GREATER PEORIA
Economic Development Council

QUARTERLY REPORT

Q3 2026

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

From Public Plan to Regional Action

A five-year strategy shaped by more than 480 voices.
Manufacturers at the table with ICC's new president.
Fifty-five industrial acres on their way to ready.



INSIDE CEDS · Manufacturing · Workforce · Healthcare Consortium · International · Site Readiness

01 The 2026-2030 Big Table CEDS Goes to the Public

In September, GPEDC released the draft 2026-2030 Big Table Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 30 days of public comment. A landing page and comment form, a press release, direct outreach to Big Table participants and the CEDS Committee, and a five-platform social campaign carried the draft across the region until comments closed October 2.

The plan reflects the voices of more than 480 community members who took part in the Big Table 2025 process, and it is organized around three questions: what infrastructure makes growth possible, who gets to participate in the economy, and what kind of place we want to be.

Staff also built a performance measurement framework that pairs each regional goal with measurable indicators and data sources. The CEDS Committee approved the final strategy October 2, and the GPEDC Board adopted it October 6.

480+
Community members shaped the plan

30
Days of public comment

Oct 6
Adopted by the GPEDC Board



THE THREE QUESTIONS

01
What infrastructure makes growth possible?

02
Who gets to participate in the economy?

03
What kind of place do we want to be?

Read the full CEDS

02 What Manufacturing Needs Next

On August 27, the Greater Peoria Manufacturing Network and the Strategic Manufacturing Group welcomed Dr. Jamonica Rolle, Illinois Central College's new president, for a candid conversation with regional manufacturers.

Employers ranging from 20 to more than 5,000 workers talked through candidate qualifications and the certificate and degree programs they need, and ICC folded the session into Dr. Rolle's first 100-day listening tour.

The national conversation is moving too. Chris Setti and Sally Hanley were invited to the Manufacturing Momentum Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by the American Manufacturing Communities Collaborative, where Chris joined a panel representing local economic development organizations.



Manufacturers meet ICC President Dr. Jamonica Rolle, August 27

At home, GPMN welcomed its newest member, ARI Global Systems, following a business retention visit in July.



Manufacturing Momentum Summit, Washington, D.C.

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03 Workforce Solutions Moves From Planning to Execution

The Regional Workforce Alliance finalized its 2026-2027 strategy in July, welcomed Komatsu as a member, and reactivated eight business partners.

With Illinois Central College and support from the Illinois Community College Board, we hosted the GPEAK Essential Skills Certification Series at Distillery Labs from August 5 to September 16, and all seven participants completed the program.

The team also published The CTE Workforce Landscape of Greater Peoria, which found high school CTE credentials rose 57 percent from AY2023 to AY2025, from 791 to 1,241. The report is available at greaterpeoriaedc.org/workforce-solutions/cte-report.

Greater Peoria Healthcare Education Consortium: On Track for Spring 2027

NEXT MILESTONE: SPRING 2027

Four months after its May launch, the Greater Peoria Healthcare Education Consortium completed planning meetings with every partner and is on track to launch high school programming in Spring 2027. East Peoria Community High School is joining Peoria Public Schools as an education partner for grades 9 through 12.

Each programming partner has committed personnel, curricula, materials, and funding, including pay supplements for teachers who lead a class or club. First-year benchmarks are well on track to be met.

peoriahealthed.org



05 Global Reach, Ready Ground

Building Relationships Abroad

GPEDC signed a partnership agreement with ACATE, an association of technology startups in Santa Catarina, Brazil. Both sides will cross-promote opportunities and offer free space at their incubators, including Distillery Labs, continuing our work to position Greater Peoria as a landing spot for Brazilian companies going global.

Through the Peoria Area World Affairs Council, we met with a delegation from the Korea Economic Institute and arranged a follow-up meeting with the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency for early October.

At a Peoria Riverfront Museum lunch, we also presented Greater Peoria's opportunities to the Consul General of France in Chicago, the French American Chamber of Commerce, and Belgium's Trade and Investment Commissioner.



Site Readiness: $150,000 to Prepare 55 Industrial Acres

Peoria County won a $150,000 Site Readiness planning grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to prepare 55 acres along Galena Road in Peoria for industrial development. GPEDC helped prepare the application.

55

industrial acres along Galena Road, on their way to ready.

Ready sites close deals, and the region's available land is not always what industry is looking for. The new CEDS makes site readiness a top priority, and this grant is a head start.