



Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council. This quarterly results report is the first in our third year of *Rockforward!*, the RAEDC's strategic plan for 2008-2012. We continue to have successes in the region which will generate new wealth for our community. In the first quarter of 2010, RAEDC staff and regional partners provided assistance to 108 clients representing over 7,442 potential, new and retained jobs; more than \$487 Million of capital expenditures and investment; and approximately 3.3 Million square feet of new and expanded space. The successes include expansion of jobs at Gleason Cutting Tool, Gunit Corporation and Haldex Hydraulic Systems; as well as the expansion of Rockford Drop Forge and the relocation of Rotary Concepts.

More than 220 investors and community leaders attended the first quarter investor event where results were presented from over 100 Voice of the Customer surveys completed in 2009. On average, communities can expect 70% of their job growth and capital investment to come from existing companies. In continuing our efforts to strengthen the Rockford Region's **Thriving Business Climate**, the RAEDC conducted 29 Voice of the Customer surveys with area employers in the first quarter. To date over 60 specific action items have been addressed including: connecting people to private and public sector contacts, providing information on resources such as the Foreign Trade Zone, and identifying and assisting with expansion projects. The RAEDC also hosted the first Manufacturing Coffee Talk of the year, wherein City of Rockford Mayor Morrissey led a focused discussion with over 35 area manufacturers.

Targeted Marketing and Recruitment efforts continue to be focused on international trade, logistics & site selection, and the aerospace industry. In the first quarter we met with 17 site search consultants, companies or agents, regarding prospect opportunities and responded to 9 comprehensive site search requests for information. The RAEDC staff has been actively engaged in the activities of the Supplier Excellence Alliance (SEA) connecting our local aerospace cluster with leading aerospace manufacturers. A major match-making activity for Talgo, a Spanish manufacturer of high speed railway vehicles, was lead by RAEDC staff which consisted of soliciting potential vendors and coordinating submissions. Planning for International Bioenergy Days (IBED), to be held in Rockford September 26-29, is currently underway. We invite you to participate; opportunities for expo booths, presenters, and sponsors are now available at www.IBED2010.com. A Chinese delegation, comprised primarily of urban and rural developers, was hosted in collaboration with Northern Illinois University's College of Business. While in the area, they participated in discussions with the City of Rockford's Community Development and Public Works departments. RAEDC staff Participated in the Doing Business with China event and also attended the Chinese New Year Celebration which attracted the Chicago region's top business leaders who do business with China.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was formally approved by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This qualifies us to be eligible for the federal government's economic development grant programs for infrastructure and planning, enhancing our creation of **World-Class Business Infrastructure** and promoting **Workforce Development** strategies. In addition, Boone and Winnebago Counties' Boards passed resolutions supporting the establishment of an Economic Development District (EDD), the federally designated local agency charged with maintaining and implementing the CEDS plan. The Economic Adjustment grant the RAEDC applied for in December for \$730,000 has reached merits toward further consideration stages.

The RAEDC continues to see an increase in client projects and activities; your continued support is appreciated. Please plan to attend our Second Quarter Investor Event, which will be held on Wednesday, June 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Radisson in Rockford. Together we can *Rockforward!*

Best Regards,

Janyce Fadden, President, Rockford Area Economic Development Council