

# Echoes..... news from Jackson County EDA

Fall 2013



The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA) recently awarded "Alabama AdvantageSite" designation to the Northeast College Site, a 100-acre industrial property located adjacent to Northeast Alabama Community College in Jackson County. The utility infrastructure is in DeKalb County, so the development of this site is a joint effort through Jackson/DeKalb Counties IDA. JCEDA was the lead on preparing all documentation necessary to earn the certification.

In 2008, Jackson County Industrial Park was the first site to be designated. The program has grown and is now well-known to companies and site consultants who often inquire specifically about AdvantageSites. The Northeast College Site was EDPA's 45th designation.



JDCIDA "Alabama AdvantageSite" designation presentation: From left to right, front row: Jimmy Durham, Marilyn Lott, Dr. David Campbell, Dus Rogers, Dr. John Anderson; Back row: Warren Hicks/TVA, Chip Kirby, Mike Simpson, Jim Green, Rep. John Robinson, Jerry Hammon, Gary West/Northeast College Site property owner, and Ernie Cowart/EDPA.



Cyber Symbiotics is a newly-formed coalition of communities in North Alabama united in a regional partnership for cyber security development projects. The partnership was formed to prepare for the estimated 53% increase in cyber security jobs over the next 5-10 years. The Cyber Symbiotics Regional Partnership includes the cities of Scottsboro, Arab, and Guntersville, as well as Jackson County EDA and Marshall County EDA.

While metro Huntsville is developing cyber-related infrastructure and leadership, many government and private projects have a need to be located close, but not too close, to larger installations. North Alabama offers a unique advantage and a variety of options for a national cyber security initiative. Northeast Alabama Community College is working to implement a cyber security technology training program, and Jackson County EDA earned TVA's "Primary Data Center Site" designation for industrial property adjacent to the college. An optimal combination of available resources including defense, intelligence, business, engineering, R&D, energy/telecom and education, plus the superb quality of life and natural beauty of North Alabama makes the area poised to become a viable option for cyber security companies looking for a prime location.

## Southern Log Wholesalers

We are pleased to welcome our newest industry to Jackson County! Southern Log Wholesalers will soon relocate their facilities to Flat Rock. The company, owned by Millard Williams, manufactures and distributes custom log homes made of Virginia pine. They employ approximately nine people.

### Upcoming Events

- We are forming a Northeast AL Maintenance Managers group in conjunction with DeKalb, Marshall and Cherokee counties. The initial meeting will be January 22 at noon at Northeast AL Community College. The goal is to share ideas and learn new things to help our industries thrive. More details will follow.
- AIDT Leadership Classes will begin again in February. There will be both Leadership Skills 1 and 2. Mark your calendar for the dates: February 11-12 and March 19-20. Notices will go out after the first of the year.
- The Jackson County Human Resources Professional Group just completed its first year of existence. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Impact Learning Center.

For more information, contact Shelia Shepard: 256-574-1331

## CEO Expo

The CEO Expo was a big success! The Expo was held on September 17 and hosted approximately 700 ninth graders in the Jackson County and Scottsboro City school districts. The event, organized by IMPACT Learning Center, JCEDA, The Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, and Earnest Pruett Center of Technology, gives students the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities related to a number of careers. This helps them to begin thinking about which career suits them best and how they can start planning for their future. Thank you to all of our exhibitors, sponsors, and volunteers!



## Congratulations, JM!

Johns Manville (JM) opened its state-of-the-art thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) manufacturing facility in Scottsboro in 2008. Since that time, they have been recognized with numerous awards including:

- ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) certification
- National Safety Council (NSC) Occupational Excellence Achievement Award
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status
- Johns Manville's worldwide Environmental Excellence award

Congratulations, JM, on a job well-done!

## Sanoh – Phase VII Expansion



We are pleased that Sanoh America, Inc. continues to grow and prosper in Jackson County! Their 7th expansion has resulted over 100 additional jobs this year! They are located in Scottsboro Industrial Park and employ approximately 300 people.

## Dus Chairs TVA's RERC

Dus Rogers has been appointed as the first chairman of the recently-formed Regional Energy Resource Council for the Tennessee Valley Authority. The council, which will advise TVA on current and future energy activities, was established this year under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and modeled after the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, which has played an advisory role for TVA since 2000. Each of the 19 council members will serve without compensation for two years and the group will meet twice annually. The first meeting was held in Scottsboro on October 24.



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