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### **Survey Says More than Half of Dublin Businesses Expect to Grow Their Workforce in the Near Future**

(Dublin, Ohio) – Despite a tough economy, an overwhelming majority of Dublin companies say they did not have to reduce their workforce during the past year. Even better news is that 54 percent anticipate hiring more employees over the next three years, according to a recent workforce survey conducted for the City of Dublin Economic Development department by Saperstein Associates.

The 2009 Dublin Business Survey, focusing on workforce issues, is the second in a series being conducted by the Economic Development department to determine what types of assistance businesses need to thrive.

“The good news is that businesses indicate they are planning to grow their workforce in Dublin,” said Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Dana McDaniel. “We are finding that, especially with small businesses, their biggest workforce challenge is finding the time to train employees.”

Nearly 300 businesses responded to the survey out of 867 businesses contacted, resulting in a 33 percent response rate. “We greatly appreciate the participation of our businesses in this critical information-gathering effort,” McDaniel said.

Finding job candidates with specialized skills, keeping employees motivated and using social networks to find employees were areas where businesses said they could use the most assistance. Fifty-four percent expressed concern in finding qualified full-time employees, with 54 percent saying many apply for available jobs, but few are qualified.

The survey also addressed skills that high schools and colleges need to focus on with 53 percent of respondents listing people skills and communication at the top, followed by energy/work ethic (23 percent), reading and writing (21 percent), basic accounting or financial skills (17 percent) and computer skills (14 percent).

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## **Other key findings of the workforce survey include:**

### **Full-time employees in Dublin**

Fewer than three	33 percent
Three to five	22 percent
Six to 10	15 percent
11 to 100	26 percent
More than 100	4 percent

### **Function performed at Dublin location**

Services	77 percent
Retail	17 percent
Engineering/Research and Development	9 percent
Distribution	6 percent
Administration	4 percent
Manufacturing	3 percent
Warehousing	3 percent
Other	1 percent

### **Workforce growth expected in the next three years**

Anticipating growth	54 percent
Not sure	27 percent
Not anticipating growth	19 percent

### **Workforce decreases expected in the next three years**

Not anticipating decreases	77 percent
Not sure	19 percent
Anticipating decreases	4 percent

### **Economic conditions altering products/services**

Not too likely	36 percent
Not likely at all	27 percent
Somewhat likely	27 percent
Very likely	10 percent

### **Education level of full-time employees**

College degree	92 percent
No college degree	8 percent

### **Interest in partnering with local schools**

Educating students on careers or business	42 percent
Providing tours	28 percent
Mentoring students	21 percent
Offering community service opportunities	19 percent
Tutoring	13 percent
Donating equipment	11 percent
Sponsoring professional development for teachers	10 percent

**Age of full-time employees**

Age 25-44	55 percent
Age 45-64	33 percent
Younger than 25	10 percent
Age 65 or older	2 percent

McDaniel said the survey results will be shared with the business and education communities to address challenges and opportunities raised in the survey. Results of the 2009 Workforce Survey will be posted on the City of Dublin Economic Development Web site at [www.DublinEconDev.com](http://www.DublinEconDev.com).