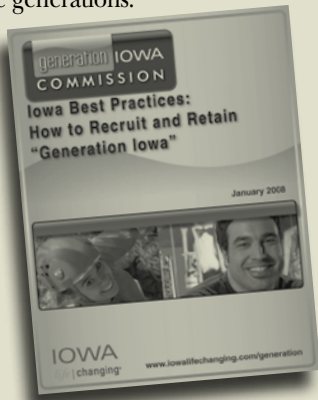


## Recruiting young workers; Generation Iowa's "Road Map"

Lt. Governor Patty Judge and the 15-member Generation Iowa Commission have released the "Road Map to Recruit and Retain Young People to Iowa," a sweeping list of recommendations aimed at taking full advantage of Iowa's "brain gain" and making Iowa a destination and a home for future generations.



In their report, the Generation Iowa Commission identified that Iowa is sixth in the nation, and first in the Midwest, in college first-year student "brain gain" migration. This means while just over 4,000 Iowa high school students leave the state for college, more than 12,200 out-of-state students come to Iowa for college, a "brain gain" of 8,200 young people.

"I want to thank the 15 talented young people on the Generation Iowa Commission for agreeing to serve the state and make Iowa a better place to live," said Lt. Gov. Judge.

Commission Chair Kyle Carlson of Colfax said, "We hope to further inspire our

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## 2ND EXPANSION FOR SIEMENS

Siemens Power Generation, Inc., has announced a fast track \$33 million expansion of its wind turbine blade plant in Fort Madison, creating 287 new jobs.

"In less than a year since opening, we are already expanding our facility," said Randy Zwirn, head of Siemens Energy Americas.

"The dedication and skills of our workforce in the existing manufacturing plant have played an important role in our decision to expand the facility."

Governor Chet Culver said the announcement solidifies Iowa's reputation as a U.S. renewable energy leader. "Our leadership in wind continues to energize Iowa's economy by creating high-quality, green-collar careers. This announcement in Fort Madison is proof that Iowa's leadership in wind energy continues to grow, Iowa's economy is strong and our brightest days are ahead."

The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded \$1,400,000 from Physical Infrastructure Assistance Program to the expansion, which also will receive tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation and Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credit programs.

Siemens is adding a 75,000 sq. ft. expansion to their current 311,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility, building a new 125,000 sq. ft. facility and constructing a rail yard to expand production of wind turbine blades and meet the



"This is a great day for Siemens, for Iowa and for supporters of renewable energy," said Governor Chet Culver announcing expansion of Fort Madison plant.

growing demand for wind energy in the U.S. Siemens officials expect to complete construction on the new facilities by October 2008.

"Our tradition in advanced manufacturing coupled with our position in the Windbelt makes Iowa the ideal location for both wind energy turbines and the facilities that produce them," said IDED Director Mike Tramontina.

Fort Madison Mayor Steve Ireland said, "The City of Fort Madison is committed to Siemens and the wind energy industry."

Siemens has manufacturing facilities around the world; however, the Fort Madison factory is its only manufacturing facility for turbine blades in the U.S. The current Iowa facility employs 246.



## Renewable Fuels Power Iowa Economy

Growing production of renewable fuels is having a dramatic impact on the Iowa economy, especially in rural areas, according to a new study from the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IFRA).

Economist John Urbanchuk, author of the study "Contribution of the Biofuels Industry to the Economy of Iowa," said "Iowa leads the nation in biofuels output, accounting for 31 percent of U.S. ethanol and 20 percent of biodiesel production capacity."

Based on the size of the Iowa renewable fuels industry at year-end 2007, ethanol and biodiesel:

- Add \$12.7 billion, or about 10 percent, to Iowa Gross Domestic Product
- Generate \$2.9 billion of income for Iowa households
- Support more than 96,000 jobs through the entire Iowa economy, and
- Generate nearly \$790 million in state tax revenue.

IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw said this "report paints a dramatic picture of the

far-reaching positive impacts of producing biodiesel and ethanol in Iowa. But the best news is that we're just getting started. The new 36-billion gallon federal renewable fuels standard will drive the industry forward and Iowa will remain front and center."



"Corn and soybean prices are up. Land values are up. Household income is up. State tax revenue is up. The common denominator is renewable fuels," said Monte Shaw, Executive Director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association in releasing a new economic study.

## Iowa Exports outpace nation

For the first time in the state's history, Iowa companies exported over \$9 billion in manufactured and value-added goods last year, soaring from \$8.4 billion in 2006 to \$9.6 billion in 2007. Iowa's 2007 exports increased 14.32 percent, outpacing the national average of 12.11 percent.

"This is another example of Iowa's strong economy outpacing the nation," said Governor Chet Culver. "2007 was a record-breaking year for Iowa companies participating in our global economy. With support from the state, Iowa businesses are entering into new international partnerships and finding success."

"Iowa's growth in exports has been supported by a weak U.S. dollar and powered by aggressive marketing efforts by the state and Iowa businesses," said Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) Director Mike Tramontina.

During 2007, IDED led trade missions to Mexico, Japan, Thailand, Korea, China and South Africa to help Iowa businesses market their products and services, conduct in-country research and find end-users of their goods. This year IDED trade missions are going to Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico, central Europe and China.

For more information on export trade promotion, visit Iowa's International Office Web site: [http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/export\\_assistance.html](http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/export_assistance.html)

## Increasing production at Wacker Eddyville

Wacker Chemical Corporation will invest \$15 million at the Eddyville plant to expand production of cyclodextrins, a stabilizer ingredient made from corn and used in pharmaceutical and life science products. Enlarged Wacker operations at the Iowa Bioprocessing Center are expected to create and retain 25 jobs. Four new jobs pay an average wage of \$26 per hour. The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded the project \$250,000 from the Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program (VAAPFAP) and tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program. Wacker is the global market leader in cyclodextrins.

## AG LEADER TECHNOLOGY EXPANDING

Ag Leader Technology, Inc., plans a 98,000 sq. ft. addition to premises in Ames, where the company manufactures and distributes precision farming hardware and software systems.

The \$6 million facilities expansion is expected to create 58 jobs, 40 of the new jobs paying an average wage of \$24.76 per hour. The company expects to complete construction by the end of the year.

The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded Ag Leader \$150,000 from the Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program (VAAPFAP). Ag Leader also was awarded tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program.

Among its leading precision farming products are systems providing controls and monitoring of yields, application rates, global positioning and assisted steering.

# Wide impact of Linweld expansion

In the central Iowa community of Grimes, Linweld, Inc. is building a highly automated, air separation plant to produce oxygen, nitrogen and argon for industrial purposes.

And according to company officials, the expansion project could spur more industrial and manufacturing investment and job growth within the state.

The \$50-million expansion will allow the company to better serve its medical, manufacturing and industrial customers throughout the 14 Midwest and Western states where Linweld currently operates.

The project, the first air-separation facility of its kind in the state, was awarded High Quality Jobs Creation tax benefits from the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

"We are a full service provider of medical, industrial and specialty gases, including bulk and cylinder gases, gas-handling equipment, high performance purification systems, and related hard goods," says Greg Vasek, Linweld president and CEO.

"Manufacturers represent the biggest segment of our customer base."

With more than 65 Iowans working in retail operations in seven Iowa communities, Vasek says the new air separation facility in Grimes will create eight full-time jobs as well as a host of indirect jobs when completed in the summer 2009.



"The whole Linweld organization will grow, from our retail associates to transportation specialists and service people," says Vasek. "We will also be actively looking for manufacturers that can use our products to cluster around our facility."

"The new facility will help us deliver on our commitment to support the growth of business in all our segments, particularly small and medium manufacturers throughout Iowa and the Upper Midwest."

# New VeraSun product

VeraSun has developed a process using a proven technology to extract corn oil from its distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS). VeraSun is planning to invest \$29 million in the new processing at its Charles City ethanol plant. The Iowa Economic Development board awarded \$200,000 from Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program (VAAPFAP) to the project. The expansion is expected to create 14 jobs paying an average wage of \$16.60 per hour. The corn oil will be used for biodiesel production. Dried distillers' grains, a co-product of ethanol plants, are sold as livestock feed. Extracting the corn oil produces a high protein feed as well as new raw material for biodiesel production. Enterprise Zone tax benefits were also approved for the VeraSun project.

# HIGH GROWTH COMPANY IN FAIRFIELD

Cambridge Investment Group, Inc., a fast-growing investor services company, is planning to construct a second building and continue hiring more employees on its Fairfield campus.

The \$6 million expansion was awarded tax benefits to expand in an Enterprise Zone by the Iowa Department of

Economic Development.

Cambridge expects to create 97 jobs. Cambridge currently employs 226 people in Fairfield.

A second 40,000 square foot office building will be constructed on the company's 40 acre site beginning this spring with completion expected by March 2009.

# International organization thrives in Dubuque

Sustainable Land Development International (SLDI), a member-owned, for profit organization, is moving into Dubuque's warehouse district as part of expansion to develop new technologies, products and services. The project is expected to create 57 jobs, 37 of the jobs paying an average wage of \$25.41 per hour. The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded SLDI \$137,500 from the Entrepreneurial Ventures Assistance program. Working with land developer members, SLDI promotes land development around the world that balances the needs of people, planet and profit. SLDI was also awarded Enterprise Zone tax benefits.

# MILKING THE COWS, GROWING THE BOTTLES

With the acquisition of PLA Supply Company, Naturally Iowa hopes to distinguish itself from other dairy processors and producers by offering the highest quality organic and all-natural dairy products packaged in environmentally friendly, sustainable containers derived from corn.

Naturally Iowa is a two-year-old dairy located in the southwest Iowa community of Clarinda. Founded by two southwest Iowa dairymen—William Horner and Steve Williams—along with other organic dairy farmers in the region.

Following four years of extensive planning, the dairy began operations in 2005 in a state-of-the-art 30,000 sq. ft. processing facility.

*Continued on page 4*



# CALENDAR

- April 2 Economic Development and Transportation:  
Moving Iowa Forward conference  
Marriott Downtown, Des Moines
- May 8 SMART Conference  
Polk County Convention Center, Des Moines
- May 13 Global Iowa Conference  
Sheraton, West Des Moines

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## Recruiting young workers; Generation Iowa's "Road Map"

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generation of peers and future generations of young Iowans to get involved with this issue and government policy overall."

"We pledge to continue this important work," said Commission Vice-Chair Rachel Judisch of Lake View, "to provide the Legislature and the Governor's office with the clearest pathway for moving forward in the most effective ways possible."

The report's proposals aim to bridge Iowa's wage gap and reduce student debt, expand the state's career pathways, invest in quality of life amenities and improve the state's overall image. To download the Road Map or learn more about the Commission, visit: <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/generation>.

## MILKING THE COWS, GROWING THE BOTTLES

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Start up of the dairy and renovation of its processing facility, that now employs 20 Iowans, was leveraged by a \$75,000 investment from the Iowa Department of Economic Development's Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program.

According to Dick Jensen, Naturally Iowa operations manager, the dairy processes and produces organic and all-natural dairy products.

"We wanted to offer small dairies in our area a way to add value to their commodity," says Jensen. "We believe that as demand grows for our fluid milk, ice cream and drinkable yogurt, it will spur development of the dairy industry here in southwest Iowa."

With its purchase of PLA Supply, the dairy is positioned to be a leader in sustainable resource management with its biodegradable dairy containers. PLA or polylactic acid is a polymer which utilizes renewable resources such as corn, sugar cane or switch grass to create a compostable material.

"Bio-polymer plastic is probably a better description since the compostable plastic can be made from a host of renewable resources," says Jensen. Naturally Iowa purchased the assets from Natureworks, a Dow-Cargill joint venture.

"We are the first and only dairy in the world that is certified to produce PLA containers that completely biodegrades in 60 to 100 days when placed in a landfill," says Jensen.