

THE TOP 10 REASONS TO BUY FROM DUNKIN'S DIAMONDS TELL US YOUR TOP REASON!

Other editions: Mobile | News Feeds | E-Newsletters Find it: Subscribe | Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Shopping | Classifieds



SEARCH ALL [dropdown] Local News Calendar Jobs More » [input] go



HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITS OHIO NEWS VOICES & VIEWS ENTERTAINMENT WEATHER LIFESTYLE CLASSIFIEDS MULTIMEDIA CUSTOMER SERVICE

Comment, blog & share photos Log in | Become a member

POWERED BY YOU AND The Advocate

Smaller, diverse companies steady county's economy

BY KENT MALLET • ADVOCATE REPORTER • JUNE 9, 2008

Post a Comment Recommend Print this page E-mail this article

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: Del.icio.us Facebook Digg Reddit Newsvine What's this?

NEWARK — Every community hopes to attract a major industry that will guarantee hundreds of high-paying jobs and never leave.

ADVERTISEMENT Looking for a Physician? Call (740) 348-4014 Licking Memorial Health Systems

But the truth is it doesn't have to employ hundreds and doesn't even have to be an industrial employer to benefit the local economy.

Public and private officials from around Licking County continue to search for companies that will provide hundreds of jobs, but they are thrilled when a company like Samuel Manu-Tech arrives and gives work to 100.

"It sounds small, but that is what we need to do," said Rick Platt, executive director of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority. "The days you can get 1,000 in a facility is long gone."

The county has only 10 companies with more than 500 employees. Only three of the 13 largest are industrial companies. But, the county is not overly dependent on any one company or any one type of industry.

"We have a diverse manufacturing economy, and that's a good thing," said Rob Klinger, Licking County's economic development manager. "We should treasure the diversity of our economy. Licking County is the envy of most for its diversity."

One of Licking County's greatest assets is its dependable work force, which Samuel Manu-Tech discovered to be of great benefit.

"For every six people recruited in Columbus, we'd have one we'd end up keeping," Samuel Manu-Tech Operations Manager Jim Waterman said. "That's not what we're seeing here. Here, of 15, maybe one guy doesn't make it.

"I think there's plenty of people that want to work, and we haven't had any problem recruiting people."

Samuel Manu-Tech, located at the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center base in Heath, pays an average of \$13 per hour and an upper wage of \$20 per hour on the floor. The company, which makes steel strapping to secure loads, moved here in November 2006.

The Canadian company closed a facility in Canada and moved the work here. Potential exists for expansion on the local site, as well.

New technologies also provide opportunities for the county to capitalize on, County Commissioner Tim Bubb



Purchase this Photo

Visitors tour Samuel Manu-Tech Inc. in Heath on Friday during a bus tour with the Licking County Chamber of Commerce. ((Morgan Wonorski, The Advocate))

More News Headlines

- Smaller, diverse companies steady county's economy
Two injured in garage explosion
Voyage home turned tragic
NHS Class of 2008 urged to stay connected to the community
FFA members receive state honor

said.

"I'm not willing to accept we can't attract manufacturing, but it may be different types of manufacturing," Bubb said. "Some brilliant people come up with new concepts and new ideas. The future is in new products and new ideas."

One way to attract a new company is with companies already here. Not only are existing companies good salespeople, they might provide services that complement a new company.

Klinger keeps track of company clusters — ones in the same industry or a complementary industry. One company might supply another company, use another's product or distribute their product.

"We want to bring in companies related or similar in some way," Klinger said. "That's why it's so important you identify your clusters."

**Kent Mallett can be reached at (740) 328-8545 or [kmallett@newarkadvocate.com](mailto:kmallett@newarkadvocate.com).**

## In Your Voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

1000characters left

ADVERTISEMENT



**Click Here for money saving deals from Carnival Foods!**



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obits](#) | [Ohio News](#) | [Voices & Views](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Weather](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [MULTIMEDIA](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2008 The Advocate

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated March 2007.