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“Riceville Cuts Ribbon on New Public Workspace”

Representatives from Riceville Area Economic Development (RAED) welcomed elected officials and the public to the official ribbon cutting and dedication event for “The CATapult”. CATapult was an idea launched in the fall during an economic development planning session with the newly organized RAED group. Christopher Smith, Chairperson for the RAED Entrepreneurship Committee explains, “As we were discussing ways to enhance business development in our community we heard about successes that other communities were having with shared workspaces. We felt strongly this was an idea we should pursue.”

The idea of a shared workspace began to take shape. A number of facility options were reviewed. Ronnie Pitzen, Sales Representative with OmniTel Communications states, “We were very interested to learn more about this unique initiative. OmniTel Communications is glad to work in partnership with Riceville Area Economic Development by making a portion of our facility in the community available for this purpose. We have come together to make some enhancements to the office space including outstanding Internet capabilities; we are ready to welcome our first tenants and members!”

There are a number of options available for people interested in being a part of the CATapult public workspace. The spaces have been furnished with items donated to the project by the Mitchell County Supervisors. A large private secure office is available for \$250 a month; this space can be shared with more than one tenants. A small private secure office is available for someone that wishes to do individual work in a private setting, the monthly fee for this space is \$50. Finally an unlimited amount of memberships are available that allow people to work within a shared public professional work area with access to high speed Internet and office equipment. The monthly cost for this membership is \$35. Access to the building is available 24X7 and 360 days a year.

“We have been excited to be a part of the planning and implementation of this project. Moving forward our offices will provide the needed support in answering questions and signing up interested individuals and businesses. In addition to providing an opportunity for those working from home our hope is that the CATapult will bring new business into the community.” states Brenda Dryer, Executive Director for the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission.

If you want more information about CATapult please contact Elaine Govern at 641.220.2685 or the MCEDC offices at 641.732.4790 and by email at mcedc@osage.net.

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