



The Rockford Area Economic Development Council was formed in 1980 by an energetic partnership of leaders from the private and public sectors to address a recession when Rockford led the nation in unemployment. In today's challenging economy, 193 companies, organizations, and municipalities are pooling resources with you to implement the five powerful strategies of *Rockforward!* I am grateful for your ongoing support, and I am pleased to report results of our work. The RAEDC and our region's partners managed 83 confidential client projects during the second quarter. We celebrated announcements by Financial Management Systems (FMS), who began operations in Rockford in August and will create up to 350 jobs, and MegaFab, who will maintain its manufacturing presence in Rockford and will begin manufacturing two other product lines in addition to Whitney, retaining 44 jobs and creating ten new jobs.

Thanks go to the 200 business and community leaders who attended the second quarter investor event focused on embracing and growing international connections. In addition to announcing several upcoming trade missions and delegations, we were pleased to announce that Rockford has been selected to host *International Bioenergy Days* in 2010.

Significant progress was made toward creating **World-Class Business Infrastructure**, as a regional plan for job creation in Winnebago and Boone counties was established. A technical committee was formed and public forums were held for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. As a result, our region will be eligible to receive EDA grants. We also welcomed over 50 participants from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa at a conference held in collaboration with the American Assembly, Tri-State Alliance, and NIU. At the event, we evaluated possibilities for regional cooperation with an eye to federal policy. Furthermore, over 150 attended the second annual *Tri-State Alliance Transportation Initiative Summit*, and a meeting was held with members of the I-39 Logistics Corridor Association.

We focused **Targeted Marketing and Recruitment** efforts at the Paris Airshow, promoting exports from Rockford Area aerospace companies and marketing to attract companies to our region. Seven qualified leads were developed that represent over \$100 Million in capital investment and 700 jobs. We also launched the new RAEDC Website - rockfordil.com - and welcomed a Chinese delegation of 20 business people from the automotive industry and international investment promotion agencies.

To help strengthen our region's **Thriving Business Climate**, nearly 200 participants received tips to succeed in the global marketplace at *Go Global II*, which included trade commissioners from more than a dozen countries. We welcomed Katarina Kilter from Lidköping, Sweden, who is promoting international business opportunities to Rockford Area companies. When addressing **Workforce Development** challenges, we continue to focus on attracting & retaining the next generation of talent to the Rockford Area. The new, broad-based Young Professionals Organization - Ignite - has been formally launched, and planning is underway for the third annual *LiveBig Weekend* and *Jobapalooza Professional Career Fair* to take place over Thanksgiving weekend.

The *Rockforward!* Leadership Council was also busy during the second quarter, as they invested seed money from the **Emerging Opportunities Fund** in two projects. \$75,000 was allocated for the Rock River Development Partnership project to create and execute a downtown riverfront master plan. And, \$90,400 was awarded for the Solar Thermal Heating and Cooling System at the Freedom Field Renewable Energy Project.

This challenging economy only heightens the need for collaboration and teamwork so that the Rockford Region is better prepared to compete in today's global marketplace. Thank you for your ongoing support. Please contact me if you have questions or would like more information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janyce Fadden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janyce Fadden, President, Rockford Area Economic Development Council