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Small Business Development Services will be offered in Beloit

Beloit, WI – (January 28, 2009) - The UW-Whitewater Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will be providing business startup, growth and innovation counseling services by appointment at Vision Beloit starting in February, 2009. SBDC consultants will work with small business owners and entrepreneurs to provide them with the information and resources they need to succeed. For the most part, SBDC's consulting and training services are free and are offered under a mandate from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Clients that wish to take advantage of the new business counseling services are encouraged to contact the SBDC at (608) 314-1641 to set up an appointment. According to SBDC Director Ronald "Bud" Gayhart, "We provide free counseling/consulting services to small business owners and in tough economic times that consulting can make the difference between success and failure." Regular office hours may be established in the future, based on demand. Vision Beloit is located at 500 Public Avenue in the heart of Beloit's beautiful downtown district.

Amy Loudenbeck, Vice President of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to have these services available at Vision Beloit. "This is truly the first step for business assistance. We are all here – the Chamber, the Downtown Beloit Association, the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation, and Visit Beloit. This will just add to the complement of information and resources we are already collectively offering."

This arrangement is possible thanks to a three-year, \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Agency to the Rock County Development Alliance. Andrew Janke, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation said, "This is an essential service that is needed to support local entrepreneurs who may be currently in business or those contemplating starting a new business. We are fortunate that the EDA grant proceeds are able to support this important economic development strategy."

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About the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization comprised of a diverse membership of businesses and organizations. The GBCC serves the business community by providing effective benefits and programs to its membership with the coordinated involvement of government, educational and other community organizations.

About the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation

The Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation is a public/private member-based non-profit organization that fosters economic development in the Greater Beloit area. The GBEDC was officially organized in April 2005 as a result of the merger of the Beloit Economic Advisory Council and the Beloit Economic Development Corporation. This powerful non-profit organization propels competitive and prosperous growth throughout the region including Beloit, South Beloit, Town of Beloit, and Town of Turtle. The GBEDC works with companies that are interested in investing in the community and retaining or creating new jobs. The GBEDC focuses on establishing an environment that encourages existing companies to remain and expand while attracting new businesses to the Stateline area.