

Raising the Bar: MARKETING/EVENTS

In 2008, the Alliance proudly sponsored a number of events, including:

- A Sustainable Technology Tour (w/ KCC)
- Roundtable on LocationOne System (w/DCEO)
- Kankakee Co. Human Resource Professionals Roundtable on Energy Conservation
- Press Conferences for Ambassador Steel, Arctic Snow & Ice Control, and UDS
- Open monthly member meetings

Additional events in which the Alliance participated include:

- Mayor's Breakfast with Rep. Lisa Dugan
- Bradley Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO



More than 150 attended the Alliance's inaugural Annual Dinner & Meeting

New Printed Materials

- Alliance General Service Brochure
- Kankakee County Community Profile

Brochures covering:

- Revolving Loan Fund
- TIF Districts
- Alliance Retention Program

- Redesigned quarterly newsletter
- 2008 Alliance Annual Report



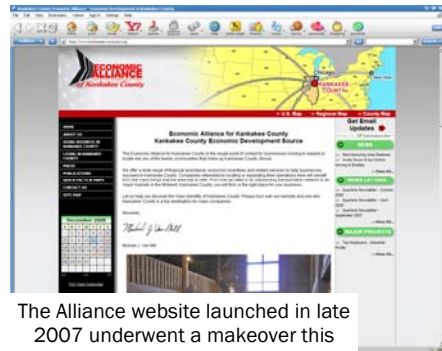
UDS/Alliance press conference



The Economic Alliance was featured in the 2008 edition of IMAGES magazine, published by the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce.



This fall, the Alliance and KCC's new Sustainability Center hosted a Sustainability/Green Technology Tour. Participants toured sites that utilize renewable fuel sources—Kankakee's hydroelectric power site, its newly renovated and LEED-certified city hall, and the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency's waste-water treatment plant. They also learned about local wind power initiatives.



The Alliance website launched in late 2007 underwent a makeover this year. We continually seek ways to enhance this critical marketing and communication tool.

Raising the Bar: 2009

Moving into the new year, the Alliance has identified major initiatives that will form the core of our 2009 Work Program. In step with economic development trends, we will enhance our approach to **corporate recruitment**, exploring the potential of industry clustering as well as green jobs expansion. We will continue to work in close concert with those companies that have revealed **expansion plans** to ensure that their goals come to fruition. Going forward, it will be critical that the Alliance continues to work closely with **regional development agencies**, such as CMAP, to ensure that local plans make sense in the wider market. We intend to help draft, in collaboration with local community leaders, **micro-specific economic development strategies** for our municipalities. The Alliance staff will continue to monitor **unemployment statistics** in order to formulate and take mitigatory measures. Our **marketing** efforts, both via the Internet and traditional media, will be refined and expanded as we seek out all means to promote the many benefits of Kankakee County. In early 2009, we will roll out our new **GIS system** for widespread use. A **sustainability/green jobs expo** is also in the early planning stages.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County to create jobs and expand the economic base by improving the business climate.

The Alliance actively supports the retention and expansion of existing business and works to attract and recruit new business.

Our business is helping your business.



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ANNUAL REPORT

A Review of the Alliance's
2008
Projects
& Programs

Released:
December 11, 2008
Annual Dinner Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn
Kankakee, IL

A Message to Community Stakeholders



On behalf of the Economic Alliance Board of Directors, I am proud to present this 2008 Annual Report of our organization's activities and programs.

We are energized by our first year's accomplishments. We effectively built a successful business retention and expansion program. We have fortified relationships with our workforce partners, local units of government and the business community. We have enhanced our website and produced several publications and programs to improve community marketing, develop strategic economic development initiatives and better understand our local economy.

Looking to 2009, the state of the economy will compound our challenges. Rising unemployment and increasing competition for business attraction and expansion necessitate a unified approach to economic development. I am extremely excited about Kankakee County's opportunities in the upcoming year. We are working closely with several employers on expansion proposals, the successful facilitation of which could cause us to realize more than \$140M in capital investment and hundreds of new jobs. We are also in negotiations with several new companies to locate here. In addition, Kankakee County is on the verge of realizing its largest capital project in its history – a 300-tower wind farm in the southwestern portion of the county. Vision Energy, of Cincinnati, has proposed a wind farm that would encompass a part of Kankakee County as well as three neighboring counties. In Kankakee County alone, we can anticipate a capital investment of more than \$240M and a significant revenue source for our taxing districts.

In closing, let me invite you to become involved or encourage you to remain active with the Economic Alliance. I welcome your input on the state of our local economy as well as future initiatives.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Van Mill
President/CEO

Raising the Bar: BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND RETENTION & EXPANSION

Despite the news of an economic downturn, a number of large-scale manufacturing expansions occurred in Kankakee County in 2008. Of note, we saw the addition of one firm—Arctic Snow & Ice Control— that initially considered moving operations overseas. With the Alliance's assistance, another entity—United Developmental Services—was able to retain Esselte's local contract assembly jobs, also slated for offshore relocation. After laying the initial groundwork in early 2008, the Alliance staff and volunteers were able to conduct many business retention visits. In addition to revealing barriers to development, these visits also help to identify expansion plans. Six companies have requested our assistance to facilitate planned expansions, the total capital investment of which could amount to more than \$140M.

CSL Behring

Biotherapies for Life™
CSL's \$17M disposable syringe line will go into production in 2009.



IKO Midwest in Kankakee Township invested \$3M this year for racking space for its assembly line components.



Kankakee's United Developmental Services, working with several area agencies, was able to preserve 250 contract manufacturing jobs.



Ambassador Steel completed a \$5M expansion of its Bourbonnais facility in early 2008.



Peddinghaus' 50,000 square foot steel fabrication facility in Bradley expanded by 30 percent in 2008.

This fall, Frankfort-based Arctic Snow & Ice Control commenced manufacturing operations at Bradley's Ken Hayes Industrial Park.



Our Analytical Toolkit: [2008 Published Reports/New Systems](#)

- Interactive Economic Development Software utilizing our GIS Technology
- Kankakee Airport Master Plan
- Kankakee County Industrial Profile
- Kankakee County Community Profile
- Daytime Population Reports
- Economic Impact Study—6000 N. Interchange
- Pembroke Prison Site Existing Conditions Report
- LocationOne Online Site Availability Database
- Daily industry/corporate news tracking via Google Alerts
- Monthly Workforce Comparative Analysis Report

2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Private Sector:
Joe Franco, Chairman
Heritage Development

Jack Dorn
Dorn Farms

Steve Magruder
Kankakee Building Trades

Pat Martin
HomeStar Bank

Michael O'Gorman
Kankakee Nursery

Leonard Tobey
Kankakee Valley
Construction Co.

Jerry Weber
KCC

Public Sector:
Cherrie McBride
District 4

Kelly McLaren
District 22

William Olthoff
District 25

Robert Scholl
District 12

Jim Vickery
District 2

George Washington Jr.
District 17

Leo Whitten
District 23

Raising the Bar: PARTNERSHIPS

A strong public/private partnership is the foundation of the Economic Alliance. In 2008, we are proud to have taken the opportunity to work with the following groups to advance our shared initiatives: