



November, 2017

Recent Foxconn Newspaper Clippings

News articles can now be found on our new website:

<http://www.districtboards.org/>

Also, follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/districtboards>

(WI Tech College DBA@districtboards)

Gateway Technical College, MATC preparing for Foxconn

Expert warns manufacturers who have not stayed current will be left behind

By Corrinne Hess

July 26, 2017, 1:41 PM

Gateway Technical College and Milwaukee Area Technical College are preparing for one of the world's largest manufacturers to build a new factory in southeastern Wisconsin.



Gateway, which has campuses in Racine, Kenosha and Elkhorn, is building a training platform around advanced manufacturing to help fill the pipeline of new jobs Foxconn Technology Group could bring to the region.

President Donald Trump will make an announcement today that the Taiwanese manufacturing giant will build a liquid-crystal display (LCD)

factory in Wisconsin. The site has not yet been chosen, but many have speculated it will be located in Racine County along I-94.

Bloomberg is reporting Foxconn is expected to employ about 3,000 people in the beginning after an initial \$10 billion investment. The number of jobs could increase to more than 10,000 employees over time.

“We are pleased to hear that Foxconn is interested in southeast Wisconsin,” said Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht. “Gateway has a strong history of working with employers of all sizes to build a skilled talent pipeline. The opportunity to support our community and Foxconn is at the core of our mission. Gateway Technical College is positioned well for new economy jobs and the training that Foxconn will require.”

Gateway’s Computer Numerical Control boot camp, which trains students for a base in advanced automation and careers in skilled manufacturing, will prepare the next generation for Foxconn, Albrecht said.

“Companies like Foxconn are built on automation and system interoperability,” he said.

At MATC, president Vicki Martin said the school is fully prepared to assist Foxconn in any way possible.

“As Wisconsin’s largest technical college, MATC serves more than 36,000 students each year with more than 200 program areas, which include robotics, electronics, engineering, information technology and automated controls,” Martin said.

If Foxconn needs more specialized programming, the school can quickly modify its offerings and customize its training, she said.

“Once we get more information and know specifically what they are looking at we can develop specific training,” Martin said. “That is what

we do; we talk to employers and then develop a curriculum to meet the outcomes for employer need. If they can't wait for that, then we have customized training under our Workforce Solutions Department and find a faculty member who is working for us or hire someone to do the training that is needed."

Buckley Brinkman, executive director and CEO of the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity, anticipates Foxconn's new factory, which is reported to be a \$10 billion investment for the state, will be completely automated.

"What they are talking about is not your father's or grandfather's crafts person," Brinkman said. "This requires a very different skill set than either a person standing at the end of the line doing mindless work or the craft person of days gone by."

Brinkman believes Foxconn will recruit its employees from training programs, like Gateway or MATC, but also want experienced workers, which they will find by recruiting people from other states and also poaching employees from other area manufacturers.

"The people who are going to be the most impacted are the lower-end manufacturers who have not gotten on the journey to automate or upgrade," Brinkman said. "The dark side of this is if you are not ready or engaged in this technology, you are going to be one of the losers because your employees are going to leave you for the bright, shiny new factory."

Foxconn shows off products at Waukesha County Technical College

Shaun Gallagher

6:43 PM, Jul 31, 2017

After announcing its plan to invest \$10 billion into a new plant in southeast Wisconsin, [Foxconn](#) continues to impress, showing off its products at Waukesha County Technical College.

"To be able to touch and see these products and technology is pretty exciting," said Mike Shiels, Dean of Applied Technology at WCTC.

The college is hosting Foxconn Monday and Tuesday to showcase some of the products that will be produced in the area.

But these aren't just any television screens. They have 8K TVs, curved screens, screens thinner than an iPhone and much more. While local residents can be impressed by the incredible resolution of the products, industry professionals are just as intrigued by the business opportunity.

"We talk about what industries can impact Wisconsin and make them a real player as we move forward in the market," said Shawn Theesfeld with Hamacher Resource Group. "Getting technology involved in southeast Wisconsin is unbelievably good for this area."

"Economic development opportunities are incredible," said Tom Hostad with the Hartford Area Development Corporation. "Certainly from everything I've learned, this is the biggest economic project in the state of Wisconsin. It's a big deal. It's good to have someone like that landing in the Midwest. It will help us shake the rust belt image that's existed for so long in this area."

Economic is great and all, but some people are just there to check out how cool these screens are.

"I have a 4K now," said Sandra Pinti. "I thought that was great but this is just incredible. It's just incredible with everything this stands for."

Pinti knows the impact of these screens are bigger than just what she sees. Waukesha County Technical College knows it too and is ready to ramp up its curriculum to meet the standards required by Foxconn. Though, Shiels knows his students are already learning things that could help the company.

"The products around this room are produced using the skills and techniques we teach every day in our programs here at WCTC," Shiels said. "For people entering the workforce or thinking about retraining or recareering, there are a lot of great opportunities in a variety of skill sets within this company."

Shiels says he hasn't met with anyone from Foxconn yet but will soon to make sure their curriculum has lessons that will make their students the best fit for the company.

He and others know this has great implications for the future of the state.

"I think a lot of people thought Wisconsin wasn't a place for this type of high tech work to be done," Shiels said. "We're going to have a chance to prove Wisconsin workers are able to do this."

"Some of those interactive displays they have here are great," Theesfeld said. "Touch panel, anything you can get that virtual feel is going to take off in the market place. You're going to go into retail stores and see a lot of this stuff in place. It's just a matter of time. Them coming here, it's going to come even faster to this market and even faster to the United States."

The Foxconn display will be at WCTC until 8:00 p.m. Monday and again from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Foxconn's new Wisconsin facility may benefit Manitowoc economy

Alisa M. Schafer, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 4:23 p.m. CT July 27, 2017 | Updated 4:24 p.m. CT July 27, 2017

MANITOWOC - Business and government leaders across Wisconsin have been celebrating Wednesday's announcement by Foxconn Technology Group that they plan to invest \$10 billion in building a display panel plant in the southern part of the state. The move could have a long-reaching effect, even for businesses in Manitowoc County.

Progress Lakeshore Executive Director Peter Wills said businesses in the area would have the opportunity to be suppliers for the Taiwanese electronics giant.

"We need to look at what our companies have to offer and how they can innovate to have a better chance of being connected with Foxconn," Wills said.

The LCD panels made by Foxconn are typically used in computer screens, televisions and the dashboards of cars. They also appear in Apple products, such as iPhones.

The 20 million-square-foot facility would initially employ 3,000 workers making an average of \$53,900 a year plus benefits. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's office said it could result in up to 22,000 jobs indirectly created by suppliers and businesses looking to locate near Foxconn to serve the company and its workers.

Wills said Manitowoc could be a part of that growth.

"If companies innovate to be at the level Foxconn needs, not only would there be opportunities with Foxconn, but they would also find opportunities to work with other technology companies such as Motorola in Illinois and Plexxikon in Kenosha," Wills said.

Representatives from Lakeshore Technical College will be meeting Friday with Walker, along with other interest groups, to see what needs to be done at a local level to ensure the opportunities for economic growth are not wasted.

“Certainly there will be competition, we want to be well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities,” Wills said.

According to Wills, one step Manitowoc businesses can take immediately is to look at the supply chain map provided on Progress Lakeshore’s website, www.progresslakeshore.org. He said companies should find their listing on the map and make sure all the information is updated, including any particular niches those companies work within.

Wills said he intends to make direct contact with Foxconn to facilitate any local partnerships with the electronics giant.

Business partnerships are not the only opportunities coming to light. Wills said the new factory would put Manitowoc, and other Wisconsin areas, on the map for other business site requests. He predicted many businesses will be looking to follow Foxconn to Wisconsin.

“This is a great opportunity to attract companies from other states to come to Wisconsin to be closer to Foxconn,” Wills said.

Not everyone is so optimistic about Foxconn’s move to Wisconsin.

“I certainly hope they come and create jobs and boost our economy, but what did we have to do to entice them over here?” said MCM Composites President Michael Fredrich.

MCM Composites creates plastic moldings for customers worldwide. He said he didn’t see much added benefit for his company to have Foxconn in Wisconsin, but was mostly concerned about the incentive offered to the Taiwanese company.

“It (money for incentives) comes from taxpayers in the state,” Fredrich said. “I’m never a big fan of government choosing to support a company to come here. What are they doing for the companies that are already here? I just ask the state to manage them well and to create an environment that is welcoming and beneficial to all businesses.”

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin previously reported that Walker is proposing to give Foxconn \$3 billion in tax incentives over 15 years, but only if the company invests \$10 billion in Wisconsin and creates 13,000 jobs.

According to Walker, Foxconn is looking to break ground for the new facility in 2018 and begin operations by 2020.

Alisa M. Schafer: 920-686-2105; aschafer@gannett.com; Twitter: [@AlisaMSchafer](https://twitter.com/AlisaMSchafer)

Walker says tech college students will be needed for Foxconn jobs

Foxconn roundtable

GREEN BAY, Wis. (WBAY) - Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was in Green Bay Wednesday to promote a plan for building a Foxconn plant in southern Wisconsin.



The governor joined government, business, and education leaders for a roundtable at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

They discussed a proposed \$3 billion incentives package to lure Foxconn to the state, and the potential economic impact.

The governor's administration says Foxconn, an LCD screen maker based in Taiwan, could create 13,000 jobs in Wisconsin.

Walker says technical college students will be needed to fill those jobs.

"With the University of Wisconsin System here and across the state, with our technical college system here and across the state, and with our private colleges and universities, there's going to be tremendous needs in terms of filling both the direct and indirect positions," Walker says.

The governor also said the plant would attract suppliers that would create jobs.

"You know with Foxconn it's not just the 13,000 jobs. It's the supply base. You're talking over \$4 billion a year that they're talking about supply chain. So businesses here in Northeast Wisconsin and all across the state are going to benefit from that," Walker says.

The Foxconn plant does have its critics. Some say the \$3 billion subsidy package is unprecedented for a foreign company, and Wisconsin should not bear the full burden.

Dem. Sen. Dave Hansen of Green Bay is critical of the timing of the Foxconn push.

"This is about Governor Walker running for governor in 2018 and wanting to put the feather in his cap saying, 'I created jobs,'" Hansen says. "Because he has failed on his 250,000 job promise by 60-to-70,000 jobs. So now he can say that they're gonna build it, and what the damage is going to be to the state is my concern."

NWTC's President says the risk will not be without reward.

"It's like anything else. You have to take the risk sometimes in order to make it happen. What's the worst that happens? OK, we spend some money and they aren't as big as they say they're going to be, but they're still developed and they're still bringing in new capacity. So I think it's a win all the way around," said Dr. Jeff Rafn, President, NWTC.

The Wisconsin Assembly is expected to vote on the Foxconn incentives package on Thursday.

Walker says Foxconn wants to break ground on a plant by 2018 and open by 2020. An exact location has not been selected.

Foxconn would cast economic ripples through Rock, Walworth counties

A \$10 billion Foxconn factory in southeastern Wisconsin would cast economic ripples -- good and bad -- through Rock and Walworth counties, local officials said. By Gazette staff

A \$10 billion Foxconn factory in southeastern Wisconsin would cast economic ripples -- good and bad -- through Rock and Walworth counties, local officials said.

John Beckord, president of Forward Janesville, an organization that promotes Rock County business and industry, believes Foxconn's effect on the local labor market could be more positive than not.

There's a good chance Foxconn's development would result in suppliers and other supporting businesses popping up in the surrounding areas, including Janesville, Beckord said.

Foxconn likely wouldn't want to locate ancillary businesses too close to the new Foxconn plant itself. Doing so would have those businesses competing in the same labor pool. It makes more sense to locate suppliers farther away, Beckord said.

"That might actually work to our advantage to be just in the sweet spot of being 75 miles away and having a different labor pool to draw from," he said.

The attention Foxconn has drawn has created a "halo effect" in Wisconsin. Developers and entrepreneurs are now looking to Wisconsin and wondering if their businesses could thrive there, which could result in more development, Beckord said.

"We're building a brand with this that has impact on the whole state," he said.

Foxconn would have a down side here, too. It's inevitable some local residents would either commute or move to southeastern Wisconsin for Foxconn jobs, Beckord said.

"Some of that will happen. It happened with GM," he said.

But that wouldn't be substantial enough to cause concern, Beckord said.

As of April, Rock County's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. Employers already are raising wages to retain workers, Beckord said.

Foxconn, an electronics giant known for making Apple products in China, has not said what type of jobs it would offer to produce liquid-crystal display panels that are used in televisions and computer screens.

Foxconn on Wednesday announced plans to build a \$10 billion factory somewhere in southeastern Wisconsin. Officials said it could transform the state's economy, but lawmakers still have to approve a package of incentives.

UW-Whitewater business professor Russell Kashian said Foxconn would siphon workers from the local labor market, and the low unemployment rate regionally and nationally might make it challenging to find 13,000 workers who might eventually be needed for the factory.

"We're in a position right now where there is just over one job for every person there is," Kashian said. "It's difficult to know where all those workers will come from."

He predicts the factory would draw from all regions in southeastern Wisconsin, and pull up people from Illinois, as well.

"I think there will be poaching from other firms," Kashian said. "If I was a small manufacturer, I'd be concerned."

Foxconn's arrival would drive wages "on the margin," Kashian said.

That's a side benefit for all workers in manufacturing. Employers might have to pay more.

"Choice is good," Kashian said.

Blackhawk Technical College President Tracy Pierner was part of a group that met with the Foxconn team when they were in the Kenosha-Racine area.

Because of the size of the project, he believes the whole region would have a role in it -- from its construction to hiring of employees to the support industries that pop up to support the company.

Blackhawk is ready to provide training for workers at the company and all the other jobs that would be connected with it, Pierner said.

"We are absolutely committed to providing support to this initiative," Pierner said.

He said that the project was "the biggest thing he had ever been involved in."

“This is on par with when BMW decided to located in South Carolina,” Pierner said. "It's really going to change the area."

WALWORTH COUNTY

Foxconn's facility would likely draw workers from surrounding states, said Derek D'Auria, executive director of the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance.

Walworth County would be one of counties closest to the plant.

“There are definitely people who are underemployed and might see the opportunity to advance themselves,” D'Auria said.

Walworth County unemployment is just under 3 percent, D'Auria said.

But with Foxconn projecting wages above \$50,000 annually, it could create competition for workers among area production facilities, he said.

“Just because it's such a critical issue right now — specifically manufacturers because they need the skilled labor—I think they would worry about any kind of big development coming anywhere near,” D'Auria said.

D'Auria said people would be willing to make an hour drive to work provided the compensation is enough.

“I definitely think they're going to have to draw from all over and really find ways to attract people, potentially from other states,” he said.

Some of those employees would likely be found at the area's technical colleges.

“We'll all play a role in developing the future workforce,” Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht said.

In the past 18 months, Gateway has doubled the size of its manufacturing programs at its Elkhorn campus, Albrecht said.

“There's no question that there are available workers because we're already graduating students with those skill sets, but I think the challenge will be for us all to continue to work on aligning our programs and services through collaborative efforts,” he said.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this story.

Foxconn bill amendment includes \$20 million for worker training

Assembly committee to vote Monday

by Andrew Weiland

August 11, 2017, 6:03 PM

State Assembly Republicans unveiled the amendment they plan to add to the Foxconn bill, which will be reviewed by the Committee on Jobs and the Economy on Monday.

A full Assembly floor session is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 17.



Foxconn products were recently on display at Waukesha County Technical College.

The amendment to the Foxconn bill unveiled Friday includes \$20 million to the Department of Workforce Development for worker training. The bill instructs the DWD to work with universities, colleges, technical schools and non-profit organizations to come up with a plan to facilitate worker training for suppliers, vendors and companies impacted by the employment at Foxconn. It also directs

the UW System and technical colleges to look for ways to cooperate to provide comprehensive electronic manufacturing training.

Foxconn plans to build a \$10 billion complex in southeastern Wisconsin to manufacturing LCD panels, that could eventually employ 13,000 people. To attract the Taiwan-based company, Gov. Scott Walker is offering a \$3 billion incentive package, contingent on the company's hiring and capital investment. The deal is subject to approval by the Legislature.

The amendment to the Assembly's Foxconn bill also:

- Directs the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. to hire a full-time electronics manufacturing small business development director.
- Instructs WEDC to put language in the final contract with Foxconn to promote Wisconsin workers when practically possible.
- Specifies areas the Department of Natural Resources must maintain environmental oversight of the project.
- Directs the DNR to identify and consider wetland mitigation solutions.
- Adds Joint Finance Committee oversight for transportation bonding to expand I-94 for the project.
- Permits the use of tax incremental financing for fire and police services.
- Authorizes the use of local sales tax revenue bonds.
- Indicates tax credits will not apply until a job is created with a minimum salary of \$30,000 a year.

"The ideas put forward today in the amendment reflect our commitment to our constituents to bring the best bill forward that protects taxpayers and our natural resources while preparing Wisconsin for the biggest economic development in state history," Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, said. "We have been thorough and deliberate in our analysis of the public testimony and the legislation before us. This amendment addresses the needs of the local units of government, increases worker training opportunities, and tightens the bill language to ensure Wisconsin has the best deal that will bring the most return on investment."

Some Democrats have complained that Republicans are rushing the Foxconn bill through.

"It's remarkable that with a vote scheduled for Monday, we just received the Republican amendment. The legislature and the public will have little to no time

to review these changes,” said Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, D-Kenosha. “It’s clear that Republicans are trying to rush through the process to avoid as much scrutiny as possible. We need strong protections for Wisconsin workers, contractors, and local communities for this deal to work. We also need to know that our environment is protected and that we have strong measures that allow us to get our money back if Foxconn has a change in business plans or is unable to deliver. It’s clear that Republicans are trying to appear proactive without actually fixing the concerns that many people have with this bill.”

The state Senate on **Thursday formally introduced** its version of the Foxconn bill and referred it to the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee.

Walker signs Foxconn legislation

Gateway Technical College president traveling to visit Japan

by Molly Dill

September 18, 2017, 4:58 PM

Gov. Scott Walker today signed into law the Foxconn Technology Group bill passed by the state Legislature [last week](#).



Gov. Scott Walker signs the Foxconn legislation into law at Gateway Technical College in Sturtevant.

The legislation provides up to \$3 billion in incentives for Foxconn, which plans to build a \$10 billion, 20 million-square-foot LCD panel campus in Wisconsin. It is expected to initially create 3,000 and eventually 13,000 jobs.

A site still has not been announced for the Foxconn development, but Walker said he expected the company will announce the site between now and the first week of October, when the formal contract is signed with Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. Walker said the contract

will also contain more tools to tighten up the job promises, including laying out specific salaries.

There were no Foxconn representatives at today's bill signing, which took place at Gateway Technical College's iMet Center in Sturtevant.

"Not only in southeast Wisconsin, we can see this is going to be a benefit all across the state," Walker said. "This is about ensuring that our children and our children's children will have really those generational type opportunities."

Stephanie Sklba, vice president of community and government relations at Gateway Technical College, revealed that Gateway president Bryan Albrecht is on his way to meet with Foxconn representatives.

"Southeast Wisconsin truly has the opportunity to lead the world in advanced manufacturing," she said. "So in fact today, president Albrecht boarded a plane to Japan to begin that important work."



Gov. Scott Walker addresses the crowd gathered for the Foxconn bill signing at Gateway Technical College in Sturtevant.

Walker thanked WEDC CEO Mark Hogan; Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel; former WEC Energy Group CEO Gale Klappa;

GE Healthcare; technical and higher education institutions; and economic development organizations across Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee 7, for helping the deal come to fruition. Walker also thanked the Milwaukee Bucks, and Bucks president Peter Feigin was in attendance.

Walker just returned from a trade mission to Japan and South Korea, where he helped Wisconsin companies **establish business relationships** with companies in Asia. While on the trip, everyone he met with—even Foxconn competitor Samsung—congratulated him on the Foxconn deal, Walker said.

“I’m proud to say that not only will these LCD panels be made for the first time in America, they’ll be made here in the great state of Wisconsin,” Walker said.

Ecosystems like this one attract not only employers and talent, but also venture capital investors that want to invest in the startup opportunities associated with the development, he said.

Walker expressed confidence Foxconn would live up to its promises for its Wisconsin operations. He challenged those present, including Greater Milwaukee Committee president Julia Taylor, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce president Tim Sheehy and Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, to assure that Wisconsin is ready for the development.

The governor described the workforce development effort surrounding Foxconn as a “rebranding” of the state to attract talent and shift from a brain drain to a brain gain.

“We cannot have this be a matter of taking jobs from some employers to fill others,” he said, but must be a net gain of new jobs.

Gateway eyes \$5M iMET expansion for Foxconn training

From the Special section: **Bringing Foxconn to Wisconsin series**

MICHAEL BURKE mick.burke@journaltimes.com

Sep 25, 2017

STURTEVANT — Gateway Technical College is preparing for a \$5 million-plus expansion of the SC Johnson iMET Center so as to be able to train the employees whom a local Foxconn manufacturing plant would need.

Gateway's Board of Trustees voted unanimously Thursday to apply for a \$5 million state grant for the expansion, as authorized in the \$3 billion Foxconn incentives bill Gov. Scott Walker signed on Sept. 18 at the iMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd.

The college asked for the \$5 million grant for an iMET (integrated manufacturing and engineering technology) expansion to be included in the incentives bill, Gateway Senior Vice President of Operations Bill Whyte explained Monday.

The iMET expansion will happen only if Taiwan-based Foxconn formally initiates its plan to build an estimated \$10 billion liquid-crystal-display manufacturing plant — and in Gateway's district which is comprised of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties. Foxconn is widely expected to announce a location in Racine County, most likely Mount Pleasant, in the near future, for

an LCD-manufacturing plant that would employ about 3,000 people to start and up to about 13,000 at its peak.

“We expect a lot of this (the expansion) to move very quickly when the announcements are made,” Whyte said. “... We did want to move forward when we did just because of timing.”

The envisioned iMET project would add roughly 28,000 square feet to iMET’s existing 58,500 square feet, or an expansion by slightly less than half. Like the existing building, the new area would be two stories tall and lie mostly to the west, with a smaller new area and a new entrance to the north, Whyte said.

The board’s resolution to apply for the expansion grant is going to the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, which next meets in November, Whyte said — although he wasn’t sure if that body must approve the expansion plan or not.

“We have never had a grant like this,” Whyte remarked. “I don’t think anybody has.”

Target: fall 2018

Whyte said Gateway would apply for the grant money as soon as it can and then order the steel and concrete walls in November. The lead time for delivery of those materials is four to six months, he said.

Construction would start with the thaw of the ground in the spring, and Whyte expects the new section would be finished and go into use next September or October.

“The schedule is very much based upon our feeling that we want to get into operation as quickly as possible,” Whyte said.

The \$5 million grant does not include the cost to equip the future addition, Whyte said. That cost would come from Gateway's approximately \$3 million reserve fund although he said, "We might have some of that (equipment) donated by Foxconn."

The Taiwanese company currently has 42 of its people based at iMET and laying plans, Whyte said.

Gateway would also expand the existing parking lot by about 109 spaces, he said. That cost lies outside the state grant but would also come from the college's reserve fund.

The iMET expansion will likely require five to 10 more instructors, Whyte said, in the disciplines of engineering, mechanical/electrical, robotics, probably information technology and with possible additional business classes.

"All of this is based on an educated guess," Whyte said. "We don't have job descriptions."

There is also potential in an iMET expansion for a mock production line for Foxconn, Whyte added.

He said the operational costs for more classes and instructors would be paid for by tuition and fees.

Trip to Japan reinforces Gateway's direction in Foxconn training programs

By REX DAVENPORT rdavenport@kenoshanews.com

Sep 30, 2017

A recent trip to Osaka, Japan, helped clarify the scope of what Gateway Technical College will face as it helps train a workforce for Foxconn Technology Group, and the manufacturing plant it plans to operate in southeastern Wisconsin.

Bryan Albrecht, president and CEO of Gateway, was a member of a delegation invited to visit a plant operated by Sakai Display Products Corp., a subsidiary of Foxconn. Albrecht called it “a remarkable facility.”

“It helped me get a better understanding and perspective of the type of products that hopefully will be produced right here in southeast Wisconsin,” Albrecht said. “The size and scope of what they are doing is impressive.”

Albrecht added: “The product line is very innovative and state-of-the art. It gave us a broad vision of what glass technology is all about.”

His review of the experience was positive.

“The people were friendly, the facilities were clean and inviting,” he said. “It provided an inspirational feeling for how we think about advanced manufacturing in the future.”

According to Sakai Display Products company information: “SDP is located in the same industrial park as extremely advanced companies that deal in materials (glass, liquid chemicals), energy (electricity, gas, water), and other fields. We all work together like one big factory. This synergy helps us realize maximum efficiency in manufacturing.”

The facility manufactures some of the world’s largest glass substrates that ultimately get used in display screens.

“One of these glass substrates would cover the floor of a nine-square-meter room,” the company reports. “Eight 60-inch displays or six 70-inch displays can be produced from a single substrate. By effectively manufacturing large-screen LCDs, we can maximize our advantage in making 60-inch-and-larger LCDs.”

‘Capacity and ability’

“It reassured us that we have the capacity and the ability to be able to provide training programs to meet this world-class standard,” Albrecht said.

Gateway’s efforts to train a workforce for the Foxconn plant will include automation and robotics.

“We will be expanding our line of robotics training,” Albrecht said. “It’s the integration of IT and mechanical engineering, which is called mechatronics. In our case, from what we saw there, we need to enhance our ability to get more involved in new materials and material science engineering. That will be an important part of the work we do.”

Through the “leadership of the Gateway board,” Albrecht said he feels the school has committed to a larger investment in programs that address the manufacturing sector.

“You are going to see a shift in helping financially support the advanced manufacturing sector for Gateway,” he added.

The trip was facilitated by a third party, who Albrecht did not identify. He said he was prohibited from naming the other people who took part in the trip.

Foxconn plant to be built in Mount Pleasant, local officials offer \$764 million incentives package

POSTED 10:30 AM, OCTOBER 4, 2017, BY THEO KEITH AND FOX6 NEWS, UPDATED AT 06:24PM,
OCTOBER 4, 2017

MOUNT PLEASANT -- Foxconn representatives said on Wednesday morning, October 4th that the company will build its \$10 billion flat-panel TV plant in the Village of Mount Pleasant, ending weeks of speculation about the exact location.

Mount Pleasant and Racine County have signed purchase options with property owners for 90 percent of the land needed for the massive industrial campus, and local officials are not ruling out the use of eminent domain to force out those who don't want to leave.

County and village officials also said Wednesday they've offered Foxconn a \$764 million incentives package to move here, on top of up to \$3 billion from state taxpayers.

"This is a turning point in the history of Racine County, no doubt," County Executive Jonathan Delagrave said at the announcement at Gateway Technical College's Sturtevant campus.

The initial plant will be located in an area bounded by Interstate 94 to the west, Highway KR to the south, Highway H to the east,

and Braun Road to the north, according to a map provided by company officials.

Foxconn representatives identified two adjacent parcels where future expansions could be built. The construction staging area for the \$10 billion plant will be in an area directly to the east of the plant site, across Highway H.

The company will begin some work this year on the Racine County site and will start construction in the second quarter of 2018, said Jenny Trick, executive director of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation.

Land acquisition

Trick said all of the land within the plant's initial footprint was "under control."

Mount Pleasant Village President Dave DeGroot said village officials have handled the land acquisition process and landowners are getting \$50,000 per acre.

Racine County and Mount Pleasant will spend up to \$168 million to acquire land for Foxconn, under the terms of the \$764 million local incentives package made public Wednesday.

The package also includes water and sewer line improvements and increased public safety spending. Local officials say they are only fronting the cost, and Foxconn will pay the money back over time through taxes.

The local incentives are separate from the \$3 billion incentives package from the state, which includes up to \$2.85 billion in cash payments if Foxconn follows through on hiring and building goals.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has not finalized a contract with Foxconn, which will lay those goals.

Delagrave and DeGroot said eminent domain remained on the table if other landowners hold out.

"Eminent domain is a possibility but as a last resort," Delagrave said in an interview. "We feel confident that we'll be able to get agreements from just about everybody as we go throughout the process."

DeGroot said local officials were spurred to action when President Donald Trump dropped a hint about Foxconn's intentions during a June event at Waukesha County Technical College.

"The president kind of let the cat out of the bag very early on, and we're like, 'Holy mackerel, we've got to get going,'" DeGroot said. "It didn't make it any easier, because once the cat gets out of the bag, people come to the realization that, 'Hey, I might be sitting on something of value.'"

Key players in negotiations

Local officials, state lawmakers, and Foxconn executives gathered for the public announcement Wednesday in

Sturtevant, using the same room where Gov. Scott Walker had signed a \$3 billion incentives package into law in September.

Foxconn representative set up several flat-screen TVs in the lobby and gave tutorials to passersby.

Delagrave, DeGroot and other local officials made promises that the Foxconn announcement would not be the last for the county. Louis Woo, special assistant to Foxconn chief executive Terry Gou, echoed the sentiment.

"We're not talking about just 13,000 individuals that Foxconn will hire directly, but also tens and thousands of our suppliers that will be coming," Woo said.

Tim Sheehy, president of the Metro Milwaukee Association of Commerce, predicted that more than 100 of the company's suppliers would move to Wisconsin.

"We'll be pitching and have already started to pitch some of those suppliers to locate in close proximity," Sheehy said. "That just adds to the excitement."

Mount Pleasant became the likely site after the City of Kenosha dropped its bid for the massive development in September. Delagrave said he learned that his county had been chosen about two weeks ago, after Kenosha's decision became public.

Local officials and company executives made Wednesday's announcement despite the lack of a final contract between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and Foxconn.

WEDC's board did not vote on a contract at a meeting last week, and no other meetings have been scheduled. Sheehy said he expected the contract to be wrapped up soon.

Last month, Walker and the Republican-controlled Legislature approved close to \$3 billion in cash payments for Foxconn if the company delivers on its promises to build the massive plant and hire 13,000 workers.

Public information sessions

Elected officials will be holding information sessions around the community to discuss infrastructure improvements and local financing options for the Foxconn project. Those sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 11: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Village Hall
- Thursday, October 12: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall in the City of Racine
- Tuesday, October 24: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Veterans Terrace in Burlington