

ECIA Spotlight



ECIA Working with University of Iowa

Kramer Inducted into Hall of Fame



Manchester Mayor Milt Kramer was inducted into the League Hall of Fame during the awards banquet at the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference in September. Milt began his municipal service on January 1, 1970 by serving as an At-Large Councilperson on the City Council until September 18, 1974. He was elected Mayor on September 19, 1974 and celebrates 42 years, this year, of serving Manchester as its Mayor. Milt has served on the ECIA Executive Committee for 18 years. Congratulations, Milt!

Koos to Receive Medal



Jackson County supervisor and ECIA Executive Committee Board Chair, Larry “Buck” Koos will be presented the Carnegie Medal on Tuesday, September 27, at Hurstville Interpretive Center in Maquoketa. The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission recognizes people in the United States and Canada who perform acts of heroism in civilian life. Koos saved the life of Deb Lane, Jackson County’s former auditor in September 2014, by tackling a gunman who had fired a shot at Lane. Congratulations, Buck!

Asbury – All-Star Community



The City of Asbury was presented the 2016 All-Star Community Award at the September Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference. Congratulations to Asbury, on the award for their Asbury Community Services Campus.

Earn a \$50 Hy-Vee Gift Card!

Fall recruitment for Smarter Travel will begin October 3, 2016. Participation in the Smarter Travel Study is open to anyone who lives in Dubuque or surrounding communities and commutes and travels in Dubuque by car, public transportation, biking, walking, or any other mode on a daily basis. Volunteers selected for the study who complete all the requirements will be compensated with a \$50 Hy-Vee gift card. Please email smartertravel@ecia.org if you are interested in participating and for more details.

Training Available!

Northeast Iowa Community College in Manchester, will be hosting a training opportunity on October 11, 2016 from 2:00 – 8:30 pm. “2016 On-the-road: Budget, Examinations & Accounting for Municipalities” has been designed to provide hands-on trainings convenient for those who are new, part time or have other daytime obligations. Topics covered include the value of a chart of accounts; understanding fund accounting and how budgets, financial reports and regular reconciliations can lead to good audits and examinations that are required by state law. For more information, and to register, click [here](#).



Like ECIA on
Facebook today!

ECIA was selected as a Community Partner for the 2016-17 academic year by the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) through the University of Iowa. The IISC matches communities across Iowa with student groups (upperclassmen and graduate students) who, with the help of faculty advisors, complete projects in selected communities to advance quality of life. This program offers communities with assistance from eager and innovative students for projects that may not otherwise be completed, while providing valuable hands-on experience for the students. The IISC program requests a small monetary match per project to cover student costs. In exchange, IISC estimates that the communities will receive 40,000 hours or more of work (estimated total value of \$250,000).

Over the summer, ECIA and IISC worked with communities to plan for projects that started at the beginning in September. Current projects include:

- Regional Brownfields Inventory and Prioritization Process
- Evaluation of Prosperity Eastern Iowa Program
- Artifact Collection System and Exhibit Creation for the Edgewood Historical Museum
- Best Practice Strategies for Bringing Businesses and People to Downtown Lost Nation
- Marketing Maquoketa

Planning for spring projects has already begun. If this year's partnership is a success, ECIA may be selected to continue for a second year. For up-to-date information, please visit our blog

at ecia.org/IISC_Partnership/. **ECIA & Preston Tackle**

Health Issues

Last year, ECIA (through the Iowa Association of Regional Councils) received a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to assist Maquoketa in improving overall health of residents. In 2016, ECIA will be continuing this program with the City of Preston. ECIA will work with a local committee to identify opportunities for new policies and programs that will help increase physical activity and improved nutritional choices for Preston residents. The grant provides \$10,000 for projects in the community that will be completed between October 2016 and June 2017.



East Central Brownfields Coalition

In May 2016, ECIA, as the lead partner of the East Central Brownfields Coalition, was awarded \$550,000 from the U.S. EPA to conduct environmental site assessments throughout the region. The program will begin in October, and ECIA is pulling together a group of local representatives from the five counties to form a Coalition Steering Committee that will help guide the program. The first meeting of the Coalition Steering Committee will be on October 4th, with procurement of a technical consultant shortly after. A "Request for Services" application will be available on our website shortly for communities interested in environmental assessment services covered under the grant.

In addition to EPA funding, ECIA will be working with a graduate group from the University of Iowa to develop a brownfields inventory and prioritization process, and has hired an AmeriCorps member to help conduct trainings and outreach. Stay tuned for more information and a new website. You can also contact Jenna Soyer, Municipal Relations Coordinator, at jsoyer@ecia.org or 563-690-5771.

Jackson County Receives Grants

The Wellmark Foundation recently announced its commitment to invest \$75,000 to support Jackson County's Hurstville Trail, a 1.1 mile trail will extend from the City of Maquoketa's Maquoketa River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge to the Hurstville Interpretive Center, and \$60,000 for Jackson County's Spruce Creek Extension to the Bellevue Riverview Trail. These projects are a part of the Grant Wood Loop's Two-Year Priority Plan for the Parks to People program, which aims to connect people to parks, communities and each other in Jackson, Jones, and Dubuque Counties. This is the second round of grants in which the Wellmark Foundation has supported the Grant Wood Loop. In the spring, the Foundation committed \$25,000 each to the Maquoketa River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge and Wapsipinicon Trail project through their Healthy Communities grant.

ECIA has been working extensively with the Jackson County Economic Alliance, the Grant Wood Mississippi River Region, and our state partners since September 2014 to secure over \$2 million in grants to support Parks to People projects.

New Supportive Housing Program

The Continuum of Care – Special Needs Assistance program is a permanent supportive housing program that assists those who are chronically homeless and also have either a substance abuse issue, mental health diagnosis and/or has been diagnosed with having HIV/AIDS. This program was previously known as Shelter Plus Care and was housed at Project Concern. With the closing of Project Concern, the program found a new home with ECIA under its new nonprofit, East Central Development Corporation (ECDC).

The Continuum of Care – Special Needs Assistance program uses the housing first model which allows us to help those who qualify, obtain housing first and then address the barriers that have kept someone homeless. With case management, supportive services are put in place and verified on a monthly basis to help ensure stability. Currently there are 11 participants in the program!

Rides to Wellness

The Delaware Dubuque Jackson County Regional Transit Authority recently received \$130,560 from the Rides to Wellness Initiative, a national initiative funded through the Federal Transit Administration. The grant will help fund the Delaware County Connections Program which is a rural, volunteer-based transit service that will improve the coordination of non-emergency medical transportation and provide healthcare access for people with low incomes, older adults and individuals with intellectual challenges. The project focuses on rides to wellness activities at senior centers, farmers markets and support groups.

Through a partnership with Delaware County Supervisors, City of Manchester, Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Delaware County Economic Development, Delaware County Community Services, Veteran's Administration, Police Department and the Regional Medical Center, the Delaware County Connections Program will expand RTA services and enhance the quality of life for residents of Delaware County.