

Christie cuts ribbon on new Bayer HQ in Whippany

Written by William Westhoven @wwesthoven

Oct. 16, 2013 |

dailyrecord.com

The ribbon-cutting took place in a 400-seat theater during a ceremony that included a performance by the Whippany Park High School Marching Band, which marched into the room playing a special theme song that is part of Bayer's ongoing celebration of its 150th anniversary.

Calling it one of the most impressive new buildings he has seen in New Jersey, Christie said, "I think it represents the corporate culture in the design, and the type of corporate culture that we want across this country and around the world. The openness, a collaboration of bringing a people together, something that our country needs more right now than ever before. So maybe you can set an example for those people in Washington."

While about half the crowd in the theater were Bayer employees, Phil Blake, president of the Bayer Corp., acknowledged other Bayer staffers who were watching from TV monitors throughout the building.

"You're the clever ones, you're multitasking," he said. "You're working, you're watching, your drinking this wonderful coffee."

Asked later how critical the millions in state tax incentives were to convince Bayer to stay in New Jersey when other corporations had moved out, Blake said, "The reason we've come here is because this is a great space for collaboration. We are a science-based company and we have a building here that allows people to collaborate."

"We are very fortunate to have a company like Bayer consolidate their operations in Morris County," said Paul Boudreau, president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. "A lot of people on the state level, county level and local level worked together to make this happen and its so crucial for us to have these jobs here in the community."

"I think this is absolutely, outrageously beautiful, and it's the best thing to happen to Hanover in a long, long time," said Hanover Mayor Ronald Francioli.

Staff Writer William Westhoven: 973-428-6627; wwesthoven@njpressmedia.com.