



Economic Development News

July 2011



Letter From The Executive Director, Dusty Embree

Dear Brad,

It is hard to believe that it has already been three months since I was handed the reigns as Executive Director of Jones County Economic Development (JCED). It has been a pleasure to meet business and community leaders, get to know area industries and become familiar with the landscape. If you are reading this, and I haven't met with you yet, please call 319-480-7446 or [email me](#). I am doing my best to make the rounds while still fitting in office work, and chances are that I missed you.

As of the publishing of this newsletter, JCED is charging forward with our yearly private membership drive. We need private, as well as, public support to continue our mission of helping our county succeed. We have restructured our membership levels and benefits and we hope we have identified some tangible benefits that may appeal to your business, above and beyond, what we do on a daily basis to help the county grow. Please review [this attachment](#) for more details about JCED's goals and the benefits you can take advantage of by being a member!

As I meet people, one of the main questions I hear is, "What is your main goal here?" JCED has three main goals: to ensure existing business success, to assist entrepreneurs in any way we can, and to recruit targeted businesses. As the Executive Director, my goal is to carry out strategies to achieve these goals, as well as, continue to keep the organization strong. I look forward to working together as a County to make things happen!

My husband, Phil and I have felt very welcome and look forward to building relationships and raising our children in the County. Please read on to hear more about what is going on at JCED and in the region!

Sincerely,

Dusty Embree
Executive Director

In This Issue

[Job Fair Information](#)

[Skills 2014](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Business Spotlight](#)

Quick Links

[JCED Website](#)
[Ignite Website](#)
[Membership Brochure](#)

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 Cooperative

Matt Behrends-
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 Citizens Bank

Join us for the Jones County Job Fair

You are invited to participate in the Jones County Job Fair!

In response to employer needs, Jones County Economic Development will be hosting a

job fair on Thursday, August 4, 2011 from 4 to 7 p.m.
at Jones Regional Education Center in Monticello.

The event will feature Jones County businesses that are seeking employees and taking applications.

We want to help you fill in the gaps at your business and find the right people.

We will be targeting job seekers in Jones County and the region, as well as high school seniors.

Partnering with Iowa Workforce Development, Kirkwood Community College, Sedona Staffing, and local media outlets to market the event.

Jones County Job Fair Details:

DATE: August 4, 2011

TIME: 4 to 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Jones Regional Education Center

SET-UP: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

PROVIDED: 5 ft. table and 2 chairs.

REGISTRATION:

Sign up today!

Early-bird registration (before July 4th)- \$25

Registration after July 4th- \$40.

Space is limited! Email me TODAY and let me know you will be participating and we will save you a space!

OUR JOB FAIR PARTNERS:

Kirkwood Community College

IowaWORKS

Sedona Staffing Services

Dave Kehoe-
Treasurer
Ohnward Bank

Kris Gobeli-
Secretary
Fidelity Bank

David Cavey
Retired

Dale Mescher
Bard Materials

Don Kopp
Bennett
Machine &
Fabricating

Cody Shaffer
Shaffer
Plumbing &
Heating

Mike Szymaszek
Energy
Manufacturing

Wayne Manternach
Jones County
Supervisor

SKILLS 2014 REPORT CONDUCTED IN KIRKWOOD 7 COUNTY REGION

The Corridor Alliance and Kirkwood Community College recently released their Skills 2014 Report, an assessment of employers' skill and employment needs in the region representing Jones, Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Linn and Washington Counties.

This study helps to identify the gaps between industry's existing workforce needs and the existing skill set of our region's workforce. From this information, we can work with education institutions and employers to continue to assist our available workforce in being successful in the coming years.

There were 8 specific goals of the study including:

- *Determining replacement and new job growth in the next four years
- *Current hiring needs
- *Educational levels desired for different positions
- *Employers perception of workforce skills
- *Employers investment in training and training methods
- *Factors impeding and supporting growth of business
- *Skills credential programs and internships
- *Employers perceptions of declining occupations

Data was gathered in all 7 counties both quantitatively and qualitatively using a mix of methods considering industry sector, size of organization and geographic location to have an equal representation. The study had two

**Have you
seen the 2010
Census
Results?**

**Jones
County's
population
has increased
by 2.1%
whereas,
compared to
2/3 of
counties in
Iowa that lost
population.**

parts: an Employer Workforce Needs survey and a Training and Workforce Climate phone survey. Of the 399 employers that were invited to participate, 132 completed the first part, and 272 completed the second part for a total of 241 unique employers.

Findings of the study showed that:

- *Regional employers are optimistic in their projections for hiring new and replacement workers
- *Job educational requirements are trending towards high school plus
- *Occupational and soft skills are still missing in job applicants
- *Internships and job shadowing have proven to help students gain practical experience while assisting businesses in daily work.

Overall, the region needs to prepare itself to respond to workforce needs requiring educated and skilled workers. A quality, capable and available workforce is critical for the region to compete in the global market. The skills gap between business, industry and worker needs to be addressed in retaining and attracting new business to the region.

14 Jones County Employers participated including: Anamosa Travel Mart, Bard Materials, Bennett Machine & Fabricating, City of Monticello, Energy Manufacturing, Four Oaks, Innovative Ag Services, Jones Regional Medical Center, Julin Printing, MedPlast, NCI Building Systems, ORBIS, River Valley Cooperative, Welter Storage Equipment Co.

All information from the Skills 2014 Report. For the full report: <http://www.kirkwood.edu/skills2014>.

In conjunction with Skills 2014, ACT conducted a Strategic Skills Alignment. Download the report at www.act.org/workforce/ssa.

Upcoming Events

- SCORE, "How To Start Your Own Business Seminar"
 - Starts Tuesday, July 12th- For more details, [go here](#).
- Jones County Job Fair
 - Thursday, August 4th- 4 to 7 p.m., Jones Regional Education Center, Monticello.
- August Economic Development Roundtable
 - Tuesday, August 9th- noon to 1 p.m., Renaissance Center in Monticello. The featured presenter will be Carter Baldwin, Director of IowaWORKS.
- CEO Networking Event
 - September 15, 2011- SAVE THE DATE!

Business Spotlight- Jones Regional Medical Center



Hospital CEO, Eric Briesemeister

One of Jones County's great assets and larger employers (approximately 160), Jones Regional Medical Center is a 22-bed critical access hospital in Anamosa, Iowa that serves more than 4,000 people each month. The doors to a brand new, state of the art facility opened in the fall of 2009.

Jones Regional is a rural affiliate of the Iowa Health System and works as part of St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. Jones Regional offers many services including but not limited to a 24-hour emergency department, lab and radiology; inpatient nursing care; outpatient surgeries and clinics; counseling; and rehabilitation.

In 2010, nearly 50,000 outpatients were seen at JRMC.

The ER saw nearly 7,500 patients in 2010- DOUBLE what was seen just 6 years ago!
The Jones Regional ER is the 5th busiest of the Critical Access Hospitals in Iowa!

Jones Regional Medical Center
1795 Hwy 64 East
Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-6131

www.jonesregional.org



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Jones County Economic Development | 118 E. Main Street | P.O. Box 463 | Anamosa | IA | 52205