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Upcoming Events

Keokuk Young Professional Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, January 25, 12:00—1:00 pm at The Hawkeye. Southeast Iowa Regional Planning

Fort Madison Young Professional Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, February 7, 12:00—1:00 pm at The Palms. "How to Make the Ask" by ISU Extension.

Southeast Iowa Days at the Capital

February 28—March 1 in Des Moines. Join representatives from SE Iowa as we speak to legislators.

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Share your success story, company update or event with Lee County by emailing Dana Millard



Lee County ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP Newsletter



Key Happenings with Key Players:

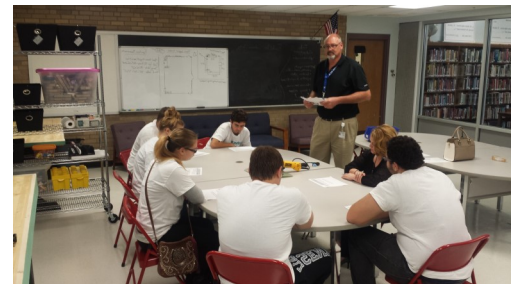
DuPont Celebrates 80 Years in Lee County



Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing Receives Best Development Award



Lee County Schools Building STEM Programs Through STEM Advisory Board funds



Southeastern Community College New Options Catalog



Lee County EDG Looking Forward



Lee County Industrial Leaders Group met on January 18th to discuss their future workforce needs. Plant Manager of Pinnacle Bryan Langerud spoke to the group about staying competitive in a workforce driven economy. SCC President Dr. Ash informed the group about new legislation regarding training facilities and moving forward with education.

DuPont Celebrates 80 Years in Lee County

The Fort Madison DuPont plant is celebrating 80 years of being in Lee County and has evolved with the market multiple times. One thing that remains constant is their commitment to safety, *celebrating 3 years of no recordable safety incidences in September*, quality, the environment, the community and their employees.



Lee County students participating in job shadows as part of Grow Lee Career Exploration Day

The Fort Madison DuPont plant is the manufacturing hub of the Digital Printing business for Electronics & Communications. As the world moves toward on-demand inkjet printing solutions for everything from textbooks to home furnishings, our ink technologies are enabling the growth for digital printing of commercial, textile, and office applications.

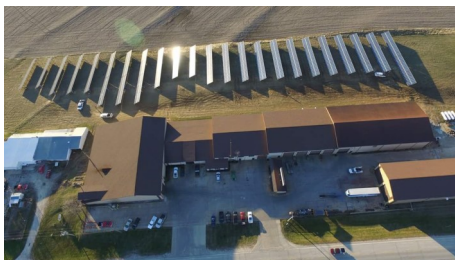
Included in these inks are the DuPont Artistri Inks produced for textile printing. Artistri inks, printable on a full range of fabrics, offer brilliant colors, sharp image quality and reliable jetting performance. Besides manufacturing inks, the Fort Madison plant also produces several semi-finished products that support other DuPont business such as a material used in the manufacturing of aircraft as well as solar panels.

DuPont has been a great investor in our communities, participating in Lee County Career Exploration Days, Manufacturing Day, Lego Robotics programs, and STEM Fests. The company also has donated to the Fort Madison Rec Plex, and land to the new trails system.

Thanks to DuPont for 80 years of business and your continued contributions to our communities!

Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing Receives 2016 Best Development Award

1000 Friends of Iowa announced Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing was the winner of their 2016 Best Development Award in the Renewable Energy category for its solar field in Pilot Grove. The winners represent models of responsible development practices representing the organization's mission of responsible land use. "Our winners and their respective works will positively impact future generations of Iowans and deserve our applause," said Julia McGuire, award coordinator.



Situated on 3.5 acres, the newly completed solar field is Southeast Iowa's largest installation and has made Steffensmeier Welding the first industrial operation of this scale to be 100% solar powered. "The economics behind the project made the decision easy," said owner Jenny Steffensmeier. Over a 25-year period of time, the business is projected to save nearly \$2.5 million in utility costs.

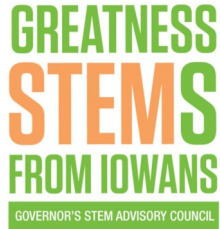
Owner Jenny Steffensmeier and General Manager Sherry Yasenoch visited the capital to showcase their award winning solar installation, pictured above with Representative Dave Heaton.

Other award winners from Lee County included the School House Apartments for their Renovated Residential category. Todd Schneider turned the former Fort Madison High School into a 37-unit mixed income apartment complex.

Lee County Schools Receiving STEM Program Awards

Congratulations to Fort Madison School District and Keokuk Community School District for receiving STEM Funds from the SE Iowa STEM Advisory Council!

Fort Madison High School received the STEM BEST Award which is one of many programs that promise to help reach our Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by 2025.



This grant helps Lee County educators and business leaders work together with students to strengthen Iowa's talent pipeline and close the skills gap. "The new 21st century lab has brought a variety of options for students to learn STEM careers." Fort Madison Principal Greg Smith said, "The project would not have gone anywhere without Lee County EDG's support."

The Keokuk Community School District received the STEM Innovation Fund Award for their Keokuk Cardboard Challenge. This program is open to all K-12 students in the district. Students attend workshops with local business professionals who talk about STEM concepts and skills are used in their jobs to gain a deeper understanding of the Engineering Design Process.

The goal of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is to support research based STEM education proven to promote, inspire and engage youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities and to introduce children and their parents to careers through STEM.



In addition to these two awards, there are a variety of STEM programs going on in Lee County including Grow Lee Lego Robotics, Teacher Externship Programs, First Tech Challenge, Pint Size Science, Engineering is Elementary, Hour of Code, Career Expos, STEM Fest, KidTek U Camps and much more.

Want to get involved? Contact Dana Millard at dmillard@leecountyedg.com

New CBIZ Catalog Available!

Click image below to view complete list of classes



Classes Include:

Total Productive Maintenance

- Proactively maintain machines and equipment at their peak productivity. Participants come away with an understanding of TPM and its 5 major components.

\$250, 8 hours, 1 session
Apr 13, 8 am—4:30 pm
SCC Keokuk 416

Human Resource Professional

- Begin or master the skills needed to advance within a human resources career. This training program will prepare you to take the PHR certification with HRCI as the certifying body. The class covers much of the information on the SHRM-CP exam and the PHR exam.

\$1,795, 120 hours
Online

Save the Date

Next Talent for Today & Tomorrow Breakfast

March 9th 7:30—8:30 am Comfort Inn & Suites, Fort Madison

Recapping 2016's Journey and Looking Forward to 2017's Roadmap



Reflecting on Lee County EDG's four strategic pillars: Business Retention and Expansion (BRE); Business Attraction; Workforce Development; and Marketing great strides were achieved that will prove to be beneficial to Lee County Industries over the coming years.

Building strong relationships is at the core of BRE. Relationships that are built on trust, quality of knowledge, and understanding industry's needs. In 2016 Lee County EDG assisted industries with connecting them with state and local resources, created materials, assisted in business referrals and connected the dots for our industries to grow.

Lee County EDG's focus in 2017 is to target potential companies that align with existing assets available in Lee County and the needs of our local industries. We have identified development sites for potential new investments and are exploring adding a certified site to our inventory. We will continue to work with our regional economic development partners to market our SE Iowa Region, leveraging assets of each area and the skillset of each groups personnel.

For our existing industry to grow, and to attract new business, we must continue to move the needle forward with regard to Workforce Development. Lee County EDG's Grow Lee was named the best 2016 BRE program in Iowa by Professional Developers of Iowa however there is still work to be done. Without an available skilled labor pool, we will not be able to attract new business to the area or provide opportunities for our existing industries to expand. Lee County EDG salutes several industries leading the effort, being actively engaged in assisting with various workforce initiatives.

Our last Pillar is Marketing. Through the use of our new branding and new website, along with other outreach efforts such as newsletters, informational e-mail blasts, community contacts and involvement, our message that Lee County is OPEN for business and commerce is delivered.

Thank You for your continued support through volunteerism and as a stakeholder!

- Joe Steil, CEO Lee County EDG

Visit LeeCountyEDG.com for more success stories and highlights of Lee County.

Want to be involved? Contact the Lee County EDG staff

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