ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

city of Ankeny
bringing it all together

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FFA Enrichment Center at DMACC Opens

The FFA Enrichment Center in Prairie Trail on the Ankeny Campus of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) opened this month. The 57,000 square foot Center is a partnership between DMACC, Future Farmers of America (FFA), DRA Properties and the City of Ankeny. The opening of the center marks another increase in the level of business amenities in Ankeny.

The Enrichment Center will give businesses and organizations additional options for hosting meetings and conferences. The building features an 8,000 square foot, two-story exhibit hall and a nearly 24,000 square foot conference center with six breakout rooms. The conference center has a capacity to serve up to 500 people.

The Enrichment Center serves as the state headquarters for the Iowa FFA Foundation and the leadership center for the Iowa FFA Chapter. It is designed to enhance agriculture-focused education and business in the state. The Center is also home to DMACC's Agri-business and Veterinary Technician education programs. Together the programs have more than 200 students on the Ankeny campus.

Visit the DMACC – FFA Enrichment Center website to view floor plans and a rendering of the facility. Scheduling will be available after February 15.

Rankings Highlight Des Moines Metro Area Value for Business and Residents

The Des Moines Metro Area has been among the best places in the country to prosper during the economic recession. A run of positive rankings in the second-half of 2009 shows the value that Des Moines brings to businesses and talented workers that invest here.

No. 1 Best City for Business
MarketWatch, 2009

No. 1 Most-Livable Bargain Markets
MSN Real Estate, 2009

No. 4 Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Cities
Yahoo Real Estate, 2009

No. 17 Strongest US Metro Economies
Business Week, 2009

Ankeny-Based AgVision Recognized for Successful Entrepreneurship
This month, AgVision received Iowa Farm Bureau's "Entrepreneur of the Month" recognition. Company owners Jose and Shelley Laracuente were honored for exemplifying the entrepreneurial spirit that the *Renew Rural Iowa* initiative is promoting across Iowa. The company develops accounting and inventory management software for agribusiness. AgVision was nominated for its business success and the growth of its workforce which spans four generations.

Ankeny Business *Fast Fact*
This business distributes a wide range of paper, packaging, facilities maintenance and printing equipment and supplies from its 67,500 square foot facility in Ankeny. The business is a division of International Paper and has served the eastern two-thirds of Iowa from its Ankeny location for over 10 years.

This month's business is XPEDX.

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Economic Development Department Home Page
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Ankeny Prospector Site and Building Database
www.ankenyprospector.com

Ankeny /
Des Moines
Metro Area
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