

World Games July 7-17, 2022, Birmingham AL

- Region 6 was the only regional workforce council represented during all eleven days of the event.
- At last count, the EDPA estimated 11,000 individuals engaged with the regional career exploration tent, ALEX – Alabama Experience.
- Our team encouraged people from across Alabama, the U.S., and the world to consider joining our vital workforce in southeast Alabama.
- Plans will be made to bring a smaller version of the experience to our region in the coming months.

Wiregrass JROTC STEM Leadership Academy July 13-16, Mobile AL (Pilot Program)

The Executive Director collaborated with JROTC/Educational leaders from 6 other states representing 9 school districts. Pike County's Wiregrass program is the only JROTC application selected in Alabama to receive a three-year grant that will fund the annual **Wiregrass JROTC STEM Leadership Academy**. This is a very structured and remarkable program providing organizations access to a future workforce that is dedicated, disciplined, and motivated.

Southeast AlabamaWorks' team will assist Jeremy Knox and his staff with planning and facilitating the 2023, 2024, and 2025 cohorts. We will recruit regional business and industry partners to provide company tours for the Cadets and to participate as panel speakers.

- 2022 Date/Location: July 10-16 - Springhill College, Mobile AL
 - Theme: STEM on the Water: Maritime
 - Led by **Jeremy Knox, CTE Director – Pike County/Troy City Schools**
 - **10** JROTC programs (**8** Wiregrass), **54** JROTC Cadets, **10+** Wiregrass Instructors
 - 3 Team STEM Challenges; Multiple team building exercises
 - 3 B&I Tours – Austal, Aker, Mobile Port; 6 Outings – 5 Rivers, Battleship Park, Gulfquest, Blakely State Park, Ft Whiting, & University of South Alabama
 - 6 Guest Speakers (Military/B&I)
- 2023 Date/Location: June 2023 - Troy University, Troy AL
 - Theme: STEM on Land: Advanced Manufacturing
 - **12** Wiregrass JROTC programs (2-4 surrounding areas including Bullock & Conecuh)
 - **120** JROTC Cadets, 10+ Wiregrass Military and Academic Instructors
 - STEM Challenges, B&I and College Tours, Military Physical Challenges, Guest Speakers, Team Building Exercises
- 2024 Theme: STEM in the Air: Aviation/Aerospace; 2025 Theme: STEM on Land: Agriscience

EDAA Summer Conference July 24-27, Point Clear AL

- Secretary Greg Canfield presentation included discussion on:
 - Rural economic development initiatives
 - New directions in aerospace industry
 - Growing initiatives in bioscience
 - EV-Electric Vehicles funding and production initiatives
 - Broadband infrastructure projects: Long-haul, middle mile, and last-mile

EDAA Summer Conference July 24-27, Point Clear AL (continued)

- Ingram State Technical College, President Annette Funderburk
 - Beginning with Fall 2022, providing technical skills training in all Alabama prisons.
 - Planning to collaborate with pardon and paroles to offer skills training.
 - Since 2020, over 800 industry recognized certificates earned.
 - Program training and reentry support lowers recidivism rates.
 - Pipeline of skilled workers to meet workforce demands created by increasing number of jobs advertised and yet to be created.
 - Requested President Funderburk present at our September 15, 2022 RWC/WIOA Quarterly Meeting.

Leadership Skills 1: Foundations of Leadership, July 12-13 Dothan AL

- Organized by Southeast AlabamaWorks; Facilitated by AIDT
- 9 participants successfully completed
- 5 companies represented from 4 different industries
- Future Sessions:
 - Leadership Skills 2: Leading Through Others, August 11th Dothan AL
 - Leadership Skills 3: Leading Oneself, September 13th Dothan AL
 - Quarter 1 2023: Eufaula AL
 - Leadership Skills 1: January 11-12, 2023
 - Leadership Skills 2: February 22, 2023
 - Leadership Skills 3: March 22, 2023

TWA (The Workforce Alliance) – Regionalism at its best.

- Our alliance includes sharing resources and best practices with eight workforce boards across Florida and Georgia.
 - FL: CareerSource Capital Region, CareerSource North Florida, CareerSource Chipola, CareerSource Northeast Florida
 - GA: WorkSource Georgia Southwest, WorkSource Georgia Southern, WorkSource Georgia Coastal, Georgia Department of Labor Career Centers (Thomasville, Valdosta, Brunswick, Savannah)
- We were not awarded the Good Jobs Challenge grant for which we applied focusing on Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. However, we are better prepared for the next opportunity to present a new regional application.
- The Alliance's Executive Directors recently voted to form a 501(c)3 to add structure and strengthen efforts for regional grant applications.

B&I PROJECTS

- Southeast AlabamaWorks Communications – **Kudos to Katie Thomas!**: Received compliments from Champaign County (*Illinois*) Regional Planning Commission regarding our most recent State of the Workforce Report. Dr. Justin Arnold stated, "I have only been here two years and have wanted to make an annual report. When I saw yours I thought "eureka!" that is what I want mine to look like."
- Smappen: Subscribed to new online tool which allows demographic research based on drive time from a specific location. Call us if you need labor market data.
- Chmura JobsEQ: Adding county specific job board feature to our website – more to come.

B&I PROJECTS (continued)

- OwlLabs Meeting HQ: Invested in new technology to allow for better quality virtual meetings including RWC & WIOA quarterly summits.
- Unemployed Persons Survey created and released. Ads purchased with minimal response.
- EWA 2022-23
 - Working to secure dates with 10 counties, 20 public school systems for county specific EWA tours.
 - Tentative schedule:
 - October: Pike County, Geneva County
 - December: Barbour County, Crenshaw County
 - January: Coffee County, Houston County
 - February: Henry County, Covington County
 - April: Dale County, Butler County
- WOW 2022-23 (All 12th Grade and only 10th Grade CTE Students)
 - WOW West planning meeting held with great response. WOW East scheduled 8/17/22.
 - Andalusia dates set for November 17th and 18th.
 - Dothan dates set for February 15th and 16th.
 - Leadership Lunch planned for local VIPs at both events
 - Meetings held with Economic Developers, Chambers, and CTE Directors

Alabama Workforce Stabilization Program (AWSP):

Across our region, our team and partners are marketing the AWSP grant to our regional businesses and industries as a solution to recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce. Since August 2021, we have been successful in assisting **18** companies through the process.

The \$17.8 Million US Department of Education grant is meant to provide funds for OJT (On-the-Job Training) wage reimbursement and IWT (Incumbent Worker Training) upskilling for existing employees across the state. We have until September 30, 2023, to utilize our fair share of the grant dollars for our region.

In Region 6, the targeted industries include: Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare, Hospitality/Tourism, Information Technology, and Transportation/Distribution/Logistics.

Alabama Workforce Stabilization Program (AWSP) REGION 6				
August 2021 to July 2022				
Employee Name	# OJT	# IWT	County	Industry
Crown Healthcare		15	Barbour	Healthcare
Elba Nursing & Rehab		40	Coffee	Healthcare
Wayne Farms, LLC		98	Coffee	Manufacturing
Townsend Building Supply		12	Coffee/Dale/Houston	Construction
Andalusia Distributing Company	16	10	Covington	Transportation, Distribution, Logistics
Burr Industries	35	24	Covington	Manufacturing
Floral Nursing Home		10	Covington	Healthcare
Opp Health & Rehabilitation		10	Covington	Healthcare
Triple H Specialty		30	Covington	Manufacturing
Luverne Health & Rehab		10	Crenshaw	Healthcare
Ozark Health & Rehabilitation		10	Dale	Healthcare
Diversicare dba Hartford Health Care		7	Geneva	Healthcare
Coca Cola United	4	16	Houston	Transportation, Distribution, Logistics
TriState Graphics		8	Houston	Manufacturing
Wesley Place		3	Houston	Healthcare
Kimber Mfg		30	Pike	Manufacturing
KW Plastics Recycling Division		100	Pike	Manufacturing
The Caring Coporation dba Troy Health & Rehab	30	29	Pike	Healthcare
Planned Number of New Hires:			85	
Planned Number of Incumbent Workers Trained:			462	
Number of Companies Assisted:			18	
Number of Counties Represented:			7	
Total \$Funding Obligated:			\$576,359.40	