

nebraska

development news update



PayFlex Systems USA, Inc. Awarded \$337,500 Job Training Funding

During a press conference in Omaha, Governor Dave Heineman announced that the Nebraska Department of Economic Development has contracted with PayFlex Systems USA, Inc. to provide \$337,500 through the Nebraska Customized Training Grant Program for 100 new hires in the company's home office in Omaha. The funding also covers the retraining of 50 current employees.

PayFlex will apply \$300,000 of the grant (\$3,000 per position) to a six-month new hire training program for 100 employees, combining classroom education, e-learning, and on-the-job training with proficiency exams and reviews. The remaining \$37,500 (\$750 per position) will be used to cross-train 50 current employees to expand their skill sets and opportunities for career advancement within the company.

The 100 new positions include entry level claims examiners and customer service representatives, and experienced data services analysts, client service managers and information system specialists. Hiring for the positions is underway. Interested individuals may inquire by visiting "Careers" on PayFlex's website at <http://www.payflex.com/>.

Founded in 1987, PayFlex is a national third party administrator, providing benefits administration for more than 6,000 employers. In addition to its Omaha headquarters, PayFlex maintains customer service centers in Colorado and Maryland. The company has been identified as one of the fastest growing, privately held companies in America by *Inc. Magazine's* 5000 list, and is a six-time recipient of the Omaha 25 Excellence in Business Award.

Contact Clark Anderson, PayFlex, at 402-231-8638 or cmanderson@payflex.com.

View more photos and press release at <http://www.neded.org/content/view/929/1758/>.

Plattsmouth Cuts Ribbon for New Biomedical Company

A press conference and ceremonial ribbon-cutting was held in Plattsmouth at Vireo Resources, a company that processes and packages human nutritional products and animal health care products developed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

"I am particularly grateful to the Department of Economic Development. They worked with me for the better part of two years to find the right place and without their assistance, locating this plant in Nebraska wouldn't have happened," said Mark Faulkner, president of Vireo Resources.

An additional 2,000-sq. ft. facility will feature climate-controlled storage for warehousing, order fulfillment, and distribution to serve Vireo Resource customers who require shipping to various



L to R: Jason Sokolewicz, NPPD; Plattsmouth Mayor Paul Lambert; Richard Baei, DED; Roger Walther, Cass Co. EDC Chair (former Sec.); Mark Faulkner, Vireo Resources; Governor Dave Heineman; Dr. James Linder, Env. Ports, City of Plattsmouth

domestic and international sites. The plant is expected to employ a minimum five full-time employees in the next year or so.

UNeMed licensed technology for the product in 2007 to Vireo Systems, Inc., of Madison, Tenn., Vireo Resources' parent company, that makes raw materials for creams and powders to manufacture products for retail distribution and sale. However, the company has worked with UNMC for more than seven years and brought several UNMC research and product developments to market. The two currently have patents pending for several product formulations.

Contact Mark Faulkner, Vireo Resources, at 1-800-251-4166.

View more photos and press release at <http://www.neded.org/content/view/928/1758/>.



LB 164 Signed into Law

Governor Dave Heineman and representatives from the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Revenue recently gathered for a Signing Ceremony for LB 164. Gov. Heineman signed LB 164 into law on April 22. LB 164 extends several key economic development programs through 2015, including the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Grant Program; Building Entrepreneurial Communities Grant

Program; Nebraska Advantage (Tiers 1 and 3); Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise; and Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Credit.

This legislative bill also adopts several changes to the tax incentives program, such as changes to the Nebraska Rural Advantage application time period from a fiscal to a calendar year, and allows businesses to amend their application down to another tier, among other changes.

Contact Joseph Young at 402-471-3783 or joseph.young@nebraska.gov.

Coffee Company Expands, Branches Out in Oshkosh

The aroma of freshly baked pastries and fresh roasted coffee awaken the senses at Mark Ferrari Specialty Coffees in Oshkosh.

The company recently introduced its first coffeehouse in Garden County. It was in 2007 that the coffee company moved its roasting and production facility from Arizona to Oshkosh to better serve national and international accounts. The community proved to be a perfect centralized locale for the company that has produced more than 250,000 lbs of coffee there.

"We're very proud of the professional contractors and businesses that have helped bring our dream to life", says co-owner Mike Piva. "We believe in hiring local not only because it supports the community, but also because we're lucky to have some of the finest craftspeople and services available right here in Garden County".

Mark Ferrari Specialty Coffees offers Garden County residents and visitors a new style of coffeehouse that features flavorful coffee drinks, homemade pastries, and breakfast and lunch specials in a warm and inviting environment.

The retail store is designed in a charming contemporary style. Custom fixtures and brilliant colors showcase the unique assortment of goods. The new store is situated in the north end of the coffee roasting warehouse where guests can view the production process while enjoying a fresh cup of the famous brew. Production tours are available on request. The store offers limited seating indoors and



out (when weather permits), and is available to host and cater business meetings, civic groups and special occasions with lite-fare to full course dinners.

Good food has always been part of Piva's life. "While growing up, I remember there was always something wonderful baking in the kitchen," Piva said. "Those special memories are what we strive to create in our shop". His mother, Dixie, was well known in western Nebraska and northeast Colorado for her cuisine and passion for quality food and presentation. Consequently, Piva wanted to share his mother's favorite recipes with his customers, including her famous Dixie-Cake Coffee Cake, as well as pies, cakes and cookies. Mrs. Piva's cookbook *Special Recipe's* (co-authored with good friend Joan McGinley) is also sold in the store.

"We strive for the WOW! factor in all that we create." Co-owner Mark Ferrari points out. His favorite childhood treats are also a big hit! Including his grandmother's biscotti (Italian cookies) and Whoopie Pies (rich chocolate cake baked in cookie form and sandwiched with a velvety rich marshmallow butter cream filling).

The store offers breakfast and lunch specials, a "grab and go" cooler stocked with fresh made deli wraps, salads, fruit and cheese platters, yogurt parfaits and a variety of unique carbonated and non-carbonated beverages.

Available gift items include the company's coffees packaged in striking gold and black bags, t-shirts, polo-style shirts and ball caps all featuring the Mark Ferrari Coffee logo, and custom made gift baskets designed for any occasion.

Other items produced throughout Garden County are also offered, including La Sorelle Dolce (*The Sisters Sweet*) jellies made exclusively for Mark Ferrari Specialty Coffees by Jeanne Fiscus and Carol Santero. In addition, custom handcrafted greeting cards created by Teri (McGinley) Linke from Lisco, handmade soaps made in Lewellen, creamed honey produced in Ogallala, and a handful of locally-authored books are available.

A Hawaiian section features Hawaiian Mountain Gold Kona coffees and fresh roasted macadamia nuts; both come directly from co-owner Mark Ferrari's family Kona plantation. The store also carries popular Hawaiian Mac-Nut candies too.

Mark Ferrari Specialty Coffees is located at 209 W. 1st St. Oshkosh, NE 69154.

Open Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-Noon. *Closed SUN.*

What's next for Mark Ferrari Specialty Coffees? The owners recently purchased a historic building and lot conveniently located along Hwy 26 in Oshkosh. Plans are to open up a café and drive-through.

Contact Mike Piva at 308-772-0138, or visit www.MarkFerrariCoffee.com.

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