

2025 INVESTOR APPRECIATION EVENT 2024 AWARDS CEREMONY



JACKSONVILLE

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



On the cover: The Clough Family, new to the region through JREDC's Talent Attraction Campaign, enjoys the New Resident Welcome Event in downtown Jacksonville last July.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation continues to build on our long-term positive relationships with local and regional partners to promote economic development in Morgan and Scott Counties.

We celebrate our past accomplishments, and look forward to our future success with enthusiasm. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, our board of directors and our many investors for their generosity and continued support.

Sincerely, Kai D. Schnitker
Board Chairman





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on the last nearly seven years of work with the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, I am thankful. Thankful to the organization's leadership who decided to take a chance on a person with no official economic development experience on her résumé. Thankful to the investors who continued to bolster this organization during a time when it would have been easy to choose other worthy efforts to support. Thankful for the mentorship and counsel Bonni Waters provided me throughout my tenure at JREDC.

JREDC's Regional Plan provided solid foundation for my everyday work and I am proud of what we have achieved since 2019. Strengthening our talent pipeline has been at the forefront of virtually every conversation with regional employers. In response, we developed and launched a creative campaign to address workforce shortages that included a relocation incentive program to draw new residents to Morgan and Scott counties. We also worked with the Jacksonville Chamber to produce three fresh "live/work/invest" videos to showcase our beautiful and safe communities, low cost of living and vibrant quality of life. Our digital advertising campaign educated hundreds of thousands of people about the Jacksonville region by introducing them to our social media channels, JREDC's Employment Opportunities webpage and the Jacksonville Region's relocation incentive listing on MakeMyMove.com.

As a result of these initiatives, seven new residents have moved to the Jacksonville region since 2024. They are now living here and working as engineers, scientists and analysts, and becoming more engrained in the culture of our community every day.

I have been encouraged by the goals JREDC realized through its regional economic development plan including increased broadband connectivity, completion of a regional re-branding effort, and the redevelopment and expansion of commercial properties in the region including the former Shopko and A.C. Humko properties - two derelict properties about which I was continually asked when I first began in this role. I am equally proud of the work in which JREDC has engaged to move the Jacksonville Developmental Center property closer to remediation and future redevelopment.

While I am excited to begin a new opportunity at Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, I will forever be an advocate for the transformational work being done by the staff, leadership and board of directors at the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation.

Thank you,
Kristin Jamison
President

2024 HAROLD COX INDUSTRIES OF THE YEAR

Since 1990, the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation has presented the Harold Cox Industry of the Year Award to a company exhibiting outstanding business development and activity that enhances regional economic viability. Our Executive Committee evaluates nominees for the award based upon criteria including technology, products and services offered; service to the community; teamwork and problem-solving; and workplace satisfaction. The committee has chosen to recognize two Jacksonville engineering firms that are firmly rooted in our region's history as well as committed to our future.



Benton Engineering boasts a 55-year legacy of providing exceptional engineering consulting services to both public and private clients across Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky. Its experienced staff of engineers, land surveyors and technicians offer a range of services including feasibility studies, planning reports, design, construction observation, operational assistance, land surveying and subsurface utility engineering from locations in Jacksonville, Macomb and Taylorville, Illinois; and Kirksville and Rolla, Missouri.

Founded by Robert H. Benton in May 1970, Benton Engineering's guiding mantra is "Partnership. Commitment. Results." The firm promises to serve its communities by helping them address technical challenges efficiently while providing solutions that are practical and financially sound. Since its inception, the firm was predicated on the foundation of prioritizing service to the communities it assists. In fact, Benton staff is so committed to meeting these needs that employees often make personal sacrifices to ensure these communities become better places to live and raise families.

Employees at Benton Engineering possess remarkable lengths of service to the firm, ranging from 15 to 50 years, some of whom have dedicated their entire career to the company. The firm's experienced principals encourage each employee to contribute to the firm as both a leader and team member. In addition, the firm deeply values and recognizes the time employees dedicate to their "work family" and the long-term commitment to nurturing lasting relationships with clients. Benton Engineering employees actively engage in the communities where they live, which is wholeheartedly supported by the firm.





In its 80th year of business, Hutchison Engineering, Inc. (HEI) is a full-service consulting engineering firm specializing in civil engineering services related to the planning, design and construction oversight of transportation and structures, in particular. The firm has successfully completed some of the region's largest civil engineering projects and routinely partners with state departments of transportation, toll highway authorities and supports state agencies, including all nine Illinois Department of Transportation Districts, 65 of Illinois' 102 counties and over 30 municipalities.

Originally incorporated under the leadership of Clair Hutchison in 1945, the company is now managed by Clair's grandson, Joe Hutchison, who serves as the current president and CEO after Gary Hutchison retired in 2018. And while Jacksonville still serves as HEI headquarters, the operation has grown to eight locations throughout the states of Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. Jacksonville's corporate office has recently developed a second building to house its rapidly expanding structural services division. The firm has undergone recent expansions in its Shorewood, Peoria, Carbondale, Beloit, Hannibal and Moline satellite offices as a result of continued growth.

The leadership team over the last 25 years has devoted much of its work to growing local talent. HEI offers an internship program with local high school students to expose them to employment opportunities with their firm, with the intention of hiring the students after college. Seven local high school students are currently working for the firm at its headquarters alone.

HEI also encourages its employees to connect to the community in which they work, and pays their membership dues for civic groups. In addition, the firm boasts 100 percent employee participation in the United Way annual fundraising campaign. The family-oriented firm offers opportunities to work from home for some, as well as flexibility in schedules. Their employee-centered approach has helped the firm attract and retain a growing workforce. In fact, over the last five years, HEI's employee count has tripled to more than 150, while experiencing a corresponding increase in revenue.

It is the mission of the JREDC to create and expand job opportunities in Morgan and Scott counties. We are pleased to congratulate Benton Engineering and Hutchison Engineering, Inc., as the 2024 Harold Cox Industries of the Year as we watch them grow in the region and partner in our mission.



2024 BOB CHIPMAN CHAMPION AWARD BONNI WATERS

The Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation established the Champion Award to celebrate outstanding contributions to economic development in Morgan and Scott counties. Renamed the Bob Chipman Champion Award in 2024 to honor the late businessman's unwavering commitment to his community, this accolade is designed to recognize an individual, agency or organization who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, volunteerism and leadership in the community.

For nearly three decades, Bonni Waters has been an integral part of the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation (JREDC), playing a vital behind-the-scenes role in advancing economic growth and supporting major projects.

Bonni's journey with the JREDC began in 1996 as an administrative assistant. Over the years, her role evolved, first to market research analyst and eventually to vice president. Her contributions have been significant, helping to shape the organization's strategies and ensuring that Jacksonville and the surrounding region remain competitive in a rapidly changing economic landscape.

Looking back, Bonni takes great pride in her work on key projects, including a Jacksonville promotional video and Scott County's website development. These initiatives, among many others, helped showcase the region's strengths to prospective businesses and investors.

Throughout her tenure, Bonni witnessed firsthand the evolution of economic development strategies. From manual processes to the rise of digital marketing and online site selection tools, she embraced the changes, recognizing the need for communities to stand out in an increasingly competitive global market.

She hopes to pass her ability to adapt, learn and grow with the industry to her successor, Jacquie Bartlett. "The key is flexibility," she advises. "Don't get discouraged by mistakes, learn from them and keep moving forward."

The JREDC is thankful for Bonni's exemplary service to this organization and appreciates her nearly 30 years of dedication in an effort to move the Jacksonville region forward.



OUR INVESTORS



DIAMOND INVESTORS

(Annual Investment of \$25,000 or more)

City of Jacksonville
Morgan County
Rabbi Rob & Lauren Thomas



PLATINUM INVESTORS

(Annual Investment of \$10,000 - \$24,999)

Illinois Electric Cooperative
Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce
Jacksonville Memorial Hospital
Reynolds Consumer Products



GOLD INVESTORS

(Annual Investment of \$5,000 - \$9,999)

CNB Bank & Trust
The Farmers State Bank and Trust Company
Heartland Bank and Trust Company
i3 Broadband
Illinois College
Jacksonville Country Club
Nestlé
Prairie Power, Inc.
Scott County Development Corporation
US Bank



SILVER INVESTORS

(Annual Investment of \$1,000 - \$4,999)

Ameren
Beard Implement Company
Benton Engineering
Bound to Stay Bound Books
Cass Communications
CCK Automations, Inc.
City of Winchester
Community State Bank
Don's Place
Elm City Center
EnviroVac
First National Bank of Arentzville
GFL Environmental

Hutchison Engineering Inc.
Illinois Road Contractors
Lincoln Land Community College
Marx Properties, Inc.
Mike Griffiths Properties
O'Shea Builders
Peak Insurance Agency
People's Bank & Trust
Petefish Skiles & Co. Bank
Rammelkamp Bradney Law Office
Tri County Community Development Corporation
Ware Brands
West State Title
Westermeyer Industries
Worrell Land Services, LLC
Zumbahlen Eyth Surratt Foote & Flynn



BRONZE INVESTORS

(Annual Investment of \$100 - \$999)

AgriSompo
Bellatti Law Office
Burrus Seed Farms
Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau
Janet Chipman
Denny Jewelers
Dimond Bros. Insurance Agency
Duncan Management, Inc.
Eagle Valley Bank
Ginny Fanning
Freeman Seed Company
Golden Eagle Distributing
Hamilton's Catering
ILMO Products Company
Pathway Services Unlimited, Inc.
SomerCor
The Source
Linda Standley
WLDS/WEAI Radio

2025 BOARD & OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kristan Becker-Hoffman, The Farmers State Bank and
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Trevor Huffman, Jacksonville Memorial Hospital

Meri Jones, US Bank

Robi Kozinski, i3 Broadband

Joe Lockman, Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce

Keri Mason, Lincoln Land Community College

Colleen McClinton, Reynolds Consumer Products

Lisa Musch, Jacksonville Area Chamber of
Commerce

Jodee Nell, CNB Bank & Trust

Brian Nyberg, City of Jacksonville Community
Development

Amy Quigg, Reynolds Consumer Products

Shawn Rennecker, Illinois Electric Cooperative

J.J. Richardson, CCK Automations

Rabbi Rob & Lauren Thomas

Pat VanDeVelde, Scott County Development
Corporation

Quinton Wadkins, Heartland Bank
and Trust Company

Commissioner Mike Wankel, Morgan County

Brad Wilson, Rammelkamp Bradley P.C.

Cheryl Welge, Ameren

Chad Winters, Cass Communications

Allan Worrell, Worrell Land Services

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

RETIRING BOARD MEMBER

NICOLE MEYER Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce

The Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation appreciates Nicole's commitment and participation on the Board of Directors as a representative of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce.

RETIRING AND DEPARTING STAFF

BONNI WATERS Vice President

Bonni played a critical role in the advancement of JREDC's mission throughout her almost 30 years of service. Over the course of her career at JREDC, she complemented and supported the work of five presidents, managing the day-to-day business operations while helping advance the mission of the organization to strengthen Morgan and Scott counties.

Beginning her work as administrative assistant at JREDC, Bonni embraced opportunities while economic development practices evolved over the years earning the position of vice president. As manual processes gave way to digital and online marketing and site selection processes, Bonni readily accepted the challenges presented to her. She developed a promotional video for region, and most recently, championed the creation of a new website for the Scott County Development Corporation.

As Bonni enjoys her recent retirement, the Board of Directors and staff continue to appreciate her decades of service. JREDC's success is due in large part to Bonni's steadfast commitment to this organization.

KRISTIN JAMISON President

Kristin joined the JREDC staff as vice president of marketing and communications in 2019 and was promoted to president the following year. While charged with leading all outward facing activities of the organization to strengthen the economies of Morgan and Scott counties, Kristin developed the successful "MakeMyMove" talent attraction campaign which has garnered over 500 applications since its launch in 2024.

Building relationships with investors, she successfully completed an investor campaign resulting in increased engagement which exceeded the goal. Kristin worked with partner agencies to usher in nearly \$1.4 million in pandemic relief funding for small businesses and non-profits in the region. She also increased the visibility of JREDC, initiating two website redesigns, collaborating with community partners to launch a community-wide branding initiative, and producing videos to market the region as a great place to live, work and invest.

The JREDC Board of Directors wish Kristin well as she continues her career at Jacksonville Memorial Hospital - a vital economic driver for the Jacksonville region.



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