

Echoes..... news from Jackson County EDA

Spring 2010

Jackson County Welcomes TVA

JCEDA and the Scottsboro Industrial Development Board recently welcomed TVA to the Jackson County Industrial Park. TVA's Nuclear Power Group is establishing a centralized facility for the in-processing, orientation and training of new employees and supplemental workers, prior to their reporting for work at TVA nuclear power plants and in the nuclear corporate offices.

TVA plans to staff the facility with approximately 50 employees, with the majority transferring from TVA nuclear plants. Depending on employment needs, 2,000 to 5,000 workers will process through the facility each year. This will have an on-going positive impact on the local economy!

TVA purchased the 36,000 square-foot spec building and 13.5 acres, and plans to have everything completed by August of this year. They stated that the deciding factor for this location was the available spec building and shovel-ready "AdvantageSite," which saved much time and money on all due diligence such as environmental, archeological, historical, wetlands studies, etc. TVA Senior Program Manager, Greg Hadden, said these two things "made all the difference in the world."



Pictured above at the closing of TVA's purchase of the spec building, and below at the announcement ceremony, are representatives from TVA, JCEDA, Scottsboro IDB, Legislative Delegation, Hollywood City Council and Mayor, and Scottsboro City Council and Mayor.



Save the Date

17th Annual Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 2, 2010

KTNA Recognized

KTNA recently received special recognition as a "2009 Supplier of the Year" finalist. The Alabama Industrial Development Training and Alabama Technology Network assessed 14 automotive suppliers in 2009, using an assessment tool developed by Toyota.

KTNA Vice President Herve Bocher (pictured at left) contends consistent commitment to quality, service and active employee participation in the supplier's continuous improvement culture are directly responsible for the two-year-old Hollywood facility's continued growth.

He also credits Kotobukiya Treves North America's unique fusion of Japanese and French manufacturing models for creating a tri-cultural workforce within the Alabama facility, which he says benefits daily from the foundations laid by its parent companies.

KTNA located in the Jackson County Industrial Park in 2007. While Alabama's available workforce played a significant role in KTNA's decision to choose the Hollywood site, Bocher says it was the region's proximity to the heart of the strengthening Southern automotive corridor that made Alabama so attractive.

(excerpts from Business Alabama March 2010 "Supplier of the Year Awards" by Kelli Dugan)



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Existing Industry Support

Some of our local industries have expressed an interest in forming a Manufacturers Association or Industry Alliance to share information and open up communication between business, industry and education. We will be contacting some of you soon to begin discussion on how best to proceed.

JCEDA hosted another AIDT Leadership I training class in March at Northeast Alabama Community College. The Leadership II Class was held May 19-20.

JCEDA partnered with the Impact Learning Center to host a business and industry luncheon in April attended by 27 people. The speaker was from the EEOC and she presented a great overview of their policies, procedures, and recent law changes.

If you are interested in a Manufacturers Association, future AIDT training classes, or if you would like to suggest a topic for a seminar, please contact Shelia Shepard.



During the past 6 months, JCEDA has responded to 15 requests for proposals and information, had 16 prospect visits, and worked with 11 existing industries on possible expansions.

Spotlight on Allies

North Alabama Industrial Development Association (NAIDA) partners with 13 North Alabama counties in recruiting industries to locate to the region. They provide companies with information on available buildings and sites, an overview of each county, analysis on the major industry sectors including existing industries, information on labor, demographics, transportation, education, utilities, and comprehensive maps of the region.

From January 1, 2009 to March 15, 2010, NAIDA provided 33 prospect referrals to Jackson County, and assisted in 11 site visits. We certainly appreciate their support!

NAIDA hosts annual networking events including the NAIDA annual conference for economic developers and their local allies, site consultant luncheons in New York, Chicago, and Atlanta, and appreciation luncheons for Alabama Development Office and Economic Development Partnership of Alabama.

For more information on NAIDA and the services they provide, visit their website, www.naida.com, e-mail naida@naida.com, or call 1-800-669-9450.



NAIDA staff, pictured left to right, Tate Godfrey, Ann Dison, Cindy Burns, and Jason Wright.

On the Road Again

Since much of economic development is relationship-building, the EDA staff has been on the road again (as usual)!

Shelia and Dus participated in the Valley Economic Development Forum in Nashville, hosted by TVA. It is held to bring all of the TVA economic developers in the seven-state region together to share best practices and to learn from top consultants.

Dus was fortunate to be invited to Norfolk Southern's Brosnan Forest in South Carolina. It is an honor to participate in this invitation-only event.

We recently called on our federal elected officials in Washington D.C. Our annual trips have netted the county more than \$1.8 million in infrastructure.

We also made two trips to Montgomery to host our ADO allies for a reception/dinner and to meet with our elected officials. Both trips were successful and resulted in approved funding for \$100,000 in infrastructure and additional training for a local company to expand and create new jobs.