



CONTACT:

Cindy Steinhauser, Assistant City Manager
563-589-4110, csteinha@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Hosting Australian Sustainability Fellows

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque, in partnership with the International City/County Management Association and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, will host two sustainability professionals from Australia from September 29 to October 14.

Foreign professionals from more than 30 countries will be engaged in similar hands-on fellowship experiences in placements at organizations across the United States this fall.

The fellows, Greg Bruce, of Townsville, Queensland, Australia, and Ian Fitzgibbon of Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, will arrive in Dubuque Thursday, September, 29, and depart on Friday, October 14. During their time in Dubuque, they will learn about local sustainability programs including: Sustainable Dubuque; Smarter Sustainable Dubuque (the City of Dubuque research project partnership with IBM); the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency's Green Vision Education Program; the Petal Project, a green business certification program of the East Central Intergovernmental Association; and the Historic Millwork District development with Dubuque Main Street.

They will also tour construction of sustainable city projects including the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, Dubuque Area Metropolitan Solid Waste Agency and the Water and Resource Recovery Center. Their stay will include attending the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference and a visit to the Clarke University, Loras College, the University of Dubuque, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the EB Lyons Interpretive Center, and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

“This program offers Dubuque the opportunity to expand our current efforts to share best practices around creating sustainable communities throughout the United States to an international platform,” said Mayor Roy D. Buol.

This exchange program is sponsored by ICMA and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through grant awards to 16 U.S.-based non-profit organizations and universities, including the City of Dubuque. The Professional Fellows Program provides substantive professional development and support to emerging leaders working in the fields of global health, legislative development, environmental issues, food security, and educational initiatives aimed at bolstering employment opportunities.

During the Legislative Fellows Congress in November, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told the participants via video message that she hoped “this exchange will spur new ideas about ways to address challenges in your communities.” Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock also spoke to the fall group, calling this a “vital exchange...” that “helps individuals, non-profits, businesses and others partner with governments to strengthen communities.”

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