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### **Economic Development Organizations Seeking Proposals**

On Thursday, July 15, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation will jointly release a request for proposal for office space. “We have been very fortunate to be in the current space we occupy. Our current landlord has been good to our three organizations. But in order to be good stewards of our members and our investors’ dollars, we feel it is necessary to evaluate all of our options as we prepare for our current lease to expire,” said John Dimit, president & CEO of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation.

The three organizations have been co-located at 1817 S. Neil St., Ste. 201 since the early 1990s. “The proposal request that is being released is somewhat complex because we are asking developers and brokers to respond to a series of proposals. In order to be sure that we are each meeting our respective organizations’ needs, our constituencies’ needs, as well as the needs of the community, we are seeking proposals to continue co-location and to each explore standing alone. None of our organizations have any preconceived notion as to the outcome of this process, other than to be in space that helps all of us thrive,” Laura Weis, president & CEO of the Chamber stated.

“Each organization shares similar missions in their roles of promoting the greater community,” said Jayne DeLuce, president & CEO of the Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau, “Collectively, our organizations have worked well together and we feel confident that regardless of the outcome of this process, we will continue to work well together, whether we continue co-location or go separately.”

The RFP will be released on Thursday, July 15 and submittals will be due by September 15. The organizations will host a facilities Q&A session in their office suite on Friday, July 23 at 8:30 a.m., with expectations to have final decision(s) made by January 2011. Parties interested in receiving the RFP should contact Mark Dixon at the Atkins Group, who is serving as the coordinator of the process on behalf of the three organizations. The Atkins Group will not be submitting a response to the RFP.

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