



## TCEDA's Tracking... Business Opportunities



### TCEDA's 2016 Annual Meeting

***Winning Hearts & Minds: Retaining & Attracting Workforce in Rural America*** is the theme for TCEDA's Annual Meeting lunch on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) at the Irish Cottage in Galena, IL from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 or a table of 8 for \$225.

Learn about workforce success stories and honor TCEDA's award winners for collaboration.

Reservations are filling quickly. Reserve online at [tceda-nwil.org](http://tceda-nwil.org) or by check to

TCEDA, P.O. Box 390, Elizabeth, IL 61028.



### Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker: Kim Kuchenbrod

Annual Meeting speaker Vicki Haugen has asked her associate, Kim Kuchenbrod, to substitute as our meeting keynote speaker because of health issues. With over 20 years' experience in workforce management, Kuchenbrod is responsible for educational partnerships to assist in growing the future workforce and to enhance economic development in Vermilion County, Illinois. These STEM-based programs span the entire talent supply chain beginning with early education programs and continuing to elementary and junior high career awareness programs, high school engineering programs and internships, and post-secondary technical partnerships and scholarship programs.

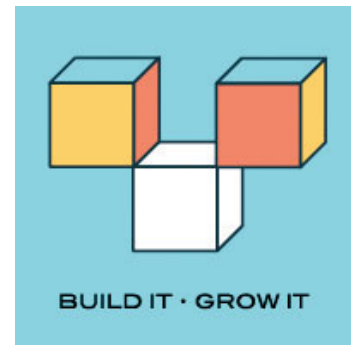
Kuchenbrod is responsible for developing programs supported by the Vermilion County Workforce Clusters and is actively engaged in leadership of many other workforce development/education organizations such as College Express and is the chairperson for Vermilion County's Job Training Partnership's youth council.

### Build it \* Grow it

Due to fantastic turnout for the February session, the

consultation time slots filled quickly. The next education session will be held on March 24, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Elizabeth, 310 N. West St., Elizabeth, IL. Sign up early and reserve for private consulting at [tceda-nwil.org/builditgrowit](http://tceda-nwil.org/builditgrowit).

If you are unable to attend in March, future dates are April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22 & October 27. If you meet an entrepreneur in your community, thank them for doing the hard work of creating a business and cheer them on!



### **Neumiller Farm Expands with USDA Rural Development Loan**

Matt Floming, from Neumiller Farms, reached out to Savanna Mayor Tony McCombie to see if there were any programs that would help their business expand their facilities. Mayor McCombie pointed Matt to TCEDA, the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and Community Funding and Planning.

"This team went to work and a plan was put in place to apply for the 0% loan. We thought this plan would work out well for us if we were able to get approved. With the team's help we were able to find a program that would help us build the facility without cutting corners. We were able to have higher expectations than we originally planned," explained Floming.

After touring Neumiller's facilities, the following expectations and goals were set to ensure the best new facility for their needs:

- a comfortable and safe working environment
- the most efficient equipment for production purposes
- the most energy efficient/eco-friendly equipment
- building a facility that can adapt to business growth, new technology & customer's needs
- a facility that would be attractive to customers
- a facility that would guarantee the best product for their customer and consumer
- quick order fulfillment
- retention of employees

According to Floming, the facility is fully operational and has worked out great so far.

"We now have a facility that has been built for the present and future years of Neumiller Farms, Inc. The 0% interest loan is a program that the team, via USDA Rural Development and Jo-Carroll Energy, had pointed us to and has worked out very well. The new facility has taken us to another level."

For more information on the USDA Rural Development Loan, visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>. Visit Nuemiller Farms at <http://www.neumillerfarms.com>.

### **Illinois Small Business Assistance**

Looking to start a business? The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) gives a step-by-step guide for new businesses. It describes ownership structures, details on how to register as a business, and explains the responsibilities as an employer. [IL Dept](#)



[Commerce Small Business Start Here.](#)

If you already have a business, check out this link to find out how to become a vendor for the State of IL [Sell 2 Illinois](#).



**TCEDA selected to become a member of Rural Affairs Advisory Board**

TCEDA has been selected to become a member of the [State of Illinois Office of the Comptroller's Rural Affairs Advisory Board](#). The first meeting, held in Springfield, IL, discussed common issues in rural areas across Illinois and the state's current budget crises. The meeting was a reminder that most of

Illinois is rural. According to [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service](#), population change is very uneven across rural and small-town America. Over 1,300 non-metro counties have lost population since 2010, as a group declining by over 500,000 people. At the same time, 666 non-metro counties gained population, together adding over 400,000 residents.

**Meet our Board Member: Tim Hood**

This month, we would like to introduce Tim Hood, Highland Community College President.

Hood began serving as Vice President of Academic Services at Highland Community College in 2011, was named Executive Vice President overseeing the day-to-day operations of the College in 2014, and became the College's eighth president in July of 2015. Previously, Tim served as Dean of Corporate Training & Community Education and Vice President of Instructional Services at Kaskaskia College, was a faculty member at Southern Illinois University (SIU) from 2001-2005, and an Associate Professor at Madisonville Community College in Kentucky from 1993-2001.



Lisa McCarthy, Executive Director of TCEDA, notes that "The experience and expertise that Hood brings to the Board will be especially valuable as we work to expand existing businesses and strengthen our workforce." We welcome Hood to TCEDA's Board of Directors.



*A beautiful sunset on Stagecoach Trail near Apple River, IL.*

TCEDA welcomes new members City of Savanna and Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting. We appreciate your investments! Thanks to renewing members Citizens Bank, Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and the Galena Territory Association (GTA).

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We travel through the region and take notice of those organizations and leaders who truly collaborate to make our communities strong. Who will be honored as

TCEDA Collaboration award winners this year? Attend the Annual Meeting on March 17 for the presentations and congratulate the winners! If you have not make your reservations online at [tceda-nwil.org](http://tceda-nwil.org).

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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!

Sincerely,

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

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