

➤ DID YOU KNOW? IOWA COMPANIES IN THE NEWS

LIFE SCIENCES
FEATURE ARTICLE

GENECOR ANNOUNCES CEDAR RAPIDS EXPANSION.



Shopping for jeans can be right up there with shopping for a swimsuit — a necessary evil.

When you find that one pair of jeans that fits just right, you wish the designer would make them in every denim color available so you can snap up five pair and know that they will always look good, regardless of which finish you choose. Thanks to enzymes produced by Genecor, an international company with a major facility in Cedar Rapids, designers have the flexibility to create jeans in a variety of new finishes.

Genecor is a leader in the production of enzymes that enhance the starch industry, animal feeds, ethanol production and more. Enzymes created by Genecor technologies allow clothes designers to create light or dark blue jeans while others enhance the cleaning power of laundry detergent.

Genecor International, a division of Denmark-based Danisco, will add 20 new high-salary jobs over the next three years as it expands the capacity of its bioproducts plant in Cedar Rapids. The \$35 million expansion will ultimately make the Cedar Rapids plant the company's prime North American manufacturing operation. Genecor is a leader in the production of enzymes that enhance the starch industry, animal feeds, ethanol production and more. The expansion will add to the plant's fermentation and reformulation capacities. The company, headquartered in San Francisco, was recently selected as the Best Place to Work in America (small- to medium-sized companies) by the Society of Human Resources Management. Genecor is just one of the many growing and dynamic companies who continue to fuel the growth of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City technology corridor.

➤ FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH GENECOR INTERNATIONAL, GO TO WWW.TECH-CORRIDOR.COM.

FINANCIAL/IT

TECH JOBS ABOUND ACROSS IOWA.



Computer-related careers now make up eight of the 20 fastest-growing jobs in Iowa, and software engineering

positions in the state are expected to grow 82 percent by 2010. The proliferation of computer jobs is not confined to Iowa's largest population markets either. TeamQuest in Clear Lake is one of a handful of companies in the technology industry that specialize in performance and capacity planning for corporate data centers all over the world. Last year, TeamQuest was ranked for the third year in a row among the top 500 software providers in the world by *Software Magazine*. To learn more about Iowa's growing technology industry, visit www.technologyiowa.org.

➤ FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH IOWA COMPANIES, GO TO WWW.SMARTCAREERMOVE.COM.

ADVANCED MFG.

BROWN MEDICAL NAMED EXPORTER OF THE YEAR.



Spirit Lake's Brown Medical Industries has been named the 2005 ThinkGlobal/Commercial News USA Exporter of the Year. The company is a leading manufacturer of orthopedic products

that include cast and bandage protectors, splints, foot and ankle braces, and wrist supports. At a time when U.S. exports continue to trail imports, Brown Medical reported a 38 percent export sales increase from 2003 to 2004 with significant growth in the Middle East, Pacific Rim, Europe and South America. Located in Iowa's Great Lakes region, Brown Medical employees enjoy recreational opportunities year round with five fresh water lakes and more than nine state parks in the area.

➤ FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, GO TO WWW.SMARTCAREERMOVE.COM.

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MP3 PLAYER SWEEPSTAKES

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If you do not wish to receive subsequent mailings regarding sweepstakes or contests sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact us at 200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1819.



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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



MidAmerican Energy Company is the largest utility in Iowa and is strategically located in the middle of several major markets in the Midwest. They provide service to more than 698,000 electric customers and more than 680,000 natural gas customers in a 10,600-square-mile area from Sioux Falls, S. D., to the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois. The largest communities served by MidAmerican are Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, Waterloo, Iowa City and Council Bluffs, Iowa; the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois; and Sioux Falls, S.D.

Energy — that's what it's all about at MidAmerican, and that extends to their employees as well. MidAmerican provides competitive compensation packages, progressive technology and training, advancement opportunities and excellent benefits. Benefits may include comprehensive medical, dental and vision insurance, life insurance, short-term and long-term disability, pension plan, 401(k) with a company match, profit sharing, tuition reimbursement and adoption assistance.



The AEGON USA companies offer life insurance, pensions, and related investment products, as well as supplemental health insurance products through operating divisions of member insurance companies. Member insurance companies in Iowa include Life Investors Insurance Company of America, Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company, Transamerica Life Insurance Company, and Peoples Benefit Life Insurance Company. The companies also have noninsurance members such as AEGON USA Realty Advisors, Inc.

The companies' motto, "Respect People, Make Money, Have Fun," reflects on the corporate culture for the more than 2,700 Cedar Rapids-based employees. Career opportunities exist in the areas of accounting and finance, customer service, information technology, human resources, project management, leadership, and marketing. The companies also provide opportunities to learn and grow skills through both formal and informal training and mentoring programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MIDAMERICANENERGY.COM.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AEGON USA COMPANIES AND FIND OUT ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT WWW.AEGONINS.COM.

IOWA HAS WINTER FUN DOWN COLD.

Iowans don't hibernate in the winter. On the contrary, they eagerly take part in numerous winter sports and recreational opportunities. Downhill skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts hit the slopes at resorts around the state, which includes Sundown Mountain in Dubuque — the only National Ski Areas Association Award of Excellence Resort in the Midwest. Other Iowa ski resorts include Seven Oaks in Central Iowa and Mount Crescent in Western Iowa. Many of the same resorts that offer downhill skiing are excellent venues for cross-country skiing as well. Another popular winter sport in Iowa is snowmobiling. Across the state there are 61 clubs that groom and maintain more than 5,000 miles of trails through wooded hills, cornfields, and frozen lakes and rivers.

Ever play broomball? Well, you can at the University of Okoboji Winter Games in Iowa's Great Lakes region. The annual event features broomball on the ice, a softball tournament, the Cribbage Classic, and a spectacular fireworks display over the frozen lake. Iowans don't even let snow and ice stop them from enjoying a round of golf. There are five golf events held on frozen Iowa lakes, including the Arctic Open on Black Hawk Lake, which draws 200 golfers each year.

Biking enthusiasts look forward each year to Central Iowa's famous Bike Ride to Rippey. BRR is just 23 miles roundtrip between historic Perry and Rippey, but what this ride in early February lacks in length, it makes up for in sometimes-challenging winter temperatures. Come and give it a try. As many as 4,000 intrepid riders participate each year. To learn about all the fun events and activities happening in Iowa year round, you can now access the complete *2006 Iowa Travel Guide* online. Just go to www.traveliowa.com to plan your Iowa vacation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS, VISIT WWW.IOWALIFECHANGING.COM.

IOWA'S ADVANTAGES
ARE ADDING UP

Iowans enjoy the 7th-shortest average commute time (18.1 minutes) among the 50 states.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2002

Iowa is ranked among the Top 10 states for the impact its state legislature has on the state's business climate.

Expansion Management Magazine, 2005

Iowa ranks 3rd in the United States for lowest cost of doing business.

Milken Institute, 2005

With 73.9 percent of Iowans owning their own homes, Iowa ranks 11th in the nation in home ownership rates.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2004

Iowa ranks 4th in the Best of the Best States for health.

National Policy Research Council, Gold Guide, 2004

Iowa ranks 8th in the nation for safest neighborhoods in the United States.

Morgan Quitno, 2005

2006 IOWA TRAVEL GUIDE



PLAN YOUR 2006 IOWA VACATION. VISIT www.traveliowa.com FOR YOUR FREE 2006 IOWA TRAVEL GUIDE.

SNOWBOARDING IN CENTRAL IOWA



WINTER GAMES, UNIVERSITY OF OKOBOJI



IOWA NOTES



Laura Westercamp, a senior finance, marketing and political science major at the University of Iowa; was recently honored by the national Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization with a second-place award for Best Student Leader. She honed her leadership skills during her tenure as 2004-05 president of the I-Envision entrepreneurial association, which is part of the University of Iowa's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Westercamp's credentials for the award were bolstered by her efforts in the development of outreach initiatives to educate youth about entrepreneurship in the Iowa City area.

Young Professionals of Iowa (YPIowa) is a valuable networking and education association for young professionals who are interested in helping to shape the future prosperity of Iowa. What began a few short years ago as a simple concept has grown into an active group of involved community leaders.



Membership in YPIowa is limited to professionals between the ages of 21 and 40. The organization includes chapters throughout Iowa and focuses on connecting people to each other and their communities through social, civic and charitable activities. In Des Moines, among the organization's most exciting endeavors is Four Hire — a new program designed to retain the best Iowa college graduates for elite job opportunities in the Des Moines Metro area. Following an *Apprentice* TV show format, Four Hire is a competition between recent college graduates who must successfully complete two challenges for the opportunity to win jobs with four premier Des Moines companies. Twenty-four participants will compete in challenges in January and February, with four winners selected in late February.



Fifteen years ago, Iowa State University students Rick Rockhold and Brian Landwehr began developing a talent for solving compatibility problems across computer platforms. Little did they know at the time, they were laying the groundwork for what has become a successful 10-person business based in West Des Moines. The company, Mediafour, is a leader in software innovations that make technology easier and more enjoyable. Its first product, MacDrive, was launched in 1995 and made it possible to use a Mac® disc with a Windows® operating system. Today the software is in its sixth version and sales continue to be strong. More recently, Mediafour introduced XPlay to serve the exploding market of iPod® users. Using MacDrive technology as its foundation, XPlay allows users to use their iPod with either a Windows or Mac system. What's next for this innovative, problem-solving company? A software program that will simplify multimedia file transfer involving Sony's burgeoning PSP game hardware. MacDrive 6 and XPlay2 are available direct from mediafour.com or at mass electronic retailers like Best Buy, CompUSA and Circuit City.

