

Oldcastle Materials Division to Occupy Metro North Business Park Office Space

Oldcastle Materials Midwest will begin its lease of a 21,000 square foot office in Metro North Business Park in September. The company, a division of Atlanta-based [Oldcastle Materials](#), will occupy the space previously leased by Delta Dental plus an adjacent 3,000 square feet. When the move is complete, 75 employees will be based at the new Ankeny office.

Oldcastle Materials Midwest is a supplier of aggregate, asphalt and concrete. The company includes the local firms Des Moines Asphalt and Paving Company, American Concrete and Hallett Materials. The employees at the Ankeny location are responsible for corporate headquarter functions including accounting, human resources, sales and safety across the three states in which Oldcastle Materials Midwest operates.

Workforce Study Shows Positive Trend for Central Iowa Labor Market

Iowa Workforce Development recently released its biannual workforce study for Ankeny. This report on the profile of workers available to employers in Ankeny showed that the workforce continued to grow in Central Iowa and is up over 9% in two years. The study shows a total available labor force of over 410,000 in the area from which Ankeny businesses draw employees.

Other notable findings from the study include:

- Manufacturing employment remains fairly steady: there was a decrease of only three-tenths of a percent from 2008 to 2010 in the number of people employed in the manufacturing sector.
- Almost 80% of the employed residents in the Ankeny laborshed have education/training beyond high school and about 27% have an undergraduate degree.
- Fewer people are leaving Ankeny for work: the number of “out-commuters” decreased about 1,300 people between the 2008 and 2010 workforce studies.

The Executive Summary of the Workforce Study and studies for specific industries are available on

the [Workforce Menu of the Economic Development Department Home Page](#).

Workforce Program Immerses Students and Teachers in Ankeny Industry Operations

Students and Teachers recently wrapped up the activities of the second year of the Workforce Partnership. Five Ankeny Community School District teachers completed a three-week internship that immersed them in the operations of four Ankeny companies. This is the second year that Ankeny High School teachers have had the opportunity to participate in this internship. The purpose is to expose teachers to various career opportunities in Ankeny and to familiarize them with the required skill sets for those careers.

The businesses that hosted the teachers were Snyder & Associates Engineers & Planners, LLC, John Deere Des Moines Works, Siemens Building Technologies and Dickten Masch Plastics. At each of the businesses, the teachers spent time in the office learning about the administration of the business and also experienced work in the field and on the factory floor.

This year, about 40 Ankeny High School students also spent one day each at John Deere, Snyder & Associates and Siemens Industry. The students were exposed directly to the expectations, requirements and options for success at Ankeny businesses. The Student Academy culminated with a student-led presentation to their parents about the lessons learned at the businesses.

The Workforce Partnership grew out of feedback that the Economic Development Department received from businesses about the necessity of preparing a future workforce in Ankeny. The partners include the City of Ankeny, Ankeny Schools, Ankeny EDC, local businesses, DMACC and Heartland AEA. MidAmerican Energy has provided funding support.

Ankeny Business *Fast Fact*

This business delivers bakery products to customers throughout Iowa from its 45,000 square foot building in Ankeny. This company's Ankeny team of over 40 employees includes district management, sales and delivery staff. The company has operated from its Metro North Business Park location since 2003.

This month's business is [Sara Lee](#).

Tim Moerman, Director of Economic Development

tmoerman@ankenyiowa.gov

Curtis Brown, Assistant Director of Economic Development

cbrown@ankenyiowa.gov

Tonya Williams, Economic Development Assistant

twilliams@ankenyiowa.gov

Economic Development Department Home Page

www.ankenyiowa.gov/econdev



