

## Anderson celebrates 30 years with opening of new addition

By Marty Gordon

News Editor

BLACKSBURG – Anderson & Associates is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style, by opening a new 7,000 sq. ft. wing at its Blacksburg location. This is the engineering company's fifth addition at the Ardmore Street site. Anderson also has offices in the Tri-Cities of Tennessee, Richmond, Middletown and Greensboro. A new office will open this month in Fredricksburg.

Another unique part of Anderson is its "employee ownership". According to Anderson CEO Ken Anderson, 34 percent of the company is currently owned by its employees. He is optimistic that by the year 2002, it will be owned 100 percent by its employees.

"We have seen growth in individuals and the company," Anderson said Tuesday.

His opening remarks centered on the company's people. "One reason we continue to grow is the people," he said.

The total square footage at Anderson's Blacksburg location is now 21,726 feet. The company employes over 200 full-time and part-time employees. Founded in 1968, Anderson provides a full-

range of engineering services from planning and analysis to design and implementation. One of the fastest growing areas for Anderson has been associated with transportation.

Tim Stowe is the company's vice president of transportation, surveying and planning which comprises the largest percentage of work at the Blacksburg location. This week, Stowe pointed out the increased monies and continued support from the federal government via the T-21 legislation will not only increase transportation projects around the state and southeast, but also increase Anderson's workload. He couldn't give an exact amount and did say whether the company would have to hire any additional employees.

Full-time employees at Anderson with at least a year service and over the age of 21 can be shareholders in the company through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). Several times over the past three years, Anderson has been saluted by the state and national ESOP group for its outstanding effort in getting employees involved.

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MARTY GORDON/STAFF  
It was a ribboncutting of a different kind this week at Anderson & Associates in Blacksburg, The engineering firm's employee-owners all cut the ribbon on Anderson's new 7,068 sq. ft. wing.

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Mike Russell is a project manager at Anderson and the ESOP Committee Chairperson. He pointed out this is a new era for the company with the move toward full ownership by employees. Russell cited the employee ownership plan as a reason so many Anderson staffers seem to take a more dedicated approach to their work.

Many of those "employee owners" were on hand Tuesday for the ribboncutting. Each was given a pair of golden sissors and allowed to cut a blue ribbon for the official opening of their new addition.

For more information about Anderson turn to its website at: ([www.andassoc.com](http://www.andassoc.com)).