

THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE

Upcoming Events in Kosciusko County

Take advantage of free one-on-one business assistance provided in Warsaw by the South Bend Small Business Development Center and Kosciusko Development Inc. Wednesday, May 6th. Call 267-6311 to schedule a one hour counseling session.

Interesting Links

KDI Small Business Loans
www.kdi-in.com/pdf/Flyer.pdf

President's Point of View Joy McCarthy-Sessing CECd

I recently had an opportunity to participate in a webinar "Workforce of the Future & How Site Selectors Evaluate Labor Markets." The Managing Partner of Management Training Professionals summed up a few characteristics of our future workforce:

- Boomers will not retire due to economic situation;
 - Medical, healthcare, education and government arenas will continue to be strong and grow;
 - Entrepreneurs will thrive;
 - Benefits will be a plus rather than a given; benefits will be portable;
 - Few will have "permanent" jobs — employment will be project based;
 - Resurgence of importance of family, friends and personal connections;
 - Workers live where they choose due to connections;
 - Diverse workforce with global experience; teammates around the world
- More about this important issue in the future!

ROYAL OUTDOOR PRODUCTS

Royal Outdoor Products story began with a horsewoman's desire to protect and secure her show horses and a research and development team at Chore Time/Brock (CTB) in Milford.

In 2006, Georgia Gulf Corporation acquired Royal Group Companies to expand their growth strategy. Royal Outdoor Products continues to be a leader in the design and manufacturing of vinyl fencing, railing and decking products. Located in Milford, Royal Outdoor Products has a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.



Royal Outdoor Products continues to experience growth and recently hired 150 employees. They have been working 24/7 since January 5, 2009 to keep up with the demand for their products. For more information about this company: www.royalcrownltd.com.

The Small Business Association (SBA) will temporarily eliminate fees for borrowers and lenders through 2009 or until the funds are exhausted. Contact your local bank for information about SBA loans for businesses.

Research & Development Tax Credits

Luncheon seminar on **Tuesday, May 5th from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. at the KDI/Chamber of Commerce offices.** Learn what activities qualify for Federal & State tax credits. Businesses that could benefit from these tax credits are engineering services, manufacturing, retail, software and financial services industries just to name a few. Lunch and program provided at no cost by Tri-Merit. **Please RSVP at 574/267-6311 or info@wkchamber.com.**

Ivy Tech Advanced Manufacturing Center Opens in Warsaw

Ivy Tech's newly expanded Orthopedic and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (OAMTC) is located at 955 Executive Drive (McElroy Hill Business Park). The original 5,600 sq. ft. training facility opened in October 2006 and in less than a year the college discussed the need to expand the OAMTC.

The new training facility has 20,000 sq. ft. and offers programs in Manufacturing Technology and Manufacturing Skills Training. Purchase of equipment has been supported at both training centers by Department of Workforce Development grants. The most recent grant was in the amount of \$751,500. For more information: www.ivytech.edu/

The Taste & Trade Expo 2009 is scheduled for October 16 & 17 at the Orthopaedic Capital Center at Grace College. For more information call the chamber at 574/267-6311 or email info@wkchamber.com. In 2008, over 2000 people attended the expo.

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