

# Developments

WEST PLAINS  
- MISSOURI -  
MAKE IT HAPPEN HERE

Fall 2015



## Making Economic Development Happen in West Plains

### *West Plains Projects to Receive \$375,000 from DRA*

Two projects in West Plains have been granted a total of \$375,000 from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), which has authorized the funding for a second floor renovation of the Ozarks Small Business Incubator (OzSBI) and the rehabilitation of an existing building for an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in the city.

The projects are part of a federal-statewide partnership to improve economic development, workforce training, and job creation in the region. Only five projects in southern Missouri were chosen, with West Plains being selected for two of those projects.

For OzSBI, which opened its doors in 2012 on Washington Avenue, \$150,000 will be used to restore 9,180 square feet of its second floor into usable workspace and larger offices for clients with up to 15 employees. That includes five large offices, three restrooms, a conference room and lobby, a kitchenette, mechanical rooms, and circulation. It is estimated the renovation will create a minimum of 20 new jobs and retain 53 others for the business incubator, which helps local entrepreneurs build relationships, get funded, and grow their businesses while remaining in the Ozarks.



Approximately \$225,000 from DRA funds will go to convert the 16,000-square-foot City scales building near downtown for an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in West Plains. As proposed, the facility would provide training on traditional education and key technology skills that are in demand by manufacturers, including shop/lab training and classroom instruction for high school graduates and dislocated workers. The facility is a joint effort between the South Central Career Center, Missouri State University-West Plains, and the City of West Plains.

It is our opinion that both projects are very deserving of the DRA investments and will have a tremendous impact for West Plains. OzSBI has helped create at least 50 new businesses and over 150 new jobs since 2012, and this renovation will just add to their capability of helping entrepreneurs now and in the future. Its success speaks for itself. And the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center could really put West Plains front and center with the manufacturing sectors. Both projects will be key catalysts in keeping and creating jobs in our community.



*Robert D. Case*