Panthers play for state championship
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PeopleShores partnerships

Automation Anywhere brings RPA business, jobs to Clarksdale

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

PeopleShores of Clarkdale took two big steps Friday on its journey to bring the Silicon Valley to the Mississippi Delta.

PeopleShores announced the opening of its new Robotic Process Automation Center for Excellence in collaboration with Automation Anywhere and that one of their first clients will be Mississippi's own Horne CPA.

The announcement was made in front a room packed with more than 300 people from San Jose, Calif.; Houston, Texas; New York City; and of course, Clarksdale.

"By providing access to RPA (Robotic Process Automation) training, PeopleShores associates from a range of educational, ethnic and social backgrounds are empowered to expand their skills," said Murali Vullaganti, founder of PeopleShores. "(This will) improve income thresholds and transfer that knowledge to organizations looking to automate end-to-end business processes to improve business productivity."

PeopleShores and Automation Anywhere will basically create software that allows businesses to computerize processes that are normally done manually.

Horne Marketing Director Bruce Walt said Horne CPA has been amazed at what PeopleShores and Automation

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The ribbon was snipped on the Delta Center of Excellence for RPA Friday in Clarksdale. Shown are , from left, Jon Levingston, executive of the Economic Development Authority of Coahoma County; Darryl Pieroni, PeopleShores business development; Murali Vullaganti, founder of PeopleShores, Dr. Mike McGrevey, Interim Director of MDA, Supervisor Johnny Newson: Mihir Shukla, co-founder and CEO of Automation Anywhere; Mayor Chuck Espy; Neeti Mehta, co-founder of Automation Anywhere: Mark Mayo, Executive Vice President, Transform AI; Mitzi Woods, Director of Delta Workforce Area: and Coahoma Community College President Dr. Valmadge Towner.

Anywhere are doing to improve performance and accuracy in business processes.

"Let me explain," said Walt. "We had a payroll process that took one person four hours a month to enter and complete. It is now done in 10-seconds."

And Horne said as business advisors, they plan to tell their clients about PeopleShores and how RPA can save them both money and time.

RPA is a technology that uses

software robots or "bots" that work side-by-side with human workers to automate repetitive, mundane business tasks, freeing up employees to focus on more strategic work.

"Intelligent automation isn't just about efficiency – at the core, its impact is human," said Mihir Shukla, co-founder and CEO or Automation Anywhere. "Automation Anywhere is helping to bridge Silicon Valley with the Mississippi Delta and

break the generational cycle of poverty in one of the nation's poorest regions.

The RPA Center, at PeopleShores' 1540 Desoto Avenue location, will serve as a research, design and development base for RPA and is expected to generate hundreds of high-value, high tech-enabled jobs in the Delta.

"The RPA Center of Excellence is the first of its kind

Opportunity for success
Mihir Shukla urges kids to dream big

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

He grew up in a town not much bigger than Clarksdale and his dream is to offer children in this community an opportunity to follow their dream and share some of the immense success he has enjoyed.

Mihir Shukla, co-founder and CEO of Automation Anywhere, grew up in a town of about 24,000 near Palanpuy, India. His company, Automation Anywhere, announced a major partnership with People Shores and Horne CPA in Clarksdale Friday.

Shukla

"This facility has the potential to train your young people in cutting-edge technology," said Shukla. "It really is my dream to see a boy or girl from Clarksdale grasp what we are doing here and become even more successful."

Shukla said he grew up poor, but studied hard, got to go to college and came to the United States where he founded a small technology start-up. He created and sold five businesses and founded his latest company in 2003, rebranding it as Automation Anywhere in 2010.

"We are steadfast in our commitment to provide RPA (Robotic Process Automation) training to help break the generational cycle of poverty in Coahoma County," said Shukla, "and believe we can change the blueprint for how government and the private sector approaches employment challenges by providing new career paths that align with the kinds of skills companies

Community urged to practice virus hygiene

Simple tips reduce risk of infection

Floyd Ingram
The Press Register

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continue to closely monitor an outbreak of respiratory illnesses

caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in Wuhan, China.

As of Wednesday morning there were more than 100 confirmed cases in the United States with 44 of those requiring hospitalization and nine have been fatal.

The CDC said Wednesday that

12 states have reported cases, but Mississippi was not on that list. Florida was the only state in the South at this time to have recorded a case of the virus.

Coronavirus cases have now spread from China to many countries around the world. While there is no sustained person-to-person spread in the United States, the CDC and MSDH are working

to detect, contain and limit the spread of possible cases in the U.S. and Mississippi should they occur.

MSDH is actively working with doctors and hospitals on how to respond safely and effectively to any case of COVID-19 in Mississippi.

In a prepared statement the CDC has said people need to be

aware the risk of contracting the virus.

"More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States," the CDC said. "It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in communities in the United States. It's likely that at

Success

require today."

Shukla grew up in a community where female literacy is only 78 percent and 13 percent of the population is under the age of six. The province on the west coast of India is largely rural and ag based.

But Shukla's Automation Anywhere and PeopleShores are part of a movement to bring technology to rural areas.

PeopleShores formally opened its doors in Clarksdale just over a year ago. They have been pleasantly pleased with the quality of the workforce in the Mississippi Delta. Friday's announcement of the opening of the Robotic Process Automation Center of Excellence proves that.

Shukla said Friday he is "A serial disrupter," meaning he wants to force positive change on both his industry and his world.

A visionary in the Robotic Process Automation (RPA) category, Shukla pioneered the Digital Workforce—software bots that automate business processes with both cognitive capability and embedded analytics—driving unprecedented human productivity while dramatically reducing processing costs for the world's largest enterprises.

Under Shukla's leadership, Automation Anywhere has become a global leader in this rapidly growing industry generating more revenue, with more employees, and a greater market share than its top three competitors combined.

Prior to Automation Anywhere, Shukla held leadership roles in internet, e-commerce, and wireless companies at the forefront of innovation such as E2Open, Kiva, ISN, Netscape, Infoseek, and Omnisky.

As of 2018, Automation Anywhere's customers included Google, LinkedIn, and GM.

The Silicon Valley company that uses bots to automate certain tasks previously done by human workers reached a $1.8 bil-

lion valuation with a new fundraising push from several companies, including Goldman Sachs in 2018.

In the same year, Soft-Bank invested over $300 million in Automation Anywhere.

Automation Anywhere's products combine traditional RPA with cognitive elements such as natural language processing and reading unstructured data. These include bots with machine-learning capabili-

ties.

In September 2019, Automation Anywhere was ranked No. 29 on the Forbes Cloud 100.

And Shukla smiled when asked about his company's future in Clarksdale.

"We have developed good relationships with people in Clarksdale, we have talked to the college (Coahoma Community College) about working with them and we are pleased," said Shukla. "We are behind the RPA Center of Excellence (CoE) and dedicated to bringing more than 200 jobs to the region by retraining and upskilling workers.

"We are behind this whole-heartedly," he added. "Our partnerships with PeopleShores and Horne are going to be very successful."