

# TCD Makes a Move!!

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## TCD LOOKING AT CHANGES

2004-05

### Board Retreat

TCD's Board of Directors held a Retreat at the new John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center on Tuesday, August 30th. The purpose of the Retreat was to discuss the future direction of TCD, as well as the possible relocation of the TCD offices to the Tech Center.

WNCC President, John Harms, recently offered TCD an opportunity to rent office space in the new Center, which is a state-of-the-art training center for both WNCC students and Valley employers. The board members felt this would be a "good move" for TCD. It combines Training, Entrepreneurship, a Discovery Lab and Economic Development all under one roof.

Another item focused on at the meeting included ways to key in on the growth in the Front Range of Colorado. It was agreed to develop an advertisement to be placed in the Colorado newspapers to look for someone with business contacts in Colorado that could be paid a commission or fee to bring some of that growth to Western Nebraska. This would be a performance based, contractual arrangement.

A lot of time was spent on a focus that related to a visit by a Federal Laboratory representative. The Federal Lab rep. felt that our region was well suited to take a few projects to production within the area. Many of these projects focus on fuels, transportation and agricultural.



John N. Harms  
Advanced Technology Center

### NEW ADDRESS:

**Twin Cities Development**

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### TCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Trumbull, President

Joe Schon, Vice President

Stan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. John Harms

Steve Olsen

Owen Palm

Paul Reed

Bob Unzicker

Duane "Dewey" Zerr

Rawnda Pierce, Executive Director

### Special points of interest:

- TCD - Board Retreat and changes for organization
- TCD moves to the new Advanced Technology Center
- TCD hires part-time staff to focus on value-added agriculture processes and products
- TCD to hold General Membership Meeting
- Job postings for Hurricane Katrina victims

## TCD SPONSORS "EDGE" PROGRAM

Chuck Karpf, Director of the Nebraska Edge Program at the John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center, recently spoke to TCD's Board of Directors about the EDGE program.

This in-depth, 14 week entrepreneurship course is offered to individuals who would like to start a business. The course guides participants through the

process to complete a business plan to start a new business or ideas and assistance to help grow an existing business.

The fee is \$350-\$400 per applicant for the course. At the end of the 14 weeks, the applicant will have a written business plan that could be taken to a bank or other lending institution for funding.

TCD has agreed to be a sponsor at the silver level, or \$1,000, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

For more information about the class, contact Chuck Karpf at 308-635-6714 or e-mail him at karpfc@wncc.net.

**PART TIME STAFF HIRED TO FOCUS ON VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES**

The Board of Directors for TCD recently approved the hiring of Mike Sarchet on a part-time basis to focus on development of projects that have an emphasis on value-added agriculture. This will include both processes and products. As a result of meetings with a Federal Laboratories representative and Board Retreat discussion, it was noted that the Valley has great potential to pursue various projects that have been researched by the Federal Labs, but not put into production. The area is referred to as technology transfer and has potential to create additional revenue streams for the region by concentrating on research efforts that utilize products we can grow here or utilize existing resources we have more efficiently.

Mike will specifically focus on project development in these areas.

Mike comes to TCD with a background in public Education. He is a graduate of the Univ. of Northern Colorado and has spent the past 30 years teaching and coaching with the Scottsbluff Public Schools. He taught Biology, Earth Science, Physical Science, Natural Resources and Environmental Science. In addition, he taught for the WNCC/Upward Bound Program and created a "hands on" science curriculum. He has presented at numerous state and national science workshops and conferences.

He has recently worked with the DEQ,

NRD and local landowners on the removal of Russian Olives from nine-mile creek. This project has received both state and national attention and is being considered for add'l funding.

Mike will begin his duties with TCD in October and be available three days a week to assist with project development, feasibility and implementation.



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

TCD will hold their General Membership Meeting on October 20th. Look for invitations and upcoming details.

TCD will also be looking to fill 2 vacant board seats. A slate of names will be presented for the membership to vote on at the annual meeting.

*TCD's General Membership Meeting will be held Oct. 20th, 2005. Invitations and details will be mailed out.*



Board members Paul Reed, Owen Palm and Stan Walker at last year's General Membership meeting.

**BUY A BUSINESS TO FILL A BUILDING?**

We constantly work to creatively look at new ways to bring growth and development to the area.

Recently, we have been exploring the idea of looking at businesses that are for sale that can be moved to Western Nebraska. By working with building owners, we can come up with types of

businesses that are compatible to the building, the location and proper zoning classifications.

There are many reasons for businesses to sell: health issues, divorce, age or death of owner, other business interests, lease expiration, and several others. By looking at profitable, ongoing

businesses, we may have opportunities to import something new to the area.

We've looked at three businesses so far. Two didn't make the "grade". The other is being explored. The approach seems sound, we just need a good fit.

# LOCAL BUSINESS EXPANSIONS!

Trinity Steel recently announced an expansion that includes an addition of sixteen new employees. They will manufacture, paint, assemble, and distribute sports utility trailers for a Paxton, Nebraska company. They hope to produce between 250 and 400 trailers per month. Both the City of Gering and the City of Scottsbluff assisted Trinity with LB840 funds.

Another local entrepreneur, Mark Gies, is branching out with "Marky's Meat Market and Sausage Company." Mark owned Twin City Pack for 17 years.

This new company has been approved to supply garlic sausage to Wal-Mart stores in our region. Ten new positions

will be added to the retail meat counter and the sausage manufacturing plant. The City of Gering is assisting with LB840 funds.



Local Businesses Expand in Scottsbluff/Gering!

Recently Gering LB840 funds have been approved to help two retail businesses.

Prairie Pines Quilt Shop will move to downtown Gering and was assisted with a grant and loan from LB840 for remodeling and relocation costs from their current location north of Scottsbluff. Gering Mayor Starr Lehl referred to the business as a "destination" shop that draws quilters from across the country.

The Gering Photo Shop also received grant and loan funds to move their store from their location at Gering Pharmacy to the old city hall building

## TCD DIRECTOR ATTENDS PLASTEC EAST SHOW IN NYC

TCD Director, Rawnda Pierce, attended the Plastec East Show in New York City in June. She assisted Nebraska Public Power District in manning a booth at the show and also met with consultants involved in a local expansion project.

Other Nebraska communities at the Plastec Show included Holdrege and Columbus.

companies who had attended the show.

Cost savings in utilities, workers compensation, labor rates, etc. as compared to other Eastern states were highlighted in the brochure.

*More than 200 mailings were sent to companies attending the Plastec East Show.....*

Following the event, more than 200 full color brochures were mailed to various

## Nebraska Businesses post jobs available to Katrina Victims

There has been an outpouring of concern and efforts to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Area businesses wanting to hire victims of the disaster didn't know how to contact them or where to get the word out that they may have a job opening.

If your business has job openings and

would like to make them known to victims hit by Hurricane Katrina, you can post your job on the following website. The website is hosted by the Dept. of Labor.

[www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs](http://www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs)



## TWIN CITIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### ***One Community, One Voice***

## THANK YOU, TCD MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

21<sup>st</sup> Cent. Equip dba Merchantile  
A&L Inc.  
ABC Nursery  
Action Communications  
Advance Services  
Agromac International  
Alliance Data Systems (Orcom)  
Allo Communications  
AllTel Communications  
Ameri-Co Carriers  
Arby's Restaurant  
Asmus Brothers Real Estate  
Aulick Industries  
Aulick Leasing  
Baker and Associates  
Bare Manufacturing  
B&C Steel Corporation  
Brannan's Homes Ltd.  
Broadway Office Centre  
Bytes Computer Solutions  
Carr-Trumbull Lumber Co.  
Century 21 Home Team Realty  
Chaloupka, Holyoke, Hofmeister, Snyder &  
Chaloupka  
Charter Communications  
Chicory USA  
City of Bayard  
City of Bridgeport  
City of Gering  
City of Mitchell  
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Connecting Point  
Contryman Associates P.C.  
Couplamatic Systems  
Dana C. Cole and Co., LLP  
Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, et al  
Fastenal  
First National Bank  
First State Bank  
Fisher Roofing Co.  
Floyd's Sales and Service  
Fred A. Lockwood & Co.

Gering Courier  
Gering Memorial Chapel  
Gering Conven. & Visitors Bureau  
Gering Public Schools  
Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating  
Gilbaugh Insurance Agency  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Heggem Construction  
Heilbrun Farm Industrial Auto  
Hergert Milling  
Heritage Health Care  
Hiner Lease Co.  
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites  
Horizon's West Medical Group  
Ideal Linen Supply  
Independent Plumbing and Heating  
Indigo Wireless  
Infinity Construction  
Inventive Media  
J.G. Elliott Co.  
Jolliffe Funeral Home  
KDUH Television  
Kelley Bean Co.  
Kent News Agency  
Kinder Morgan  
KNEB Radio  
Kosman, Inc.  
Kovarik, Ellison, Mathis & Weimer P.C.  
Kriz-Davis Co.  
Kurt Manufacturing  
Landmark Real Estate  
LBE Company  
Lincoln Nat'l Life/Overman & Assoc  
Linweld  
Magnolia Homes  
Manpower  
M.C. Schaff and Assoc.  
Meat Shoppe, Inc.  
Medical Imaging Assoc. P.C.  
Midtown Building Supplies  
Midwest Auto Supply, Inc.  
Midwest PMS

National Drinks, Inc.  
Neal Smith – State Farm Insurance  
Nebr. Business Dev Center  
Nebraska Machinery Co.  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Nebraska Transport Co.  
Nebr. Workforce Development  
North Platte Natural Resources  
Northfield Retirement Communities  
Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc.  
Oregon Trail Plumbing and Heat  
Overland Storage  
Pahlke, Smith, Snyder, et al  
Panhandle Anesthesia Associates  
Panhandle Concrete Products  
Panhandle Coop Association  
Panhandle Geo. & Env., Inc.  
Paul Reed Construction  
Physician Partnerships  
Platte Valley Companies  
Print Express  
Quality Water Solutions – Culligan  
Quick Care  
R&C Welding  
Reganis Auto Center  
Regional West Medical Center  
Re/Max-Sandstone Real Estate  
Rusch's Construction  
Russell's Excavation & Construction  
Sandberg Implement  
Scb/Gering United Chamber of Com  
Schmidt's Carpet  
Scotts Bluff County  
Scotts Bluff Co. Board of Realtors  
Scottsbluff Country Club  
Scottsbluff Days Inn  
Scottsbluff Ford LLC  
Scottsbluff Orthopaedics  
Scottsbluff Public Schools  
Scottsbluff Vision Clinic  
Security Financial Life  
Simmons Olsen Law Firm PC

Simon Contractors  
Smith Systems Transportation  
Sprint  
Star-Herald  
Stylite Lighting  
Super 8 Motel  
Taylor's Furniture  
Tier One  
Trim Line Draperies  
Trinity Steel  
Tri-State Roofing  
US Bank  
Valley Airways  
Valley Bank and Trust  
Van Newkirk Realty  
Village of Terrytown  
Walker Farms, Inc.  
Weathercraft Roofing  
West NE Claims Service  
Western ENT  
Western Heritage Credit Union  
Western Nebr Community College  
Western Nebr. Regional Airport  
Western Pathology Consultants  
Western Sugar Company  
Western Surgical Group  
Wiedeman Financial Services  
The Womens Center  
Foree Tire Distributors, Inc