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Petal Project to Receive Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

DUBUQUE — The East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) will be recognized as one of twenty Iowa organizations to receive Environmental Excellence awards from Gov. Terry E. Branstad Aug. 1 at the Wallace State Office Building. The awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa.

“On behalf of all Iowans, I would like to congratulate these organizations for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa’s natural resources,” said Gov. Branstad. “These awards serve as a small token of appreciation for their commitment to preserve Iowa’s precious natural resources for future generations of Iowans to enjoy.”

The awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations and businesses, along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration and development, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and environmental education.

The East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) was recognized with an Environmental Excellence Award for the Petal Project, a regional green business certification program. Describing the achievements and active participation of the business community in the Petal Project was one of the main components of the application. Petal Project businesses are leading the sustainability movement in Iowa and include Welu Printing, Loras College, Calico Bean Market, St. Joseph the Worker Parrish, Four Mounds Bed and Breakfast, Dubuque Bank & Trust, Clarke University, IIW Engineers and Surveyors, Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, and the Finley Hospital.

The following are recent investments and achievements of local businesses that were featured in the application:

- Dubuque Bank & Trust installed an air exchanger, made lighting upgrades and instituted a paperless fax system, all of which will provide energy and cost savings.
- Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, Inc filters water from its floor scrubbers and part washers, reusing it in mop buckets and parts washer. On average, 39,000 gallons are recycled each year.
- IIW Engineers and Surveyors, P.C. invested in replacement of (8) 1992 vintage HVAC units for newer models with 14 SEER rating which will provide energy and cost savings.

- Finley Hospital has decreased the use of natural gas over the past five years by 4,986 MMBTU per year and decreased electric usage over the same period, by 2,040 KWH per year despite an increase in the number of pieces of equipment that require electricity.

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

For more information about the Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards, go to www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/IowaEnvironmentalAwards.aspx.

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