

Regional Entrepreneurship Project

UNI's Regional Entrepreneurship Project (REP) is uniting small business service providers, entrepreneurs and stakeholders in economically challenged areas of Iowa as never before. In just four years, 17 counties in five regions have strengthened support of entrepreneurs and their frontline service providers region by sparking innovation, community support, networking opportunities, technical assistance, and enhanced access to capital. The REP researches types of business owners, economic trends, and strengths and gaps in the services provided. Each region develops a tailored, strategic plan for entrepreneurship and assists local leadership throughout the implementation process.

The REP resulted from the Economic Development Administration's selection of UNI Business and Community Services as an EDA University Center in 2013. The University Center is a collaboration between UNI's Institute for Decision Making and Center for Business Growth Innovation. The results of UNI's efforts are enhanced regional focus on entrepreneurship, increased local jobs and private investment, and increased business starts and expansions.

REP Highlights

- 187.5 new jobs, 46 new or expanded businesses, and \$6,700,855 of private investment
- Strong collaboration throughout each Region for planning and implementation including Economic Development Organizations, Small Business Development Centers, community colleges, councils of government, universities, entrepreneurs, lending institutions and local/county government etc.
- Research and planning addressing barriers and challenges to capital, business assistance, networks and technology
- Focus groups of service providers leading to enhanced systems of service delivery

Region I

Adair, Audubon, Greene & Guthrie

Region II

Hamilton & Wright

Region III

Monona, Plymouth & Woodbury

Region IV

Adams & Union

Region V

Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan,
Butler, Chicasaw, & Grundy

