

# TCEDA's TRACKING...



## TCEDA Regional Map

Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) is an independent, nonprofit economic development corporation that proactively seeks to build business and employment opportunities for the economic growth and social well-being of people.

We lead, advocate, assist and encourage businesses, counties, communities and organizations in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside Counties in Northwest Illinois.

### Glossary - **What is MAPPING?**

MAPPING stands for Management and Planning Programs Involving Non-metropolitan Groups.

The Community MAPPING process is a participant-driven strategic visioning and planning process whereby local residents create a long-range vision for community and

## *Illinois Budget Deficit*

October 17, 2013 - Ralph Martire, representing the nonpartisan Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, presented at the Galena Rotary Roundtable on the State of Illinois Budget Deficit. Ralph explained quite clearly the cause of the state deficit and suggested solutions. He reminded us that we, as Illinois voters, have an over-sized voice in government should we choose to exercise it. We can, as groups of voters, encourage our representatives to make the best decisions to balance our state and federal budgets.

If you would like to learn more or schedule a speaker, contact the League of Women Voters at [illinoisissues@lwvil.org](mailto:illinoisissues@lwvil.org).

...

## *Local Communities are MAPPING Their Future*

October 14, 2013 - MAPPING is a community program composed of a series of five, 3-hour visioning sessions, involving at least 25 to 60 diverse local residents. The residents discuss the questions: Where are we now?, Where do we want to be?, How are we going to get there?, and, How do we make it happen?

During the process the participants identify 3 to 6 high-priority goals for their community, an action plan for implementation, and become organized to present the community vision and goals to the other community members in a town meeting. In order to review, celebrate progress and reinvigorate the MAPPING groups, they will reconvene with MAPPING staff through at least one *Maintaining the Momentum* session held a couple of months following the MAPPING process.

economic development and a plan of action for achieving it.

### Quick Links

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

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

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



*A MAPPING Session in Elizabeth, IL. Savanna, IL is also participating in MAPPING.*

MAPPING is an enjoyable way to bring community residents together, build consensus and develop a workable plan of action. To be successful in this type of process, the MAPPING program participants must be civic-minded, willing to lend their leadership to the effort, and 100% committed to improving their community's future. After completing the initial 5-session program, Community MAPPING staff members provide free technical assistance on a variety of issues and follow-up support in response to community requests. For more information on MAPPING, contact Gisele Hamm, Program Manager at (309) 298-4019 or [GF-Hamm@wiu.edu](mailto:GF-Hamm@wiu.edu).

...

### *Campbell Center Considers Development*

October 9, 2013 - I asked Campbell Center's Chairman Russ Simpson to explain the development potential for the Mt. Carroll campus.

"Campbell Center owns and operates the former Shimer College campus in Mt. Carroll. The board's focus is the long-term preservation of the historic campus and campus facilities. Our desire is to accomplish this important objective by finding utilization for the campus that enhances local economic development through job creation. Since the facilities were formerly an educational institution, we have always believed that finding utilization with an educational theme would perhaps be the most efficient way to realize a productive campus."

"The Campbell Center board was contacted by American Quality Schools this past August. AQS is a not-for-profit educational management company located in Chicago ([www.aqs.org](http://www.aqs.org)). It operates several charter schools in the Midwest. On August 14, an AQS representative visited the campus to outline its idea for a possible on-campus school and to determine the board's interest in having further discussions. An AQS tour of the campus was scheduled for September 19. On that day, Mike Bakalis, AQS founder, president and chief executive officer, and two of his associates joined me and several Campbell Center board members for a detailed tour of all the campus buildings, and we continued discussions regarding the concept and associated concerns, challenges and opportunities. It was agreed by all during this meeting that Mr. Bakalis should return to Mt. Carroll as soon as possible to meet Mt. Carroll Mayor Bates and West Carroll Superintendent Mathers."

"Mike and three of his associates returned to Mt. Carroll on September 27. Several campus buildings were re-visited, and the group met with Superintendent Mathers and Mayor Bates. Superintendents Sherman and Hansen were invited by Mathers to attend the meeting; they were absent. The results of the above meetings and numerous phone and email conversations to date are listed below:

- AQS has expressed an interest in leasing campus facilities to open and operate a private 4-year liberal arts and performing arts high school. Much discussion has addressed regarding "charter" versus "private"; Bakalis is very familiar with local concerns regarding "charter" and will not open a "charter" school.
- Fall 2014 is the target for opening the school with a freshman class of 100-125 students, including a dormitory.
- Bakalis claims there is a need for a liberal arts and performing arts focus, it fills a void; the high school will be of college prep nature; AQS wants to partner with local school districts in ways that are beneficial to the kids and the districts; it wants to work with Timberlake Playhouse, the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, and other local organizations.
- The school would be marketed primarily in Illinois, north of Interstate 80, six counties in and around Chicago, and also somewhat generally throughout Illinois and the Midwest.
- Blueprints/floor plans have been provided to AQS; AQS is to provide Campbell Center with desired buildings/space to fit its start-up and expansion model. Renovation plans and leasing negotiations will begin thereafter.
- Campbell Center is exploring financing options and may talk with several possible providers of economic development funding and other lenders."

"AQS and Campbell Center are very much in the preliminary stages of attempting to achieve a Fall 2014 opening. There is considerable work to be done. AQS and Campbell Center are committed to maintaining excellent local relationships and achieving transparency of their efforts wherever possible. We are available to discuss this project as needed, and we will provide regular updates via the media as well as communiqués to key groups and organizations."

...

### *Illinois Listening Post Forum*

October 9, 2013 - The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will soon begin work on an Economic Development Plan to help guide our state over the next five years. The plan will address job creation, workforce development, our business environment, poverty reduction, regional needs and business attraction, among others.

Dan Seals, assistant director of DCEO, invited economic developers, elected officials and businesses from around the state to participate in a forum to share thoughts on economic development. The forum was held at Western Illinois University Campus in Moline, IL, on October 9. Other Listening Post Forums will be held around the state.

Lee Trotter, Northwest Region account manager with DCEO, hosted the Northwest Illinois, representatives from Jo Daviess, Carroll, Whiteside, Henry, Mercer, Putnam, and Rock Island counties.

Discussions were held in four separate groups and shared, including some "big ideas" and suggestions for the state. You can follow the comments and ideas at [www.facebook.com/illinoisdceo](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisdceo).

...



Many thanks to Trevor Davies and Craig Pearce from Invensys in Hanover for taking time to host a tour of their facility. Manufacturing looks very different than it did even five years ago, as the increased use of automated systems becomes apparent. As one of the few employers that employs over 100 people in our region, their business is important not only to those employees, but to our communities as well.

...

I especially enjoyed an interview with Alison Kanosky, who is writing her dissertation on Carroll County, IL. She is a graduate student at Yale and is in the area to research and conduct interviews. She chose the topic of rural areas to understand their complexity and importance. We look forward to her published work. Alison can be reached at [alison.kanosky@yale.edu](mailto:alison.kanosky@yale.edu).

...

**Save the Date!** TCEDA's Regional Conference and Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 20. We are formulating the content

and speakers,  
and are interested in what you would like to learn about and  
discuss.  
Email [lmccarthy@jocarroll.com](mailto:lmccarthy@jocarroll.com) by October 25 with your input.  
...

We welcome ideas from members and non-members. Let's execute  
to succeed!

Sincerely,

*Lisa McCarthy*  
Executive Director, TCEDA  
(815) 858-4491  
[lmccarthy@jocarroll.com](mailto:lmccarthy@jocarroll.com)