



LUBBOCK
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2014

Contact: Alyssa Kitten, 806.723.8223

Lubbock Economic Development Alliance Announces 236 New Jobs

(LUBBOCK) – The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) announced the creation of 236 new jobs at a press conference Wednesday afternoon. The additional jobs come as a result of the expansion of three local businesses in the Lubbock community.

Bahama Bucks, TimeForge and Hurley Companies will expand their current Lubbock locations, and will create new jobs affording local graduates an opportunity to stay in Lubbock.

“On behalf of the board and staff at LEDA and Market Lubbock, we would like to congratulate Bahama Bucks, TimeForge and Hurley Companies on their expansion and continued commitment to growing in Lubbock,” John Osborne, CEO of LEDA and Market Lubbock, said. “The jobs created will have a tremendous impact on the local economy, and we are fully committed to partnering with each of these companies announced today to help retain and grow their business in the future.”

Bahama Bucks, which started in Lubbock in 1990, is on a major growth trend and plans to add 63 new stores across the country in the next three years. The company has decided to merge their manufacturing, distribution, office and headquarters under one roof in Lubbock. Bahama Bucks will add 73 new jobs at their headquarters over the next few years, with nearly \$3 million in capital investment and annual salaries of \$3,060,000.

“We are extremely fortunate to have originated in Lubbock, Texas,” Blake Buchanan, CEO of Bahama Buck’s Franchise Corporation, said. “This community is very supportive of Bahama Buck’s, and our new expansion in Lubbock will facilitate our national growth. We appreciate our partnership with LEDA, who continues to help us ‘bless our guests’ locally and on a national level.”

TimeForge was founded in 2004 and creates, sells and delivers online labor management software for the retail, food service and hospitality industries. The company plans to expand in Lubbock at a new facility on 74th Street and University Avenue. TimeForge will invest in approximately \$165,000 in new capital improvements over the next few years and will hire 63 new employees with annual salaries of \$2,400,000.

"To continue to expand and compete with both United States and international competition, TimeForge is continuing to grow our Lubbock office," Anthony Presley, president of TimeForge,

said. "We're excited about our partnership with LEDA to continue to develop and grow our company in the Lubbock area."

Hurley Companies is pleased to announce that Essence Bottling Company, part of a group of small businesses owned by the Hurley family of Lubbock, was awarded an Advanced Contracting Initiative (ACI) Water Contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Water Team on December 20, 2013. The announcement results in more than 100 job openings in the Lubbock community.

The positions include warehouse management, transportation, loading and unloading, administrative, GPS tracking, logistics planning and many others, working with all commodities anywhere in the world. LEDA, Workforce Solutions, Texas Tech University's (TTU) Military & Veterans Programs and others will be assisting Essence Bottling Company in placing the positions.

"The water will be coming from plants across the nation," Shaun Hurley, president of Essence Bottling Company, said. "The Hurley Companies provide their products to customers worldwide, including the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency, FEMA, USACE, Homeland Security and to private corporations and small businesses; and we are proud to announce this new endeavor with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are grateful for our partnership with both LEDA and Workforce Solutions. The job training and hiring assistance they are providing us is essential for us to ramp up the operations."

In total, these companies will invest more than \$3.17 million in new capital improvements. Jobs created from their projects will provide more than \$5.46 million in new, annual salaries. Once fully operational, the total value added impact (change in Lubbock County's Gross Regional Product) will be \$40.1 million annually.

About LEDA

Since its inception in 2004, LEDA has assisted 123 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 5,394 jobs and investing more than \$396 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in \$5.5 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.

###