

## **Update to Iowa Community College Economic Developers**

Thank you and good morning to all: to our friends from Iowa's wonderful community colleges, and to my colleagues from Iowa State University. I'd like to talk about the partnership between Community College economic developers and Iowa State University, specifically ISU Extension. We share a strong bond of dedication to community and economic development, and I'd like to take some time today to thank you all for your efforts that make our continued successes possible.

Extension and Iowa's Community Colleges operate on common ground for a common goal: We extend educational opportunities into communities throughout the state. We're present in Iowa's rural and urban areas, letting both the rural citizen and the urbanite alike know that we are dedicated to serving their needs. And those needs include economic development.

How do we keep Iowa's economy growing for a vibrant future? Extension's work in economic development focuses on applying research, developing community infrastructure, and developing Iowa's workforce. Partnerships with other entities — like Iowa's Community Colleges — are a large component of these activities. Successful economic development requires cooperation and collaboration. Dedicated partners place the needs and goals of our state and our people front and foremost. Iowa State University Extension and Iowa's Community Colleges can and must be vital partners in economic development efforts throughout the state.

We're off to a good start. I'd like to discuss for a moment two examples of our successful collaboration:

- Six community colleges — DMACC, Kirkwood, Southwest, Northern Iowa, Northeast, and Indian Hills — were present for the viticulture and enology meeting we held on campus recently. The community colleges agreed that the potential student enrollment in viticulture/enology is limited and that they must work together in curriculum development and delivery rather than each college developing its own, independent course of action. There are plans for a needs assessment and resource availability survey.
- This November we hope to give the 15 Community College presidents a tour of ISU facilities, similar to tours we have developed for their industry outreach staff. Activities like this will help us discover new ways to work together through our Business and Industry programs.

These examples are but two of many, and they would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of the people in this room and those who work with us toward a brighter economic future in Iowa.

Finally, I would encourage you to encourage the people you work with to attend the 2007 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference. This year the Conference has

been scheduled for November 5-6 to coincide with the presidential debates being hosted right here at Iowa State. Conference participants will get the opportunity to attend the debates at night to listen to the field of candidates vying for nomination, and during the day's workshops, participants can hear from a field of experts from companies like Synthetic Genomics, ConocoPhillips, the Worldwatch Institute, and many more. It's a great opportunity to learn more about economic development opportunities in the bio-industry field and a great opportunity to take what you've learned directly to the candidates who will be shaping this country's policies in the short future.

A great university constantly works to find new ways to meet the needs of its state's citizens, and a great university is more effective when it does so by collaborating with other fine institutions across the state. Community Colleges and Iowa State University Extension are collaborators, not competitors, and each institution complements the other with a unique set of services and needs. We fulfill those needs best when we act in partnership; Iowa is a state that prides itself on its strong communities, and Iowans look to the leaders in this room to form a strong community focused on economic development. We need to continue to build our partnership, our community, because as Henry Ford put it, "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."<sup>1</sup> Thank you for your continued collaboration and partnership with Iowa State University and with Extension.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.modelt.org/tquotes.html>