

# Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 9 News



## Baldwin-Choctaw-Clarke-Conecuh Escambia-Mobile-Monroe-Washington

May 2016

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Inspiring Our Future  
Workforce...One  
Student at A Time!

## SAWDC's Region 9 Rural Counties Initiative Hits the Streets

Our Rural Counties Initiative hit full throttle in late March, with an intensive, three-day blitz of three of the six counties targeted by the [Delta Regional Authority](#)-funded grant. The initiative - expected to yield an analysis of current and projected education and workforce development needs in our eight-county footprint's six outlying counties - is intended to help our region develop programs and systems-based policies to build a more connected, comprehensive workforce system among education systems and business and industry sectors.

In turn, researchers with Boston-based [Jobs for the Future](#), the project's lead organization, conducted on-site interviews with nearly two dozen stakeholders scattered across Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe counties and representing industry, economic development and community outreach. The asset mapping exercise also included large Mobile-based employers whose applicant pools often draw from these counties. SAWDC coordinated and assisted in the effort.

The research - in addition to data analysis - will continue remotely for the next six weeks until a second JFF team hits the streets of Choctaw, Clarke and Washington counties in June for the same purpose.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the following companies and organizations for participating in the first wave of on-site interviews and look forward to at least matching this volume in our three western rural counties in June. Thank you, again, to:

[Austal USA](#), [DW McMillan Memorial Hospital](#), [Monroe County Hospital](#), [Southern Alabama AHEC](#), [Monroeville/Monroe County Economic Development Authority](#), [Georgia-Pacific](#), [Alabama Power Co.](#), [Wind](#)

Click [here](#)  
to submit your  
sponsorship commitment  
today!

If you would like to learn more or  
get involved, contact:  
Kelli Dugan  
[kdugan@sawdc.org](mailto:kdugan@sawdc.org)

Project managed by:



Mobile County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2016 Sponsorship Commitments

Thank you!

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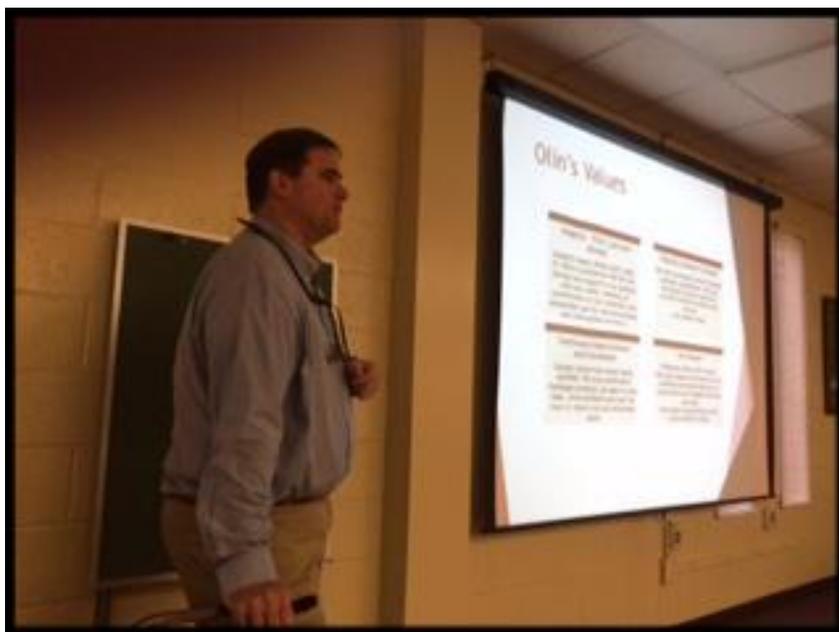


Creek Hospitality, Escofab Inc., Alto Products, United Bank and the Atmore Area Chamber of Commerce.



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

## Olin Corporation Hosts Washington County Career Tech Educators



*Ken Corley, plant manager of Olin Corp.'s McIntosh, Ala. facility in Washington County, walks career tech educators through its core values.*

About two dozen representatives from the [Washington County Board of Education](#), [Olin Corporation](#) and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Washington County Economic Development Initiative, or [WCedi](#), came together Friday, April 29, in McIntosh, Ala., to discuss career pathways at one of the region's strongest employers.

Specifically, the school system's career tech educators took the opportunity for an up-close look at an advanced chemical manufacturing giant located right in its backyard that hasn't laid off employees in 32 year and could very well pull from the system's graduates to address workforce needs as its stable payroll of about 300 continues to age.

"What we're trying to do is communicate the value of starting students thinking about these career pathways early and then also trying to understand the technical needs of our



### Bronze Sponsors



employers, so that we can see how it aligns with the technical skills being taught in our schools," said Austin Monk, WCedi's director.

Monk said he is hopeful the on-site Olin Corp. visit will encourage other area employers to open their doors to career tech educators eager for first-hand insight into the hiring practices and corporate cultures of some their student's most promising prospects for future employment.

In addition to a thorough safety tutorial, corporate overview and hiring protocol for both salaried and hourly positions, participants also learned about Olin's history, culture and in-house career advancement programs that include tuition assistance and a scholarship partnership with [Alabama Southern Community College](#).

Ken Corley, plant manager for the McIntosh facility, said although the scholarship program is relatively new, the company has hired five employees in as many years who benefited from the program and called them "top notch" upon graduation. In addition, he said, they offered three students in the program summer internships in 2015 and plan to do the same this summer to keep the relationship open and pipeline flowing.

Monk said the on-site visit - which included a facility tour - highlighted the need to continue investing in dual enrollment programs on the K-12 side to ensure "applicable skill sets" are being developed that ultimately propel local students to high-paying, high-quality jobs such as those available for the right candidates at Olin Corp.



### Inaugural Industrial Trades Advisory Council Meeting Attracts Dozens

About 40 industry and education leaders took part in the April 26 Industrial Trades Advisory Council meeting at the AIDT Maritime Training Center, hosted jointly by SAWDC and the [Central Gulf Industrial Alliance](#).

During this inaugural gathering, CGIA Vice President Eddie Clayton presented an overview of high-demand craft positions across the Southeast; offered a recap from the recent Best Practices Forum focusing on pipefitters/combo, millwrights/mechanics/machinists and electricians and I&C



**ALABAMA AHEC**  
Southern Alabama AHEC

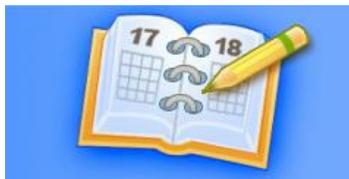


Technicians; and discussed the challenges in filling these positions.

Meanwhile, CGIA Executive Director Frank Jelercic discussed the benefits of the alliance's endorsement program as well as the Grad Connect program.

Finally, SAWDC Executive Director Laura Chandler delivered policy updates regarding proposed instructor wage changes as well as tweaks to attendance and drug-testing policies in light of the Alabama Community College System's ongoing restructuring. She also discussed disparities between program weight for technical programs vs. academic programs.

Those gathered also decided the Industrial Trades Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on a to-be-determined date in the fall and at least twice per year going forward.



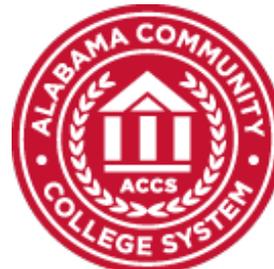
### Upcoming Events

**SAWDC Quarterly Council Meeting**

Location: TBD  
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

**SAWDC Worlds of Opportunity**

Mobile Civic Center  
September 21-22, 2016



**Region 9  
Community College  
FY2017 Round I  
Grant Application Deadlines**

**Due to SAWDC**  
Industry Endorsement Required  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2016**  
**by 5:00 p.m.**

**Presentations to SAWDC**  
Quarterly Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, June 8, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.**  
Location: TBD

**Grants Due to ACCS from SAWDC**  
Wednesday, August 5, 2016

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## **SAWDC Council Members**

**Pete Black**  
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**Ken Corley**  
*Olin Corporation*

**David Dexter**  
*AM/NS Calvert*

**Bob Jones**  
*United Bank*

**Emily Jones**  
*Quincey Compressor*

**Charlotte Kopf**

For grant resources including guidelines and forms,  
click [here](#).

**Please provide two original copies and  
one electronic copy to SAWDC by  
5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Original copies should be mailed to:

**SAWDC**

Attention: FY2017 Round I

605 Bel Air Blvd. Suite 32

Mobile, AL 36606

Electronic copies should be sent to:

**Kelli Dugan at [KDugan@sawdc.org](mailto:KDugan@sawdc.org)**

SAWDC's Vision is to develop a comprehensive, integrated workforce development system which creates a skilled, diverse, motivated, adaptable workforce that better meets the needs of employers and leads to a better quality of life for our citizens.

SAWDC's Mission is to develop strategic partnerships which attract, educate and train students and workers to better meet employer needs and foster economic growth in a global marketplace.

For more information on how you can become involved with the efforts of the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council and Region 9, please call 251-445-2090.



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*Creek Indian Enterprises*

**Carol Statter**  
*Infirmary Health*

**Green Suttles**  
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*SSAB*