

Johnson County

*Believe in It,
Invest in It,
Grow in It*



Franklin College is one of several opportunities for higher education in Johnson County.

Johnson County is a short 15-mile drive south of Indianapolis on I-65. Its diverse business base includes companies ranging from hi-tech automotive component and medical device manufacturing to pharmaceutical and other life sciences companies.

It's also a business base that continued to grow in 2009 despite a sluggish economy, according to Cheryl Morphew, president and CEO of the Johnson County Development Corp.. "New and existing companies chose to invest nearly \$70 million and create almost 250 job opportunities," Morphew said.

One such firm attracted by the stable labor force, low cost of living, business-friendly government and competitively priced land is Nachi America, a tool and machine parts manufacturer that sells to the automotive, aerospace and

other industries. In September, Nachi closed operations in North Carolina and Michigan and moved them to Greenwood, Ind., where it plans to create an additional 33 to 43 jobs.

"We looked at relocating to other places, but it made sense to come here," says Butch Wisner, VP engineering and marketing. "We have property where we can expand. We have an excellent relationship with the planning commission and city, and there's a good base of people to fill these jobs. "The people are very accommodating and

helpful," Wisner says." We had prior experience working with the Johnson County Development Corp. when we expanded in 2005."

In October, Avram Worldwide, a provider of supply chain and logistics services, announced it will establish its new headquarters and distribution operations in Greenwood, creating 78 new jobs by 2013. The company offers a variety of transportation management, warehousing, distribution and fulfillment services and will invest \$885,000 to lease and equip a 20,000-square-foot headquarters facility.

"With everything now under one roof, we are positioned to be an even stronger resource for companies throughout the world that seek superior logistics solutions," said Rob Richardson, president of Avram Worldwide.

"Greenwood is a great place to live," Richardson said. "When you're trying to attract a workforce you always want to locate in a place where you think your employees would want to live. I owned a business in Greenwood for 15 years, and I had a very good experience working with the city and county."

Rexam, which employs over 22,000 employees in 20 countries, announced plans to expand its operations in Franklin, creating up to 46 new jobs in 2010. The company, which manufactures plastic packaging for the health care, closures and personal care industries, says the expansion will help better satisfy customers in the region.

The community's support for continuing education and professional development allows companies access to a well-educated workforce. With 2,190 students, Ivy Tech Community College's Franklin campus enrollment was up 88 percent for the spring semester. Community initiatives include dual enrollment agreements with the Franklin Community High School which allow students to take advanced courses for college credits. In addition, the City of Franklin has provided financial support to help the campus expand to accommodate growing classes.

"We could not have done this without the city of Franklin," says Scott Neal, director of Franklin Campus, Ivy Tech. "The Franklin Redevelopment Corp. contributed \$275,000 to the initial build-out of the campus. When we grew out of that space, they gave us another \$175,000 toward our Phase II build-out. That move was energized by a private donation

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from Columbus Automotive of \$100,000. Without that and the support of the city of Franklin — the mayor's office and the Johnson County Development Corp. — we probably wouldn't have been able to grow this quickly.

"For the people of Johnson County this is an immediate return on their investment, because now a resident of Whiteland, Greenwood, Franklin or Edinburg can drive 10 minutes to take classes they would have otherwise had to drive to other counties to take.

Since 1995 Leadership Johnson County (LJC) has provided professional development training to people who live and/or work in the county. Each year a class of approximately 35 meets once a month for nine months of interactive leadership training. "We strive to bring together citizens from all walks of life," says Executive Director Tandy Shuck.

"We have representatives from the private and government sectors, agricultural community, developers, CEOs and community volunteers, all at the same learning table."

"More than 400 alumni use their leadership training to make Johnson County a more enriched community," she says. "All of our participants work on a community service project they present at their graduation ceremony." Examples of projects include organizing a 5k walk/run for the USO, creating a county tourism Web site and implementing a financial literacy program for teens.

Residents can enjoy the diverse cultural amenities in nearby Indianapolis, but Johnson County's small-town feel is not without its own big-city amenities. One treasured local amenity is the Mallow Run Winery. Its tasting room is in the hayloft of a timber-frame barn built circa 1870. The winery, owned and operated by John Richardson, his son, Bill, and Bill's wife, Laura, is only minutes from the main highway, but makes visitors feel like

they're in the heart of wine country when they visit for tastings and special events.

"Our summer events include extended hours, live music of various genres and great food," says Laura Richardson. "We do a lot of charitable events, too. People enjoy being outside and bringing picnic blankets and food." Summer events regularly attract 500 people, she reports.

Now approaching its fifth anniversary, the winery employs three full-time and about 20 part-time employees. "We never thought we would grow this quickly," Laura says. We're really in a good spot in terms of being part of the community and reaching out and doing things with other businesses. It's a really nice community to be part of. I'm glad people think we're a positive part of it."

Miles of walking and biking trails, dog parks, amphitheatres, antique and specialty shops, as well as the third largest shopping mall in the state are other amenities that add to Johnson County's quality of life. •

Madison

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EDA. The City of Anderson will provide \$900,000, with the remaining amount covered by a loan secured by Flagship.

To ensure that the county's high-tech businesses can find the educated workers they need, Ivy Tech Community College is planning a new campus on 40 acres of land adjacent to Interstate 69 in Anderson. The school plans to build an 85,000-square-foot building to accommodate its growing student body of 2,600 students.

Anderson Mayor Kris Ockomon said, "Anderson's Ivy Tech has outgrown its existing campus and additional overflow classroom space. The new location will draw even more students, and Ivy Tech will be ready with a convenient location, ample classroom space and a curricula designed for emerging workforce needs."

The new campus would create \$20 million in new investment and provide Anderson and Madison County with an ongoing pool of educated and skilled workers for new and developing jobs. Full-time enrollment at the Anderson campus is projected to grow to 3,400 by 2013.

Established companies are also on the move in Madison County. On March 4, 2009, Nestlé launched its largest ready-to-drink aseptic products factory in the world



The new light manufacturing and proto-typing facility located in the Anderson, Ind., Flagship Enterprise Center is ready for occupancy.

in Anderson, with production dedicated to meet growing U.S. consumer demand for Nestlé Nesquik Ready-to-Drink and Nestlé Coffee-mate liquid products.

The Anderson factory has applied for LEED certification, meaning the facility meets a series of standards for environmentally sustainable construction as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It also has improved recyclability of resin packaging, a wastewater recovery system for reuse in cooling towers, and uses low-emission natural gas boilers.

"In a span of five years, Nestlé will have invested \$529 million in this facility," said Nestlé USA Chairman & CEO Brad Alford. "When it's finished in 2011, the Anderson facility will have created more than 500 local jobs in a tough economy. This is our fourth investment

in Indiana in the past two years — twice in Anderson, once in Greenwood and once in Fort Wayne."

Between August 2006 and June 2008, Nestlé invested \$359 million to construct an 880,000-square-foot factory, bringing more than 400 jobs to Anderson. This is Nestlé's largest single capital investment in its history. The company plans to invest \$170 million to expand the facility to more than 1 million square feet by 2011, while adding more jobs in the process.

Innovative technology, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, international networking and state-of-the-art farming have quickly re-shaped the face of Madison County. This diverse and forward approach to economic development is certain to continue driving Madison County through the 21st century. •