



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

For Immediate Release
12/29/2003

Governor Announces Key Opportunity Returns Job Training Grant For Southwest Illinois
Funding Will Help Freeburg Company Increase Sales By 11%



opportunity returns

Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACTS:

December 29, 2003 Cheryle Jackson 312/814.3158 (office)
Angelynne Amores 312/636.6148 (cell)
Abby Ottenhoff 312/814.3158 (office)

Andrew Ross 312/814.7168 (Opp. Re

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES KEY OPPORTUNITY RETURNS JOB TRAINING GRANT FOR SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS

Funding Will Help Freeburg Company Increase Sales By

Freeburg – Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich today announced a nearly **\$52,000 Opportunity Returns** grant to Hubbell, Inc, a manufacturer of electrical enclosures, to teach 76 employees a variety of skills. Hubbell is based in Freeburg, a town located in the Southwestern region of the Governor's *Opportunity Returns* initiative - the regional economic development plan that he rolled out in the Metro East community earlier this month. As a result of this new training program, Hubbell expects to increase productivity and generate an 11% net sales increase.

"This is a great example of how targeting resources can produce immediate results," Governor Blagojevich said. "Hubbell is a successful company, but it has not been meeting a growing demand for its products. With this *Opportunity Returns* grant, Hubbell will actually be able to increase its output and grow its sales. This will provide an important lift not only to this company, but to the economic competitiveness of the region."

The grants are being awarded through the Employer Training Investment Program's (ETIP) Southwestern Illinois Company component. ETIP is a new generation of employer-focused, customized training grants offered through the *"21st Century Jobs"* Training Initiative. ETIP will help keep Illinois workers up to date with the latest technologies and business practices, and will in turn help businesses increase productivity and competitiveness. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is awarding ETIP grants, which reimburse companies and organizations up to 50% of the costs of training.

"The Southwestern region must become more productive and competitive in manufacturing to meet the challenges of the new global economy," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "This initiative will help accomplish that goal by offering key assistance to address the training needs necessary to retain and expand manufacturing jobs in the region and across state, especially those businesses that act as suppliers to larger companies."



hubbell etip.12-29-03.doc

[<-- Back to Index](#)
[<-- Close Window](#)