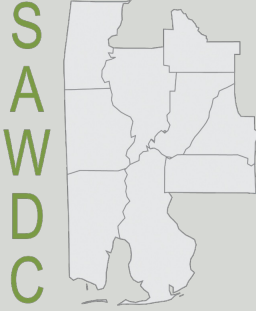


Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 7 News



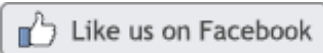
**Baldwin-Choctaw-Clarke-Conecuh-Escambia-
Mobile-Monroe-Washington-Wilcox**

January 2017



Happy New Year!

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January Highlights

[Rural County Study Presented
at Quarterly Meeting](#)

[SAWDC Surpasses 1,000 Job
Placements](#)

[ACCS Consolidation Plan
Effective January 2017](#)

[Sustainability Planning Update](#)

[National Fund Takes On a
New Direction](#)

[Southwest Alabama
Workforce Chatter](#)

**SAWDC
FY2017 Investors**

Region 7 Rural County Study Presented at December Quarterly Council Meeting

At the December SAWDC Quarterly Council meeting held in Thomasville, AL, Jobs for the Future presented the findings and recommendations from an eleven-month long analysis of current and projected education and workforce development needs in the rural counties of Region 7. The Delta Regional Authority-funded project will help SAWDC and its partners to develop programs and systems-based policies to build a more connected, comprehensive workforce system among education systems and business and industry sectors.

To view the final report, click [here](#).



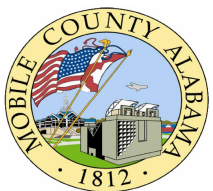
**Delta
Regional
Authority**



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

SAWDC Surpasses 1,000 Job Placements

Critical to our core mission, SAWDC has partnered to develop high-quality industry partnerships or clusters - a sound strategy for helping lower skilled individuals obtain and advance in good careers while at the same time ensuring that employers have high-quality skills that are



SAWDC Board of Directors

Chairman Lee Lawson Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance

Vice Chairman Jennifer Ogle Airbus

Secretary

needed to compete in today's dynamic economy. Key elements of the cluster model are: the work is industry led; the work is driven by sectoral workforce partnerships; and the work is designed to serve two sets of customers: businesses and workers. In varying degrees to each cluster, SAWDC provides cluster management, project management, case management, and tracking services.

As of the close of 2016 through this framework, SAWDC has served 1,590 jobseekers managing 1,045 into jobs - 92% of which were within the targeted industry with six and twelve-month retention rates coming in at 83% and 69%, respectively. SAWDC has also served 208 incumbent workers, who received an average 9.6% wage increase post-training and reported retention rates of 96% and 89% for six and twelve months, respectively.

Thank you to all of our industry and education partners as this work would not be successful without your leadership and commitment!



Regional Community College Consolidation Plan Effective January 2017

At the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission On Colleges (SACSCOC) Annual Meeting December 3-6 in Atlanta, Georgia, the Commission Board of Trustees approved the Substantive Change Request for the final approval of the consolidation of Faulkner State Community College with Jefferson Davis Community College and Alabama Southern Community College.

The SACSCOC decision allowed for the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees to take final action of approval in the consolidation implementation plan of these colleges, which is to be named Coastal Alabama Community College. The consolidation plan will be effective January 11, 2017. Faulkner State's current Bay Minette Campus will serve as the regional main campus for the newly consolidated college. Reid State Technical

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Ken Corley
Olin Corporation

College is not included in this consolidation.

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

Planning for Sustainability

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation focused on assisting National Fund sites in the South with sustainability planning. As one of only eight recipients, SAWDC kicked off planning in mid-2016. SAWDC's sustainability planning is broken into three areas of focus: partnership alignment; board development; and the establishment of a long-range, sustainable funding strategy.

During the last quarter of the calendar year, Alan Brickman, a New Orleans-based consultant, began facilitating planning efforts related to board development and the establishment of a sustainable financial model. The process, which included a board retreat held in mid-December, will assist SAWDC in making decisions that impact its future effectiveness and sustainability. The final plan will be produced for distribution by March 1st.



**W.K.
KELLOGG
FOUNDATION™**



National Fund Launches with Expanded Mission

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions has launched as an independent 501(c)(3) with an office in Washington D.C. and the guidance of exemplary business, philanthropic and workforce leaders. The National Fund was created in 2007, with support from the major national foundations and the U.S. Department of Labor, to strengthen and expand high-impact industry partnerships across the country. For almost a decade, Jobs for the Future incubated the National Fund and provided critical support to its development, growth, and success.

The National Fund's expanded mission will be to drive practices, policies, and investments that enable workers to succeed in good jobs, provide employers with a skilled workforce, and build more prosperous communities. The organization will build upon its past successes working with more than 30 regional funder collaboratives and 85 active industry partnerships, which have generated \$285 million in local investments, served more than 78,000 workers, and supported 2,300 employers.

Bob Jones
United Bank

Emily Jones
Quincy Compressor

Charlotte Kopf
Associated General Contractors

James "Tim" Martin
Creek Indian Enterprises

Jesse Quillen
*Clarke County Economic
Development*

Carol Statter
Infirmiry Health

Green Suttles
Mobile Gas

Christopher Valdez
Segers Aero Corporation

Jill Vinson
SSAB



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

To learn more about the new National Fund, visit:
<http://www.nationalfund.org/>.



Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Chatter

[Evonik Industries Marks 40th Anniversary with \\$40,000
in Donations to Local Organizations](#)

Alabama News Center:
[AlabamaWorks Marks Latest Evolution in State's
Workforce Development](#)

[Alabama Community College System hires head of
nation's top-ranked workforce training program](#)

Made in Alabama:
[New Unified Workforce System to Better Link Employers
and Job Seekers](#)

[Apprenticeship Alabama Aims to Invest in Workers](#)

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 7, please call 251-445-2090.