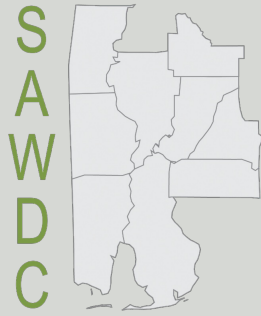


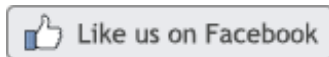
Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 7 News



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

February 2017

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Year End Industry Survey Results Are In

Each year, SAWDC conducts a comprehensive industry survey, which allows us to ensure that strategic objectives are aligned with industry needs. This year, **22 employers representing 32,885 employees** in the targeted industries - aviation, construction, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and maritime - responded to the 2016 Year End Industry Survey.

Employers reported a need for **3,122 new skilled workers** (including attrition) over the next 12 months and, simultaneously, expressed concern regarding the **quality, stability, and availability of the workforce**, which received an overall rating of **4.2 on a scale of 7.0**. This concern was further illustrated in their reporting of the **percentage of qualified candidates for entry level positions**, which remained low at **19%** or approximately one in five applicants.

Over **75% of the employers** who responded confirmed having **recruitment problems** with one-third reporting unfilled positions were increasing. When asked if the recruitment problems were limited to the community or the industry itself, **41%** of the employers indicated the **problem was industry-wide** while **27%** indicated that challenges were **community specific**. Most agreed the challenges were a combination of the two.

Over half of the employers responding indicated their investments in training would remain the same over the next 12 months with, on average, one-third of their investments directed towards new jobs skills training and close to half of their investments directed to proficiency training.

National Skills Coalition Conducts



SAWDC - CGIA Joint Annual Meeting

April 18, 2017
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM*
Evonik Industries

Registration coming soon!



* includes meeting, tour, and lunch

2017 Baldwin County Job Fair

When:

Tuesday March 7, 2017
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where:

Daphne Civic Center
2603 U.S. 98
Daphne, AL 36526

For more information, contact:

Karen Glover

Baldwin County Economic
Development Alliance
(251)970-4081

kglover@baldwineda.com



OPEN HOUSE at The Academy at the Fairhope Airport

February 7, 2017
6:00 PM

Tours and Program
Information
on the
Aviation, Industrial

Review of Policies in 50 States

Challenges in Region 7 are not unique and reflect a complex problem on state and national levels. "Middle-skill jobs that require education or training beyond high school but not a bachelor's degree make up the largest share of the labor market," according to the National Skills Coalition (NSC).

"Employers looking to fill these middle-skill positions often voice concerns about their ability to find skilled workers. At the same time, limited access to skills training keeps too many people from getting good-paying jobs that can support families. Policymakers can respond to both of these issues by adopting a set of policies that expand equitable access to middle-skill training, credentials, and careers - particularly for those who have faced barriers to economic opportunity."

NSC summarized their findings on the [50-state scan](#) of policies related to the following:

[integrated education and training](#)
[stackable credentials](#)
[job-driven financial aid](#)
[alignment](#)

For more information, click [here](#).

Industry Partners Provide Valuable Feedback to Training Programs at Regional Meeting

Close to fifty regional stakeholders participated in the January 11th Industrial Trades Advisory Council (ITAC) meeting held at the AIDT Maritime Training Center. The industry-led Council was created in response to the numerous requests for employers to serve on advisory committees for training programs endorsed by the Central Gulf Industrial Alliance (CGIA). The ITAC forum allows for employers to work with education and training partners in one setting to provide a consistent message regarding their workforce needs.

Austal USA, BASF, Evonik Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Southern Company, Performance Contractors, SSAB, Chevron and a number of other regional companies participated alongside key education and training providers. Highlights of the meeting included the presentation of industry demand with a concentration on high-demand craft positions such as electrician, pipefitter, millwright, in the Southeast. Other key topics included a review of the CGIA Endorsement Program and its benefits, seasonal opportunities for instructors, and other topics as requested by training programs.



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Coastal Alabama Community College: Consolidation Takes Effect

After 13 months of preparation, the consolidation efforts to combine Alabama Southern Community College, Faulkner State Community College and Jefferson Davis Community College took effect on January 11th.

"We each have been around for more than 50 years," Dr. Gary Branch, president of Coastal Alabama Community College, said. "This is not a new mission for our colleges; however, it is a new beginning for Coastal Alabama Community College."



Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Chatter

AI.com:

[Community colleges seek more money to train workers for industry](#)

[Mobile education group: workforce needs call for "sense of urgency"](#)

Alabama News Center:

[Airbus talks up U.S. credentials, Alabama operations ahead](#)

Council Members

George Alford
*Wilcox County Industrial
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Mark Burgess
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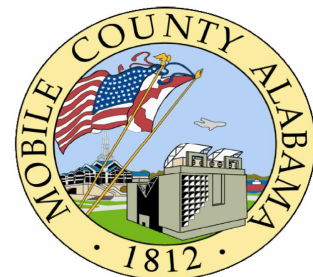


[of Trump presidency](#)

[Made in Alabama brand evolution brings new look to Commerce website](#)

Baldwin County Economic Development:
[Top 5 Considerations for Aerospace Companies Looking to Invest in Baldwin County](#)

SAWDC FY2017 Investors



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

