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TCEDA *Insights*

March 2011

Dear Ashley,

Welcome to *TCEDA Insights* - a monthly newsletter that will provide you with highlights and updates of news and events that TCEDA is working on in the region.



Comments on the newsletter are appreciated. If you have information that you would like added, please contact me via email spepin@tcedaonline.com

-Sharon Pepin
Interim Executive Director

Upcoming Events

First day of Spring

March 21

Tristate Tourism Conference (Dubuque, IA)

March 29

Jo Daviess County CEDS Meeting

April 4

Executive Director Update

As of February 28, 2011, I assumed the Interim Executive Director position with TCEDA. I was honored to be thought of for this position and hope to fulfill your needs. A little about myself - for the last 15 years I have been doing grant writing, planning and economic development for communities in the northwest corner of the State. I am the owner of Community Funding & Planning Services located in Stockton. I help communities prepare short- and long-term comprehensive plans, plan for and secure funding for much needed infrastructure projects, and create incentive tools such as tax increment financing, revolving loan fund and enterprise zones. All of which benefits the economic growth of a community and the region.

**Local Elections -
your opportunity
to make a
change**

April 5

**Jo Daviess
County Board**

April 11

**Whiteside
County Board**

April 19

**Carroll County
CEDS Meeting**

April 20

**Carroll County
Board Meeting**

April 21

Easter

April 24

I understand TCEDA's purpose, "... to promote, encourage and support industrial and economic development in Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside Counties ..." and I believe we are the agency that can help accomplish this for the region.

My predecessor tried to have TCEDA be the 'go-to' agency for the region; I agree with that. In order for the communities, the counties and the region to grow, we have to work together and we need one voice. TCEDA is that voice for the region.

I recently attended an economic development summit conducted by Blackhawk Hills RC&D. One of the purposes of the meeting was to identify what the regional needs and priorities are. The number one priority was JOBS! Be it retention of jobs or creation of jobs. JOBS was number one.

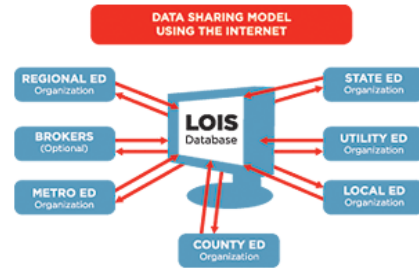
I once read an economic development article on job retention that said between 40 and 80% of new jobs are created by existing firms, rather than by attracting new firms to a community. Keeping an existing business is often easier than recruiting new businesses. A healthy and vibrant local economy depends on the well being of a community's existing firms. Thus, efforts aimed at helping local businesses survive and grow in the local community are key to successful economic development.

TCEDA also believes job retention is a top priority, which is why I will be visiting around 25 local businesses within the region to see 'how business is going' and to see what TCEDA can do to help. Future visits with more businesses will be held on a regular basis. If you know of a business that is looking to expand, or is in need of assistance, please contact me.

I hope to meet as many of you as is possible during my interim period. Feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call to discuss your thoughts or concerns; I'd love to hear from you. Enjoy the newsletter and checkout the update on LOIS and other happenings at TCEDA.

LOIS Update

Location One Information System is a searchable economic development database, which holds detailed information on sites, buildings, and locations for businesses looking to grow and re-locate. It is a real-time, on-line economic development site selection tool that helps promote our area. LOIS provides your community with a GIS-enhanced site database system which gives you a strong competitive advantage in the rough and tumble world of site selection.



TCEDA is committed to serving our communities and businesses. As a service to you, we are showcasing your community for FREE. There are currently 56 buildings and 28 lots updated. It is a FREE tool TCEDA is offering to all communities of the TCEDA service area: Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Western Whiteside counties. In order to keep your community in a competitive status, it is important to make updates as quickly as possible. The communities of: Chadwick, Fulton, Lanark, Milledgeville, Mount Carroll, Savanna, Stockton, Thomson, and Warren have already taken advantage of the LOIS database.

For TCEDA to effectively promote your community to prospective commercial site selectors, we need to act now to integrate this important tool into your community. If you are an owner of industrial/commercial building or lot please contact the TCEDA office:

(815) 273-1153 or info@tcedaonline.com

New TCEDA Website

TCEDA is currently in the process of updating its website and is working with Design Mill in Elizabeth. The site will have a refreshing new look, and will contain useful information. The site will also feature TCEDA's LOIS database fully integrated for users and site selectors. Watch for the announcement of our new site. We are looking forward to launching this new tool for the entire TCEDA region!



Did you know...

Prevailing wage issue - there are a number of different groups looking to draft changes to the prevailing wage act to minimize its impact to small communities. Some changes being proposed would be based upon the dollar amount of a project or based upon the size of a community. House Bill 3094 was introduced on February 23 by Representative Michael Tryon and has been referred back to committee. This bill calls for the exemption of prevailing wages on projects under \$20,000. Jo Daviess County and a number of communities are writing letters in support of this bill.

Future issues of the TCEDA *Insights* will include a business 'spot light' section that will feature a local business. Watch for it in next month's issue.

Links

[TCEDAonline](#)



TCEDA's mission is to significantly enhance economic development progress in Northwest Illinois and beyond, as measured ultimately by job creation.

TCEDA is a private, not-for-profit 501c(6) corporation formed to develop a regional public/private partnership to promote, encourage, and support industrial and economic development in Carroll, Jo Daviess and Whiteside Counties.