

TechniGraphics a leader in transforming region's image

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Photo By Joel Troyer

Wooster Mayor Bob Breneman speaks at a ceremony Tuesday announcing expansion plans for TechniGraphics. TGS Executive Vice President Mary Vaidya (from left), Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher and David Noble, one of the company's directors, are in the background.

WOOSTER -- A little more than five years ago, farmers were spreading corn seed on a field on the city's east side. Today, buildings and jobs are sprouting.

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher stopped in Wooster on Tuesday to announce the addition of a second building and 150 jobs at TechniGraphics Inc., a company the Vaidyas formed 15 years ago.

"It has been a lot of fun watching Dee and Mary. They are the ones really responsible for this growth," said David Noble, whose father, the late Don Noble, was a partner in TGS.

Don Noble once served as president and chief executive officer of Rubbermaid and the connection between the two companies was not lost on Mayor Bob Breneman.

"Rubbermaid was our shining facility," Breneman said. "This is the factory of the future."

The Rubbermaid philosophy runs through TGS.

"Dee and my father had absolutely the same philosophy of how to run a business," David Noble said. That philosophy places an emphasis on ethics, integrity and taking into consideration the interests of all of the stakeholders, from shareholders to employees to suppliers to the community, he said.

"I know Dee and Mary and what they have is passion," said Ted Bogner, president of Bogner Construction. "What made this company is really their passion. You don't get to this kind of growth without passion."

Dennis Boen, a senior vice president with Sky Insurance, summed up the growth this way: "It takes guts. They put their house on the line. They put all of their assets on the line. This is a high-risk venture, but you recognize the passion."

Companies such as TechniGraphics are helping to reshape and transform the image of not only Wooster and Wayne County, but Northeast Ohio, too.

"When I go to Cleveland for meetings, people are talking about Wayne County and not just about farming," said Chris Schmid, former president of LuK USA and Tekfor. He also serves as the chairman of JumpStart, an early-stage investment organization.

The growth of TechniGraphics "just tells you cornfields are not a limitation," Schmid said. "They do a lot of high-tech business here."

Bala Venkataraman, president of Magni-Power, said the rural, serene setting surrounding the TGS campus is a benefit to workers.

"I really think it opens up creativity," Venkataraman said.

"It goes to show you what can happen in the United States with someone who is innovative, intelligent and in the right field," said Steve Shapiro, chairman of the Wayne Economic Development Council. "It could not have happened to two nicer people."

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