

# Our First Year

MERGED COMPANIES MARK ANNIVERSARY

## RK Dixon, Command celebrate successful venture

By Mary Louise Speer

QUAD-CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

RK Dixon, a family-owned and operated business since 1983, has expanded to keep pace with a world that thinks in terms of full-color copies.

Last year, RK Dixon acquired Command Business Systems as its newest division.

"We are a Canon dealer and they are a Canon dealer so it was a very good fit for us expanding our market in the Quad-Cities," says Bryan Dixon, president and CEO of RK Dixon. "It was a good benefit for Command as well. Since we're a local company, we were able to retain employment in the local community."

RK Dixon provides products and services for offices that range from copiers and printers to networks and consulting.

Bryan's brother, Jeff Dixon, is the company's president of information technology. Their parents, Robert and Carla



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**Brothers Jeff, left, and Bryan Dixon are leaders of the family-owned RK Dixon Co., which is based in Davenport and serves clients throughout eastern Iowa and western Illinois.**

Dixon, launched RK Dixon in 1983 with locations in Davenport, and in Peoria and Rockford, Illinois. Today Robert Dixon serves as chairman of the board and Carla is the corporation's executive vice-president. Their parents are excited

to see the company continue to grow and prosper with locations in Davenport and Dubuque, Iowa, and in Bloomington, Rockford, Peoria, Champaign and Springfield, Ill., Bryan Dixon said.

"One of the things I'm really

proud of is transitioning the business from the first generation to the second generation. We worked hard planning that," he said.

Command Business Systems' history in the area dates back to 1952.

Rick Sundin Jr. of Command Business Systems hoped that the smaller company would be able to continue operating in the same fashion before the sale took place.

His hopes were realized, he said. Command still has a separate sales forces and service technicians for its customers. The result is a model of how mergers should take place, he said.

"We have survived our first year together and Command is still very much intact. What we were originally told would happen has happened," he said.

In all, RK Dixon has about 200 employees.

RK Dixon plunged into a new

challenge in 2005 with Purity-Plus, a division that offers state-of-the-art water filtration systems.

The systems are a totally different product for them, Bryan Dixon said. However, businesses, schools, churches and other customers all need better ways to provide water to their clients in lieu of the traditional water cooler.

Bryan Dixon can't think of any major changes he would have made in past decision-making.

"I would say we've made some really good decisions. Really we haven't made mistakes as far as things I would want to do differently," he said. In the future "we'd like to continue to grow our business and continue to look for opportunities for other acquisitions."

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