

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

October 2006

The Business News You Can Use

Vol. 24 Issue 5

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Platform Lab's location on the UT Health Science Campus

Toledo Attracts IT Test and Training Facility

Continuing its effort to transition toward a knowledge-based economy, the Toledo/northwest Ohio region has added a new resource designed to help grow and attract technology-related businesses.

At a recent press conference, Platform Lab announced its expansion into Toledo promoting itself as a resource that will provide companies the ability to greatly improve their information technology (IT) capabilities at a very low cost.

"We are very proud to be in Toledo," said Steve Gruetter, director of Platform Lab, which was started in Columbus and is funded by the Ohio Department of Development. "We are a resource that will give firms a competitive advantage in the IT sector."

Platform Lab, which Gruetter describes as a "catalyst for growth," provides the hardware, software, configuration and bandwidth, on demand, for companies anywhere.

To be located on the UT Health Science campus (formerly the Medical University of Ohio), Platform Lab is a nonprofit information technology test and training facility providing organizations the means to conduct a variety of IT test projects and increase the quality of their applications, organizations and people without invest-



Steve Gruetter

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The Shoppes at Fallen Timbers

The Shoppes at Fallen Timbers Breaks Ground in Maumee

Local government officials, contractors, economic development professionals and executives from General Growth Properties lifted ceremonial shovelfuls of sand Tuesday, Sept. 26, celebrating the start of construction for The Shoppes at Fallen Timbers, the long hoped-for retail and entertainment center being built near the intersection of U. S. 24 and Interstate 475 south of Toledo.

Also at the ceremony, General Growth Properties announced it will open The

Shops at Fallen Timbers on Oct. 3, 2007; JCPenney will locate a store at the center; and Showcase Theatres will operate a 14-screen movie theater there. Previously announced attractions at the center include retailers Dillard's and Barnes & Noble, P. F. Chang's China Bistro and a four-story hotel.

"The Shoppes at Fallen Timbers will not only bring economic benefit in terms of jobs and tax revenue, it will be a gathering place for our community," said Maumee

Mayor Timothy Wagener. "It took a long period of patient cooperation, negotiation and compromise involving the surrounding community, local government and private developers, but the value of that effort will soon be realized when the shops open their doors. This is a great public-private partnership that will benefit generations to come."

Ron Den Adel, vice president of development for General Growth Properties,

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Sustainable Development Research

UT Offers Resources to Esteemed Chinese Delegation

BY LISA LASKEY

On Sept. 6, the University of Toledo's Division of Community and Economic Development director Ken Dobson, senior researcher Doland Brown and the staff of the University of Toledo Capacity-Building in Emerging Applied Building and Construction Technologies (CB-EABCT) hosted a 16-member, high-level Chinese delegation as they toured University College's research, training and sustainable building technologies facility. Dobson and his team then offered the del-

egates full and free use of their proprietary CB-EABCT sustainable development database with its extensive resource and sourcing information in the areas of green development and the latest in construction technologies. The database is considered one of the most thorough information pools available and remains in continual development. This gift will be a valuable resource as the Chinese work toward goals of creating greater sustainability and a more eco-friendly environment during the country's continued rapid industrialization and the technolog-

ical transformation of its many newly-emerging and flourishing markets.

Building Relationships & Communities

This visit by the Chinese was another step toward the building relationship between the university and Shangdong province in the People's Republic of China. In January 2006, Dobson traveled to China as part of a small delegation selected to assist Chinese governmental and private stakeholders in their exploration of these sustainable and environ-

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