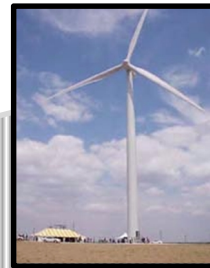




Pike County Economic Development Corporation



E-NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

Director's Notes

I would like to welcome everyone to the new e-newsletter format. As a valued member of the Pike County Economic Development Corporation, you will receive this publication periodically to help keep you informed of the activities of our organization, and possible opportunities for your business or organization.

I can assure you that our organization has made it a priority to become more involved with our members. Through this newsletter, we hope to pass on information that might be useful to your business or organization.

Economic Development is a process that involves a number of partners. Through the cooperation of everyone, we can be successful. A renewed focus by this organization will concentrate its activity in the following areas:

- Business Retention & Expansion
- (Existing) Business Attraction
- Small Business Development
- Community Development Planning

These areas should be the main focus of every economic development organization. Stay tuned to future issues to see why these areas are important.

Contact us with any questions.....

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Energy Efficiency Workshop

Are you looking to reduce your energy costs through energy efficiency improvements to your business or public entity?..... If so, the following workshop may be of interest. Click the [following link](#) for more information. This workshop will provide information on various programs that offer incentives to entities that wish to make energy efficiency improvements. If you have any questions on how PCEDC can assist you in preparing an application contact us at (217)-430-8511 or srennecker@pikedc.org.

Small Business Jobs Tax Credits

The State of Illinois is offering tax credits when you create a new, full time position. After hiring the employee, your business can apply online to receive a \$2,500 tax credit against withholding taxes which will be awarded after July 1, 2011. The credits are available on a first come, first-served basis.

To apply, simply go online to www.jobstaxcredit.illinois.gov. You'll need to provide basic information including your FEIN. In a year, eligible companies will receive a tax credit certificate. For eligibility requirements for the Illinois Small Business Job Creation Tax Credit, and to register a new position created by your company, visit <http://www.jobstaxcredit.illinois.gov>. Contact us if you have any other questions or need assistance.

JWCC TO CO-SPONSOR STATEWIDE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

John Wood Community College, Great River Economic Development Foundation and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECEO), will co-sponsor an **Environmental Issues 101 construction workshop February 22**. The event will take place at **JWCC's Workforce Development Center, 4220 Koch's Lane in Quincy, from 9 a.m. to**

4:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The workshop is designed to ensure that construction companies are aware of new standards and regulations.

Commercial and residential contractors, demolition contractors, building maintenance providers, home inspectors, local building code officials, property managers, architects and engineers will benefit from the workshop. The course is also eligible for **Continuing Education Credits for architects, professional engineers and radon professionals**.

Information from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, DECO and Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be presented on a wide range of topics.

Sessions will cover information on radon, lead-based paint, management of construction wastes, energy efficient programs, asbestos regulations, OSHA consultation and national resource reviews. JWCC is one of only four locations statewide to offer the workshop.

For more information, contact the JWCC Workforce Development Center at 217.641.4971 or wdc@jwcc.edu. Directions are available at <http://www.jwcc.edu/about/wdc.asp>.

PCEDC Action Items

As Director of the PCEDC, I would like to share some information on a few of the items we are working on currently, and what we will be working on the future.

PCEDC Website Redevelopment – Our organization is currently working on redesigning our website www.pikeedc.org .

Once completed, the website will serve as a clearinghouse for information to entrepreneurs and developers. It is a known fact that an economic development organizations best and most valuable marketing tool is its website.

Development of a Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) Program – In today's business climate in Illinois, it is more important than ever to have a good relationship with our existing businesses. The PCEDC is in the process of designing and implementing a BR&E program to assist Pike County businesses with any issues they may be facing. By working with our businesses in the county, we can help to make them and the local economy more sustainable. In the future, we will be contacting businesses throughout the county find a time discuss issues they are facing. The PCEDC will then tap into its network of resources to assist these businesses. This is one way of how we intended to assist you.

Real Estate Agencies and the Economic Development Organization – In the next month, I will setting up a meeting with all of the Real Estate Agencies in Pike County. This will provide me with an opportunity to develop a relationship with all of the agencies and share with them the network of resources that our organization has available. Often times, it is the local real estate agency that is receiving the initial call from prospective businesses. It is incredibly important that we are well connected and working together. In preliminary conversations I have had with local agents, they feel that this coordination is greatly needed.

Youth Workforce Training Opportunity – The PCEDC and the Workforce Investment Board is in the process of organizing a workshop for Pike County youth. The program will provide participants with assistance on preparing a resume and applying for a job. In addition, we will be organizing a business-education roundtable to discuss what skill sets our businesses are looking for in an employee.