

Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 7 News



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

October 2016

October Highlights

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SAWDC Board of Directors

Chairman
Lee Lawson
*Baldwin County Economic
Development Alliance*

Vice Chairman
Jennifer Ogle
Airbus

Secretary
Cleve Poole
Pioneer Electric

SAWDC, now Region 7, welcomes Wilcox County and new leadership



The State's new Regional Workforce Council map will go into effect October 1st reducing the ten regions to seven. With this change, SAWDC adds a ninth county (welcome, Wilcox County!) and our region number changes to Region 7 (vs. Region 9).

With change also comes new leadership! We have a new slate of officers and new board and council members to kick off the fiscal year. Lee Lawson, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, will step into the role as Chair and Jennifer Ogle, Airbus, will serve as Vice Chair. Cleve Poole with Pioneer Electric and Jill Stork with Alabama Power will serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Sandra Koblas, who has served as Chair for the past two years, will move to the officer position of Past Chair.

David Dexter with AM/NS Calvert and Ray Marsh with BASF join the Board of Directors. New Council members including the following: Christopher Valdez with Segers Aero Corporation; Ken Berga with UTC Aerospace Systems; George Alford with the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority; Jesse Quillen with Clarke County Economic Development; and Mark Burgess with South

Treasurer

Jill Stork

Alabama Power

Past Chairman

Sandra Koblas

Austal USA

Ketrenia Crenshaw

Boise Paper

David Dexter

AM/NS Calvert

Bill Hafner

VT MAE

Ronnie Hall

Georgia Pacific

David Hannan

Maynard Cooper & Gale

Frank Jelercic

*Central Gulf
Industrial Alliance*

Ray Marsh

BASF

Janice Rehm

USA Children's & Women's

Randy Rogers

Evonik Industries

Lesleigh Smith

Performance Contractors

Laura Chandler

Executive Director

SAWDC

Council Members

George Alford

*Wilcox County Industrial
Development*

Ken Berga

UTC Aerospace Systems

Pete Black

Parsons & Whittemore

Mark Burgess

South Alabama Gas

Chris Comstock

Outokumpu

Ken Corley

Olin Corporation

Bob Jones

United Bank

Alabama Gas.



Faulkner, Jeff Davis, Alabama Southern merger approved by Trustees

The Alabama Community College System's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the merger of three south Alabama colleges last month. Faulkner State Community College, Alabama Southern Community College and Jefferson Davis Community College will be merged. The new multi-campus institution will be known as Coastal Alabama Community College.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Alabama Community College System announces appointment

Mr. Brad James has been appointed as the Executive Director for the Advanced Manufacturing Center in Mobile, Alabama effective September 1, 2016. Brad comes to the Advanced Manufacturing Center project from the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), where he served as the Director of the Thomasville and Montgomery Centers.

Prior to his thirteen years with ATN, Brad spent 14 years in the pulp, paper and chemical industries at Alabama River Newsprint, Mead, and Westvaco. He has extensive process and manufacturing experience both in the areas of production operations and training.

Brad holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alabama. He may be reached at bjames@atn.org or (334) 456-9277. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Brad James to his new assignment with the Alabama Community College System.

From the desk of Chester Vrocher, Special Projects, Alabama Community College System

Southwest Alabama earns

Emily Jones
Quincy Compressor

Charlotte Kopf
*Associated General
Contractors*

James "Tim" Martin
Creek Indian Enterprises

Jesse Quillen
*Clarke County Economic
Development*

Carol Statter
Infirmary Health

Green Suttles
Mobile Gas

Christopher Valdez
Segers Aero Corporation

Jill Vinson
SSAB



Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Chatter

AIDT: [Maritime
Instructor Receives
AWS Award](#)

Mobile Chamber:
[Round 2 Goes to
Mobile](#)

Alabama News
Center:
[Go Build Alabama
Receives National
Award for Student
Engagement](#)

Made in Alabama:
[Consultant ranks
Alabama among
top business
friendly states](#)

Manufacturing Communities redesignation

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced that 12 diverse communities, including Southwest Alabama led by the University of South Alabama, will be redesignated as Manufacturing Communities as a part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative until 2018. The communities were all initially designated under the first round of the IMCP competition in 2014.

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership is a U.S. Department of Commerce-led program designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide by supporting the development of long-term economic development strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports.

To read the full press release, click [here](#).

ADVANCING 
SOUTHWESTAL

2016 SAWDC WoO....one for the record books



SAWDC would like to thank all, who played a role in making the seventh annual [SAWDC Worlds of Opportunity](#) a great success! Nearly 10,000 eighth-grade students from across nine southwest Alabama counties converged on the Mobile Civic Center for the 2016 event last week, and we could not be more proud to serve side-by-side with you to inspire our future workforce.

SAWDC
WORLDS OF
OPPORTUNITY



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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.