



Beshear touts 404 new Northern Kentucky jobs at Gateway event

By Mike Boyer • mboyer@enquirer.com • June 10, 2010

FLORENCE - Creation of 404 new jobs and more than \$28 million in investments by seven manufacturing companies in Northern Kentucky were heralded Thursday by Gov. Steve Beshear and local officials as Gateway Community and Technical College formally opened its \$26 million Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

The 108,000 square-foot building, on Gateway's campus just off Mount Zion Road, was developed with local manufacturers as a state-of-the-art training center for 21st Century manufacturing skills. The new center among the largest in the Kentucky Community and Technical College system is, expected to train up to 10,000 workers by 2015.

"The center is yet another example of the importance the commonwealth places on a dvanced manufacturing and related fields," Beshear said in prepared remarks.

Most of the jobs stem from manufacturing plant relocations or expansion projects announced previously.

Among them: Zumbiel Packaging, is consolidating its headquarters and remaining manufacturing plant in Norwood and bringing 175 jobs to the nearly 200 in now employs in Hebron. The 167-year-old paperboard box maker announced earlier two months ago it was making a multi-million dollar investment in an 180,000 square-foot expansion of its existing 320,000 square-foot plant in the Gateway Industrial Park.

Coating Excellence International has brought 80 jobs with a \$3 million investment in a 120,000 square-foot plant on Aviation Boulevard in Hebron. The Wisconsin-based supplier of flexible packaging was awarded more than \$1 million in state incentives for the project late last year.

Diversified Structural Composites Inc., a supplier of fiberglass and carbon fiber composite components that has operated in Boone County since 1991, is consolidating two operations into a larger 96,000 square-foot plant at 1600 Dolwick Ave.

Hahn Automation Inc., a supplier of custom automation equipment, is expanding with the construction of a 25,000 square-foot building on five acres on Arbor Tech Drive in Hebron.

Parkway Products Inc., a custom molder of composite components for the aerospace industry, is doubling the size of its 55,686 square-foot plant at 1400 Jamike Road, Erlanger, to 110,166 square feet.

Impak Acquisition LLC, a new company specializing in retail point-of-purchase displays is adding equipment to expand its plant at 7 Sperti Lane, Edgewood. And Jacobs Automation, a startup company which has developed new automation technology for the packaging and material handling markets, has located at 2365 Progress Drive in Boone

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County.

"This celebration of new jobs being created is exciting news for Northern Kentucky," said Gary Moore, Boone County Judge-executive and chairman of Northern Kentucky Tri-ED, the region's economic development agency.



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March photo shows the Gateway Community and Technical College Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Florence campus off Mt. Zion Road.



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Michael McCall, head of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (right), and Kentucky Senator Katie Stine (left), toured Gateway's soon-to-open Center for Advanced Manufacturing Center on Dec. 9, 2009.

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