




Existing industries to be honored here

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

The Northwest Kentucky Forward regional economic development organization is preparing a reception next month for existing industries to thank them for operating in this area.

Invitations to the Existing Business Appreciation/Recognition Reception are being mailed to 125 companies in Henderson, Union, Webster and McLean counties.

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Those are the firms -- manufacturers, service companies and distribution centers -- that qualify for state economic development incentives, according to Cj Maple, who joined Northwest Kentucky Forward just over a year ago as its first-ever manager for existing business.

Special recognition will be given to nine companies that expanded or began an expansion during the past year, hiring at least 15 additional Kentucky residents each and investing \$100,000 or more, Maple said.

"They've made a tremendous commitment to our communities by doing that," she noted.

"What I learned from going out to businesses in the four counties is that some are a little disappointed that new businesses get all the press," Maple said. "They get the front-page photo and the announcement by the governor."

The reception is intended to publicly thank existing industries, particularly those that have expanded or are expanding.

Ken Robinson, the state's new deputy commissioner for existing business, will be a special guest along with Dwight "Corky" Peek, director of the state's West Kentucky Economic Development Division in Madisonville.

Among others to be invited will be local legislators, Northwest Kentucky board members and members of the boards of the Union County and Webster County economic development foundations.

Wine, cheese and other refreshments will be served. Dress will be business casual.

Thank-you gifts will be given to each company that attends, and a door prize will be drawn.

The event will take place from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Wolf's Banquet and Convention Center, located at First and Green streets in downtown Henderson.

For information or reservations, contact Cj Maple at 826-7505 or cj@northwestky.com.