

2017: Big Year for ED Investment in Champaign County

Major economic development projects in 2017 brought about \$82 million in investments and 102 new jobs to Champaign County.

These projects will retain about 1,200 jobs, add about \$5.3 million in annual payroll to the local economy and retain \$17.3 million in annual payroll.

The major projects include:

- Expansion of KTH Parts Industries, Inc. – 20 new

jobs, 914 retained jobs, \$812,000 in new payroll and \$28 million investment

- Memorial Health's new outpatient medical building in Urbana, to be completed this spring – 12 new jobs, 16 retained jobs, \$1.4 million new payroll, \$1.2 million retained payroll and \$9 million investment
- WEIDMANN Electrical Technology's expansion – 20 new jobs, 142



Navistar began moving material in December into its new distribution center at the Urbana Industrial Park.

retained jobs, \$835,000 new payroll, \$9.3 million retained payroll and \$2.7 million investment

- Crop Production Services new fertilizer distribution center – 10 new jobs, six retained jobs, \$500,000 new payroll and \$6.3 million investment
- Navistar/Damewood Enterprises news distribution center, completed in December – 40 new jobs, 114 retained jobs, \$1.8 million in new payroll, \$4.9 million retained

payroll and \$28 million investment

- Parker Trutec's new auto parts electrocoating line, an \$8 million investment (see Page 4)

CEP Director Marcia Bailey adds that manufacturing employment in Champaign County has increased from 3,832 in 2016 to 4,029 in 2017 and the portion of the county's manufacturing workforce age 19 to 24 has increased from 3 to 9 percent. The average manufacturing salary in Champaign County is more than \$64,000.



Memorial Health's new Urbana medical building will be ready for a grand opening this spring. (See photos of other economic development projects on Page 4.)



CEP Hosts U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan

U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan addressed the concerns of about 50 local business owners and other constituents in December at a forum organized by the CEP at the Gloria Theatre in Urbana. In November, at another event planned by the CEP, he spoke with representatives of local manufacturing companies.

Q3 Site Redevelopment Underway

Progress is being made toward preparing the former Q3/JMC, Inc. manufacturing site for new industrial development and job creation in Urbana.

Urbana-based developer True Inspection Services (TIS) is directing the project, at 605 Miami St. and 200 Beech St., through an agreement with the City of Urbana.

Matthew Christison, president of general contractor 3C Contracting, Inc. of Urbana, reports the following progress:

- A steel building on the west side of the 20-acre

property is about 90 percent dismantled. It will be moved to

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Angela Hayes of Rittal Corporation, third from left, and CEP Director Marcia Bailey, second from right, at Business Leaders United's Business and Education Leaders Fly-in in Washington, D.C. They were invited by Dr. Amit Singh of Clark State Community College, second from left. Also pictured are staff members for U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, Leah Hill, fourth from right, and Dominique Warren, far right.

CEP Director Promotes Bills in D.C.

CEP Director Marcia Bailey and Angela Hayes, human resources generalist at Rittal Corp. in Urbana, recently went to Washington, D.C., to urge Ohio legislators to vote for bills that will help provide the skilled workforce employers need.

Dr. Amit Singh, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs of Clark State Community College, invited them to join him at Business Leaders United's Business and Education Leaders Fly-in.

They and other business and education leaders from across the country met with their representatives to promote the JOBS (Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students) Act and the PROSPER (Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform) Act. Bailey, Hayes, Singh and others from Ohio met with U.S. Reps. Jim Jordan, Mike Turner, Jim Renacci and Warren Davidson, and U.S. Sens. Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown.

Portman and Brown co-sponsored JOBS. "This was a nice opportunity to thank them for their support and bipartisan collaboration on policy that will help more workers and businesses in Ohio get the skills and workforce they need," Bailey said.

The legislation is designed to help solve the current workforce shortage faced by employers in Champaign County and across the U.S. These bills would expand the Pell Grant program to help students pay for short-term, occupationally focused training at community colleges and other postsecondary schools. And Bailey said, "The legislation will promote business-education partnerships to create training programs aligned to the needs of employers and changing technology in the workplace."

Bailey and Hayes shared with the legislators and their staff how the workforce shortage impacts Champaign County and how it's being addressed. Bailey shared that ORBIS Corporation in Urbana is paying for Triad High School graduate Zack Zizzo to complete the two-year mechanical engineering technology program at Clark State while he works at ORBIS (covered in Fall 2017 edition of CEP newsletter).

Hayes talked about her difficulty finding qualified candidates for skilled positions and the need for affordable welding training.

2 More Businesses Support CEP

Two local businesses have become the newest partnership investors of the CEP. They are WEIDMANN Electrical Technology and Mercy Health. Both support CEP's economic development mission at the Friendship Level.

WEIDMANN



They join these private business partnership investors: KTH Parts Industries, Inc., Pioneer Electric Cooperative and Dayton Power & Light, at the Benefactor Level; Memorial Health, at the Patron Level; and Security National Bank, at the Friend Level. Our local government partnership investors are the Champaign County commissioners and the City of Urbana.

Find out how your business can become a CEP sponsor: click on Partnership Investors on the About Us tab on the home page of CEPOhio.com, or call CEP Director Marcia Bailey at 937-653-7200.



One of buildings being dismantled and moved in Q3 redevelopment project.

Q3 Redevelopment Underway

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the east side of the property, where TIS will repurpose it. The building's concrete slab will be used for container storage while a remediation team working for Honeywell Aerospace will clean groundwater contamination in an area that had been used by Grimes Aerospace's Plastic Research Products business.

- Dismantling of another steel building will be completed soon. It will be packaged for repurposing by the City of Urbana, Urbana Director of Administration Kerry Bruger said.
- Bids are being accepted for asbestos abatement, which will be completed before further demolition can begin.
- An architect will start developing plans in January for renovation of the former Johnson Manufacturing Company building on Miami Street. Renovation of the building is expected to begin in late spring.

Christison said that this spring all demolition work is expected to be complete and documents filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The project must meet OEPA Voluntary Action Program cleanup requirements before title to the property can be transferred from the city to TIS. Then TIS will prepare the site for development by a new owner.

(For more details about this project, see Page One of the Fall 2017 edition of the CEP newsletter under the News tab at CEPOhio.com.)



Your Window to ED News, Jobs

When you pass CEP's office at 3 Monument Square, check out the latest local economic development news and job listings on the monitor pictured above in our window. WEIDMANN Electrical Technology donated the 50-inch monitor, which also features the logos of businesses that support the CEP as partner investors.

Businesses can also receive recognition for supporting maintenance of the monitor. Contact the CEP at info@cepohio.com or 937-653-7200 for information about business sponsorships.

Details about job listings featured on the monitor are available at CommunityJobConnect.com, the CEP's free local job posting and search website. Local employers can post jobs and job seekers can apply and post their resumes.

"You can also keep up with local economic development news at CEPOhio.com, by liking the CEP Facebook page, and by following the CEP on Twitter," says CEP Director Marcia Bailey.

Profile in Tech Education: Lexi Stewart

When she attended a recent stakeholders meeting at Ohio Hi-Point Career Center, CEP Executive Director Marcia Bailey was impressed by how students are being prepared for skilled, in-demand jobs. Including at Ohio Hi-Point's Advanced Manufacturing program in Triad Schools.

A presentation by Lexi Stewart, a senior in Hi-Point's diesel technology program, also got her attention. Lexi is a top performer and one of only three female students in the program.

She hopes to become the first female Ohio Hi-Point diesel tech student to compete at state and national levels in SkillsUSA.

And she's well on her way to blending her passions for agriculture and mechanics. She will soon begin working at Koenig Equipment, Inc., a John Deere dealer and service provider outside Urbana. She will alternate between working there and being trained in John Deere maintenance at Owens Community College in Toledo.

Hughey & Phillips Reports Merger

In October, Hughey and Phillips, LLC (H&P) of Urbana announced a merger agreement with Manairco. H&P will acquire substantially all the assets of Manairco, which manufactures and designs airfield lighting systems and accessories.

Manairco's products and services will be added to H&P's offerings and sold through the companies' combined global sales force. Manairco's existing operations and customer service will be maintained at its current manufacturing site in Mansfield.

"We at Hughey and Phillips are delighted about this opportunity to work closely with Manairco's strong team and its existing customers to bring customized solutions to the airfield lighting industry," said Steve Schneider, President and CEO of Hughey and Phillips. "This partnership allows Hughey and Phillips to continue expansion into the airfield lighting market by offering a combination of lighting and marking products as well as power management solutions for airports and heliports."

ATP Annexed into Mechanicsburg

The Advanced Technology Products (ATP) facility in Mechanicsburg has sat partially within the village and partially in Goshen Township.

In October, Mechanicsburg Village Council unanimously approved an ordinance to annex the complete ATP property into the village through an agreement between the village government and the Goshen Township Board of Trustees. The annexation also has been approved by the Champaign County commissioners.

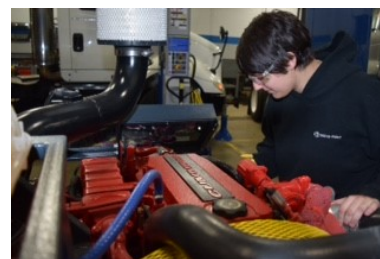
ATP requested the annexation to provide the Mechanicsburg facility full access to village services, including police and fire protection, snow removal, ice control, routine road maintenance and utility services provided at reduced incorporated area rates.



Advanced Technology Products building in Mechanicsburg.

Because of the annexation, Goshen Township will lose real estate tax revenue from the property. However, through the agreement between the village and township, the township will receive a gradually diminishing share of the tax revenue over the next 12 years.

The CEP has supported ATP's request and assisted in reaching the agreement to allow the annexation.



Lexi Stewart works in the Ohio Hi-Point diesel lab. She's active in many extracurriculars at her home school, Ben Logan High School.

Parker Trutec Dedicates Expansion

Parker Trutec, which began operations north of Urbana 30 years ago, has dedicated its latest expansion, a new \$8 million auto parts electrocoating line.

At the dedication ceremony, Urbana Mayor Bill Bean, who is a CEP board member, said the city has provided sewer service to the plant, which is one of the larger users of the city's new water reclamation facility.

"In turn, Parker Trutec has provided jobs for our citizens," Bean said. "You are truly the lifeblood of our community by providing jobs and a tax base that makes our community one of the best – if not the best – community in Ohio."



More 2017 ED Investment in County

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In photos, top to bottom, Champaign County economic development projects:

Boilers in WEIDMANN Electrical Technology's new boiler facility; new building at Crop Production Services; Christiansburg Dollar General store; and O'Reilly Auto Parts in Urbana.



CEP Supports Lodging Study

Does Champaign County need more overnight accommodations for business travelers and other visitors? If so, how many more beds? Answers to these questions will be determined with the help of a study now in progress.

The study is being commissioned by a local committee organized by the CEP and with representatives of the CEP, city and county government, and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau.

A hospitality services consulting firm, Core Distinction Group, is conducting the study, which will include interviews with demand generators such as Urbana University, businesses that host out-of-town executives and owners of tourism-related businesses and other visitors.

CEP Offers Entrepreneurial Incubators

To help businesses that are just getting started or developing new services, the CEP offers two offices in its suite at 3 Monument Square for six-month subleasing – as entrepreneurial incubators. The subleases may be negotiated for another six months based on demand and business plan goals.

One office is currently being used by Berry Digital Solutions, which develops websites (including ours, CEPOhio.com) and repairs computers. Berry Digital uses the space as a convenient location for customers to drop off devices for repair.

Contact Us

Champaign Economic Partnership

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