



NEWS

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Toledo Companies Collaborate to Enhance Educational Experiences of Children

The Regional Growth Partnership and its Launch program are proud to announce a partnership between two Toledo-area companies: Perrysburg, OH based Creative Learning Concepts, LLC (CLC) and Holland, OH based Plastic Technologies, Inc. (PTI).

As an occupational therapist, Elisabeth Wharton, Part-Owner of CLC, has spent over twenty years in the public school system helping the children she worked with become more independent in their daily activities - both in and out of academic settings. After watching one of her students struggle with drawing and cutting shapes, Elisabeth wondered if there was a product that could quell the frustrations of those who struggle with tasks like tracing, coloring, and cutting.

With help from her husband Randy (an engineer by trade), Elisabeth formed Createable Learning Concepts, LLC and created two products: Cuttables and Traceables. Cuttables provide a way to cut without worrying about one's shape or surface moving during the process, and Traceables allow individuals to trace a shape with one continuous motion, without repositioning one's hand.

As a new venture, Createable Learning Concepts was in need of extensive business assistance and strategy oversight. Launch, the tech-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership, represented the support system CLC required. Launch provided extensive business counseling, developed a brand identity and focus, instituted an active intellectual property protection plan, and introduced CLC to Plastic Technologies, Inc.

"I am excited to see the Wharton's idea of creating specialized educational tools manufactured in Northwest Ohio come into fruition and am grateful that Launch and the Regional Growth Partnership was able to assist them in their efforts, " said Tasha Hussain Black, director of the Launch program.

PTI, recognized worldwide for its plastics and packaging development expertise, assisted with the design and refinement of the CLC product prototypes, working to design a product capable of mass production. Now the sole provider of CLC's injection-molded plastic learning components for the commercial market, PTI is proud to be a part of the success.

"PTI prides itself in using its technology base to help companies realize their goals. Contributing to this project was especially rewarding because it provided the opportunity to positively affect the lives of others in our community and elsewhere," said Chris White, project engineer, PTI.

This successful collaboration is at least partially responsible for CLC's loan securitization and ultimately the launch of the Cuttables and Traceables product lines.

When children struggle with basic learning tasks like cutting and tracing, they can fall far behind their peers both academically and emotionally – feeling frustrated and self-conscious because they cannot perform certain tasks unassisted. In collaboration with Launch and Plastic Technologies, Inc., Createable Learning Concepts is working to eliminate these concerns, placing all children on a more equal playing field.

About Plastic Technologies, Inc.

Plastic Technologies, Inc. (PTI) is recognized worldwide as the preferred source for preform and package design, package development, rapid prototyping, pre-production prototyping, and material evaluation engineering for the plastic packaging industry. For more info:

www.plastictechnologies.com.

About Launch

Launch is a technology-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership. Launch provides comprehensive business assistance for entrepreneurs and start-up companies that are commercializing revolutionary, world-class technologies, to accelerate company growth and time-to-market-entry.

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About the Regional Growth Partnership

The regional Growth partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio. The Regional Growth Partnership acknowledges the contribution of the Ohio Department of Development and Thomas Edison Program, which provide funding in support of the Launch Program.