



CITY OF GALESBURG

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United Facilities applies for training grant

Galesburg, IL (May 13, 2010) The City of Galesburg received its first application on its newest economic development program that provides training grants to employers. United Facilities has submitted an application for a \$50,000 grant to train 102 existing employees and up to 21 new hires over a two year period. The company operates an 845,535 sf distribution facility at 1557 S. Henderson Street and currently employs 113 full-time positions in Galesburg. United Facilities has a total of nine facilities totaling 5,000,000 sf and employs 450 nation-wide.

“We are evaluating how best to allocate our resources as we conduct a system-wide upgrade to our facilities,” said Renna Bliss, human resource manager for United Facilities. “Our goal is to invest in facilities where we can best leverage our resources,” said Bliss. “We hope we can partner with State, City, and the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to obtain the training funds as we have done with our other locations.” United Facilities plans to invest over \$500,000 on training their employees on a new warehouse management system. In addition, an investment of \$2.5 million is planned for building improvement, new machinery and equipment, and ongoing professional service and maintenance fees, according to Bliss. Because of the large investment United Facilities is considering, they have requested financial assistance from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and also from the local Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois (WIB). Applications to the DCEO and WIB are in progress.

“United Facilities has steadily grown its operation in Galesburg by remaining competitive and having a productive workforce,” said Mayor Garza. “If we can encourage their continued growth in Galesburg through the employer training program, we should support their application,” said Garza. City Manager Dane Bragg concurred. “The training program the Council unanimously approved is a great indicator that the City is willing to work with our existing companies, both large and small, to position them for growth,” said Bragg.

United Facilities started their operation in Galesburg in 1972 with a 100,000 sf facility and nine employees.

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