Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Inc., is looking to create job opportunities by starting new businesses in the city or expanding already existing companies, despite the national economy and lack of vacant space. 

Phil Tate, director of job creation, said Kirksville has one of the most extensive economic development programs compared to other communities of the same size. K-REDI successfully has located a new project about every two years since Tate started his position seven years ago.

“We always have more projects than we can handle,” Tate said. “There are new projects every year that — through contacts with businesses, I reach to other states, trade shows (K-REDI does), direct mail.”

Tate said he uses the unique aspects of the city, such as having two universities and the Northeast Regional Medical Center, to attract new businesses to Kirksville.

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K-REDI Board President Bill Lymer said K-REDI can’t be looking at any specific type of businesses to come to Kirksville, he said.

“The plans we have for 2010 are taking into consideration that it’s not likely that there’s going to be a lot of businesses, either existing businesses or outside businesses, that would be planning towards expansion or relocation,” Lymer said.

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“Tobacco Cessation Classes

Program leaders and instructors (from left to right) senior Teresa Nydegger, alumna Brittany Camacho and sophomore Joan Scacciaferro waited Wednesday at Cold Turkey, the new tobacco cessation clinic sponsored by the American Lung Association. Community members and any Thomas student, staff or faculty member are invited to attend the classes, which is in the Student Union Building, Room 225 and provides nicotine patches and doctor consultations. No participants showed up for Wednesday night’s meeting, cessation leader Nancy Johnson said. When the program started in 2007, an average of 10 people participated in the classes, but attendance has been declining.

K-REDI sets development goals

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

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K-REDI is looking for any type of input, and citizens are encouraged to attend the next K-REDI meeting at 4 p.m. March 9 at Anderson, Lymer said.

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