NEWS RELEASE For Regional Distribution

IOWA.

WORKFORCE

DEVELOPMENT

For Immediate Release   **Contact: Renee Miller**
Date: November 6, 2008   **Telephone: (712) 233-9030**

Tri-State Regional Research Forums Announced

The public is invited to attend two forums on November 17th to discuss a regional planning research initiative focusing on the tri-state's industries and occupations.   The sessions will be of interest to anyone who has a stake in the future development of the regional economy.

The Cherokee session will be at Western Iowa Tech Community College's Conference Center, 200 Victory Drive, Room 300B from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The Siouxland metro area session will be held at the North Sioux City Community Center at 205 Sodrac Drive from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Dave Swenson, associate scientist, and Lisel Eathington, director, Regional Capacity Analysis Program (ReCAP) and associate scientist, Department of Economics, Iowa State University (ISU) will lead the forums. They will present details of their plans for the study and encourage attendees to provide input.

The research project will be conducted over the next four to six months. It will provide a comprehensive analysis of the region's industrial and occupational capacities and assist with the tri-state's long-term workforce development plans.

The research is funded by a grant to ISU's EDA University Center for Iowa from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. It is coordinated through the Center for Industrial Research and Service at ISU Extension and the College of Engineering.

The Tri-State Regional Innovation Grant committee, or "Sioux Crew," will assist in the research and coordination of the regional analysis.

Denise Rathman, coordinator of the Tri-State Regional Innovation Grant, said, "We hope to get broad participation from a wide variety of stakeholders. In these challenging times, it is even more important to understand the context in which the regional economy is evolving. We believe that these sessions, in Cherokee and North Sioux City, will provide the input that will make this research project even more valuable."

###