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Loras College is a Certified Green Business

Loras College is the second business to complete the Petal Project green business certification program

Dubuque, IA (November 28, 2011) - Dubuque businesses are leading the sustainability movement in Eastern Iowa through their participation in the Petal Project, a green business certification program. Loras College is proud to announce that it has completed all of the certification criteria, positioning Loras as the second business in Dubuque to achieve all requirements and become fully "Petal Certified."

"A [Green Ribbon Cutting](#) will be held Wednesday, December 7th at 8:30 am at Loras College to celebrate this achievement," announced Kelsey McElroy-Anderson, Regional Economic Development & Sustainability Coordinator of East Central Intergovernmental Association, (ECIA). "We congratulate Loras College for their leadership in this initiative and plan to celebrate successes of all certified businesses with a community announcement and green ribbon cutting in partnership with the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce."

A Green Ribbon Cutting showcases an organization's dedication to environmental sustainability through completion of the Petal Project, a regionally recognized certification program.

"Our commitment to sustainability began when Loras College signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, joining the leaders of more than 500 other institutions across the country to accelerate the research and educational efforts to equip society to re-stabilize the climate. This commitment continued with Loras' adoption of the City of Dubuque's sustainability model. With over 1 million square feet of infrastructure, Loras has maintained our commitment to sustainability by taking the many steps needed to become Petal Certified," said Jim Collins, President, Loras College. "Petal Certification is yet another prime example of how Loras is environmentally responsive – from the incorporation of geothermal wells to sensor controls. We are grateful to ECIA for its shared mission, commitment, and support."

As with a traditional ribbon cutting, a team of local business, non-profit, and public sector leaders has come forward to make up the "Green Team", serving as ambassadors to the green businesses in the Dubuque community. Members of the "Green Team" include: Mayor Roy D Buol, Cori Burbach (City of Dubuque), Tom Woodward (Sustainable City Network), Beverly Wagner (DMASWA), Sue Chapman (Finley Hospital), with Sue Hafkemeyer being inducted in honor of Loras College's accomplishments.

Additional information on the certification program and Loras College's accomplishments can be found at www.Petal-Project.com or <http://depts.loras.edu/sustainability/>.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview, please call Kelsey McElroy-Anderson at 563.690.5738 or email her at kmcelroy@ecia.org.

The Petal Project is a regional green business certification program designed to encourage organizations in the Dubuque area to adopt environmentally friendly business practices. The program provides businesses with a simple framework for saving money and resources while establishing a community-wide definition of a green business for consumers wishing to shop based on their values.

The Petal Project is divided into five categories: pollution prevention, water conservation, waste reduction, energy conservation, staff education. Within each category, a business must complete all of the mandatory and a specified number of optional criteria to earn that petal. Once a business has earned all five petals, it is "Petal Certified".

There are currently seventeen businesses in Dubuque County participating in the program: Finley Hospital, Loras College, Calico Bean, Clarke University, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Contempo Salon Spa, Dubuque Bank & Trust, East Central Intergovernmental Association, Four Mounds Bed & Breakfast, Gronen Restoration, IIW, P.C. Jitterz Coffee & Café, Premier Tooling, Inc., River Lights Bookstore, The Food Store, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Welu Printing.