



City of McKinney News Release
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McKinney's Second Largest Employer Honored for Workforce Growth

McKinney, Texas (Nov. 26, 2013) – The City of McKinney and the McKinney Economic Development Corporation congratulates Encore Wire as the recipient of the Dallas Regional Chamber's Blueprint Award for Workforce Growth. Encore was honored during the 2013 Blueprint Awards Luncheon.

"We are pleased to have been able to support Encore as it has grown," said Jim Wehmeier President – CEO of McKinney Economic Development Corporation. "We continue to look for opportunities to recruit more businesses to McKinney and support our successful local companies."

Founded in McKinney, Encore Wire is one of McKinney's largest employers since 1989. The company manufactures copper electrical wire and cable for residential and commercial use. Encore Wire added 287 jobs, growing by 35 percent from August 2011 to present.

The McKinney Economic Development Corporation helped the company expand operations when it built a \$24 million 200,000 square-foot plant in December 2011. Projected employment has exceeded estimates by more than 50 percent. The company recently purchased 201 acres across from its current site. As the economy continues to improve, they look forward to future expansions and more job growth.

"McKinney is a great place to do business," said Daniel Jones, President & CEO of Encore Wire. "It offers an educated workforce, some of the most affordable housing in the area, great schools, and a positive and friendly business environment."

The Blueprint Awards celebrate companies that have made a positive impact on the economy through job growth, location and expansion activities as well as those companies and organizations contributing to the vitality of the Dallas region.

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About the McKinney Economic Development Corporation

The McKinney Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) was created in 1993 to support the development, expansion and relocation of new and existing companies. The MEDC is an organization with a mission to work to create an environment in which community-oriented businesses can thrive. The MEDC is actively pursuing investments in Aeronautics /Aviation, Corporate headquarters, Emerging technology, Healthcare and Medical Device Manufacturing, Professional services, and Renewable energy. For more information, visit www.mckinneyedc.com.

About Encore Wire Corporation

Encore Wire offers one-stop sourcing for all your residential and commercial wire needs. Backed by a select family of loyal distributors, we are driven by old-fashioned values and strive to always exceed expectations. Our expansive, state-of-the-art warehouse facilities and highly acclaimed color coding system, allow us to keep inventory levels broad and deep, while continuing to maintain a goal of a 100% fill rate. To us, this is a partnership and we want nothing more than for you to succeed.

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DECEMBER 13, 2013

MCKINNEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

POSTED BY: ANGIE BADO ([HTTP://WWW.TOWNSQUAREBUZZ.COM/AUTHOR](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/author/angiebado/)

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McKinney's political leaders and business community gathered at the McKinney National Airport on Thursday to celebrate 20 years of success of the McKinney Economic Development Corporation. Established in 1993, MEDC was created to "support the development, expansion and relocation of new and existing companies."

Mayor Brian Loughmiller thanked the business leaders who attended the event. Loughmiller said, "We found out that McKinney, Texas is the No. 2 zip code in the United States that is the most sought after, which brings home an important message. We have a lot of opportunities in our community from a development standpoint and I think it's very important that we recognize that it's our responsibility, as a community, as a council, as members of a board in the city, to promote this city and to be good stewards of this city."

Loughmiller said, "Our council is going to continue to work on strategic planning as we move into 2014. We are going to continue to work on tax policies. We've laid out a plan as we go into the next four or five years for reduction of our taxes."

The mayor also said that the City Council looks to the Economic Development Board to help with its strategic planning from a development standpoint.

"We certainly look to our stakeholders in the community to help us shape this wonderful community that we live in," Mayor Loughmiller said.

City Manager Jason Gray also thanked McKinney's business partners, noting some of the larger projects that the city has accomplished this year, including Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems' relocation of its headquarters from California to McKinney. Gray also noted that Emerson Process Management recently opened up its new headquarters as part of the Gateway development; Wistron GreenTech, a global Fortune 500 company, moved its operations to McKinney; and Encore Wire continues to experience large growth.

Economic development continues to be one of the top priorities of council to ensure that the city is providing a strong tax base for the community, Gray said.

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Mayor's Column

From the office of Mayor Brian Loughmiller

What are some highlights for McKinney this year, and how will they affect the city in 2014?

McKinney continues to celebrate a vibrant economy that develops alongside second-to-none amenities including new parks, increasing educational opportunities and unique community events. This year brought expansion and several new business developments to McKinney, including:

- Raytheon moved their Space and Airborne Systems Headquarters from California to McKinney.
- Encore Wire, a company founded in McKinney that has grown consistently for more than 20 years, marked their 24th expansion this year with a \$25 million, 202,000 sq. ft. facility.
- Emerson Process Management Regular Technologies opened a 132,000 sq. ft., three-story headquarters and research and development facility in the Gateway development.
- Wistron GreenTech Corp. continues work towards the opening of its new North American facility in McKinney.

The city also reached an agreement on the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center that is now under construction in the Gateway development of McKinney, a 90-acre site at the northeast corner of the Sam Rayburn Tollway and U.S.75. The hotel and conference center is set to open in Feb. 2015.

In addition to these development projects, we opened several parks including Bonnie Wenk Park featuring the city's first dog park, hike and bike trail extensions, as well as the skate park at Gabe Nesbitt Community Park.

How will 2014 differ from 2013?

The most noticeable change in McKinney is our landscape due to the continuing construction along U.S. 75 and other road construction projects. We will see increased activity in the Craig Ranch Corporate Center as Phase One brings a 120,000 sq. ft. office building and roadway improvements, which are currently under construction. We will also begin to shift our focus to the northwest quadrant as we evaluate opportunities resulting from the expansion of U.S. 75, including assessing retail and new development strategies in the undeveloped areas north of U.S. 380.

What challenges and opportunities do you anticipate for McKinney in 2014?

In considering our 2014 budget, we asked the City Manager to provide a five-year forecast that will focus on tax rate reduction as our city continues to grow and revenues continue to increase. Assuming continued growth at the current rate experienced this year, we have put forth a plan based on our current budget policies and planning processes that will allow reduction in tax rates beginning in the 2014-2015 tax year.

This coming year, the Council will focus on bringing corporate aviation and other related businesses to the McKinney National Airport. In 2014, the Wright Amendment restrictions at Dallas Love Field will no longer exist and commercial aviation will increase for Southwest as a result. We see this as a good opportunity to reach out to corporate customers who are seeking a new location for corporate aviation.

Construction along U.S. 75 not only brings opportunity for the commercial tax base, but may bring some

frustration for drivers. In a recent meeting with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), we were pleased to hear they will make efforts to expedite the completion of construction along the U.S. 75 and Eldorado Pkwy. corridor in an effort to assist traffic flow and businesses in that area. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to continue to patronize the McKinney businesses that are impacted by the highway construction.

The City Council will continue to focus on economic development opportunities in 2014 as we work to balance the residential and commercial tax base. These discussions will include the continued development of properties around our historic downtown including the nine-acre development just blocks off the square on Davis St. and McDonald St. As we look at these projects, we will ensure the development fits the architecture and historical theme of our downtown area, which is one of our most popular attractions to visitors of McKinney.

What are some of the ways residents can contribute to their community in 2014?

The level of community involvement in McKinney has always impressed me. Whether it be service on city Boards and Commissions, participation with nonprofit organizations or attendance at community events, McKinney is a special place because of the people who live here who make an effort to support local businesses and events as well as assist others. I believe the national recognition we have received based on the quality of our city, our health initiatives, and our business and lifestyle environment is truly due to the support of our residents.

What are some of the city developments and projects residents can look forward to this year?

In addition to the Gateway development project, the city has invested in infrastructure in the Craig Ranch Corporate Center along the Sam Rayburn Tollway, which includes the construction of a new road and a water feature that will be a centerpiece for additional corporate construction.

We will see additional development along U.S. 380, which will join the medical office development that was just constructed across from Baylor Medical Center at McKinney. We're also looking forward to Winco Foods, which is being constructed east of U.S. 75 on University Dr. which brings new jobs and offers residents another place to shop for food in addition to the new Sprouts that recently opened in McKinney.

We have approved new projects along Bloomdale Rd. for future development across from the Collin County Courts property. We are also currently evaluating property in downtown McKinney that has been slated for future development.

We will continue to evaluate uses that are consistent with our historic downtown including additional residential and mixed-use developments as well as future government center sites as our city expands.

Several new projects have been discussed and will begin work in 2014 that will further enhance our residents' quality of life. We recently approved an agreement with PSA to build a 90,000 sq. ft. recreation facility at the Gabe Nesbitt Community Park on Eldorado Blvd. This project will be operated without any required subsidy from the city and will be fully funded through the private entity. Our Community Development Corporation will participate initially with an agreement that 100% of their funds will be repaid by the private entity within four years.

In addition to this project, the city has been working on an aquatic center project that will feature 79,000 sq. ft. of indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities and recreation space that will be adjacent to or near the PSA project on the same park site. The aquatic center project is slated to begin in 2015 to 2016.

What are your hopes for McKinney in the new year?

My hopes for McKinney are that our city will continue to prosper, and as we grow, we manage the growth in a fiscally responsible manner. I also hope that as we see new opportunities we approach them in a manner consistent with the reasons that people continue to move to McKinney. Those include quality of life, friendliness of our residents, opportunities for growth, a vibrant and active atmosphere and of course the preservation of a vibrant historic downtown.

What resolutions are you making for 2014?

This seems to be an annual goal I am constantly working on, but I'd like to continue to try to find balance between my professional and personal life. I tend to try to accommodate all requests of my time as Mayor along with my family, my faith, obligations in my law practice and the personal fitness events that I participate in from time to time.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

It is an honor and privilege to serve the City of McKinney as Mayor. Our Council continues to evaluate projects, ordinances, budgets and overall policy while keeping our entire community as the focal point. We will continue to bring information forward as our city grows and as we strive to provide the type of amenities, residential opportunities and commercial projects that have helped make McKinney one of the best cities in America.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve this city. I look forward to seeing you around town in 2014.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brian Loughmiller
City of McKinney

Neighbors Go
Jan. 3, 2014



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DECEMBER 31, 2013

BEN LANE: WHY 2014 COULD BE CRUCIAL TO MCKINNEY'S FUTURE

POSTED BY: BEN LANE ([HTTP://WWW.TOWNSQUAREBUZZ.COM/AUTHOR /BENLANE44/](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/author/benlane44/))





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<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ben-lane.jpg> As the calendar flips to 2014, the previous 12 months saw huge changes throughout McKinney. In the last year, McKinney's residents and its leaders agreed to take on larger financial burden for the sake of the city.



In September, the citizens of McKinney approved a tax increase to fund the McKinney Independent School District[\(http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/the-tre-vote-a-look-back-and-a-look-ahead/\)](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/the-tre-vote-a-look-back-and-a-look-ahead/), raising McKinney's property taxes to some of the highest in the area. The city also spent \$25 million[\(http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-city-council-approves-25-million-purchase-of-airport-assets/\)](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-city-council-approves-25-million-purchase-of-airport-assets/) to purchase and subsequently take complete control of Collin County Regional Airport

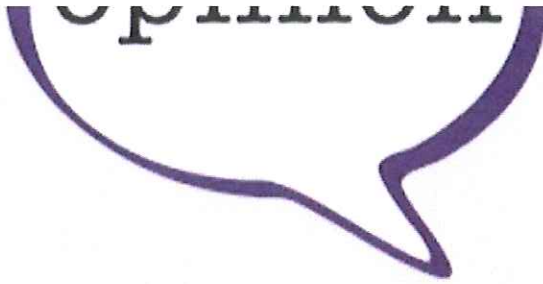
These decisions were both made with an eye towards McKinney's future. The citizens decided that having quality schools in McKinney was worth paying an average of \$268.59 more in property taxes every year.

City leaders also decided to spend some money to make some money, literally and figuratively speaking. The city council approved the purchase of \$25 million worth of assets at Collin County Regional Airport with the plan to use the airport as a carrot to attract large corporate tenants to McKinney. More corporations in McKinney means more jobs, increased tax revenue and more money spent in McKinney.

Those items were just two of several 2013 events that will shape McKinney's future.

<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/opinion.jpg> In May, the citizens of McKinney re-elected two city council members, and the mayor and elected a new city council member [\(http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/pogue-elected-to-council-loughmiller-re-elected-](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/pogue-elected-to-council-loughmiller-re-elected-)





[mayor-after-small-turnout-in-mckinney-election/](#).

In the last year, progress was also made on several massive projects that will help to shape what the kind of city that McKinney becomes as it continues to develop.

In 2013, the Gateway Hotel project finally began to move forward. [Plans were reviewed, criticized and ultimately changed](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/sheraton-gateway-hotel-developers-unveil-new-design-after-negative-initial-response/>). A corporate namesake for the hotel was named. Meet the [Sheraton McKinney Hotel and Events Center](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinneys-gateway-hotel-to-be-named-sheraton-mckinney-hotel-and-conference-center/>)

In September, MISD [announced plans to rezone to relieve overcrowding in its high schools](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-isd-high-school-rezoning-is-coming-in-2014/>).

Over the course of 2013, [plans for the long-rumored aquatic center were revealed](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-aquatic-center-coming-soon-city-council-briefed-on-plans/>). Ground was broken at the [Craig Ranch corporate center](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-breaks-ground-on-craig-ranch-corporate-center/>). The city council also [debated](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/mckinney-moving-forward-with-plans-for-development-of-city-owned-downtown-land/>) what the future of the city's town center would look like.

And recently, [several members of the city council have questioned City Manager Jason Gray's performance](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/city-managers-performance-review-reveals-divided-opinion-by-city-council/>).

All of these developments point to one thing: 2014 could end up being one of the most important years in McKinney's history.

Investing In The Future

Over the course of the last year, the city invested millions of dollars into its future. The continuing development of the airport is vital to the city's success. With the city now in control of everything at the airport, from the land to the buildings to the fueling operations, the city is positioned to try to attract other large corporations to McKinney.

Any corporate relocation is a process that takes years to develop, but the city, in coordination with the McKinney Economic Development Corporation, needs to be pushing the airport even harder as a selling point than they were before. Real progress needs to be seen soon. With so much money now invested in the airport, the corporate airport tenants need to increase quickly for the city's investment to begin to pay off.

The city is also preparing to spend at least \$18 million to the Gateway hotel project in 2014. There are finally small rumblings of activity at the Gateway hotel site. Bulldozers and other construction equipment have been spotted on the site. The city's [own construction timeline](#)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/city-council-approves-new-timeline-for-gateway-hotel-construction/>) states

that the hotel is scheduled be completed by February 2015. With the city contributing that much money to the project, it's imperative that real progress be made on the construction of the hotel in 2014.

If this project succeeds, McKinney could become a realistic location for conventions and other gatherings that the city currently loses to Plano, Allen or Frisco. That means more money spent in McKinney, more taxes collected from hotel guests and more development for the future at the Gateway site and beyond. Having a hotel and events center of this magnitude at the city's entrance could have a long-lasting impact on the city.

If the project stalls again or ultimately fails, the concrete skeleton that has lived on the Gateway site for years will cease being an eyesore and become a ghost haunting the city and reminding us all of what could have been.

McKinney ISD is set to see big changes in 2014 as well. When the 2014-2015 school year begins in August, many of MISD's high school students may be attending a new school. Students are likely going to be given the opportunity to grandfather into their current school, but the impact of rezoning will be felt for years to come.

Will the new high school zones affect real estate in McKinney? What about the higher property taxes due to the passage of the TRE? McKinney now has one of the highest property tax rates in the metroplex. Opponents of the TRE said that higher taxes would impact real estate. Will they be right? Only time will tell. No matter what, 2014's real estate figures will give a good indication of the viability of McKinney's future.

Over the next 12 months, the city will most likely begin laying the groundwork for the future of downtown McKinney. In 2013, the city received proposals for development on the city-owned land near downtown McKinney. In 2014, the city is likely to determine which of the developers it wants to task with expanding the city center to potentially include more retail, apartments, condominiums, and even a new city hall.

The decision about reshaping McKinney's town center is crucial to the continued development of McKinney.

Not to mention the release of the next "Best Places to Live" list from *Money Magazine*. McKinney placed second on the 2012 list. *Money Magazine* will release another list in 2014 and the question simply is: Where is McKinney on the list?

Placing high on the list has been beneficial to the city. It has raised the city's national profile and helped with everything from property values to real estate values to whether a large corporation chooses to relocate to McKinney or not.

Is it possible to go from second to first on the list? It seems unlikely based on the list's history, but stranger things have happened. Placing high on the list is something that the city values very highly and there will be plenty of folks tuned in when the new list is released.

And what about the man who is at the heart of almost all of these developments? The man who has been at the forefront of the airport purchase, the Gateway project, the town center development and countless other projects that the city is currently pursuing.

What happens to Jason Gray in 2014 may be the single most important event that takes place in McKinney next year. City Manager Jason Gray has connections to nearly every active project in McKinney. That's the nature of his position. But there are several members of the McKinney City Council who think he's performing poorly in the city's most important job.


Gray's recent review, reported by [TownSquareBuzz.com](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/city-managers-performance-review-reveals-divided-opinion-by-city-council/)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/city-managers-performance-review-reveals-divided-opinion-by-city-council/>), revealed that there are at least three members of the McKinney City Council who rated Gray's job performance as fair, poor or unsatisfactory. Gray has another review scheduled in February and the results of that review will be crucial to determining the city's direction is in this most important year.

If Gray receives a more positive review in February, then Gray will be allowed to continue shaping the direction of McKinney's future. If the results aren't pretty, then will McKinney be looking for a new city manager in 2014? And what impact would a change like that have on all of these unresolved projects? And subsequently on McKinney's future?

At this point, any talk like that is simply conjecture. But that doesn't change the fact that the next twelve months are critically important to McKinney's future.

In 20 years, how will we remember 2014? What about when we look back at 2014 as we tick towards 2015? Will 2014 be thought of as the year that McKinney continued its growth and moved towards the next phase of its development? Will it be a year of change and upheaval? Will it be the year that McKinney's future becomes it's present?

No matter what, 2014 should be a very interesting and potentially historic year in McKinney.

 [City Manager Jason Gray](http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/tag/city-manager-jason-gray/)(<http://www.townsquarebuzz.com/tag/city-manager-jason-gray/>)

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Competitive Edge Business Education Series Comes to McKinney Chamber

The McKinney Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the McKinney Economic Development Corporation, introduces the *Competitive Edge Business Education Series*. Beginning January 2014, the Chamber will host monthly educational sessions that support ongoing needs of the area business community.

The curriculum-based series reaches a broad range of industries and specialties and comes at an affordable price. *Competitive Edge* will offer seminars to support businesses large and small and include topics such as finance, human resources, sales/business development, information technology and more. The [McKinney Chamber](#) is excited to bring this series to the community.

Upcoming programs include:

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: [Leveraging Your Presence Online](#)

Instructor: Bernadette Coleman, Advice Interactive

Location: McKinney Chamber

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: [Small Business Tax Workshop](#)

Instructor: Karen Mensch, Murray & Mensch, PC

Location: McKinney Chamber

Tuesday, March 4, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: [Protecting Your Business from the Ground Up — Physical & Cyber Security](#)

Instructors: David Rosen, CMIT Solutions and Randy Haak, McKinney Police Department

Location: McKinney Chamber

Tuesday, March 18, 8:30 a.m.-Noon: How To Supervise People & Lead a Team (registration coming soon!)

Instructor: Glenn Shepard

Location: TBA

Tuesday, April 8, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: [Lean Manufacturing — Six Sigma In Action](#)

Instructors: Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center / J Preston Automation

Location: McKinney Chamber

Pricing for each two-hour program is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for not-yet-members. Pricing for four-hour programming will vary. Members may also purchase a “six pack” of two-hour classes for \$100; not-yet-members for \$150.

Programming takes place each month throughout 2014 and as new dates and topics are released, they will be posted on the [Chamber Event](#) calendar. For more event information and to register online, visit [McKinneyChamber.com](#) or click the individual program link above. For questions, please contact the Chamber office.

About the McKinney Chamber of Commerce

The McKinney Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for the McKinney business community and proudly serves as the unified business voice of McKinney. The McKinney Chamber of Commerce proudly serves over 1,200 member businesses representing over 39,000 employees throughout the North Texas region. With a rich heritage of leadership and collaboration, the Chamber works in concert with the City of McKinney, community partners and the corporate community to promote, advocate for and expand business, and earned its four-star accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. As publisher of McKinney Magazine, McKinneyOnline.com and McKinneyChamber.com, the McKinney Chamber markets the community's advantages as the foremost location for doing business.

About McKinney Economic Development Corporation

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of nearly 141,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments. Within a 30-minute drive to both DFW International Airport and Dallas Love Field, McKinney is also home to Collin County Regional Airport. Featuring multiple visionary developments and with lots of land to grow, the city is primed for economic development. McKinney ranks No. 2 on the Money Magazine Best Places to Live in America list and as a Top 100 Community in America for Young People by America's Promise Alliance. Visit the MEDC website at www.mckinneyedc.com.



MCKINNEY'S COLLIDE CENTER PRODUCES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR
Collide Center Tenant Debuts His First Children's Book

McKinney, Texas (January 10, 2014) – Local author, C.K. Smith, debuts his first book, *My Homework Ate My Dog*, at Prosper Library. Bring your children to hear Smith read from the book on Saturday, January 25 at Prosper Community Library from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aimed at children ages 4-8, the story follows the tale of a girl who has reason to be nervous about her first day of 2nd grade. The book is published by Lucky Shoe Books, a tenant of McKinney's Collide Center.

"The Collide Center played a critical role in getting the book written and published," said Smith. "I was able to consult and network with others on areas such as trustworthy CPAs and lawyers. Most importantly it gave me an inspirational place to write, and a conference room where my team could spread out and review proofs and artwork while preparing the book for publication."

The Collide Center also offers the opportunity for investors to meet with start-up companies and provide advice and potential capital to move these businesses to the next level. Studies show that businesses that started in programs such as the Collide Center double their chance of success after four years. The Collide Center was developed to support emerging technologies and innovative industries within McKinney and provides workspace, education and support to local entrepreneurs.

"Last year one of the Collide Center tenants appeared on *Shark Tank*. We can't wait to see what 2014 has in store for our entrepreneurs," said Jim Wehmeier, President- CEO of McKinney Economic Development Corporation. "We receive applications on a daily basis from new and exciting start-ups. "

About Lucky Shoe Books

Lucky Shoe Books is a publishing company located in Texas and founded by educators with the idea of providing not only great books that expand children's imagination, but also providing educational opportunities with the books. Each book includes a QR code that links to a video version of the book that is read by the author to help students who are ESL or developing readers. Lucky Shoe Books also provides educational curriculum items free of charge to be used alongside the books to link them to all core areas in the classroom. For more information visit the company's website at <http://www.luckyshoebooks.com>.

About the Collide Center

The Collide Center aims to support emerging technologies and to develop innovative industries within the City of McKinney by providing a range of services to entrepreneurs and start-ups. Curious complex with McKinney's Economic Development Corporation developed The Collide Center as a hub designed to provide workspace, education, support, events and workshops to businesses in McKinney. The Collide Center is a co-working space with Incubator and Accelerator programs geared toward fostering success for entities. Additionally, the center provides a "Collide Corridor" area for anyone to come to, meet up,

work and otherwise collide with other innovators to spur new ideas and collaborate on possible ventures. Visit www.collidecenter.com for more information.

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