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Developments

August 2007

Here's hoping you have enjoyed the dry but generally sunny weather we've been provided this summer. Still not quite sure how Labor Day can really be only a few short weeks away. What happened to all those lazy days of summer?

First Hatco Employee Takes Advantage of Employer-Assistance Housing Program

Robert DeShazer, an Assembly Specialist with the Hatco Corporation for almost seven years, recently was the first company employee to take advantage of a pilot employer-assistance housing program initiated by Hatco and DCEDC earlier this year. DeShazer borrowed funds from his Hatco-sponsored retirement account to make a down payment on his home purchase; his contribution was matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the Door County Housing Assistance program, which is administered by DCEDC. DCEDC reserved \$60,000 for Hatco employees from the Community Development Block Grant-funded Housing Assistance program, to be used towards down payments. The funds provide a one-to-one match to the employee's down payment contribution, up to \$10,000.

It is unlikely that Hatco employees will utilize the full \$60,000 before the grant deadline of December 31, 2007. Other Door County businesses that are interested in offering an employer-assisted housing program for their employees are encouraged to contact Sam Perlman, DCEDC Economic Development Manager at (920) 743-3113 x 204 or sam@doorcountybusiness.com.

More Informataion



O'Meara's Irish House is Business Plan Contest Winner

DCEDC, in association with the UW-Green Bay Small Business Development Center, recently announced that Megan O'Meara, owner of O'Meara's Irish House, LLC in Fish Creek, is the winner of a \$1,000 cash award for the best business plan originating from the NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training course conducted earlier this year. In addition to the \$1,000 cash prize, O'Meara will also receive a \$5,000 advertising package for her business from

DoorCountyDailyNews.com and the radio stations of Nicolet Broadcasting, WBDK-FM, WRLU-FM, WSBW- FM and WRKU-FM. The \$1000 award was generously sponsored and judged by Associated Bank, Baylake Bank and Citizens Bank. The award is to be used by O'Meara for business expansion.

O'Meara was among eighteen students representing thirteen businesses in the class sponsored by DCEDC and the Small Business Development Center. This was the sixth year DCEDC has co- sponsored and offered the NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training course in Door County. The twelve-week NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training course will again be offered in Door County beginning in January 2008. Contact DCEDC for more information about the class.

[More About O'Meara's Irish House](#)



Welcome Janet!

We recently added Janet Frick-Warecki to our team, in the role of Office Assistant. A native of Racine, Susan comes to us from North Shore Bank. Janet and her family live in Sturgeon Bay. Janet will be handling reception and administrative duties for us, and brings a great burst of energy and enthusiasm to her new duties. Join us in welcoming Janet to DCEDC! She can be reached at 920-743-3113 x 200 or janet@doorcountybusiness.com.

Revolving Loan Funds

DCEDC recently worked with four local companies to provide business expansion financing and help create new and retain existing jobs in the community. Young Automotive of Sturgeon Bay received a \$20,000 loan to help finance their re-branding as an independent auto repair shop after ending their franchise agreement with Midas. Door Peninsula Internet of Forestville is using a \$40,000 loan to help purchase equipment for the extension of their wireless broadband service in Door County. The two companies project retaining 12 jobs and creating at least two new jobs in the local economy in the next three years.

Additionally, two companies with existing revolving loans had their loan terms adjusted to continue to facilitate their growth and expansion. Simon Creek Vineyard and Door County Confectionery are both expanding in downtown Sturgeon Bay, with a planned new tasting room for the vineyard and an increase in the wholesale business of the confectionery.

DCEDC administers Revolving Loan Fund programs offered by the DCEDC Board of Directors, the City of Sturgeon Bay and the County of Door, to facilitate the expansion or start-up of local businesses. During the 16-year history of the Door County Revolving Loan Funds, DCEDC has serviced 48 loans with a value of almost \$5.6 million. Cumulative impact of the three Revolving Loan Fund programs includes over \$29 Million in private investments, and the creation or 406 new jobs and the retention of 63 existing jobs. DCEDC currently maintains a loan fund balance of \$820,000 that is available to lend to eligible growing businesses.

[More About the RLF Program](#)

Small Business Awards

The Milwaukee office of the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) is looking for nominations to help them recognize outstanding leaders in the small business community in a variety of categories, including Small Business Person of the Year, Exporter of the Year, Young Entrepreneur of the Year and Small Business Champions of the Year. Self-nominations are welcome. More information, including nomination criteria and a nominating form, can be found on the SBA website. Nomination forms are due by September 28, 2007.

[SBA Small Business Awards Info](#)



NWTC Welding Upgrades

Responding to the needs of the local business community, the Sturgeon Bay campus of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College recently made significant upgrades to their welding lab, installing state-of-the-art Miller weld equipment. They are working with the Workplace Learning Services team on the Green Bay campus to generate new business for the lab in the form of customized labor training for industrial clients. They also anticipate adding new classes open to the general public in the coming year.

For more information or to request a tour of the new facility, contact Bob Loss, Dean of the Sturgeon Bay Campus of NWTC at 920-746-4901 or robert.loss@nwtc.edu.

About DCEDC

The Door County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a public/private partnership dedicated to improving the economic vitality of the county and its residents. Founded in 1989, DCEDC has been successful in helping existing businesses create and retain thousands of jobs through a myriad of programs and initiatives. Additionally, DCEDC places strong emphasis on fostering entrepreneurial instincts in county residents as well as those who vacation on the Door County Peninsula. Door County Economic Development Corporation offices are located within the small business incubator DCEDC founded in 1997 at 185 East Walnut Street in the Sturgeon Bay Industrial Park.

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