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DISTek, UNI Prairie Center awarded grant

BY DREW ANDERSEN, COURIER STAFF WRITER

WATERLOO --- The state of Iowa Thursday awarded an \$80,000 grant to DISTek Integration of Cedar Falls and a \$612,000 to the University of Northern Iowa's Tallgrass Prairie Center.

DISTek, a software developer and systems integrator, received a Community Economic Betterment Account grant, which requires the company to add 16 jobs within three years. The company will use the funds to finance a 5,000-square-foot expansion to its 10,000-square-foot office in the Cedar Falls Technology Park.

"Our expansion is really the result of the economic conditions in Iowa," said DISTek president Matt Dickinson. "The number of manufacturing companies in the state has really helped our growth there."

Dickinson said it was the second such grant the company had received.

"We've been through this before," he said. "We were supposed to add about 10 people over three years, and that was 30 people ago."

DISTek will not be building the addition, but will renovate empty space in the building they already occupy. The company will add 27 offices and three conference rooms in the new addition.

The \$612,000 award to UNI's Tallgrass Prairie Center was one of the first awards created by the Iowa Power Fund this year.

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