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DOLE SAYS FEDERAL FUNDS WILL AID LABETTE BUSINESS PROGRAM

Washington, DC -- Labette Community College in Parsons will receive \$300,000 in federal funds for a new small business and industrial development program, Kansas Senator Bob Dole has announced.

The funding, provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce, will provide 60-percent of the money needed to underwrite an "incubator" program which will assist businesses and industries in start-up or expansion operations. Sen. Dole was active in efforts to secure approval of the funding.

In announcing the federal grant, Sen. Dole said, "The incubator program is a unique way to spur economic development, and Labette County is a deserving place for it. By providing a location and vital support systems in administration, marketing and finance we could see real improvement in the county's job picture.

"The partnership that is represented by Labette Community College and the federal government in this joint venture shows we are ready to try new approaches in solving old problems. I would hope that this is just a beginning, and that, if successful, we can look to similar ventures in other areas of Kansas where economic development is a priority need," said Sen. Dole.

Labette Community College will use the former Fred Ronald, Co., manufacturing site at 1910 Southern Boulevard for the program. The first new business to receive the incubator assistance, Tyre Trac Inc., will begin start-up operations next week. Within one year it is projected the firm, which will manufacture truck tire-pressure valve systems, will employ as many as 75 persons.