

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Will County Center for Economic Development launches Business Visitation Program to promote communities' economic development

(Joliet, IL) – The Will County Center for Economic Development (CED) and ComEd today announced a partnership designed to retain jobs and investments in the community through a Business Visitation Program. The award-winning program helps ensure existing businesses in Northern Illinois remain economically viable.

The program examines issues such as workforce quality, recruiting, expansion plans, competitive challenges and overall satisfaction with the community as a place to do business. Representatives from the CED will conduct face-to-face visits with area businesses to explore these issues.

“Our commitment to the businesses of Will County is stronger than ever, and this partnership with ComEd will keep our finger on the pulse of the local business community,” said John Greuling, the President & CEO of the CED. “Existing businesses are one of the most important assets of our community because these firms are the ones making payroll and capital investments right now.”

CED Board Chairman Michael W. Hansen added, “the Business Visitation Program is a tool to ensure that we can proactively address any challenges area businesses face as early as possible.”

Based on the visits with local businesses, a detailed analysis using a software program called *Synchronist*, an advanced business information system that identifies key trends and issues affecting local manufacturing firms, will be conducted. Using this analysis, the CED will work to proactively address the likelihood that such issues would have a negative impact on the business or economic climate.

“ComEd wants to help our communities grow and prosper. Part of that is helping our customers conserve energy, save money and protect the environment,” said Ed Sitar, Economic Development Manager for ComEd. “That’s also why we provide specialized programs to work with groups engaged in economic development, such as the CED, to improve the vitality of the communities we serve.”

All information collected remains confidential and will be analyzed and reported in aggregate, and each company visited will receive a copy of the report when it is completed. All area businesses that are contacted for a visit are strongly encouraged to participate. Mid- to large-size companies that are not solicited directly, but wish to contribute to the information collected by meeting with CED representatives should contact Missy Snyder at 815/774-6068 or missy.snyder@willcountyced.com.

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