New Edition Cedar Valley Region Book Released

The Alliance & Chamber, in partnership with the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership, Courier Communications, and the Pioneer Group, is proud to announce the release of the third edition of the Cedar Valley Region book. The full color, 86 page book gives a snapshot of the business and economic landscape in the Cedar Valley. The book also highlights remarkable individuals who represent the diverse talent and abilities of the people who call the Cedar Valley home. In addition to features on the region’s leading business sectors, the entrepreneurial community has strong coverage in the publication representative of its historical significance and importance to the future growth of the Cedar Valley.

Articles and photos depicting the superior Cedar Valley quality of life round out the publication, making it an essential marketing piece for those recruiting new business investment and talent to the region. As an Alliance & Chamber investor, you may request two free copies. Additional copies may be purchased at the discount price of $5.00 each by contacting Lisa Skubal by email lskubal@cedarvalleyalliance.com.

Upcoming Events

- **Global Awareness Information Session - Explore China**
  November 5

- **TechBrew Cedar Valley**
  November 6

- **Cedar Valley STEM Festival**
  November 13

- **Friday Forum**
  November 14

- **Startup Weekend Cedar Valley**
  November 21
## August Stats

### Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber Stats @ a Glance

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<th>New Business Total</th>
<th>Job Creation</th>
<th>Capital Investment</th>
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### Cedar Valley SkilledIowa

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### Business Services Stats

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses Engaged</td>
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**Business Attraction & Retention**

**Opportunities on Pace with Strategic Goals**

The Alliance & Chamber Economic Development team delivered seven new opportunities in the 1st Quarter of fiscal year 2015 (July 2014 through September 2014). The average capital investment for these projects is $24.22 million surpassing the $5 million goal. Total capital investment for these projects is $169.55 million and the total new jobs identified is 2,320.

Of the seven opportunities, three represent existing business expansion projects and four represent external leads.

The delivery of these opportunities is on pace to meet the Alliance & Chamber goal of 20 new external opportunities and 10 existing businesses opportunities in fiscal year 2015.

**Cedar Valley Regional Partners Meet with Prospects in Chicago**

As part of the marketing efforts to attract new business to the Cedar Valley, Alliance & Chamber staff, along with our Cedar Valley Regional Partners (CVRP), met with new prospects and existing businesses during the week of September 8th in Chicago.

While in Chicago, the Cedar Valley representatives also attended the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS), sharing a co-op booth with Site Selection Location Partners. Follow up contacts are being made with the 23 leads generated.
Cedar Valley Manufacturers Group Revitalized to Strengthen Sector and Grow Business

The Alliance & Chamber is collaborating with the Cedar Valley Manufacturers’ Association (CVMA) which includes members from Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Waverly, Janesville and Oelwein to revitalize and relaunch the organization. The first meeting of the group was held on October 2, 2014 to coincide with Manufacturing Day 2014. Kryton Engineered Metals hosted the meeting, with owner Kevin Harberts providing a tour of the ultra-modern facility. The group participated in a round table discussion following the tour and discussed the future path of the association.

At the suggestion of the Alliance & Chamber, the CVMA will become the Cedar Valley Manufacturers Network (CVMN). Past member surveys show that membership want to see more value in the attendance at meetings. The CVMN will become an extension of the Alliance & Chamber business retention and expansion program with a focus on connecting the region’s manufacturers on a professional basis to help with problem solving, and to identify markets to grow their business in the Cedar Valley. A reworking of the membership structure, new logo and format of meetings are in development. The re-launch is based on survey feedback from region manufacturers conducted by the Alliance & Chamber. The next meeting for the group has been scheduled for Thursday, December 4, at Power Engineering and Manufacturing in Waterloo. Manufacturers interested in participating in future events may contact Nate Clayberg, Director of Business Retention and Expansion at the Alliance & Chamber by calling 319-232-1156 or email nclayberg@cedarvalleyalliance.com

Introduction to Legal Issues in Exporting Topic of Trade Export Seminar

The fourth and series finale of the Alliance & Chamber International Trade Export Seminar was held on October 22. The topic was “Introduction to Legal Issues in Exporting”. International Business Lawyer, Steve Dickinson, presented this introduction to major legal issues facing a company new to international markets including international contracts, agents and distributors, intellectual property protection and compliance with export controls and anti-corruption laws.
Opportunities for Entrepreneurs
The Alliance & Chamber plays an active role in events and programs geared to startup and early stage businesses. There are three opportunities coming up in November to connect entrepreneurs with resources to help them take their ideas to the next level.

Startup Weekend Cedar Valley - November 21-23
UNI is hosting the first Startup Weekend Cedar Valley. The 54-hour event is designed to provide superior experiential education for technical and non-technical entrepreneurs. Beginning with Friday night pitches and continuing through brainstorming, business plan development, and basic prototype creation, it will culminate in Sunday night demos and presentations. Participants create working startups during the event and are able to collaborate with like-minded individuals outside of their daily networks. Industry leaders will make presentations throughout the weekend.

This event will begin Friday, November 21st at 6:00pm and go through Sunday, November 23rd. Tickets are on sale for $70. The event will be held at the Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE) on the UNI campus. (Register Here) (More on Startup Weekend)
Find Start Up Weekend updates on the Alliance & Chamber website here.

One Million Cups
Kauffman Labs for Enterprise Creation created One Million Cups (1MC) as a simple way to engage entrepreneurs. The official Cedar Valley One Million Cups kick-off will be part of Global Entrepreneurship Week on Wednesday, November 19, at 9:00 am in UNI's Business & Community Services Building. The program will take place every Wednesday morning from 9:00-10:00am rotating weekly between Cedar Valley locations to be announced. (Read More)

Entrepreneurs in the Cedar Valley Get a Jump Start with Venture School
Venture School is a 6-week training program, launching this month in the Cedar Valley, designed to accelerate the startup process and increase your chance for success by emphasizing real-world entrepreneurship through experiential learning, a flipped classroom and immediate feedback. It is a joint venture between University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa, and North Iowa Area Community College.
For additional detail contact Laurie Watje by emailing laurie.watje@uni.edu. (Read More)

Additional resources for startups and small business can be found here on the Alliance & Chamber website.
Students Experience Manufacturing First Hand on Manufacturing Day

The Alliance & Chamber, Hawkeye Community College, regional school districts and eight Cedar Valley manufacturers introduced occupational opportunities available in advanced manufacturing to 450 ninth grade students as part of the National Advanced Manufacturing Day on Oct. 3rd. Participating manufacturers included: Power Engineering and Manufacturing, Kryton Engineered Metals, John Deere - TCAO, Omega Cabinetry, Iowa Laser Technology, Unverferth Manufacturing, Viking Pump, and Schumacher Elevator. This is the second year Cedar Valley businesses and institutions have participated in this event. Tours will continue throughout the remaining regional school districts.

Home Base Iowa: Connecting Employers with the Veteran Workforce

In May, Governor Terry Branstad signed a bill designed to provide more benefits for Iowa’s military veterans. At the same time, companies and communities have pledged to make Iowa veteran friendly by offering incentives to live and work here. It’s hoped that those who have completed their service or have left the military as the result of downsizing by the Department of the Defense will find a new “home base”: Iowa. The bill eliminates state taxes on military pensions. It provides property tax relief, credit for work experience at several colleges and universities and gives veterans preferred status for certain jobs.

The Alliance & Chamber is a member of the Cedar Valley Veterans Committee. The committee held a Homefront Connection resource fair for veterans on October 7, 2014 at the Grout Museum. Information was presented on the Home Base Iowa Initiative. Iowa Workforce Development and Hawkeye Community College also participated. (Read More)

College Career Fair Season

The Alliance & Chamber represented the Cedar Valley and our investors at three college career fairs in September: University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State and University of Iowa Job Fairs, and Wartburg College in October. Positions with 20 Cedar Valley employers were presented, reaching nearly 200 students.

Recruiting Iowa’s college graduates is an important part of the Alliance & Chamber talent goals. Talent Solutions Coordinator, Danny Laudick, is reaching out to investors regarding internship and entry level job opportunities available for students graduating in December as well as summer internships. The overall intent is to directly connect students with available positions in the Cedar Valley.
IT Sector and Higher Ed Work Together to Meet Talent Demands
The IT sector is among the fastest growing sector in percentage of current workforce in the Cedar Valley market area. Anecdotally, we know that IT employers are increasing their employment by up to 50% or more over a relatively short period of time. This makes availability of trained/educated individuals a concern across sectors. Kate Washut, of Far Reach Technologies and Linda Allen of Hawkeye Community College (HCC) convened a discussion between investors in the IT sector, HCC academics and career education teams to discuss the courses, training, and programs available through Hawkeye and the expectations of the employers. The needed skills in highest demand are in software development. The discussion revealed that the projected demand will be best responded to by Hawkeye’s Career Education team. Further meetings between the employers with the greatest near term growth expectations will be set with the Career Education team to better understand specific skill demand and the individualized training programs available to respond to the demand. The Alliance & Chamber will continue to engage this sector.

TechBrew Brings the Cedar Valley IT Community Together
The Alliance & Chamber is a co-sponsor of the TechBrew networking events produced by Technology Association of Iowa. TechBrews occur the first Thursday of each month. November 6 the event will be held from 5:00pm-7:00pm. at Toad’s on Main Street in Cedar Falls. TechBrews are effective events for Cedar Valley technology firms to discover and connect with emerging talent. Alliance & Chamber board member firms ProfitStars and Far Reach, and investors VGM and CUNA Mutual are sponsors of TechBrew. The event is open to all Cedar Valley businesses with technology interests. You can link to the next event through the Alliance & Chamber website. (Read More)

Diversity & Inclusion Partnership
Call for Nominations
The Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber announces nominations are still being accepted for the 2014 Diversity & Inclusion Business Awards. The award will be presented during the 2015 Annual Celebration on Thursday, March 26th at the Park Place Event Centre. This recognition is presented for outstanding contribution by a business or organization for leadership in creating and strengthening an environment of diversity and inclusion in workplace culture, business practices and the community.

Nominations can be made through the nomination form on the Alliance & Chamber website, through the end of October. Nominees will be invited to complete an application and interview process to determine winners. (Read More)

Summit Delivers Applicable Information to Cedar Valley Employers
The Diversity & Inclusion Summit was held on Friday, Sept. 26th Allen College. Approximately 120 were in attendance representing 33 companies throughout the Cedar Valley. The keynote presentation on Cultural Competency and Unconscious Bias as well as the others were impressive, and aligned with the partnership’s mission to provide information and tools to businesses to increase inclusive practices to broaden their employment pool and markets.
Fall 2014 Issue of Inclusion Magazine Published

The Alliance & Chamber applauds investor/partner Courier Communications for their commitment to diversity & inclusion in the Cedar Valley through the exceptional publication of *Inclusion Magazine*. The fall issue is available at newsstands or online. Additional copies may be requested by calling the Courier. This is an outstanding piece to include in your talent recruitment community information.  

(View Publication Here)

TechWorks Update

- Site work continues surrounding the Deere Museum and Tech 1 building on the TechWorks campus. Daily progress can be seen as parking lots are laid and lighting and landscaping are put in place.

- Construction continues on floors 1 and 2 of the Tech 1 building in preparation for tenants and a permanent home for the UNI Metal Casting Center and 3D printers.
- The Iowa Advanced Manufacturing Center development continues with discussions facilitated by the Iowa Innovation Corporation and work groups convening around the state.

- KWWL viewers will soon get roof top views of the Cedar Valley from TechWorks as final plans are made for the installation of a camera on the Tech 1 building.

- There is much ‘behinds the scenes’ work taking place on The Green Mixed Use project in Tech 2 as the financing application for a Reinvestment District are being prepared for State approval and the hotel operator has signed commitments with the developer.

- The TechWorks staff and board are focused on facilitating the myriad of details required by city, state, and federal agencies, developers, partners and other stakeholders. They anticipate a great amount of progress, visible to the general public, will take place in the next year.

- Senator Charles Grassley visited TechWorks on September 29th while participating in an Iowa Innovation Corporation Advanced Manufacturing Work Group meeting. The Senator was briefed on the vision for the TechWorks campus, brought up to date on progress and accomplishments, and given a demonstration of the Ex-One 3D printer.
Community Development

**Cedar Valley Leadership Institute Kicks off Session of Learning and Engagement**

Cedar Valley Leadership Institute (CVLI) kicked off the 2014-2015 class series with 35 members, representing 24 investor businesses & organizations. This initial session on Leadership Foundations was hosted at Mudd Advertising. CVLI meets the first Wednesday of each month from October through May, and focuses on a variety of topics including volunteerism, diversity and economic development in the Cedar Valley. For more information, contact Cary Darrah at cdarrah@cedarvalleyalliance.com.

**Join Google in Celebrating the Cedar Falls Business Connectivity**

On October 15, Cedar Falls was named the 2014 eCity of Iowa. The eCity Awards recognize the strongest online business community in each state - the digital capitals of America. These cities’ businesses are embracing the web to find new customers, connect with existing clients and fuel their local economies. Google held a celebration on Wednesday, October 15 on Main Street.

Senator Charles Grassley presented the e-city designation to Mayor Jon Crews, who credited the citizens of Cedar Falls for passing the community broadband referendum 20 years ago, and CFU for continuously updating the community’s broadband infrastructure. (Learn More)

**Blue Zones Project Update**

With the official certification of Waterloo as a Blue Zones Community in September, both cities are now certified and the vision for a single Cedar Valley Blue Zones is being realized. A Cedar Valley Blue Zones Project advisory board has been formed joining the cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls efforts in one united initiative. Members from both cities continue to serve on the 20 plus member Power 9 committee. Additional committees working on goals of the project include Worksite, Walking Moais, Restaurant, Grocery, Schools, Purpose, and Blue Zones Ambassadors. Business who have not done so, are encouraged to pursue a Blue Zones Worksite Designation by contacting cedarvalleybluezonesproject@gmail.com. Blue Zones Project information can also be found on the Alliance & Chamber website. (Read More)

View Cedar Falls Accomplishments here.
View Waterloo Accomplishments here.
Road Construction Progress

Keep up to date on the University Ave. project and other road construction with helpful links on the Alliance & Chamber website. (Click Here) The city of Cedar Falls has recently launched a website to keep drivers and businesses advised on progress. (Click Here)

U.S. Hwy 63 traffic is detoured in Waterloo. The latest information and maps of current projects can be found on the DOT’s website.

Alliance & Chamber

Alliance & Chamber Annual Report Publication

The Alliance & Chamber has released its Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report. This is a comprehensive report of the programs implemented by the Alliance & Chamber to improve the Cedar Valley economy and strengthen the business community. An electronic version is available for download on the Alliance & Chamber website. Copies of the report are available by request to Annalea Milligan, amilligan@cedarvalleyalliance.com. (View publication here)

Explore China!

Alliance & Chamber Announces Second Cedar Valley Global Awareness Tours

The Alliance & Chamber will host its second Cedar Valley Global Awareness tour with a trip to China on March 7-15, 2015. It is difficult to have a conversation about international business without mentioning the important influence of China - both in production and consumption, and furthermore in finance and the global environmental impact of their growth. In our region, we have decisions made on a continual basis about investments in and purchases from China. Group travel is an excellent way to learn more about China.

Travel commitments must be made by mid December 2014. More information is available on our website or by contacting Sue Beach by email sbeach@cedarvalleyalliance.com. To learn more, attend a no obligation informational meeting at the Art House Café inside the Waterloo Center for the Arts: Nov. 5 at noon and Nov.13 at 7:30pm.
Growing Cedar Valley Businesses through Economic Gardening

Alliance & Chamber Director of Business Retention and Expansion, Nate Clayberg, completed Economic Gardening Certificate training in September. This certification training is a key piece of the Advance Cedar Valley services offered in cooperation with UNI and the Advance Iowa program. Advance Cedar Valley assists midsize growth companies no longer concerned about survival but have moved into ‘second stage’, in the Cedar Valley Region with solutions to facilitate growth.

Dust to Serve on Iowa Association of Business & Industry Board of Directors

Steve Dust, CEO of the Alliance & Chamber, was recently elected to the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Board of Directors, the equivalent of both a state wide manufacturing association and a state chamber of commerce. ABI is Iowa’s direct affiliate with the National Association of Manufacturers. Cedar Valley business leaders who also are members of the ABI board include its current Chair, Mark Hanawalt, Sean Abbas, Jared Graening, and Peter Voorhees. Cedar Valley operations and colleagues from John Deere, CenturyLink and MidAmerican Energy are also represented. ABI has programs and initiatives that address government relations, young professionals, and leadership training. To view ABI’s website, [click here](#).

Welcome Hudson Chamber of Commerce

Increasing the strength and collaborative efforts of the Alliance & Chamber as the regional voice of business, the Hudson Chamber of Commerce has aligned with the Alliance & Chamber as an affiliate organization. We look forward to collaboration for the growth and prosperity of the greater business community.

Good Morning Cedar Valley

Cedar Falls Public Works, 2200 Technology Pkwy, Cedar Falls, IA will be the location for the December 4th Good Morning Cedar Valley. The City of Cedar Falls is the Premier sponsor of the breakfast with First National Bank and The Accel Group as gold sponsors. Don’t miss this opportunity to network with over 100 investors and receive updates from the Waterloo and Cedar Falls Mayors’ offices, the Black Hawk County Supervisors, and Alliance & Chamber CEO, Steve Dust. To register, [click here](#).

Sam’s Club was the host for the Fall Good Morning Cedar Valley on Sept. 25th. Thank you to our premier sponsor, Sam’s Club, for hosting and to the gold sponsors Community Bank & Trust, KWWL Television, and MidAmerican Energy for making this event possible.
Reach Business Decision Makers and Influencers with Ignite Sponsorships

You can stretch your marketing budget and be sure you are reaching the business decision makers and influencers in the Cedar Valley when you sponsor Alliance & Chamber events and publications. Your company will benefit by having your name associated with Alliance & Chamber business growth activities and initiatives that impact the Cedar Valley economy. Sponsorship puts your business in front of our approximately 800+ investors and thousands of their employees each week. To learn more about the sponsorships that align best with your company, contact Sue Beach, sbeach@cedarvalleyalliance.com or call (319)232-1156.

Leader Valley

Leader Valley is the Alliance & Chamber’s initiative to build strong partnerships amongst Cedar Valley businesses, school district administrators and school boards, parents, and the community in order to help students excel and become well prepared for citizenship and their future careers.

From July 1 - September 30, 2014, 11 presentations were made to educators, school districts, and community organizations. Melissa Reade, Leader Valley Director, presented to the Professional Educators of Iowa on Aug. 1st at their Annual Conference in Des Moines. Approximately 900 educators, business people, and community leaders were engaged through these presentations.

A Leader in Me awareness campaign has been launched to inform parents, business leaders, and educators on the purpose, process, and impact of the initiative. The campaign includes direct mail to homes, email messaging to businesses, radio public service announcements, social media blitz, collateral and display materials, and tools for educators. New videos are in production and a new website will launch in the next few weeks. You can track the progress at www.leadervalley.org.

To request a presentation or more information on Leader Valley or Leader in Me, contact Program Director, Melissa Reade, at (319)232-1156 or email mreade@cedarvalleyalliance.com.

Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival November 13th

The Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014, from 4:00-7:30PM at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in downtown Waterloo. Exhibitors from all over the Cedar Valley and across the state are invited to participate in this event. Last year, 80 exhibitors and over 2,500 people attended the festival. The Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival is a community-wide partnership led by the Waterloo Community School District, Black Hawk Country Extension, Waterloo Schools Foundations, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber, Iowa State Extension and Outreach, Hawkeye Community College, University of Northern Iowa, John Deere, Grout Museum District, Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Hub at UNI, and the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center. For more information on the Cedar Valley STEM Festival, click here.
Government Relations

Preparing 2015 Priorities
The Investors’ Legislative Issues Forum was held on Wednesday, September 10.
A survey was sent to investors in early October. Approximately 80 participants shared their opinions on issues that will help craft the ’15 Legislative Policy Agenda. The survey also asked for insights into local and federal issues and regulation that create barriers or unnecessary constraint to expansion.

Employer’s Get Out the Vote Tool Kit: As they say, “elections have consequences,” and that’s especially true for businesses and institutions that have to operate under the weight of interminable local, state, and federal statutes and regulations. It is only a few days until the general election on November 4th. Employees look to their employers for credible information about issues that impact your business and industry, and the climate for operating a business, generally. There is still time to communicate to employees the message about issues impacting their operations, and emphasize the importance of everyone’s vote, a Get Out the Vote Toolkit has been assembled. Click here to view the toolkit.

Gain Access to Legislators and Officials at Alliance & Chamber Events

Friday Forum
The Alliance & Chamber hosts a monthly Friday Forum update with Legislators on pressing topics during the session. Details are posted on our website as available. Plan to attend the next Friday Forum on November 14, 2014 at 7:30am in the first floor conference room at the Alliance & Chamber office. Register Here

Pre-Session Legislative Reception
The Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber, the Cedar Valley Manufacturers Network and the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Area Rural Electric Cooperatives co-sponsor the Cedar Valley Pre-session Legislative Reception. The reception will take place December 9, 2014, from 4:30pm- 6:30pm at the Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo. Register Here

The Annual Pre-Session Legislative Reception is an opportunity for business and civic leaders to meet and mingle with state legislators from across the Cedar Valley region. The evening gives the legislators an opportunity to hear what’s on your mind. Alliance & Chamber investors are encouraged to attend to voice support for pro-business policies and the projects and programs that will make the Cedar Valley an even better place to live and operate a business.

Mid-Session Legislative Reception in Des Moines
Please join us in a showcase of the Cedar Valley! The Mid-Session Reception will take place on February 10, 2015, 5:00pm at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust Street, Des Moines. Alliance & Chamber investors will have an opportunity to share their views with lawmakers, ask questions and hear their take on the topics of interest to business leaders in the Cedar Valley. To RSVP, click here.
Investor Relations

Welcome to the first Grundy Center investor, Lillian’s. A ribbon cutting was held with an impressive showing of purple-coated Ambassadors on September 18th.

2014 Employers of Choice
Congratulations to these Alliance & Chamber Investors on being named 2014 Employers of Choice by the Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier: The Boys & Girls Club, CBE Companies, Cedar Falls Utilities, Cedar Valley Hospice, DISTek Integration Inc., Far Reach, Hellman and Associates, Next Generation Wireless, Phantom EFX, Unity Point Health Allen Hospital, Western Home Communities, and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - Iowa, Inc. (View publication here)

CBE Subsidiaries Issued Patent for Software Product
LocateSmarter, a subsidiary of CBE Cos., has been awarded a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for its cloud-based skip tracing application. U.S. patent number 8,819,061 was issued under Innovation Software, an affiliate of LocateSmarter and is described as a service that enables data interchange with a plurality of vendors providing skip tracing services. Congratulations to the entire team on this great example of Cedar Valley technical innovation!
Bill Colwell Ford Celebrates 30 Years
Bill Colwell Ford has been serving the Cedar Valley in its Hudson location for 30 years. Colwell has experienced growth, developed facilities and invested in community and employees. Home grown businesses like this are the backbone of the Cedar Valley economy.

Multi-Million Dollar Federal Grant to Support Hawkeye Community College and others in Job Training Efforts
A $15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor has been awarded to support job training at Iowa’s Community Colleges in areas of Information Technology, Healthcare, Utilities, and Manufacturing – also known as the “IHUM” Network. Hawkeye Community College had an opportunity to lead the consortium of 15 Iowa community colleges to develop and submit this proposal. Hawkeye will use its portion of the grant funding to expand its credit and non-credit Industrial Maintenance program offerings.

Hawkeye Community College Six Time Recipient Military Friendly Schools®
Hawkeye Community College made the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list for the sixth year in a row. The college is currently serving 320 individuals using military benefits. Recently Hawkeye opened a veterans resource center providing a place for veterans to gather to de-stress, develop a support community, and study. In addition to the resource center, Hawkeye hosts veterans career fairs and resource events, provides faculty and staff training on issues that affect veterans in the classroom, and supports the Cedar Rapids Veterans Center Mobile Unit when it is on campus. For more information on the military and veterans services available at Hawkeye, contact Robin Knight at 319-296-2329, ext. 1212.

Knowledge Spillover
Waterloo/Cedar Falls Metro’s 2012-13 GDP Gains Second Highest in State
The Waterloo/Cedar Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area gross domestic product (GDP) was $8.7 billion from 2012-2013. This is up 5.6% from the previous year, according to data released last week from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Collectively, real GDP for U.S. metropolitan areas increased 1.7% during the same period.

The Metro Area had the second highest percentage increase compared to other Iowa metros. The largest percentage GDP increases by industry were: Information (7.5%); Real Estate, Rental, Leasing (11.9%); and Finance, Insurance (10.3%). Manufacturing and Retail grew 3.3% and 3.7% respectively.

“These numbers support what our businesses have been saying all along: the Cedar Valley is strong and growing,” comments Steve Dust, CEO of the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber. “These gains reflect the confidence of Cedar Valley businesses across the Valley who are making investments in their companies, increasing exports, and hiring talented, productive people.”
New Chamber Executive Director in Waverly
The Waverly Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors are proud to announce the appointment of Travis Toliver as Executive Director. Toliver brings almost 20 years of hospitality, marketing and non-profit experience to this position. (Read More)

Waterloo and Cedar Falls Projects win Main Street Iowa Challenge Grants
The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) awarded $928,000 in Main Street Iowa Challenge Grants to 13 communities around the state including two in the Cedar Valley. The grants will benefit local improvement projects such as façade upgrades and restoration, upper floor rehabilitation, and remodeled spaces for expanding downtown businesses. Each project must provide a minimum dollar-for-dollar cash-match.

The Challenge Grant was awarded to Cedar Falls Community Main Street for Alliance & Chamber investor Bill Bradford’s renovation project of a second story office space in 217/215 Main Street. Bradford Companies will expand into the newly renovated space.

Main Street Waterloo is also a grant recipient for a downtown technology firm’s project at 402 East 4th, Waterloo. The project expands the business’ footprint.

Something to Brag About!

- The University of Northern Iowa is an outstanding business school for the ninth consecutive year, according to The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review features UNI’s College of Business Administration in the just-published 2015 edition of “The Best 296 Business Schools.”

- The University of Northern Iowa department of physics is producing top grads with bachelor’s degrees in physics according to the American Physics Society. UNI ranks #13 on the list of undergraduate physics degrees given at masters-level universities nationally for the years 2010 to 2012.

- Iowa is #12 on CNBC America’s Top States for Business list - based on the cost of doing business, economy, infrastructure & trans., workforce, technology & innovation, business friendliness, education, cost of living, and access to capital. (Read More)

- Iowa is #4 for Quality of Life according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) The ranking was given based on job climate and safety. (Read More)
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Wendy Knapp | wknapp@cedarvalleyalliance.com | Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber | 10 W. 4th Street, Suite 310 | Waterloo, IA 50701

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