

Developments

WEST PLAINS
-MISSOURI-

Fall/Winter 2016



Making Economic Development Happen in West Plains

Top 5 Award for GOCAT

Thanks to the new Greater Ozarks Center for Advanced Technology (GOCAT) facility, we are pleased to announce that the City of West Plains, MSU-West Plains, and West Plains R-7 Schools have earned national recognition from Expansion Solutions Magazine.

West Plains' GOCAT facility was selected by the magazine as the recipient of the Top Five Award of Excellence in 2016 in the category of Advanced Manufacturing. The recognition is given to those who have shown exceptional progress in the area of development, as well as a community's pro-business climate and its potential for growth.

This award is a testament to the quality of the GOCAT facility, which will be housed in the refurbished City Scales Building. This Center will be state-of-the-art in every aspect, and provide training not only for traditional education but also key technology skills that are in demand by manufacturers. This region has the potential to attract and retain manufacturers in the area, but in order to do so we need a sufficiently trained and available workforce.



West Plains Trying to Recruit Major Manufacturing Facility to Area

City Receives USDA Grant to Support Hiring of Private Economic Development Consultant

The City of West Plains' efforts to attract a major corporation to the city has been helped by the awarding of a \$23,000 Rural Business Development Grant by the USDA Office of Rural Development.

The funds will be used to hire AngelouEconomics, a private economic development consultant located in Austin, Texas, to conduct a study and develop a proposal for recruiting a major corporation and jobs to south-central Missouri.

The city is currently targeting a specific major manufacturing facility, and we hope to leverage substantial state-approved incentives to lure that corporation to south-central Missouri. AngelouEconomics is expected to aid in these efforts by developing a community strategy focused on incentive packages, shovel-ready sites, presentation materials, community support, and coaching of local leaders.

With the awarding of the USDA grant, which follows West Plains' designation as a Certified Ready Workforce and the construction of the new Greater Ozarks Center for Advanced Technology, every effort is being made to bring manufacturing jobs to the area. We believe that West Plains provides tremendous opportunities for potential employers and investors, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Our goal is to bring more employment to the region and strengthen our local economy.

About AngelouEconomics

Since 1986, AngelouEconomics has been responsible for attracting over 800 companies to Austin, resulting in 70,000 direct jobs for the Austin area. It employs professionals who are experts in strategic planning, economic impact studies, site selection, public-private partnerships, and marketing/communication strategies.

The company credits its success thanks to the use of economic analysis, a technology-driven economic development focus, intimate knowledge of the site selection process, and key relationships with industry leaders. Angelou has worked with clients throughout the United States and the world.

Robert D. Case