

## From East to West coasts, businesses are moving to Henderson, Nev.

**HENDERSON, NEV.** – Businesses from coast-to-coast are looking to take advantage of Southern Nevada's business-friendly climate and healthy economy by expanding to Henderson, Nevada.

Whether it is Ford Credit expanding from the Midwest, IDC from New Jersey or Touro University from New York, Henderson has become a hotbed for national companies to lay down roots.

Two of the most notable expansions in recent years are those of La Jolla, Calif.-based National University and Pennsylvania-based Quality Corrections & Inspections.

The expansion of the respected university earlier this year signifies what many national business leaders are beginning to understand: Henderson is a place for opportunity.

"A lot of people have a misconception about what Southern Nevada has to offer, just as many people used to have a misconception about Orange County," said Bob Cooper, manager of Henderson's Economic Development Division. "Thirty years ago, many people thought Orange County was strictly tourism driven and didn't offer much else. Thirty years later, there are a lot of people who wished they would have invested in Orange County. That's the situation we're in right now in Henderson."

Henderson – which borders Las Vegas to the south – surpassed Reno over five years ago to become Nevada's second largest city, trailing only Las Vegas. With a population (240,000) that would make it the 14<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state of California, it is larger than such cities at Irvine, Glendale and San Bernardino.

In addition to the area's unprecedented growth and the subsequent demand for nurses and teachers, schools – such as National University – are benefiting because the Las Vegas valley's maturing economy is calling for more highly-trained technical employees and professionals every year.

In fact, in recent years such respected schools as Regis University, DeVry University and Touro University have all expanded to Henderson to serve the Las Vegas valley.

"Along with low property tax rates and a friendly business environment, access to higher education will assure a

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*Manager, City of Henderson – Economic Development Division*

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high quality of life in Henderson and offer enormous opportunities to its citizens," said Dr. Jerry Lee, chancellor of the National University System. "Almost one in three of Henderson's citizens has some college education but has yet to earn a college degree. National University can put those degrees within reach for a large percentage of Henderson's adult population."

National University is just one of many companies nationwide that is recognizing the value Henderson can bring with an expansion.

In 2003, leaders of Pennsylvania-based Quality Corrections & Inspections (QCI) were looking to expand with a West Coast facility.

QCI – which has assisted hundreds of world-renowned companies since 1986 – originally targeted the Ontario area of California for expansion to be close to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The company's unique repair and inspections services for defective merchandise required it to have a presence close to the ports.

However, due to the economic advantages of being in Southern Nevada

and the ability to serve additional markets, QCI decided the logical choice would be to set up shop – a 40,000-square-foot production center – just a few hours up Interstate 15 in Henderson.

"Our first year in our new Henderson facility has been an enormous success," said Randy Burk, QCI's executive vice president. "Not only have we been able to increase our global import client business from the West Coast ports, but we've also been able to partner with local companies such as Ocean Spray and Graham Packaging to assist them with their packaging needs by offering them our labor-outsourcing services."

The importers and retailers are thrilled to have QCI on the West Coast and enjoy the easy accessibility and affordability of shipping merchandise to and from Southern Nevada, according to Burk.

"There are substantial growth opportunities for us here in the future with other global prospects as well as local manufacturing, distribution companies and the gaming industry," Burk said. "Henderson has been a perfect fit for us."

Bob Cooper, manager of Henderson's Economic Development Division, said such expansions to the area are a sign that the Southern Nevada economy is no longer solely reliant upon the hospitality industry.

"Henderson has not only emerged as a leading location for businesses to expand to, but it has also emerged as a leading place for companies to have their headquarters located," Cooper said. "With a healthy economy, favorable tax rates – both personal and business – and a high quality of living, we like to say that Henderson is the Las Vegas valley address for business success. And when we have such respected and successful companies expanding here, it validates that."

For more information on the City of Henderson's Economic Development Division, call (702) 267-1650.

