

Rockford

I L L I N O I S  U S A

ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SECOND QUARTER RESULTS REPORT 2011

Enclosed is a summary of economic development activity for the second quarter of 2011. The collective efforts reported herein is the work of our region's team of professionals and elected officials attracting and retaining businesses. Please help the Rockford Region celebrate the many successes it has achieved in 2011. Thank you for your continued support of the RAEDC.

Sincerely,

Janyce Fadden, RAEDC President

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS

In May, 2011, employment decreased .2% in the Rockford MSA (metropolitan statistical area) with 148,700 employed. The only sectors to increase from the prior month were Leisure and Hospitality with a .8% increase and Government with a 2.2% increase.

Primary employment increased 1.08% in 2011 over 2010, and secondary and tertiary employment increased 1.84% during this same timeframe.

The first half of 2011 brought the commitment of 724 jobs to our region from project wins. This is 41% of our annual goal.

THRIVING BUSINESS CLIMATE

Active assistance was provided to 84 companies, representing 7,664 new and retained jobs, over \$1.6 Billion in capital investment, and 6.3 Million sq. ft. of new or renovated space.

30 **Voice of the Customer** visits were completed in the second quarter of 2011, generating 35 calls to action; all of which have been completed.

The second quarter **Manufacturing Coffee Talk** with Mayor Larry Morrissey was hosted at J&M Plating. It was attended by 42 people from 30 companies.

80 individuals from 65 companies attended the **Navistar Supplier Summit** held at Giovanni's on June 23rd. The feedback from Navistar and the attendees has been excellent with several companies indicating they identified new business opportunities.

The new three-year **City of Lidköping** agreement with the **City of Rockford** was presented to the City Council on May 31st. The agreement outlines details of how the two cities will work together for mutual benefit over the next three years.

An International Energy Collaboration was signed on May 31st between the **City of Lidköping, Winnebago County** and **Freedom Field Renewable Energy**. This collaboration is a successful result of the multiple international trade delegations visiting Lidköping, Sweden and Rockford, Illinois.

The **Go Global IV** trade conference was hosted on April 13 in collaboration with the Greater Rockford Airport Authority, the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, SupplyCore Inc. and other regional partners.

The fifth annual **FastPitch** competition was held at NIU-Rockford with 49 participants (including nine student teams) from the Stateline Region.

TARGETED MARKETING & RECRUITMENT

The **Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN)** meets bi-monthly and members are planning their attendance at the NBAA Annual Meeting & Convention, they are also developing a regional supply chain database.

A delegation from our **Chinese sister city, Changzhou**, was recently hosted to explore opportunities for tourism exchanges.

WORLD CLASS BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

The fourth annual **Tri-State Alliance Summit** was held on May 9. Congressman John Mica, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee provided the keynote address to over 150 attendees.

The RAEDC, along with the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, became a coordinator of the **Rockford Casino Coalition**, the City of Rockford's PR campaign to secure a casino in Rockford.

Staff assisted in the launch of the **Downtown Entrepreneurship Project** – an initiative to develop a small business growth pipeline for retail, food processing, restaurant, and product development for business corridors.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Boone and Winnebago County **Laborshed Study** was released which concludes that there are more than 47,000 potential employees locally for new or expanding businesses.

Kidworks, a two week summer camp targeted at 13-15 year old students, was successfully completed. This program, held at **Eigerlab**, is receiving national exposure. The camp included one week of CNC training and one week of entrepreneurship training.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Rockforward! Leadership Council** funded \$175,000 of the 2011 Emerging Opportunities Fund to assist in securing Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

SECOND QUARTER 2011 PROJECT WINS

NCO Group, located in Rockford, announced 400 new jobs within their facility to accommodate growth in their call center operations.

Field Fastener Supply Company announced the 40,000 sq. ft. expansion of its operating facility in Machesney Park which is expected to add 15 jobs.

Noark Electronics Co, LTD, headquartered in Shanghai, China, opened an office in Rockford with the anticipation of it becoming its North American headquarters housing sales, marketing, warehousing and R&D.

SECOND QUARTER 2011 HIGHLIGHTS



Over 150 business and community leaders attended the **Second Quarter Investor Event** on April 13 which featured author Ted Fishman who discussed his book *Shock of Gray*. In his presentation, Fishman discussed how Rockford fares in the race to attract a younger workforce and what opportunities lay ahead for its aging population.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University sent a team in April to visit Rockford to learn more about the region's proposal as a location for Embry-Riddle's third residential campus. Embry-Riddle representatives met with regional public and private leaders and visited proposed sites for campus development.

The **Illinois Small Business Development Center International Trade Center of the Rockford Area** became the tenth such trade center to open in Illinois as announced at a news conference on April 6. The ITC will be located at the Rockford Area Economic Development Council and staffed by Carrie Zethmayr, RAEDC manager of international relations and client solutions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Manufacturing Coffee Talk with Mayor Morrissey

Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 Time: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Location: TBA. The leaders of Rockford manufacturing companies and related businesses will meet with Mayor Morrissey to hear his thoughts and plans for the local business climate, discuss opportunities and answer questions.

National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Annual Meeting & Convention

Date: Monday, October 10 -12, 2011 Location: Las Vegas, NV. Key operators and industry leaders will meet in Las Vegas to conduct business, make buying decisions and set the stage for business aviation activity for the year ahead.

RAEDC Annual Meeting & Dinner - Save the Date!

Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 Time: 5:00 - 8:30 PM Location: Giovanni's
Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Please contact Mary Cacioppi at 815-969-4259 for additional information.

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.rockfordil.com.