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Senator George Lemieux: WellDyne RX Shows Florida's Potential

By [Kyle Kennedy](#)
THE LEDGER

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LAKELAND | U.S. Sen. George LeMieux visited Lakeland's WellDyne RX on Tuesday, calling the pharmaceutical services firm an example of Florida's business potential.

LeMieux toured WellDyne's roughly 60,000-square-foot facility off Swindell Road, where the company processes and fills mail-order prescriptions using advanced robotics.

Since expanding to Lakeland in 2008, Colorado-based WellDyne has hired about 120 people here and expects to have more than 200 employees by the end of the year.

"This shows we can have a knowledge-based economy in Florida," LeMieux said Tuesday, as plastic tubs filled with pharmaceuticals rolled by on conveyors inside WellDyne's pharmacy.

"This is a state-of-the-art facility. These are the kind of jobs we want here," LeMieux said, stressing the importance of Florida's university system and the need for infrastructure and low taxes.

LeMieux visited the Scripps Research Center in Jupiter on Monday and traveled to Orlando's Chips Supply Inc., a semiconductor services firm, earlier Tuesday.

During the Lakeland stop, WellDyne Chief Operating Officer Susan Cain said the business is trying to grow amid a weak economy. WellDyne originally invested more than \$20 million for its Lakeland expansion and officials said they planned to hire 670 workers by early 2011.

Cain said WellDyne officials are "hopeful" the company will still meet its hiring targets, but she said the recession and uncertainty over the impact of health care reform have limited new business.

"A lot of our clients are small employers who offer benefits, so right now they're a little uncertain as to what's ahead for them," Cain told The Ledger.

Cain said WellDyne has expanded its client base beyond private firms and is working with managed-health care organizations. WellDyne currently fills about 10 million prescriptions per year but Cain said the firm has the capacity to triple that amount. She also noted that WellDyne has more than 60,000 square feet of unleased space adjoining its facility that could be used for future growth.

"We'd like to fill up the whole building," Cain said.

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RICK RUNION / THE LEDGER

WellDyne COO Susan Cain, center, gives U.S. Sen. George LeMieux, R-Fla., a tour of the WellDyne office in Lakeland on Tuesday. WellDyne fills prescriptions using high-tech robotics.

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