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## Purdue high-tech center planned

40 acres donated in New Albany

By Ben Zion Hershberg and Dick Kaukas  
The Courier-Journal

Forty acres of the most desirable land in New Albany have been donated to the Purdue Research Foundation to create a high-tech business and education center.

The center, which will be modeled on a Purdue technology center in Merrillville, Ind., and Purdue research park in West Lafayette, is being touted as an effort to boost high-tech training and business growth in Southern Indiana.



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The Shine family's farm, above, had been sought by developers for years before John Shine donated it for the Purdue center. (By Ben Zion Hershberg, The Courier-Journal)

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It will be built on a wide swath of land near Charlestown Road and Interstate 265 and will encourage the "growth of high-tech business ventures and high-paying jobs," said Joseph Hornett, Purdue Research Foundation senior vice president.

"It's a very exciting project," said New Albany Mayor James

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land utilized for higher education and high-end economic development," Shine said.

The center also will house classrooms for students at the Purdue College of Technology, which now is based about a mile to the west at Indiana University Southeast.

About 160 students attend Purdue classes at IUS, most of them earning two-year associate's degrees. That arrangement will continue after Purdue's new technology center is complete, said Larry Mand, IUS vice chancellor for information technology and community engagement.

But Mand said the added space at the new center will permit Purdue to offer more bachelor's degrees in such areas as computer graphics technology and electrical and mechanical engineering technology.

IUS Chancellor Sandra Patterson-Randles said the new center will leave Southern Indiana "well-poised for economic growth."

Richard Kopp, director of Purdue programs in New Albany, made a similar point.

"This is going to be great for work-force development in Louisville and Southern Indiana," he said, noting that under reciprocity agreements, Kentucky students from the Louisville area can come to Purdue and pay the same rate as Indiana residents.

Purdue also is likely to become more attractive to Indiana students who now have to pay to live away from home to earn a four-year Purdue degree, he said.

Garner.

John Shine, president of Samtec Inc., an electronic connector manufacturer in New Albany, is donating the land, which the Purdue foundation estimates is worth at least \$9 million.

Developers have sought the land for years, but the Shine family has maintained it as a farm until now.

"I am pleased to see the

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Purdue officials were reluctant yesterday to discuss all the details of the plans, saying parts of it still are being ironed out. A formal announcement is scheduled for May 25 in New Albany.

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