



COMMUNITY BANK AND LOCAL BUSINESS WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY

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As businesses look for resources and opportunities to acquire capital to pursue new investments and growth, banks and government loan programs, in some cases, have been criticized for their tightened credit and lengthy loan process. Recognizing the demand to provide much needed capital for the growth of businesses and the economy, Blackhawk Bank worked with Superior Joining Technologies, a manufacturing firm located in Machesney Park, Ill., to provide financing for a \$1 million high-tech machine that will make the small business more competitive in its industry.

On August 10, Superior Joining Technologies, owned by Teresa Beach-Shelow and Thom Shelow, held a ribbon cutting for its new Trumpf TruLaser Cell Multi-Axis Laser Cutting and Welding Center. The ribbon cutting was attended by members of the business community, local elected officials and Congressman Don Manzullo, who praised the expansion as an example of the quality of manufacturing in the United States.

“Superior Joining Technologies has achieved an enviable reputation as a leader in advanced manufacturing technology services,” said Rick Bastian, president and CEO of Blackhawk Bank. “We are privileged to support the company’s continuing success.”

With the new machine, Superior Joining Technologies will be able to provide custom welding jobs in-house, instead of having to outsource the work to a company in Minneapolis, and will be able to be a viable competitor in the global marketplace.

“Blackhawk is thrilled to be able to help Teresa and Thom bring this state-of-the-art piece of equipment to the Rock River Valley,” said Chris Agnitsch, assistant vice president of business development at Blackhawk. “This expansion is just another example of how companies that focus on new technologies and advanced capabilities will allow our region to maintain its position as a leader in the global manufacturing community.”

Blackhawk operates eight banking centers in Beloit, WI; Roscoe, Machesney Park, Rockford, Belvidere and Capron, IL. For more information about the bank, log onto www.blackhawkbank.com.

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