

Strategy Update

Switzerland County “Launches” You Learn...You Earn! Program

The 2010 Swiss Wine Festival provided the perfect opportunity to introduce a new Economic Opportunities 2015 (EcO15) initiative in Switzerland County. The You Learn...You Earn! program allows Switzerland County residents to receive information on available jobs, career counseling, and how to take the next steps in educational attainment.

More than 300 people registered for You Learn...You Earn! during the wine festival. Those who did were eligible for several prize drawings and a trip in a hot-air balloon. Residents may continue to register online at www.youlearnyouearn.com.

One recently-released report concludes that, by 2018, nearly three out of every four jobs in the United States will require training and education beyond a high school diploma. You Learn...You Earn! is designed to help Switzerland County residents remain competitive for employment opportunities in the post-recession economy. Improving our county's ranking in educational attainment is critical to attracting new businesses to the Markland Business Park and other areas in our county and region.

Existing regional industries, along with several new business prospects, have told the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) that the availability of skilled personnel is a critical factor in their business success. SCEDC is listening to our current and potential employers and is working to understand their specific skill needs. ■



County Chosen to Host Statewide Economic Development Meeting

The Indiana Economic Development Association (IEDA) will hold its summer 2011 meeting at the Belterra Resort and Casino in Switzerland County. Among those in attendance will be about 180 state officials, local economic developers, and economic development advisors from Indiana and surrounding states.

The IEDA is an organization with more than 350 members representing

state, regional, and local economic development organizations. Currently, each of Indiana's 92 counties are represented by an economic development department or organization. The group holds four meetings annually at various places around the state.

The association met in Switzerland County in May 2006. While summer road construction made it a challenge

for some guests to get to the county for the meeting, members were pleased with what they found when they arrived. The presence of Belterra in the county allows the group to come to a quiet, rural community and enjoy nice facilities and professional services. ■

Community Welcomes Trenwa to Markland Business Park

Trenwa, Inc., a manufacturer of concrete trench and utility products, has announced plans to locate its manufacturing operations in Markland Business Park, creating up to 24 jobs by 2012. The total economic benefit to the area of the construction and operation of the Trenwa facility is estimated at more than 17 million dollars over the next seven years.

The company will invest \$2.5 million to move to a 10-acre site at the business park. There, it will construct a 25,150-square-foot plant to manufacture pre-cast concrete trenches. The flagship manufacturing facility will be built in the northwest corner of the park.

"We are always happy to welcome new business to Indiana and we're even happier when it means new opportunities for Hoosiers in great communities," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Trenwa up to \$50,000 in performance-based tax credits based on the company's job creation plans. In addition, up to \$47,000 from the state's Industrial Development Grant Fund will be made available to Switzerland County for water, road, and sewer improvements necessary for site development.

Trenwa's 10-foot-long concrete trenches are used for the distribution of electrical control cables, power cables, and mechanical piping. (See an example of Trenwa's product by visiting <http://trenwa.com/graphics/AboutUsOnePiecePhoto.gif>.) The company's global customers are primarily related to the utility industry and include wastewater treatment plants, telecommunication sites, wind farms, solar and nuclear power plants, and universities. The company intends to begin hiring production associates

next spring to coincide with the planned completion of its facility.

"We have experienced several years of strong growth and need a more modern facility with level acreage for product storage. We liked the Markland Business Park because the land was level and had good access to I-71 for shipping," said George Schurr, vice president of operations for Trenwa. In business for 40 years, Trenwa also has facilities in Colorado, Florida, and Puerto Rico, and is headquartered in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

"I am proud to welcome Trenwa to Switzerland County," said Michael Jones, Switzerland County Council president. "We have worked hard as a community to provide competitive sites for locating businesses." The SCEDC

energy or just generating more traditional power, the utility industry is going to be booming for a long time," said Jon Bond, president of the SCEDC. "Having a company that supplies that sector will be a great addition to our county's economy."

Switzerland County purchased the property for the 100-acre Markland Business Park in 2007. Since that time, the project has gone through extensive design and permitting with state and federal agencies. The extension of utilities to the site began in 2008 and has continued through 2010.



county commissioners, and the County Redevelopment Commission have all been assisting Trenwa as it has prepared to construct its facility and bring its business to Switzerland County. Construction is already underway to bring final infrastructure extensions to the site.

"Whether you are talking about green

Switzerland County was recently awarded a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to construct the needed infrastructure for the remainder of the property, including a new entrance drive and roadway, storm-drainage system, and wastewater lines.

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Community Welcomes Trenwa to Markland Business Park – continued

Trenwa is the second company in the past nine months to announce that it will call the Markland Business Park home. In November 2009, Process Systems and Services announced its intention to build a new fabrication and service center at the park. That project is currently under construction.

Work continues at the business park. This summer, in addition to the roads and utilities work for the two new businesses, site work near the areas where they will locate has also begun.

A study for a business park was originally undertaken in 1994. A 10-year plan to develop and market the property was created in 2006. The site was one of 20 certified by the State of Indiana as Shovel Ready in early 2007, but there was still development that needed to occur before the site could accommodate businesses. ■

