



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Michaels Stores To Open Facility In New Lenox *Distribution Facility To Employ 200 Workers*

CHICAGO - Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that Michaels Stores, Inc. will construct a 700,000 square foot distribution facility at the Cherry Hills Business Park in New Lenox. The company expects to employ approximately 200 workers.

"In my State of the State address, I talked about how job creation was the most important thing we can do to move this state forward," said Governor Blagojevich. "I'm pleased that Michaels Stores has elected to make this major investment in Illinois and its workforce."

Michaels Stores is eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program and for workforce training grants through the Industrial Training Program (ITP). The state is also providing funds to the company and to the Village of New Lenox for site improvements and infrastructure. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the programs.

"These are the kinds of investments the state needs to make in order to create jobs and pull us out of these tough economic times," said DCEO Acting Director Jack Lavin. "We will continue to employ a variety of programs offered by the State of Illinois in order to create job opportunities for Illinoisans, but we will do so with an eye toward fiscal responsibility and corporate accountability."

Texas-based Michaels Stores is the nation's largest specialty retailer of arts and crafts merchandise. The proposed state-of-the-art center could eventually be expanded to 1 million square feet.

"We targeted Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, but when it came down to it, the State of Illinois had the right incentives to make this a sound business deal for us," said Doug Sullivan, Michaels Executive Vice President for Development.

In addition to the state support, Michaels will receive tax abatements from the Village of New Lenox, Will County and the local school district and assistance from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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