



Region 7 News

Baldwin-Choctaw-Clarke-Conecuh-Escambia-
Mobile-Monroe-Washington-Wilcox
December 2017

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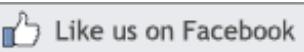
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Bishop State
Community College
Seeking Director of

Bishop State Community College to Host SAWDC Alabama Works Quarterly Council Meeting

Please join us on **Friday, December 8th, at 9:00 a.m.** at **Bishop State Community College** for a very important SAWDC Alabama Works Quarterly Council meeting. To register, click [here](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from Dr. Reginald Sykes, President of Bishop State Community, on their exciting, new direction, learn more about the Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment, and participate in a facilitated strategic planning process, which will serve to inform Alabama's statewide educational attainment goals. Details on the State's initiative are below.



Alabama's Statewide Educational Attainment Initiative

Alabama's statewide educational attainment initiative (currently known as the "65 by 2025 Initiative") was established by Executive Order in March of 2017 and is focused on preparing our workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Following the formal establishment of this initiative, the Alabama Workforce Council appointed a subcommittee, the Statewide Educational Attainment Committee, to develop a strategic plan for achievement of the educational attainment goal.

Under the leadership of the Attainment Committee, a strategic planning process is now underway to help develop priorities and strategies for increasing educational attainment statewide. A key component of the planning process is a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process to gather input and information from key stakeholders, including Regional Workforce Councils, across the state.

Regional Workforce Councils, their membership and other key stakeholders across the state have a wealth of knowledge and experience related to educational attainment in our state. Input and participation from these stakeholders will be critical to the development and success of the strategic plan. **Participation in the December 8th SAWDC Alabama Works Quarterly Council meeting provides a critical opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the strategic planning process.**

Following stakeholder engagement, the planning team will synthesize and analyze data from across the state and use it to develop a strategic plan with clear goals, priorities and objectives. The plan will be finalized and submitted to the Governor by April 30, 2018.

Regional Partnership at Its Best

Workforce Development

Click [here](#) for job posting. Deadline to apply is Dec. 8, 2017

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Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment (SWAPTE) is a regional partnership of business, education, labor and community leaders and, just like SAWDC Alabama Works, serves Region 7 including Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Washington and Wilcox counties. A key partner of SAWDC Alabama Works, SWAPTE provides a network of resources that offer comprehensive employment, career counseling and job training services to businesses and job seekers through the one-stop Alabama Career Centers. In particular, SWAPTE is positioned to work with local businesses to leverage their training investment, adding profit back to their bottom line. SWAPTE's On-the-Job Training pays up to 50% of costs to train a company's eligible new hires from 11 to 26 weeks; while SWAPTE's Incumbent Worker Training pays up to 50% of a company's total training costs for existing staff, up to \$30,000 maximum per contract. Businesses put up the other 50% and may contribute in-kind contributions as well as cash toward the match.

To find out more about SWAPTE and its valuable services and resources, click [here](#).



We are excited to welcome **Shernita Taylor** and **Colton Cureton** to the SAWDC Alabama Works team! Shernita, who has been a long time partner of SAWDC Alabama Works by way of the Mobile County Public School System, will step in as the Operations Director responsible for the day to day operations of the organization. Colton will serve as the Project Manager responsible for both the aviation and healthcare clusters. Colton comes to us from Dothan, AL where he is finishing up his Masters program in Public Administration at Troy University.

Jesse Quillen
Clarke County Economic
Development

Mark Burgess
South Alabama Gas

Bob Jones
United Bank

James (Tim) Martin
Creek Indian Enterprises

Charlotte Kopf
Associated General Contractors

Carol Statter
Infirmary Health System

Jill Vinson
SSAB

Pete Black
Parson & Whittemore

Ken Corley
Olin Chemical

George Alford
Wilcox Industrial Development
Authority

Thank you! SAWDC Alabama Works Investors

Since 2008, SAWDC Alabama Works has been charged with engaging industry and serving its workforce development needs while helping to align the region's education/training resources with that ever-shifting demand. Simply put, SAWDC works year-round to develop strategic partnerships that attract, educate and train students and workers to better meet employer needs, and that mission could not be accomplished without the ongoing financial support of the Council's dedicated and generous investors. Their assistance is absolutely instrumental in SAWDC's efforts to develop a comprehensive, integrated workforce development system that creates a skilled, diverse, motivated and adaptable workforce that better meet the needs of employers and contributes to an improved quality of life for all citizens. In turn, we would like to extend our



Shernita Taylor, Operations Director, and Colton Cureton, Project Manager, join the SAWDC Alabama Works team.

National Fund for Workforce Solutions Celebrates a Decade of Collaboration

Business leaders, funders, frontline workers and workforce development practitioners convened in Washington, D.C. last week, to celebrate successful workforce development investments that have improved thousands of lives. The National Fund for Workforce Solutions marked their 10th Anniversary on November 29, 2017.

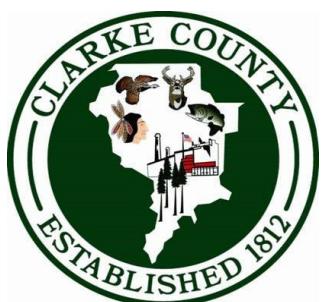
The National Fund and its more than 30 local partners, including SAWDC Alabama Works, have engaged dozens of national funders, 800 local funders, and 5,000 employers to improve workforce systems and prepare tens of thousands of individuals for good jobs. The event celebrated the extraordinary collaboration within and across communities that raised \$320 million in workforce investments and hundreds of improvement to workforce systems, public policies, and business practices across the country.

During the event, the National Fund recognized SAWDC Alabama Works along with the more than 30 backbone organizations that hosted and supported workforce development collaboratives within their communities. Ranging from United Ways, Workforce Development Boards, community foundations, economic development organizations and independent non-profits, these collaborative hosts provided the critical local infrastructure that facilitated a decade of changing lives.

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions is a national network promoting economic opportunity and prosperous communities through investment and innovation through evidence-based practices and policies. Based in Washington D.C., the National Fund partners with philanthropy, employers, workers, public and private community organizations, and more than 30 regional collaboratives to invest in skills, improve systems, and generate good jobs.



most sincere thanks to the following 2017-2018 investors:



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**APPRENTICESHIP
ALABAMA**

Apprenticeship Alabama Hosts Workshop

On November 16th at the AIDT Maritime Training Center in Mobile, Apprenticeship Alabama hosted a two-hour Apprenticeship Awareness workshop to educate business representatives on the benefits of having a registered apprenticeship program.

Representatives from Apprenticeship Alabama, SAWDC Alabama Works, the Alabama Department of Commerce, Bishop State Community College, Austal USA, the Alabama State Department of Education and Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment spoke on the following topics:

- Customizable apprenticeship related instruction
- Available funds via Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act
- Teens working in a production environment
- Real-life testimonial of the program's benefits
- Tax credit program

For more information on this important program, please contact Sherry DeLoach at sdeloach@aidt.edu

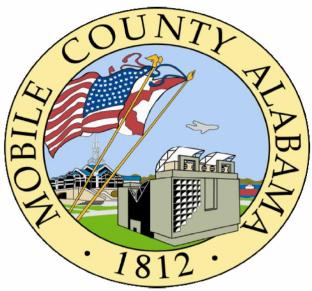


2017 SAWDC Worlds of Opportunity Another Banner Year!

SAWDC Alabama Works hosted its eighth annual SAWDC Worlds of Opportunity for Region 7 eighth grade students just over two months ago. This was another amazing event, as 9,000 eighth graders from 84 schools representing Choctaw, Washington, Mobile, Clarke, Baldwin, Wilcox, Monroe, Conecuh and Escambia counties. Accompanying them were 900 teachers, counselors and parents. Each day, 750 volunteers gave freely of their time so that our future workforce could see firsthand what exciting opportunities await them after high school.

All of us at SAWDC Alabama Works want to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone from our extraordinary committee members, volunteers, sponsors, education professionals, parents, and business partners - all of who gave tirelessly of their time, energy and resources so that our workforce of tomorrow could experience real-life careers today. From planning to implementing to participating and providing financial support, SAWDC Alabama Works extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation.

*SAWDC WoO Steering Committee members present
tablets to Region 7 students post- event*



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 SAWDC Alabama Works and Region 7, please call 251-445-2090.

