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Mitchell County Economic Development Commission Receives Economic Development Award

Osage, Iowa - Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), honored the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) and Director Brenda Dryer with the Silver Shovel Award at the Mitchell County Economic Development Celebration of Business & Industry at the Cedar River Complex on November 25.

The Silver Shovel Award honors outstanding leadership, innovation and achievement in business and community development. In presenting the award Rand Fisher, president of IADG, highlighted numerous accomplishments of the MCEDC. Fisher recognized their comprehensive approach to economic development in leading business and community development efforts with existing industry, new business, industrial locations, and community philanthropy and vitality. Recent business growth within the region includes construction of the 130,000 sq. ft. Valent BioSciences facility near Osage, scheduled to open in 2014; new speculative buildings, one recently filled in St. Ansgar and one being constructed in Stacyville; Dossette, LLC, who recently moved their corporate headquarters from Wisconsin to Osage; and the thriving Fox River, who was just featured as a *Manufacturing Marvel* on Fox Business Network. The Foundation for the Enhancement of Mitchell County (FEMC) provides important support for a broad range of community initiatives. An innovative new initiative, supported by the FEMC, is a welding training scholarship program, available to Mitchell County residents to help satisfy the demand for welders by area businesses. MCEDC was nominated for the award by Heartland Power Cooperative.

The Silver Shovel Award also brought with it a \$1,000 contribution from the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation. The financial award will allow the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission to strengthen its support to the businesses and communities of Mitchell County. The IADG Community Foundation was established to facilitate community based philanthropy throughout rural Iowa, promote entrepreneurship and advance economic development.

The Silver Shovel Award was established to recognize significant accomplishments of our rural development partners. IADG was established in 1985 to help its utility sponsors and their communities promote and foster economic development. The organization and its utility sponsors have been instrumental in facilitating over 1,800 projects, \$7.56 billion in investment and creating over 45,000 jobs for rural Iowa.

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