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CHAMBERvision

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce



JULY 2008

CHAMBERvision

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THISissue:

Partnership Assists with City Grant
 Business Community Eagerly Eyes Budget Decisions
 USA Rollersports Back in Lincoln
 Lincoln Business Man Chosen to Lead U.S. Chamber
 Partnership Recognizes Economic Development Efforts
 Innovation in Economic Development
 Lincoln YPG Holds Several Sold Out Events

PARTNERSHIP ASSISTS WITH CITY GRANT

The City of Lincoln will be receiving a grant to begin regional planning to create economic opportunities in innovation and technology.

The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development teamed with the City of Lincoln's recent announcement of a \$250,000 Regional Innovation Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The funds will be used to establish plans for promoting economic growth in a 12-county region of southeast Nebraska.

The regional planning effort will be coordinated by the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and will include the formation of a leadership group and communication network, the creation of strategies to shorten the time from worker dislocation to re-employment, and the development of ways to link the strategies to other regional economic development initiatives.

The City of Lincoln's Urban Development Department applied for the grant on behalf of the Greater Lincoln Workforce Investment Board (Lancaster and Saunders counties) and the Lincoln Area



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CHAMBER events:

JULY, 2008

[Click Here](#) to register for events

July 4

8:00 a.m.

Independence Day

OFFICES CLOSED

July 10

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Young Professionals Group:

Brew at the Zoo

Lincoln Zoo

1222 S. 27th Street

July 11

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Small Business Network

Chamber of Commerce,
Lincoln Room

July 16

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Ambassadors

Chamber of Commerce,
Lincoln Room

July 24

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Development Partners (Fillmore, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward and York counties).

"We appreciate the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Workforce Investment Board for leading the region's effort in securing this funding," said Wendy Birdsall, President of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. "Innovation and technology will be the key to our economic future. However, a significant step in pursuing these initiatives will be the collaboration of government, business and education. This effort will help us make a giant leap in charting our direction and we look forward to our role in this partnership."

High-growth industries targeted for recruitment include life sciences, computer software, insurance, financial services, business services and logistics/distribution. A focus on these individualized solutions for specific industries at a regional level will link workforce education to regional economic priorities.

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY EAGERLY EYES BUDGET DECISIONS

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce will once again be integral to the both the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County's budget process. Although the Lincoln Chamber uses a broad brush to paint its budget priorities, there are four areas of opportunity we see for investment that will lead to productive growth.

1. Road Infrastructure - The Lincoln Chamber Strongly supports efforts to direct the growth dividend to growth-related needs, particularly roads. We view the need for critical

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infrastructure funding as one of the most important job investment issues facing Lincoln.

2. Economic Development - We must be competitive with other communities when competing for jobs and investments; our goal is to ensure 'home-grown' businesses have no reason to look elsewhere when considering expansion and that prospective businesses will find Lincoln their easy first choice.
3. Government Efficiency - Each local governmental body should have a general goal to not increase their property tax reliance more than the rate of inflation.
4. CVB and Event Facilities Needs - Lincoln must have adequate facilities to serve an established need for our community and upgraded event facilities help Lincoln maintain itself as a vibrant and growing community.

Mayor Chris Beutler will submit his 2008-2009 budget to the City Council on July 7. Lancaster County will file their budget with the County Clerk on July 31.

As men and women who deal with budgeting in the daily operation of their businesses, our Local Budget Task Force, Public Policy Committee, and Board of Directors will offer their input during the budget process and try to help our elected officials accomplish their goals.

Mark Koller, Chairman of the Local Budget Task Force, said the Lincoln Chamber can play a critical role in helping guide our community.

"As business leaders in the community, we must maintain the focus of our local governmental entities to provide services in the most efficient manner possible, Koller said. This will help our community to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future."

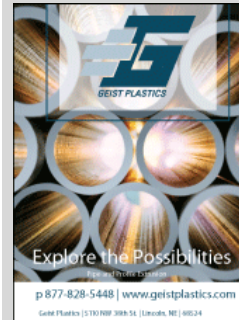
Our commitment to you, our members, is this: The Lincoln Chamber will continue our role as the primary business advocate for our city's continued growth. We will be focused, issue-based, and non-partisan while asserting the positive role business plays in improving Lincoln.

Success:

Equality, honesty, and integrity

Chamber Membership:

Less than 1 year



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USA ROLLER SPORTS BACK IN LINCOLN



The country's top skaters will begin rolling into Lincoln's Pershing Center later this month. USA Roller Sports will be holding its Indoor Speed Skating National Championships from July 13-19 and its Roller Figure Skating National Championships from July 20-August 3.

This event has been hosted more times in Lincoln than in any other U.S. city. More records have been set in Pershing than in any other facility nationwide. The competition is estimated to bring in \$5-7 million dollars to the Lincoln area.

"We are thrilled that this event has returned to Lincoln once again and continues with its rich tradition at the Pershing Center," said Jeff Maul, executive director of the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We look forward to welcoming the athletes and spectators each time they return. We hope they enjoy their stay and take advantage of the many attractions, restaurants and shopping options that we have here in Lincoln."

[Click here](#) for more information on the USA Roller Sports Championships.



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LINCOLN BUSINESSMAN CHOSEN TO LEAD U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Nation's largest business organization wants one of Lincoln's own to lead in 2009. Robert S. Milligan, chairman of M I Industries, was elected to serve as the new Vice Chairman of the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Traditionally, the vice chairman succeeds to the chairman's position. According to U.S. Chamber staff, he would be the first Nebraskan ever elected to serve as the leader of the national organization.

M I Industries produces natural pet foods and treats. The company is located at 6200 N. 56th Street here in Lincoln.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donohue is quoted as saying Milligan's leadership experience will help continue the push to expand international trade for U.S. businesses.

"Bob will bring an excellent combination of business and leader experiences in helping the chamber continue its push to promote international trade opportunities for American families, workers, and companies," said Donohue.

Mr. Milligan joined M I Industries in 1977. He has served as chairman since November of 2003.

M I Industries has been a long time member of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development.

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce wants to extend it's congratulations to Bob on this tremendous honor.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

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PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

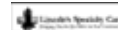
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The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development recognized two volunteers for their service to the organization and community's economic development efforts.

Todd Hall of Lincoln Electric Systems and Mary Simmons of Aquila were presented awards at the annual Partnership breakfast held last month.

"These two individuals have gone above and beyond in their efforts supporting economic development in Lincoln," said Partnership President Wendy Birdsall.

"We appreciate their willingness to assist in creating economic opportunities for our area residents."

Additionally, the LES Energy Services Division was recognized for their work in the Business Retention and Expansion program.

Hall has worked with the Partnership for the last five years developing a business retention and expansion program. The LES team stepped forward to lead the business visitation effort and survey program.

In the last five years, Hall and the LES team have visited over 1,000 Lincoln businesses. These visits have resulted in over 200 follow-up calls from economic development specialists. Birdsall estimated roughly 4,000 jobs have been created since 2003 and 1,000 retained through the BR&E program.

Simmons helped organize and develop Lincoln Area Development Partnership, a regional marketing group. The group works with organizations that in the past, would have been considered competition.

The Lincoln Area Development Partnership has become a recognized group throughout the U.S. for being a forward-thinking group of communities committed to the growth of quality jobs in their region primarily because Simmons's work.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST 2008 INNOVATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Lincoln should promote new market opportunities, new jobs and private-public partnerships. That was the message from Dr. Robert Atkinson at the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Annual Breakfast held last week at the Marriott Cornhusker.

Atkinson, keynote speaker at the breakfast, encouraged attendees to look toward Lincoln's future and vast growth potential. He also addressed the information technology revolution and the driving force it is having on medium-sized cities across the country. He encouraged Lincoln to concentrate on the industries that had the most chance for success in the Lincoln region.

"Lincoln can become an attractive candidate for new business by quickly adapting to the changing economy," Dr. Atkinson said. "Regions of high growth have adapted and now have an influx of knowledge jobs, globalization, economic dynamism, digital economy, and technological innovation."

Partnership investors were encouraged to spur commercialization and entrepreneurship while building a high quality workforce. Atkinson stressed the importance of collaborating with other medium-sized cities within the region rather than competing with them. Collaborations will promote growth within the entire region thus leading to high rates of growth and prosperity.

Dr. Atkinson is President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington D.C.-based technology policy think tank.

The annual Partnership breakfast features economic development speakers who address trends in economic

development efforts from across the U.S. and internationally.

LINCOLN YPG HOLDS SEVERAL SOLD OUT EVENTS



Lincoln's Young Professional's group hosted several sold-out events in June.

Members were able to have lunch and interact with all of Lincoln's City Council members. The question and answer format was conducive to lively discussion about impressions of Lincoln and how the City Council and Young Professionals can work together to move Lincoln forward.

Madonna ProActive hosted a luncheon where members learned about achieving balance and improving wellness in their professional and personal lives.

Duncan Aviation hosted a reception for local entrepreneurs and those with a spirit of entrepreneurship. Todd Duncan presented the Duncan Aviation story and the keys to their past and future success.

The YPG leadership team presented to employees at Lincoln Industries and IMSCORP. The Council is seeking to diversify YPG membership and will be focusing membership efforts in the manufacturing, health care, technology and education sectors.

Over 600 members strong, YPG is continuing to work towards their mission of making Lincoln an attractive place in which young professionals take ownership in its future by engaging in the community professionally, personally and philanthropically. For more information, please visit www.lincolnypg.com or contact Stephanie Dostal, sdostal@lcoc.com, (402) 436-2359.

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