

## Truck Drivers on the Road to Good Health

**H**ow easy does your organization make it for employees to monitor their health? The answer from employees at truckload carrier Celadon would likely be, “not difficult at all.” The reason: Celadon has teamed with Community Health Network in what the company is calling the “Highway 2 Health” program.

“We wanted to meet the challenges of employee health care head on by focusing on wellness and prevention,” comments Celadon spokesman Craig Koven. The program includes a

wellness center at the Indianapolis company headquarters and allows employees to participate in health screenings for blood pressure, body mass, glucose and lipid profiles. Each participating employee receives a confidential report.

Celadon receives the two-fold benefit of a healthier workforce and potentially lower costs. Koven explains, “The indirect result is to maintain (health insurance) premiums or even reduce them in the future.”

An estimated 80% of Celadon employees are participating in the completely voluntary program, which began on July 1. Koven attributes the high participation rate in part to the emphasis placed on confidentiality. “We don’t want employees to think their health would be linked to employment in any way,” he offers.

Celadon operates 2,700 trucks and 7,200 trailers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The company hires approximately 30 new drivers every week.

**Resource: Craig Koven, Celadon Group, Inc., at (317) 972-7041**



## Business Purchases a Fast Track to U.S. Citizenship

**F**oreign nationals with money to spare are finding a quick and legal way into the United States. The program they’re using is known at the State Department as E2 visas or non-immigrant investment visas.

The only way to become eligible for an E2 visa is to purchase a business in the United States. The State Department’s only stipulation is the business must earn “more than enough income to provide a minimal living for the treaty investor and his or her family.” The purchase price for most of these businesses is more than \$100,000.

In exchange for their purchase, immigrant investors receive streamlined access into the U.S. Applicants are allowed to bypass the Department of Labor and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and apply directly through the U.S. embassy of their home country. The wait time for approval (15 to 22 weeks) can be literally years less than that of the more commonly issued H1B visas for temporary workers.

No surprise that participation in the E2 program is rapidly increasing. Japanese, German and South Korean nationals receiving E2 visas have dramatically increased, while overall participation is up 40% from 1997.

E2 visas, which also cover the investor’s spouse and children under age 21, are issued for two years and can be renewed indefinitely. There is no limit on the number of E2 visas the State Department is willing to issue.

## Energy Provider Stays Ahead of the Technology Curve

**I**nvestments in both public and private sector infrastructure are taking place throughout Indiana. The new environmental control system at Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corporation’s (IKEC) Madison power plant comes with an approximate \$400 million price tag. The addition, commonly referred to as a “scrubber,” is formally known as flue gas desulfurization and provides cleaner air by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions by as much as 98%.

Cleaner air isn’t the only thing being provided by this company. IKEC has been supplying power, good jobs and plenty of investment in Indiana for over 50 years. The organization continues to be on the cutting edge of the industry while maintaining the constants that make it such a success. One constant is plant manager Ray Wilson, a 37-year IKEC veteran.

When asked about the secret to long-term success, Wilson states, “as long as we maintain a low-cost, efficient operation, they (utility companies) are eager to buy our energy.” Large utilities such as American Electric Power, Vectren Corporation and others are the direct purchasers of energy produced by IKEC, which has a sister facility in Cheshire, Ohio.

The new scrubber will create 450 construction jobs and 20 permanent positions upon completion in January 2010.

**Resource: Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corporation at [www.ovec.com/index.htm](http://www.ovec.com/index.htm)**

Compiled by Jonathan Wales

## Ball State Adds to Indianapolis Presence

Visibility and accessibility are two primary attributes of Ball State's new Indianapolis Center, according to university president Jo Ann Gora. The facility is currently home to academic classes and will soon increase the number of seminars and workshops.

"The Ball State University Indianapolis Center's main focus will be to offer excellent educational programs aimed at working professionals looking for career advancement," Gora explains. The downtown location (50 S. Meridian St.)

provides several graduate level degree and certificate programs through live instruction and web conferencing. "We want to help the state move the economy forward, and we feel we can help on a variety of fronts through workforce development and community development," Gora adds.

The Indianapolis Center was 60% complete when classes

### Master's Degrees Offered

- Adult and Community Education
- Business Administration
- Educational Administration and Supervision
- Executive Development for Public Service
- Political Science
- Public Relations
- Special Education
- Urban Design

started this fall and is scheduled to be in full operation by January. Once complete, it will house the Center for Media Design (CMD) research hub and interactive kiosks, allowing visitors to explore various Ball State projects and extension work done by the university in the Indianapolis area. The CMD, along with a possible coffee shop, will be located on the first floor with the second and third floors being used for office space and classrooms.

The latest development in the project is a discussion between Ball State and city

government to create an Indianapolis discovery center. It would provide information on a variety of citywide activities, including properties for sale, new construction and expansion projects in the business, academic and community sectors.

**Resource:** Ball State University at [www.bsu.edu](http://www.bsu.edu)

## E-Real Estate Could Lower Transaction Costs

A transaction for that new house or property you want could become less complicated and less expensive. The ability to record real estate transactions electronically is projected to save billions of dollars nationwide.

Most states, including Indiana, still require real property records, such as mortgages, to be submitted on paper. Meanwhile, six states have adopted the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act (URPERA), which allows the records to be stored electronically.

Jodi L. Tuttle, general counsel for the Indiana Association of Realtors® (IAR), explains that her organization is always in favor of removing barriers to usage of electronic media. "Our members would definitely support an Indiana adoption of the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act," she offers. The IAR is currently working with several vendors to bring various real estate forms into the electronic arena.

The federal "E-Sign" law has paved the way for electronic storage of real estate records by recognizing digital signatures on land sales contracts and mortgages. Further action by the Indiana General

Assembly will be necessary if Indiana is to adopt URPERA or otherwise allow for electronic storage of real estate documents.

**Resource:** Jodi Tuttle, Indiana Association of Realtors, at (800) 284-0084



## Vetoes on the Rise

Current trends show an increase in gubernatorial vetoes in a number of states. Many suspect the vetoes are often being used as a campaign tool or an opportunity for a recently elected governor to flex some political muscle. The number of vetoes seems to increase as elections draw closer.

This was almost certainly the case with a move earlier this year by South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, who vetoed the entire state budget on the same night he did poorly in the South Carolina primary. This came despite line item veto power that gives him the opportunity to refuse to approve just portions of legislation. Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Wisconsin's Jim Doyle are two others who are more liberally applying the veto pen.

Not surprisingly, the data also shows a predictable spike in veto frequency when one or both houses of the state Legislature are controlled by the governor's opposing party.

In Indiana, Gov. Mitch Daniels, whose Republican Party also has majorities in both houses, has issued just three vetoes during his first two years in office. The late Gov. Frank O'Bannon, a Democrat who always worked with a Republican-controlled Senate, averaged more than seven vetoes per year between 1997 and 2003. Gov. Joe Kernan did not veto any bills in 2004.