

# MID IOWA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP



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## **MID IOWA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP (MIGP) LAUNCHES IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL INNOVATION PLAN**

*Region Completes Strategic Planning Process and Moves to Next Phase*

(Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development Corp) – January 6, 2011 – The Mid Iowa Growth Partnership (MIGP) Leadership Group on Wednesday, launched the implementation phase for the Regional Innovation Grant Implementation Plan, which has been created over the course of the last several months. Early in 2010, the nine-county MIGP applied for, and was awarded through Iowa Workforce Development, an US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration Regional Innovation Grant (RIG) to assist the region in this process to strengthen and link the innovation assets of the region for economic growth and vitality.

Business, education, economic development, and workforce leaders from the nine-county region participated in the planning process at a series of leadership group planning meetings, regional engagement sessions, and by working in core teams on four different issue areas: Technology & Infrastructure, Talent Development, Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Commercialization and Sustainability.

During the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Iowa Central Community College, the Leadership Group of nearly 70 stakeholders from across the region committed to the implementation of the plan and identified volunteer leadership to serve as an interim coordinating committee for the implementation of the plan and identified volunteer leadership to serve as an interim coordinating committee for the implementation of the plan. “It was an amazing to see all the hard work over the past year, come together in a plan that will guide the future direction of MIGP and Central Iowa. I look forward to working with the leaders in our region to move this plan forward and to make the region better for our children. We already have such a strong region and this will make it improved” Dr. Dan Kinney.

Leaders that were participants in a variety of the Leadership Sessions were: Darin Massner, Country Maid, Inc., West Bend, Jim Voigt, Erpleding & Voigt, Ed Berg and Steve Hoskins, Pharmacist Mutual Insurance Co, Marty Fonley, Superintendent of Algona Schools, Dave Cedarwall, Snap-On Tools, Algona, all of Algona, Mayor Jim Geht, Mallard, Steve Heldt, City Economic Development Director, Colleen Heldt, IA. Trust & Savings Bank, both from Emmetsburg, and Maureen Elbert Ex. Direct Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development Corp.

Shelly Blunk, Director of Economic Development for Iowa Central Community College, Alissa O’Connor, Economic Development Director for Humboldt County, Cheryl O’Hearn, Manager for Local Operations for Frontier Communications, and Natalie Snyder, Program Development Director at Proteus Inc. agreed to serve on an interim coordinating committee.

First steps for implementation of the plan include: getting the word out about the plan and increasing the number of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the plan; working to create a comprehensive asset

map of the technology and infrastructure available across the nine-county region, and obtaining funding to allow for the continuation of this regional innovation effort.

**About Mid Iowa Growth Partnership**

The Mid Iowa Growth Partnership came together in 2005 as a nine-county regional marketing collaborative. The nine counties of the region include: Calhoun, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster, and Wright counties. For more information on MIGP, the regional innovation process and the January 5<sup>th</sup> leadership meeting, go to <http://www.midiowagrowth.com/rig.htm>

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