

TLX Technologies open house celebrates Wisconsin's manufacturing month

State officials, local business leaders tour facility

By Josh Perttunen - Freeman Staff

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Waukesha County Board Chairman Paul Decker, left, talks with Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson and State Sen. Leah Vukmir before an event Tuesday at TLX Technologies.

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CITY OF PEWAUKEE - Co-founders of TLX Technologies invited Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch and other state politicians, vendors, customers, community members and nearly 200 area students to their facility on Paul Road Tuesday as part of a kickoff event for the state's manufacturing month.

The open house event served as a chance for students to see the environment where manufacturing occurs, said marketing communications manager Janella VanRens, and to reinforce the fact that the Waukesha area has a strong presence in manufacturing.

"This (dispels) the misconception of what manufacturing is," she said. "The idea that it is dirty, foundry-type work. Also, it shows that opportunities don't just exist in production. There are roles in engineering, quality (control), testing and drafting."



TLX Technologies president Neil Karolek, left, Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, State Sen. Paul Farrow, Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson, TLX Technologies Vice President Derek Dahlgren and State Sen. Leah Vukmir cut a ribbon, marking the first anniversary of TLX Technologies' City of Pewaukee manufacturing facility.

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Kleefisch echoed the importance for young people to see modern manufacturing in action, and to understand the demand for workers in manufacturing fields.

"They need the training, they need the education, they need the exposure," she said.

Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson said there will be similar events that showcase manufacturing at locations throughout the state.

The open house came nearly a year after the business moved to the 17,000-square-foot building from an 8,000-square-foot facility on Springdale Road. Co-founders Neil Karolek and Derek Dahlgren were happy to lead tours of the factory floor and subsequent work stations, discussing some of the innovations that have occurred there.



Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, left, and TLX Technologies President Neil Karolek talk before a tour of the company's City of Pewaukee manufacturing facility Tuesday.

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Some of the highlights included a compression relief valve that makes starting a motorcycle faster and easier, an electrical switchgear that stops the flow of electricity if a fault is detected, and a safety device that will pop the hood of a car if it hits a pedestrian - lessening the likelihood of that pedestrian's head hitting the engine block.

Email: jperttunen@conlevnet.com