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UPS to fill 1,500 part-time positions

New jobs stem from Menlo deal

By **Wayne Tompkins**

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The Courier-Journal

UPS said yesterday that it has begun hiring about 1,500 part-time workers in Louisville.

The company said it is hiring in just about all positions at its hub operations at Louisville International Airport, including package sorters, ramp workers, and administrative and air-cargo personnel, UPS spokesman Travis Spalding said.

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The jobs stem in part from the company's December 2004 acquisition of Menlo Worldwide Forwarding, whose Dayton, Ohio operations are being consolidated at the airport.

"The past two quarters we have experienced have been pretty robust, and the economy is doing well for us," Spalding said. Air

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express shipments through the airport, which overwhelmingly are handled by UPS, rose almost 4.5 percent last year to almost 4 billion pounds and December -- a key month because of the holidays -- was up almost 14 percent.

The new jobs coincide with the company's \$82.5 million expansion of its Louisville air hub, which will add a new 700,000-square-foot

building to handle heavy freight shipments.

The jobs are 15 to 20 hours a week and start at \$8.50 an hour.

"Especially for young people and students, this is a great part-time position," Spalding said. "You get your full health and education benefits."

Overnight employees are eligible for UPS's Metropolitan College program, a partnership with Jefferson Community and Technical College and the University of Louisville. Qualified participants receive a tuition-free education along with employment opportunities.

Depending on the job, an employee could be out on the airport ramp helping to load and unload planes, in the Worldport hub unloading containers, in the new airport facilities working with air cargo and heavy freight, or in an office doing administrative work.

The ability to lift up to 70 pounds is required for many of the jobs.

"We're not unreasonable," Spalding said. "We expect people to ask for help if they have to lift something heavy."

UPS is Louisville's largest private sector employer, with more than 17,000 jobs. The new jobs would increase the company's local work force nearly 9 percent.

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