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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Will County Center for Economic Development Joins with ComEd to Respond to Area Businesses' Needs

ComEd Business Visitation Program promotes communities' economic development

(Joliet, Ill.) – The Will County Center for Economic Development (CED) and ComEd today announced a continued partnership designed to retain jobs and investments in the community through the ComEd Business Visitation Program. The award-winning ComEd program helps ensure existing businesses in Northern Illinois remain economically viable. This marks the eighth year of the partnership and the CED's proactive business outreach efforts throughout Will County.

The program examines issues such as workforce quality, recruiting, expansion plans, competitive challenges and overall satisfaction with the community as a place to do business. With ComEd's help, representatives from the CED will conduct face-to-face visits with area businesses to explore these issues. The CED is responsible for the economic development in Will County and takes a proactive approach in business recruitment and retention.

“Our commitment to the businesses of Will County is stronger than ever, and this partnership with ComEd will keep our finger on the pulse of the local business community,” said John Greuling, the President and CEO of the CED. “Existing businesses are one of the most important assets of our community because these firms are the ones making payroll and capital investments right now.” Greuling added, “The ComEd Business Visitation Program is a tool to ensure that we can proactively address any challenges area businesses face as early as possible.”

Based on the visits with local businesses, ComEd will conduct a detailed analysis using a software program called *Synchronist*, an advanced business information system that identifies key trends and issues affecting the local business community. Using this analysis, the CED will work with ComEd to proactively address the likelihood that such issues would have a negative impact on the business or economic climate.

“ComEd wants to help our communities grow and prosper. Part of that is helping our customers conserve energy, save money and protect the environment,” said Ed Sitar, economic development manager for ComEd. “That’s also why we provide specialized programs to work with groups engaged in economic development, such as the CED, to improve the vitality of the communities we serve.”

CED staff members will be contacting businesses throughout the county to schedule interviews. If you would like the CED to visit your company and conduct an interview, please contact Missy Snyder at 815-774-6068 or missy.snyder@willcountyced.com.

ComEd makes its award-winning Business Visitation Program available to Northern Illinois communities and economic development organizations in need of business retention assistance at no charge. Since its 1999 origin, ComEd's Business Visitation Program has partnered with 40 economic development organizations and conducted 2,000 visits with area companies in 80 different communities, representing more than 185,000 jobs. ComEd won awards in 2005, 2006, and 2007 for its economic development efforts in the City of Chicago, Grundy County, and the Oak Brook area.

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