

# DGEDC NEWS



The Most Recent News From Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation

February 14, 2007

## Sara Lee Moves R & D to Downers Grove

### New Jobs For Downers Grove

In early January, Sara Lee finalized plans for The Kitchens of Sara Lee, a multi-million dollar research and development campus to be located at the site of the company's corporate headquarters in Downers Grove. The 200,000 sq ft campus will support innovation activities for the company's North American food service and retail businesses and will be completed in early 2009.

Employment at the state-of-the-art facility will increase to approximately 150 research and development professionals focused on developing new products for Sara Lee's bakery, meat, coffee, sauces and dressing product lines. The Kitchens of Sara Lee will include culinary facilities; product, packaging and equipment development and testing; sensory services; a pilot operations facility; analytical and micro labs; and product training facilities. Sara Lee relocated most of its current research and development work to Downers Grove over the past year.

The Kitchens of Sara Lee will be a campus that includes:

- Research and development and culinary functions at 3131 Woodcreek Drive, where the current research and development facility will continue to operate as it is fundamentally rebuilt and expanded
- The functional leadership team offices located next to the Woodcreek Drive facility at 3250 Lacey Road
- Sensory, training and customer experience facilities, located with the company's marketing and selling functions at 3500 Lacey Road, the corporate headquarters building

In 2006 Sara Lee Sara Lee Corp. moved their corporate headquarters from the Loop to west suburban Downers Grove. Approximately 1,000 of its employees moved into

the new corporate offices at 3500 Lacey Rd, the former Spiegel Inc. headquarters building.

After several weeks scouting new locations, Sara Lee had narrowed its search down to the Spiegel building at 222 S. Riverside Plaza in the West Loop. Yet the Downers Grove location "was the clear winner," Sara Lee President and CEO Brenda C. Barnes said in an email to employees. The building will house the company's food and beverage and foodservice units, as well as the majority of the company's corporate staff.

The 2006 move was the first part of a broader restructuring, that relocated staff from St. Louis and Cincinnati to Downers Grove. These two moves will increase Sara Lee's Chicago-area workforce by about 400 people for a total Chicago area employment of approximately 1,000 people. Sara Lee's move began in 2006 and will be completed in 2009.

[www.dgedc.com](http://www.dgedc.com)

Watch for our new website featuring key materials for business retention and development, and corporate and leisure travel

## New Tenants to Downers Grove

EDC is actively working to identify businesses that are moving to the area.

The Village of Downers Grove is working on developing a Business License program to assist in identifying the more than 2500 businesses in Downers Grove. EDC staff are working aggressively to identify major tenants, in the mean time, to establish a relationship with these organizations in order to develop corporate partnerships and encourage these corporations to use our hotels, meeting rooms, restaurants and other area resources.

New Large Tenants in 2006/2007

**2001 Butterfield:**

Caterpillar Logistics: 23,039 RSF 2/06

Konica Minolta: 12,816 RSF 11/06

**1901 Butterfield:**

Trust Company of Illinois: 11,755 RSF 7/06

**3500 Lacey:**

Sara Lee Corporation: 469,000 RSF 6/06

## JANUARY EDC WINS

### Sara Lee

#### Sara Lee Hosts Quarterly Board Meeting

In January, Sara Lee hosted their Quarterly Board Meeting for the first time in Downers Grove.

In the past, the Sara Lee has housed their Board Members at the Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago and used Chicago amenities. As Sara Lee's corporate offices continue to relocate to Downers Grove, they desire to be a good Corporate neighbor and use area facilities. To that end, this past January, they housed their Board Members at the Marriott Suites and hosted meetings utilizing the private dining areas of Carlucci's.

### Microsoft

Early January, Doubletree Guest Suites notified the EDC that after many unsuccessful attempts to attract Microsoft to use the Doubletree for their corporate stays, Microsoft has now accepted this specific hotel into their Preferred Hotel Program for 2007. This acceptance allows Microsoft to use Doubletree Downers Grove for their corporate stays. Doubletree credits this change of heart by Microsoft to EDC and their ability to assist with communications and networking of corporate partners.

This is an important move towards one of EDC's key goals to develop and expand tourism in Downers Grove.

### Midwestern U

Dr. Kathleen Goepfinger, President of Midwestern University and EDC Board Member, has sent notice to her Purchasing Dept. that DGEDC now has available a Tourism Director to assist with their graduation and other special event needs.

Each year, Midwestern University has hundreds of graduating students. Until now, most of the out of town guests for this event have stayed in other area hotels. With Dr. Goepfinger's support, the EDC is uniquely positioned to bridge their needs with Downers Grove's hotel and area capabilities.

### CORPORATE PARTNER RELATIONS

Downers Grove EDC is currently working with Sara Lee to identify ways to be good corporate partners. Sara Lee has agreed to identify an executive to join the EDC Board of Directors.

Additionally, EDC is beginning work with Human Resources to develop information for transferees. A relocation packet is in development that encourages transferees to buy a home, shop and dine in Downers Grove.

Information included are fact sheets about the Village and available services, the community, schools, other programs, materials from the Downtown Management Corporation, Chamber and Library.

## New Logo and Corporate Identity

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce that with the assistance of Board Members, Gary Vlck and Mike Kelch a corporate identity has been developed.

Through several brain storming discussions and review of the needs for business development and retention in combination with corporate travel and leisure tourism a new logo, stationary and business card has been developed. The formalized identity will assist staff in developing materials that have a unified and professional image.