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**Community Gathered to Celebrate Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of
the Training & Technical Center of Cass County**

March 22, 2023 – BELTON, Mo. – The Training & Technical Center of Cass County (TTCCC) celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting on Tuesday, March 21. The \$600,000 investment is housed in the fourth building at the Southview Commerce Center (6107 E 155th St., Suite 100, Belton MO 64012).

The Southview Commerce Center is owned and managed by NorthPoint Development, a Kansas City-based commercial real estate developer. “We strive to have a positive impact on communities through relationships, infrastructure improvements and job creation,” said Brent Miles, CMO of NorthPoint Development. “The Training & Technical Center shows our commitment to the Belton community.”

This facility is the result of a years-long collaboration led by the City of Belton, and NorthPoint Development. West Central Missouri Community Action Agency is the official tenant and will coordinate the combined efforts of their own workforce development initiatives and those of Metropolitan Community College and the Belton School District.

“The City of Belton had the honor of being the convening partner in the creation of this state-of-the-art facility that will serve the employers, citizens and students of Belton, Cass County and the south Kansas City metro”, said Carolyn Yatsook, economic development director for the City of Belton. “The TTCCC was created to ensure a pipeline of qualified labor for local business while simultaneously training individuals who are seeking jobs that provide opportunity for economic advancement.”

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency, the lead partner, plans to offer skills-based workforce trainings, Life Skills and Step Up to Leadership classes through the center. “The Training & Technical Center is an incredible venue for training and technical assistance provided by a wonderful collaboration among several great education and training partners for county residents wishing to improve their skills and education,” said Chris Thompson, CEO of West Central Missouri Community Action Agency. “We are honored to be a part of this collaborative effort.”

The TTCCC marks the second educational site Metropolitan Community College (MCC) has opened recently in conjunction with its community partners in the South Kansas City Metro Area. This most recent partnership brings post-secondary education into Cass County. “By aggressively expanding our offerings in the region, MCC is fulfilling its mission of ‘Preparing Students, Serving Communities, Creating Opportunities for All’ in all areas of our district,” said MCC Chancellor Dr. Kimberly Beatty. “We are confident that the for credit and in-demand workforce training opportunities we offer at the TTCCC will meet the needs of local workers and employers alike. This partnership is the beginning of great things in Cass County.”

The Belton School District #124 plans to use the space to give students real-world learning opportunities with community partners. “We know the Training & Technical Center will provide our students with additional opportunities for real-world learning, collaboration and experiences that will prepare students for high-interest, high-skill and high-wage employment,” said Dr. Andrew Underwood, superintendent of Belton School District #124.

To learn more about what the center has to offer, please visit

<https://www.belton.org/edo/Workforce/Training-Technical-Center-of-Cass-County>.

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