

Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council

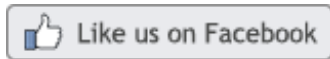
Region 7 News



Baldwin-Choctaw-Clarke-Conecuh-Escambia-
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April 2017

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April Highlights

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REGISTER NOW!

**SAWDC - CGIA
Joint Annual Meeting**

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



Click [here](#) to register

** includes meeting, tour, and lunch*

SAWDC Aviation Cluster Travels to Wichita to Learn Workforce Strategies



Representatives from Airbus Final Assembly Line, VT Mobile Aerospace Engineering, AIDT, and the Alabama Community College System traveled to Kansas for a two-day visit with leaders from Wichita's aviation industry. Organized by SAWDC in partnership with the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, both National Fund sites, the visit focused on identifying successful practices, which could be replicated locally in order to prepare the region's workforce for careers in aviation. This included learning how to build effective partnerships between the aviation industry and local educators and career pathways for entry-level workers.

While in Wichita, the Region 7 delegation met with major aviation employers, Spirit AeroSystems and Airbus, to understand how business leadership can improve their workforce and strengthen their community. The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, which served as SAWDC's host throughout, provided an in depth view of its work associated with PACES (Preparation for Advanced Career Employment System) - a strategy under the WIOA program that works to prepare central Kansas' manufacturing and aviation workforce by investing in high demand skills and working with local employers to prepare individuals for work in manufacturing and aviation. A tour of Spirit AeroSystems operations was included along with a walk-through of the Innovation Campus at



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Wichita State University, which serves as an example of a synergistic partnership between a public university and private sector aviation employers. Finally, SAWDC representatives met with Wichita Area Technical College to understand how industry and education work together to ensure that students are learning the necessary skills to thrive on the job.

"This type of community-to-community learning is exactly why the National Fund exists," says President and CEO of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, Fred Dedrick. "Cities across the country are facing the same skills shortages, and they can learn from each other about the best ways to train workers, help individuals into middle class careers and build more inclusive and prosperous communities."



AIDT Maritime Training Center Hosts Maritime Event for High School Students

SAWDC Council Members

George Alford

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The Alabama Community College System and AIDT in partnership with SAWDC hosted a Maritime Manufacturing Career Day at the AIDT Maritime Training Center on Tuesday, March 7th. Three hundred high school students in career technical programs from Mobile and Baldwin County school systems as well as Satsuma and Chickasaw participated. These students interacted with industry representatives from Austal USA, Southern Company, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Performance Contractors, Mitternacht Boilerworks, WESCO, and Technical Training Aids (TTA) and gained first-hand knowledge of the unique opportunities available close to home. Also on hand were training providers including Coastal Alabama Community College and Bishop State as well as the National Guard.



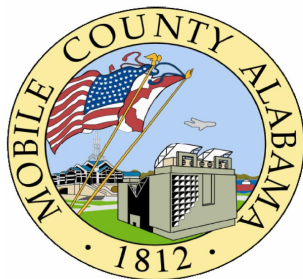
SAWDC FY2017 Investors



SAWDC WoO Steering Committee Holds Kick Off Meeting

And we're off! Planning is underway for the 8th annual SAWDC Worlds of Opportunity. The SAWDC WoO Steering Committee, led by new project managers, Karen Sock and Paige Roberts, met in March for the inaugural meeting. Carol Statter, the 2016 WoO Chair, passed along her chairperson duties to Sheri Naramore with Exxon Mobil and Carol Weaver with Alabama Power - co-world leaders of the World of Energy.

If you would like to get involved whether by volunteering your



**Southwest Alabama
Workforce
Development Chatter**

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time or through sponsorship, please contact Sherry Wade at swade@sawdc.org.

We hope you will join us as we inspire our future workforce....one student at a time!

SAWDC WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are now available - just click on the link below to make your commitment today!

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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 7, please call 251-445-2090.