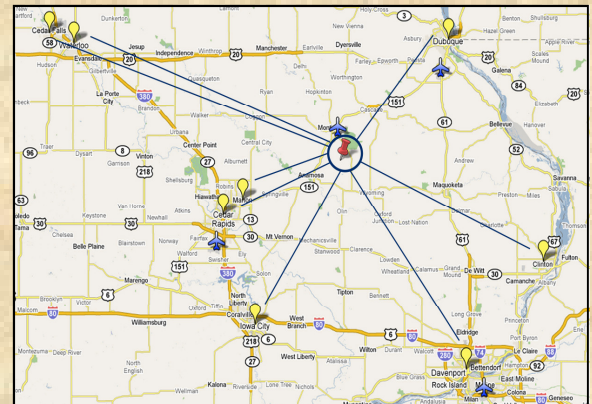


Site Development

Located in the center of a region that is on the move, Jones County welcomes you to discover the spirit of optimism in the people here.

Experience the quality of life we have come to expect in Jones County; canoe the Maquoketa, take-in a live theater production, hike, camp, or golf at the Wapsipinicon State Park, enjoy the Great Jones County Fair (one of Iowa's premier County Fair's), shop our vibrant downtowns, or if history is your passion, visit our many museums, including the most recent addition to Jones County, the National Motorcycle Museum.

Jones County is a place that you can feel like you belong, family and friends grow strong in our communities. Outstanding technology availability and transportation allows for the accomplishment of professional success within a desirable pace of life.



Contact Marty Kelzer, Jones County Economic Development for additional information.
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