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## CCHS computer lab dedicated with noble goals

By **Jared Nelson** [jnelson@timesleader.net](mailto:jnelson@timesleader.net)

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A crowd of legislators, technology executives and Caldwell County school district students and employees gathered in the CCHS library Thursday to dedicate a lab of new computers.

Meanwhile, the computers themselves, one door down from the library, hummed quietly away as a classroom of students, one of many that has utilized the lab since the computers'



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Belcan CEO Richard LaJoie (standing) spoke to students and guests at the dedication of a new CCHS computer lab. With him were (seated, from left) CCHS Principal James Schmidt, Dataseam CEO Brian Gupton and Superintendent Carrell Boyd.

installation, labored at their assignments, assisted by the benefit of new technology.

The 24 Apple eMac computers, donated to the high school last month by the Kentucky Dataseam Initiative and its corporate partner, the Belcan Corporation, were formally dedicated Thursday afternoon, further improving the technological capabilities of the high school and the school district as a whole.

Richard LaJoie, CFO of the Cincinnati-based Belcan corporation, said one of the company's dreams and aspirations was to be able to give back to Kentucky.

"We think this was a great place for us to be able to start," he said.

The new lab will accomplish multiple goals for the corporation, which supplies engineering services, information technology systems and training solutions for businesses, and the Dataseam Initiative, which has worked with schools across the state to improve the use of technology in the classroom and promote math and science studies to further the state's economic growth.



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Dataseam CEO Brian Gupton (left) and Belcan executive Richard LaJoie (right) spoke with long-time Caldwell County High School teacher Dale Faughn after the computer lab's dedication Thursday. The computers' donors said they hoped to foster an interest in math and science in Caldwell County students, for careers in engineering or information technology.



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The new computer lab is already in use by students at the high school. The 24 new eMacs replace older computers in the facility.

The computers, in addition to being useful for student activities and projects, will also be used in continuing cancer research efforts by the Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville.

The new lab, networked with other computers, slashes the time required for screening millions of chemical compounds that could be useful in cancer treatment.

The use of those computers in the fight against cancer was pioneered by Dataseam's partnership with the cancer center and piloted in Caldwell County last year.

Dataseam CEO Brian Gupton, a Princeton native, said the new lab's presence as a boost to technological education, and the math and science behind it, could produce future engineers for Belcan or other companies.

"We have to put on the ground an effective means to drive the math and science so important to these jobs," he said. "We need all the math and science students Caldwell County can muster to put to bat at the research that is going on at our higher education institutions."

County School Superintendent Carrell Boyd and CCHS Principal Jim Schmidt welcomed the addition of the new computers, which were delivered and installed before the school's holiday break.

"It will be utilized, and we'll see to it that we get the most out of it," Boyd said.

State Rep. Mike Cherry said such donations were appreciated at a time when state legislators were finding it difficult to fund technology in public schools at the level they would like.

After the dedication, visitors were offered an opportunity to view the new lab, in heavy use at the time by CCHS students, doing their part to make the goal of technological advancement a reality.

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