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# NEWS

**Macoupin Economic  
Development Partnership**  
"Come grow with us."

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Courtney Wood (618)409.6044

## **BMC, Benld, IL and The City of Benld Complete Stage 1**

"Build Benld" Leadership Team and the City of Benld have completed stage one of five stages of development with the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership's Build Macoupin County Program. Stage one, entry level, is the completion of the application, organizational structure and self-assessment. The team will now move forward with the development ready stage, which includes planning and implementation.

The leadership team has identified six categories they feel are the most important in strengthening Benld. These categories are business retention, expansion and recruitment, community volunteer recruitment & building of local civic groups, tourism, beautification, youth & senior services, and recreation. These categories were presented at a public meeting held September first to gain public input and volunteers. A survey was distributed along with an online version to gain further feedback. The team will now look to their action team volunteers to help them as they strive to complete the next phase of the BMC program.

Build Macoupin County is a program based on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Competitive Communities Initiative model. This model builds a community's ability to achieve goals while improving the quality of life for residents, while fostering leadership.

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Caption:

Co-chairs Lynn Fraelle and Mary Newman hold the BMC Stage One Completion Certification with leadership team members (L to R) Teresa Tucker, Rita Frazer, Lynn Shehorn, Norm Emmons, City Alderman Mickey Robinson, Peyton Bernot, Sharon Adkins and Kelly Vesper.