

# TCEDA's TRACKING...

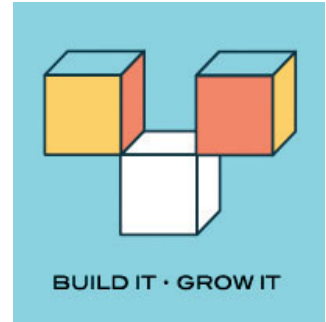
## Build it \* Growit Business Program Expands



### TCEDA Regional Map

The Tri-County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. (TCEDA) is a independent, private, nonprofit 501c(6) corporation formed to develop regional public/private partnerships to promote and encourage economic development in Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside counties.

By combining the strengths of our businesses, counties, communities and organizations, we can compete globally for business expansion opportunities, and attract and retain businesses to improve the quality of life for our residents.



Want to start a business or grow your business to the next level? In Northwest Illinois, we offer customized services to grow like a pro! Due to popular feedback, we've extended our Build it \* Grow it program to ten monthly sessions. Learn at special education sessions and take advantage of private, confidential consultations with real world experts who combined, facilitated nearly \$8.7 M in financing for Illinois businesses in 2014. You can sign up for private, one-hour consulting specifically for your business at [tceda-nwil.org/builditgrowit](http://tceda-nwil.org/builditgrowit).

Mark your calendar for our 2016 sessions on the fourth Thursday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Elizabeth, 310 N West St., Elizabeth, IL beginning January 28 and continuing February 25, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22 and October 27.

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## Riverport Railroad Expands at Savanna Depot Park

Congratulations to TCEDA member Riverport Railroad on its new 4,200 sq ft office. The new, energy efficient office space was built at Savanna Depot Park near its rail operations. Riverport Railroad (RVPR) is a BNSF Railroad Premier Transloader. Amiee Martelle, President and CEO, explains "Our new office allows RVPR to have a preminent space that we can call all our own and help to add to the appeal of the Depot." For more information about Riverport Railroad, visit <http://www.riverportrailroad.com>.

*Riverport Railroad (RVPR) expands and celebrates its new office at the Savanna Depot Park with the Savanna Chamber of Commerce. Left to right: Jo Carey, U.S. Army; Carol Canier, Palisades Golf Course; Tonya Wernet, RVPR; Frederick Bird, RVPR; Jack Koster, RVPR; Amiee Martelle, RVPR; Anthony Kinder, RVPR; Chad Schoenhaar, RVPR; Justin Foster, RVPR; Charles Sipe, RVPR; Mara Roche, LRA and Angie VanKampen, LRA.*



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### Quick Links

[www.tceda-nwil.org](http://www.tceda-nwil.org)

[www.bop.gov/jobs](http://www.bop.gov/jobs)

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

[www.sam.com](http://www.sam.com)

[www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

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### *IEI Barge Services Expands in East Dubuque*



Congratulations to TCEDA member IEI Barge Services, an Alliant Energy Transportation Company, which recently completed projects that significantly increased its storage and handling facilities. Constructed was a six bay, 27,000-ton structure for dry bulk fertilizer, and a 5,000-ton building for cottonseed. Each is capable of handling any combination of barge, truck or rail. The projects were in direct response to new customer requests, and raise IEI's total dry storage capacity to 80,000 tons. IEI also handles grain, salt, metal products and coal via its 20-acre protected harbor at MP 574.5 on the Upper Mississippi. For more information about IEI Barge Services visit [www.alliantenergy.com/ieibarge](http://www.alliantenergy.com/ieibarge).

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### *Gallup Article: Global Joblessness: The Real Number*

There are many data sets available for unemployment. Where do the numbers

come from and what do they mean? This Gallup article takes a closer look at the metrics that are used to measure global unemployment.

<http://Gallup/GlobalJoblessness>

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### *Save the Date*



Mark your 2016 calendar for TCEDA's Annual Meeting. We are excited to announce that the meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17 (St Patrick's Day) at the Irish Cottage in Galena, IL from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Workforce development will be the focus with the theme *Winning Hearts & Minds: Retaining & Attracting Workforce in Rural America*. Stay tuned for more information!

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### *TCEDA Welcomes New Team Member*



Join us in welcoming Christine Soat to the TCEDA team! Christine currently splits her time between Jo Daviess County Building & Zoning and TCEDA. Prior to working for the county she has been an office manager for a locally-owned screen printer, a department manager for a large, chain retail operation and an assistant manager for college food services. She is an outgoing personality that looks to connect with area businesses to help them thrive and grow. You can reach Christine at [cscoat@tceda-nwil.org](mailto:cscoat@tceda-nwil.org).

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*A beautiful sunset along the Mississippi River in Savanna, IL.*

As 2015 comes to a close, we would like to thank our members, sponsors, Board of Directors and every one that has taken part in our various programs and services throughout the year. We look forward to continuing these partnerships as we increase our educational programs.

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TCEDA welcomes new member First Community Bank. We appreciate

your investment! Thanks to renewing members Village of Elizabeth, Riverport Railroad and Rockfarm Logistics. A big special thank you to John and Marge Cooke for their additional investment and to Jo Daviess County for their significant investments for 2016!

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All the best to retiring TCEDA Board members John Diesch and Kurt Brunner. Both have served our Board well and contributed to our rebuilding efforts. Thank you and good luck!

We welcome Libby Miller, Market President, IL Bank & Trust and Tim Hood, President, Highland Community College to the TCEDA Board. Thanks for serving. We look forward to working with you.

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And finally to our TCEDA team who work tirelessly, with smiles, to support our mission of improving the quality of life for our communities. Thanks to Beth Baranski, Christine Soat, Chris Allendorf, John Cox and Al Griffiths.

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Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn for updates, economic information and prison employment opportunities.

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Is there a topic you would like to see in our e-newsletter? Send me an email.

We welcome ideas and feedback from members and soon-to-be members. Let's execute to succeed! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Lisa McCarthy  
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Tri-County Economic Development Alliance, PO Box 390, Elizabeth, IL 61028-0390

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