

ICC DEVELOPMENT:

Western Kentucky University's Center for Research and Development

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From the Daily News, Bowling Green, KY - Scott Sisco

Hitcents.com has officially moved into its new office in the Center for Research and Development. The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for the center's first tenant Wednesday. The business, started by twin brothers Chris and Clinton Mills, uses the Internet to help companies get more customers. The brothers are finishing up their first semester at Western.

"This is exactly the type of entrepreneurial spirit we are trying to foster here," said Warren County Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon. "It's great to see young people who go anywhere in the country, choose to stay here in Bowling Green."

The Center, which is at the former Bowling Green Mall site, is catering to technology-based businesses. Hitcents.com uses Internet pop-up ads, traditional advertising and computer-related tasks to help companies.

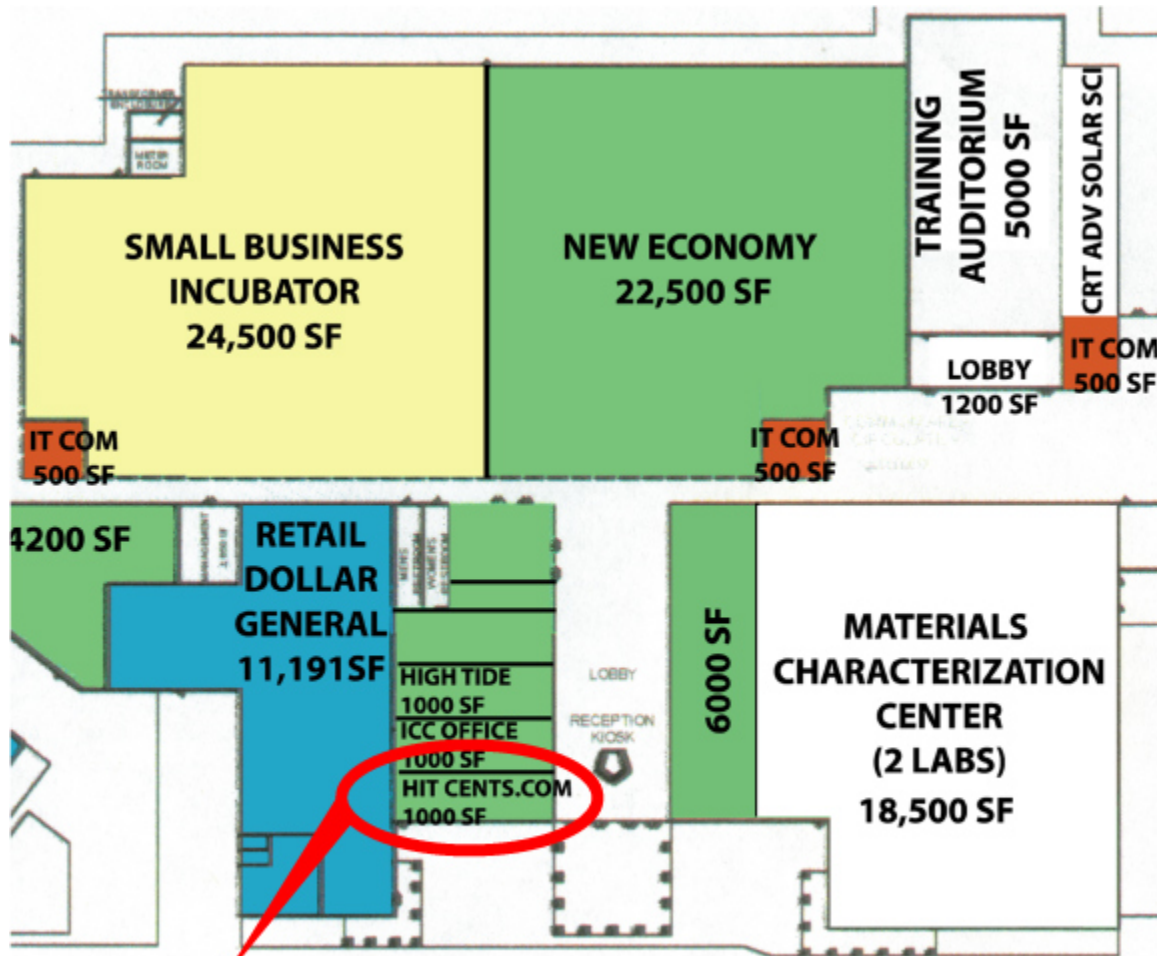
"What they've done is the wave of the future," said House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green.

The Center is in the middle of a lot of changes. One of the outparcels has been sold and five more are now available. Perot Systems is renovating the old Kroger store and other leases are in the works for other spots in the center.

"A lot of people are working hard to make this research and development center a reality," Western President Gary Ransdell said, "there are a lot of things that we are in the process of watching happen here."

Mayor Sandy Jones is watching those changes with great interest - one of her first jobs was in the old mall. "I'm certainly glad that we have the opportunity to bring life back into this facility," she said.

Senator Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green, said he appreciates entrepreneurs. "I like people who are going to risk it and put it all on the line," he said. Keeping the Mills brothers in Bowling Green and at Western is like keeping the area's athletic talent home also, Guthrie said. "You're going to be the seed," Guthrie told the Mills brothers. "Having that kind of success spurs other businesses."



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