



NEWS from MCEDC

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation

July 2012

Priority: HIGH

Regional Workforce Initiative Aims to Assess Workforce Development Needs Across Sectors

Coalition Launches First Step in Developing a Comprehensive Talent Strategy for Michiana

Your input is needed.

Whether you employ sewing machine operators or software developers, teachers or technicians, CNC operators or CNAs, finding and developing talent is mission critical. It's also mission critical for the future growth of our region, and that is why your participation in this study is needed.

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation, the Corporate Partnership for Economic Growth (CPEG), and other regional economic development and education stakeholders are partnering in an effort to better understand the workforce needs of local business and industry.

This collaborative Regional Workforce Initiative has three goals:



1. Fill specific existing positions - through recruitment, re-training, etc.
2. Assess general workforce skills deficits to address through education and workforce programs
3. Assess emerging industries and workforce needs to develop a complete workforce plan for 2020

You can be a part of this initiative by completing the workforce survey [located here](#).

The goal of the survey is to quantify the number of open positions, assess skills gaps, and identify barriers to company growth related to workforce issues.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes, and should be completed by business owners, managers, human resource managers or someone with in-depth knowledge of your company's current and future hiring needs. The survey

requests information about current full-time openings and anticipated openings over the next 6 months, including salary, skills, and education requirements. You cannot save your responses and return later.

All information will be kept confidential.

The survey will be open until Friday July 27th. Results will be compiled to inform work sessions focused on identifying solutions to address the barriers to filling existing positions. Only companies in Marshall, Kosciusko, Elkhart, St. Joseph and Fulton Counties that complete the survey are eligible to participate in these work sessions.

Additional details about the Regional Workforce Initiative, including a list of the regional partners supporting this effort, can be found at www.cpeg.org.

Thank you for your time in completing the survey, and for helping to be a part of the solution!

Spotlight on Resources: WorkOne Center Opens in Pine Creek Plaza in Plymouth

Welcome!

MCEDC routinely works with the local WorkOne office to connect pre-screened candidates for positions with expanding local businesses, to direct employers to available skills training grant resources, and to promote the human capital assets Marshall County has to offer to companies considering relocating here.

WorkOne is now MCEDC's neighbor.

In June, Marshall County WorkOne employees rolled up their sleeves and moved office furniture, computers and files into new space facing the LifePlex on Miller Drive. The enhanced space features large classrooms for client training workshops, which are shared by the Adult GED program in the evening. Personal touches include an announcement board in the reception area featuring recent job placement success stories.

Lorna Shively, Business Services Representative, asks that any Marshall County business contact her with for more information on WorkKeys or other programs designed to assist in recruiting applicants for open positions. Lorna can be reached at (574) 936-8919 or LShively@GoToWorkOne.com.

Marshall County Unemployment Rate Continues to Fall

The most recent employment data reveals a continuing downward trend in the unemployment rate for Marshall County.

The May, 2012 unemployment rate for the county was 8.0 percent, falling 0.1 percent from April. This rate compares to a May, 2011 rate of 9.5 percent and a January, 2012 rate of 10.2 percent.



Upcoming Lean Training, Leadership Training Opportunities



The next regional public **Lean 101 Workshop: Staying Competitive in a Global Economy** will be held at the Elkhart Chamber on Tuesday, Sept 4th. Only a few spots remain! Members of any area Chamber receive discount on registration.

Register online - www.elkhart.org ... or contact Jim Walsh at North Central Indiana Business Center (NCI) for more info, at (574) 293-3209 ext. 121.

Need more than 101? Purdue Manufacturing Extension will offer a five day series to earn a **Lean Practitioner I Certification** at the Purdue College of Technology in South Bend, beginning on July 20.

For registration information and a full calendar of Purdue training events, including "**LEADERSHIP IS AN ATTITUDE**," please go to <http://www.mep.purdue.edu/events/>.



Three Marshall County Manufacturers Planning to Expand ... Culver Tool, Zentis and AK Industries Looking Ahead

Culver Tool & Engineering, Zentis, and AK Industries receive state and local incentives for expansion; projects announced in second quarter of 2012

Culver Tool & Engineering, a leading national manufacturer of spinal rod implants, plans

to invest approximately \$1 million in its operation and add employees by the end of the year. A building expansion for additional manufacturing production and R&D space is planned along with additional supporting office and cafeteria space. The investment will enable the company to maintain and increase its market share, retaining 53 jobs and adding 6 additional positions in the near term. In support of Culver Tool's plans for growth, the City of Plymouth approved a real and personal property tax abatement request.



Zentis Food Solutions North America, LLC, a global producer of fruit preparations for the bakery and dairy industries, plans to expand its operations creating up to 67 new jobs by 2014. The company will invest \$15.6 million to expand its production capabilities to include a new allergen-free production line, bulk sugar handling system and mixing vessels. As part of the project, the company will also make building renovations at its 180,000 square-foot facility. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Zentis up to \$450,000 in performance-based tax credits based on the company's job creation plans. The City of Plymouth approved a real and personal property tax abatement at the request of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation.

AK Industries, a manufacturer of fiberglass and polyethyleneproducts for the wastewater industry, is contemplating an \$800,000 investment in their Plymouth plant, with the purchase of a new rotational molding machine and expansion of their facility to accommodate the operations. AK currently employs 85 people and will be adding 4 jobs in association with the project. An application for tax abatement will be considered for approval by the City of Plymouth in July.



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