ACDC NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015-2016

Atchison County Development Corporation

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GREAT NORTHWEST DAY at the Capitol – February 2-3, 2016

Great Northwest Day is an annual, cooperative effort by Northwest Missouri communities to enhance our region's image in Jefferson City and to pursue legislation beneficial to our citizens. Established by Leadership Northwest Missouri students over a decade ago, this event is organized by the 18 counties that comprise the "Great Northwest."

Each year ACDC and Atchison County citizens travel to the Capitol to join other regional leaders to bring attention to issues that are specific to this corner of the state. GNW Day provides each county with the opportunity to discuss local issues directly with their respective legislators and department representatives during face-to-face meetings. An evening event for legislators encourages each county to showcase their current projects and pride points.

If you are interested in attending GNW Day, please contact ACDC at 660.744.6562 or atchdev@rpt.coop.

Youth Professionalism Workshop 2015 - a great success!

On Monday, Nov. 23, ACDC hosted the second annual Atchison County Youth Professionalism Workshop, with two goals in mind: to provide Atchison County Juniors with information and advice for their professional lives, and to introduce them to a local employer from each of the six career clusters students use in their career planning.

Here were the highlights from the morning session at the Tarkio Resource Center:

- Kent Fisher spoke about the importance of being nice to people, emphasizing that whether in school or work or church, young people are always on an interview.
- Mark Staten and Marisa Hedlund first offered a "what NOT to do" interview skit and an example of what an effective interview might look like.
- Marisa and Lydia Hurst highlighted attitudes at work. Students watched a video called the "Entitlement Creed," showing what many employees think they are entitled to from their employers and what employers are entitled to expect of their employees.

ACDC Board of Directors:
- W.C. Farmer, President
- Craig Corken, V. Pres.
- Bob Alldredge, Treas.
- Lydia Hurst
- Roger A. Martin
- Jeff Meyer
- Lori Seymour
- Eryn Stepp
- Scott Melvin

ACDC Staff:
- Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
- Carol Clark, Administrative Assistant

About ACDC

ACDC was organized in the 1970s as a volunteer board. Since 1995, ACDC's board and full-time staff have worked to improve the business climate in Atchison County.

Today, ACDC staff provides support to community organizations and collaborates with county, regional and state groups to better our county.

The Mission of ACDC: to initiate, stimulate and facilitate opportunity in Atchison County through economic and Community development.

If you were new to town... how would you find a local business?

ACDC's webpage provides a listing of businesses that can be found via search word. **Can you find YOUR information in our Business Directory?** If not, give us a call so that we can correct your listing!

Youth Professionalism Workshop 2015 - a great success! *(cont. from page 1)*

- Tracy Cooper facilitated a self-assessment on the elements of professionalism.
- Shauna Farmer reviewed ethics in specific workplace situations and showed a video clip from Ashton Kutcher's "opportunity looks like hard work" speech.
- Kalvin McIntosh and Jennifer Heard from Atchison County Hy-Vee discussed the proper way to apply for a job and gave advice for keeping a job once a person has obtained it.
- State Representative Allen Andrews discussed manufacturing as a way to create a better future for our region, and shared the story of his family's business, The Wool Shop, which stemmed from his high school FFA project and now sells products internationally.
- Keli Morris, facilitator with Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation, presented a personal finance workshop and created a sample budget with the students.

In the afternoon, the students boarded a bus to Community Hospital-Fairfax for lunch and presentations from Community Hospital-Fairfax's Ann Schlueter (representing Health Services), Doug Garrison from Advanced Pork (Natural Resources Agriculture), and Sheriff Dennis Martin (Human Services). From there, students headed to Rock Port, where they heard from Jason Watkins and Angie Vernon of Midwest Data (Business, Management and Tech) and Linda Dewhirst from Cooper Nuclear (Industrial and Engineering Tech). The day concluded at Tarkio Avalanche, where Mike Farmer and WC Farmer discussed Arts and Communications careers represented under Farmer Publishing's umbrella.

Special thanks to our three outstanding high school counselors, whose planning and guidance enable this event to happen, Tarkio High School Principal Luke Cox who provided last minute technical assistance, the employers and speakers who lent their time and wisdom to the students, and the locations that hosted the group, including CH-F, Midwest Data, Bank Midwest, and Tarkio Avalanche.

Our goals with youth programs are simple: we want students to interact with each other and to connect directly with local adults who care about their future and believe that future can be bright, right here in Atchison County. We also want to be of service to our Atchison County employers and hope that these interactions help them find quality employees who are invested in this community and want to stay or make this their forever home one day.

This spring we'll be adding another youth-in-the-community event—**a county-wide job shadowing day**. If you're a business owner and you would be willing to host a Senior (or two or three or four!), we'll work to connect you with those who might be interested in the industry you represent or your specific business. ACDC will be contacting you over the next couple of months to see if you'd like to participate.

Atchison County's 11th Annual "Battle of the Books"

The 11th Annual Battle of the Books will be held on Friday, March 11, at the Tarkio Resource Center. This countywide literacy program was established to encourage local 4th through 6th graders to develop a lifetime love of reading and to increase vocabulary. Battle of the Books has the added benefit of connecting children from all corners of Atchison County as they engage in healthy competition to see which team can boast the highest comprehension levels of 13 books that have been nominated for the Mark Twain Award and Truman Award. Area schools receive at least two books of each title, and the Atchison County Library and branch libraries also have copies. Last year, 13 teams of students read 82,363 pages just for this competition. We added a classic book, Where the Red Fern Grows to the Mark Twain Award nominees and will do that again this year with A Wrinkle in Time, as it was a huge hit with the students!

Battle of the Books is sponsored by ACDC, The Mule Barn Theatre Guild, Flower Mill and many dedicated volunteers.

Please join Atchison County students as they focus on Character Traits:

January - Tolerance: Acceptance of differences; celebrating common ground
February - Honesty: Being truthful in what you say and do
March - Cooperation: Working together toward a common goal

2016 ACDC Business Improvement Grant

In 2013, ACDC introduced the Business Improvement Grant, designed to encourage growth and development of Atchison County businesses. In its first three years the grant utilized $85,000 of ACDC dollars to reimburse up to $1,000 of 95 projects that improved business aesthetics, safety or function. Through these projects, AT LEAST $175,000 was spent locally.

In 2016, Business Improvement Grant will be structured differently. ACDC will still offer matching reimbursable grants, equal up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum of $1,000. ACDC could award up to $10,000 in 2016, depending upon project selection. One difference this year is that businesses previously awarded the Business Improvement Grant are not eligible. These grant applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis, and will be accepted April 1-30, 2016.

In an effort to encourage and assist with larger scale projects, ACDC has also created Business Improvement Grant 2.0, which can be utilized by ANY existing business (including past recipients). This grant will reimburse up to $2,500 per project, but the recipient will be required to fund $5,000 themselves, at a minimum total project cost of $7,500. $10,000 will be budgeted for this grant as well, and given the size of the projects in this category, these grants will be more competitive and will be graded on impact to their business and to the county. Applications for this grant will also be accepted April 1-30, 2016.

By February 1, 2016, applications, conditions and guidelines for both grants will be available on ACDC's website (www.atchisoncounty.org) or you can contact the office and request to have it mailed or emailed to you. Please contact ACDC Staff (660-744-6562; atchdev@rpt.coop) anytime if you have any questions.

Thoughts from your ACDC Director…

Here's a little to-do list for your 2016:

Show up early. Leave last. Be the one who makes sure the coffee is made and the chairs are put away.

Show your personality and have a sense of humor. Even in daily grind things like email.

Be kind. Be kind. Be kind.

Help where you can.

When you commit to something, do it fully and do it well.

Practice joy and contentment. Find reasons to be glad you are where you are, and show it.

Listen well. It will make the person who is speaking feel important and valued, every time.

Offer thoughtful, honest, rational advice upon request.

Be hopeful about the future of your community and region.

Care enough about people in your life to ask about things that matter to them.

May the force be with us in 2016 as we strive to be excellent in all these ways.

- Monica

P.S. This list was brought to you by the example set by one of my work parents, Arnie Kreek, retiring Dec. 31, from NW MO Regional Council of Governments. THANK YOU ARNIE for being YOU to so many of us.

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Visit us online at www.atchisoncounty.org

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Atchison County Development Corporation

We have the corner on the good life...

Upcoming Events

February 2-3:
Great Northwest Day at the Capital
Jefferson City

ACDC will be closed in observation of the following holidays:

- Christmas Day (December 25)
- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 18)

If you know of any upcoming events, please contact us so we can add it to our community calendar.

We hope that you enjoyed a peaceful, joyous Christmas season, and that you're ready to help make 2016 Atchison County's best year yet.

Do you make New Years Resolutions? If you're tired of making a commitment to eat healthy, only to be pulled off the wagon by a Casey's donut on January 7, please consider making a commitment that will benefit your neighbor, your school, your emergency services, your roads, your town, and your county:

Shop (and buy!) locally first.

You may think it's cheaper and easier to hit a big box store in a nearby community for groceries and other necessities, but that's not always the case.

- Will that big box store order in what you want, without you having to drive 30-60 miles to pick it up? Our stores will!
- We are all guilty of heading to a website before we check to see what's available locally. A quick phone call is just as fast as a Google search!
- Do you know what's available in our hardware stores, our gift shops, our pharmacies, and our specialty stores? When the open sign is in the window, stop in to browse!

You'll be surprised at what you can find here in Atchison County, often at competitive prices (especially when you figure in the cost of both fuel and time it takes to travel elsewhere).

We are all busy people, pulled in multiple directions. In 2016, be purposeful about your time and your decisions. DECIDE to patronize the wonderful establishments that are the backbone of our county. If we don't take advantages of the goods and services available to us today, who knows what will be here for us tomorrow!

A new website cometh!

By the time the spring newsletter rolls around, we'll be regularly utilizing our awesome **new website**, and we hope you will too!

Check www.atchisoncounty.org from time to time, or follow us on Facebook so you know when it's live.

Kindness is like snow...it beautifies everything it covers.