



# **SIREPA**

**SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC & PORT AUTHORITY**

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO FOUNDING GOVERNMENTS**  
**City of Keokuk, City of Fort Madison, Lee County**

FEBRUARY, 2026

# BACKGROUND



- SIREPA was founded in 2006 by the Cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk and Lee County
- SIREPA is a municipality of the state authorized by Iowa Code Chapter 28J
- SIREPA is administered under contract by Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC), accountable to the board of directors

# BACKGROUND



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- SIREPA board of directors appointed by founding governments, with 2 members each.
- SIREPA funding is sourced from founding governments, contracts, contributions or other means.
- “SIREPA exists to create new economic development opportunities in Lee County and Southeast Iowa. SIREPA seeks to encourage growth by removing obstacles to private investment and lower fixed costs for private companies by using bonding, financing, and ownership abilities.”

# 2025 RESULTS



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- Successful ownership of Lee County Career Center (LCC) in partnership with Lee County Economic Development Group.



# 2025 RESULTS

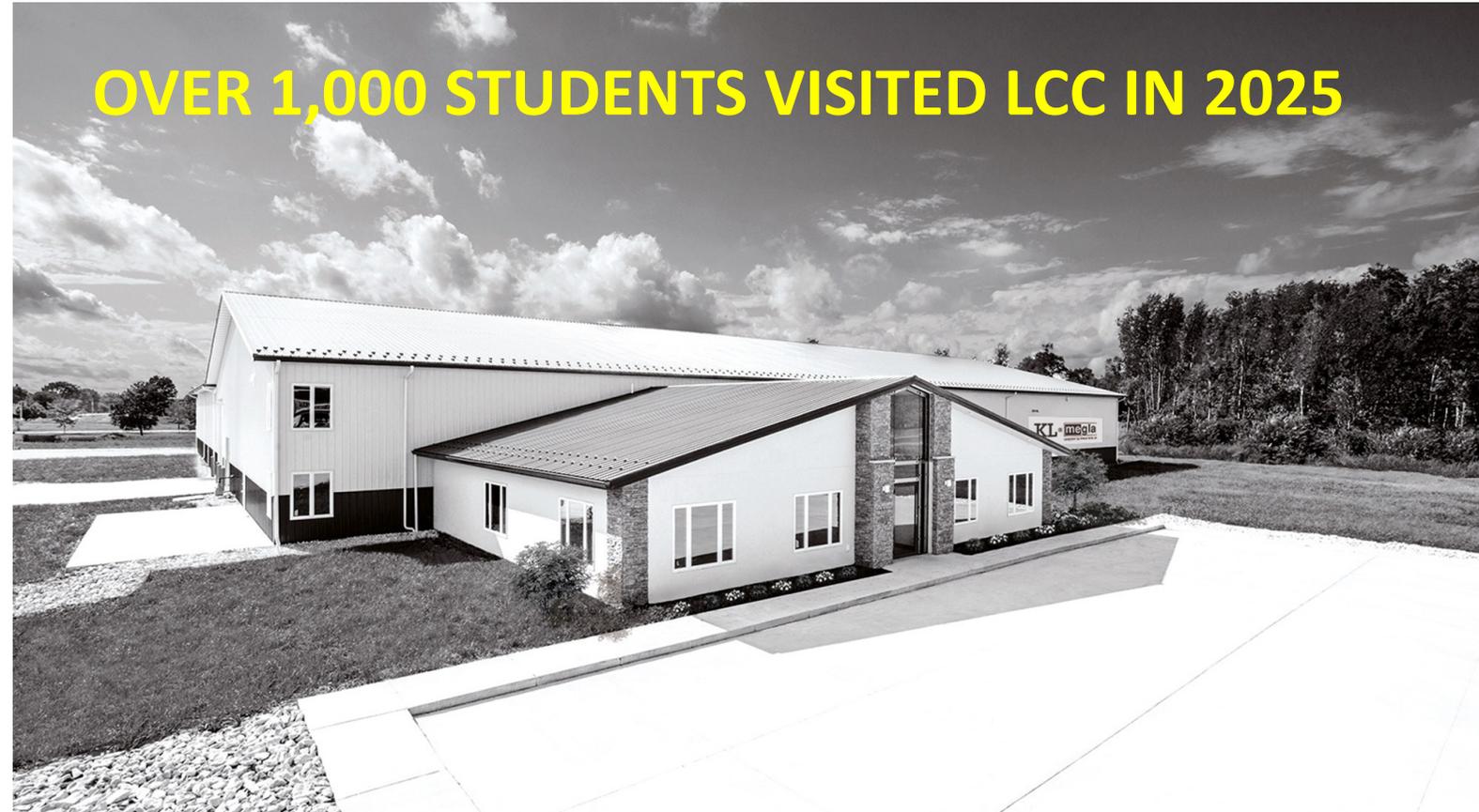
Every 8th grader from Central Lee, Fort Madison, Keokuk, and Holy Trinity school districts visited LCC for a day of hands-on career exploration experiences at the center to interact with area industries and their career possibilities.

Lee County 11th & 12th grade students attended a Career Expo at LCC, interacting with local employers, learning about available summer jobs, internships, and future employment opportunities.



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# 2025 RESULTS



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- LCC is incubating a startup solar panel pallet manufacturer that has secured Dept of Energy grants, venture capital, and large orders from solar panel companies.



# 2025 RESULTS



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- Lee County Broadband Expansion Program Part I: Planning and Investment constructed a 14-mile fiber backbone (creates redundant fiber transmission loop for Lee County) and 110 fiber to the address services.
- Partners: Lee County, Danville Telco
- SIREPA role: Invest Lee County ARPA dollars into a public-private partnership with Danville Telco

# 2025 RESULTS



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- Lee County Broadband Expansion Program Part 2: Enact Broadband Intervention Zones to justify state grant dollars.
- Results:
  - 4,400 rural addresses will receive Tier 1 broadband service.
  - \$51 million in outside funds via NOFO 8 and 9 will be deployed in Lee County
  - Fiber transmission loop was key to add the redundant capacity needed for the large investments.

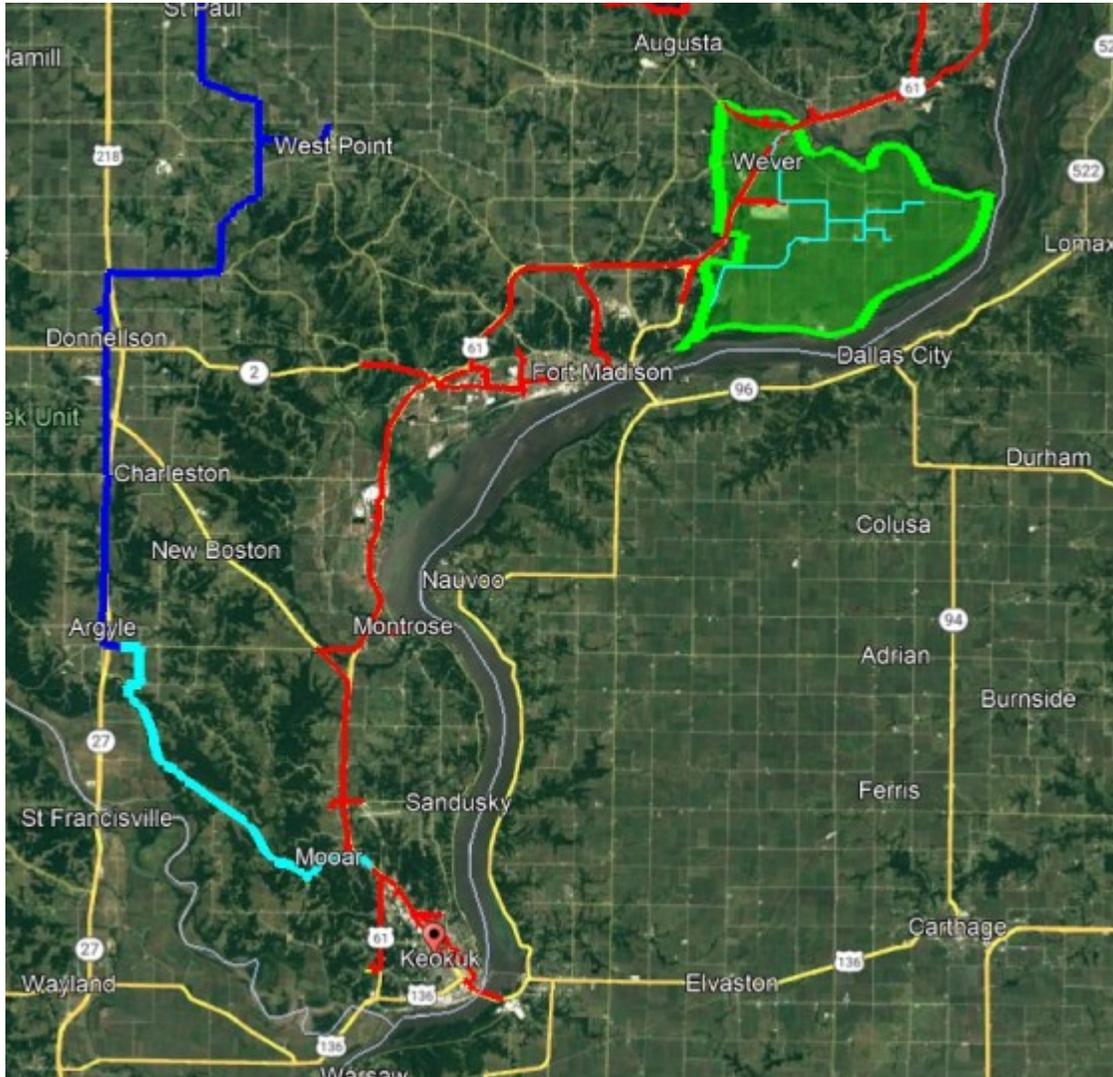
# 2025 RESULTS



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- Lee County Broadband Expansion Program Part 3: Growth Initiative
  - Danville Telco merged with IMON in 2025 to form larger company poised for growth
  - The merged companies purchased the fiber backbone from SIREPA for expansion plans
  - SIREPA to use proceeds to support existing and new initiatives in Lee County

# 2024 RESULTS



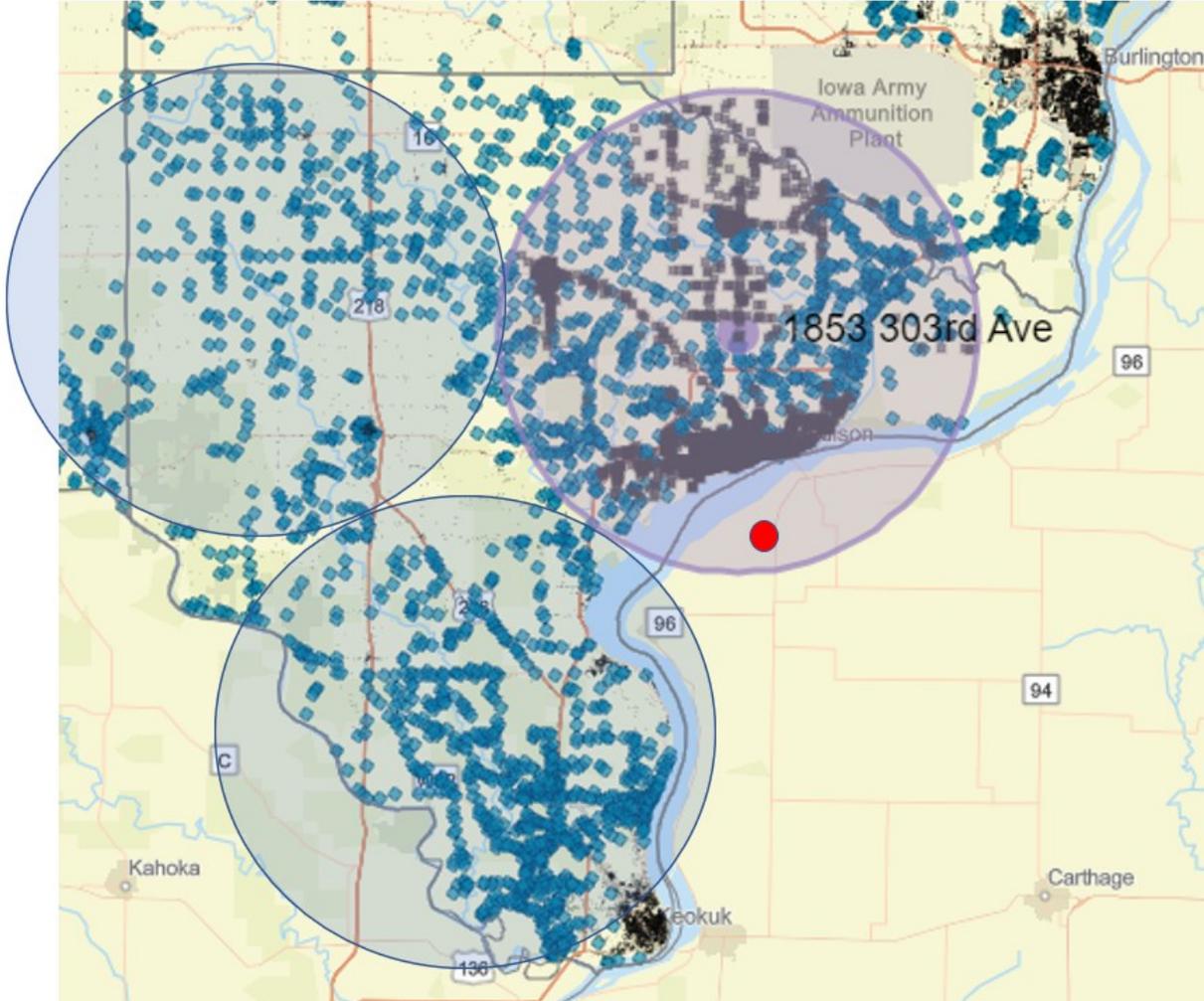
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All of light blue is Lee County Broadband Expansion Project; red and dark blue are fiber transmission lines. The three form a redundant loop for more capacity and resiliency.

The new fiber backbone can handle many, many, more new services and uses, giving Lee County more future broadband and data options than ever before.

# 2024 RESULTS



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**Broadband Intervention Zones** established by SIREPA and facilitated by SEIRPC have led to \$51 million in outside funds to deliver Tier 1 broadband access to 4,400 underserved Lee County residents.

# 2026 PLAN OF WORK



- Update SIREPA 5-year strategic plan
- Plan the future of Lee County Career and Childcare Center and 12-acre property with LCEDG
- Involvement in natural gas expansion and investment process
- Grow SIREPA into the most effective port authority in the Midwest
- Sponsor PIDP grant of \$10 million+ for waterside improvements to transload facility

## SIREPA BOARD MEMBERS

**Bruce  
Hardy**

*Secretary/Treasurer,  
Fort Madison Rep.*



**Mike  
Hickey**

*Chair,  
Keokuk Rep.*



**Bob  
Dodds**

*Vice Chair,  
Lee County Rep.*



**Jack  
Smith**

*Lee County Rep.*

**Mike  
Dunn**

*Keokuk Rep.*

**Tony  
Johnson**

*Fort Madison Rep.*

### **EX OFFICIO:**

**Gary Seyb**  
*Lee Co. BoS*

**Matt Larson**  
*State of Iowa  
Treasurer's Office*

**Tom Schultz**  
*Lee Co. BoS*



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## Thank you for your support!

### Key SIREPA Staff:

Mike Norris, Executive Director, SEIRPC  
Zach James, Assistant Director, SEIRPC  
Lori Gilpin, Finance Director, SEIRPC

*SIREPA is managed under contract by  
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission  
(SEIRPC), since 2015*