



STEPHENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ATTRACTION & RECRUITMENT

- PharmaTech leased the Haugen Building, invested \$ 1 Million, and added 5 jobs
- We hosted Projects Red Point, Steam, Maple, PT, Flower, Special K, Apollo, Pointe, Batman, Guitar, Stack, Tackle, Deal, Sound, Pack, Y, Echo, Beta, and Fiber
- We, with our JDA colleagues, hosted 26 State Project Managers on their Bus Tour through northeast Georgia
- Encouraged the real-estate broker for the Goody's Building/Town Plaza to invest in a \$414,887 remodel
- Had several visits with various Hotel/Motel developers
- Participated in the International Council for Shopping Centers (ICSC) Fall Conference in Atlanta
- Met with General Butterworth re the state's recruitment efforts to the UAV industry

EXISTING INDUSTRY RETENTION & EXPANSION:

- Applegate finalized the bond documentation for their \$8M, 36 job expansion
- American Woodmark added 5 jobs due to securing an Opportunity Zone designation
- Caterpillar broke ground on a \$20.5M, 51 jobs expansion
- Crown Resources moved into their building and completed their landscaping project
- Dewtex added 19 employees
- Eaton announced the addition of 22 jobs. They are in a SCDA secured Opportunity Zone
- We brokered a partnership between GDEcD and Eaton to reach out to Boeing
- Global Partition gained Opportunity Zone designation and added 30 jobs
- GEM Plastics hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their 25,000 sq.ft., \$3.5M addition
- Osborne Wood Products broke ground on a 10,000 sq.ft., \$800K addition, adding 10 jobs
- Osborne Wood Products was recognized as the Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce Industry of the Year
- The *Toccoa Record* featured several of our industries as Spotlighted Industry of the Week
- WNEG AM630 featured several of our industries as Spotlighted Industry of the Week
- Landology Hartwell, Inc. acquired the Currahee Club
- CB&T completed extensive remodeling of their Big A office
- We hosted Quarterly Plant Managers Luncheons with Chamber Chairman Barry Roberts
- We shared GDEcD's Monthly Trade Opportunities Alerts (TOA) with our existing industries
- We hosted a Georgia Tech seminar: "6 Strategies For Successful Business Planning For Family And Closely Held Businesses"
- We helped host several Society of Human Resource Managers (SHRM) organized seminars
- Via the Georgia Mountains Manufacturing Initiative we hosted Lean Manufacturing Boot Camps and performed other services for our existing industries
- We co-sponsored with GDEcD the Georgia Reaching Out Worldwide (GROW) export outreach program
- We co-sponsored, with our JDA counterparts, Quarterly Tri-County Manufacturers' Meetings
- We worked extensively with various parties to address the horrific odors emanating from Wilbros

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:

- We added completed Phase 2 grading and landscaping, at HBBP and added signage. We also completed the needed environmental studies for Phase 3 grading and awarded the grading contract to Simpson Trucking
- Upgrades to the Lake Hartwell Bruce Creek Boat Ramp (fishing habitat, restrooms, and walking trail) are nearing completion
- We hosted a Ribbon Cutting at the Airport Terminal
- We gained Opportunity Zone designations for Global Partitions and GEM Plastics
- GDOT held an Open House at the Eastanollee Elementary School for the GA 17 project
- We met with 9th District GDOT Board Member Emily Dunn
- We met with GDOT Planning Director (now Deputy Commissioner) Todd Long
- Broadband - \$175K Feasibility Study – 121 Stakeholders – Private Businesses, Industry, Education, Library, Healthcare, Public Safety, Government Services, Economic Development, Tourism, and Banking
- “Need and Pent up demand” projects Managers visit to discuss recruitment challenges and opportunities
- We signed a lease to stay in our Doyle Street office and the owner agreed to repair the façade
- Beautification enhancements were completed at the old chamber site at the corner of Currahee St. and Big A
- The Pacolet Foundation gifted five acres and the remaining Camp Toccoa building to the Historical Society
- North Georgia Technical College announced a \$3.2M, 12K sq.ft, 8-classroom healthcare addition at the Currahee Campus
- The Georgia Mountain Regional Transportation Roundtable added two local projects to the TSPLOST referendum: GA 17 from the Franklin County line north to Memorial Drive and GA 365 from GA 17 east to South Carolina
- Façade work was completed at Town Plaza in the amount of \$414,887
- The Toccoa-Stephens County Humane society broke ground on its new animal shelter
- Efforts to obtain Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) status for several sites in Stephens County
- Awarded a \$800,000 OneGeorgia grant and \$150,000 loan to enhance broadband connectivity to six counties in Northeast GA. Grant and loan will be matched by a \$50,000 cash contribution from the region.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING:

- “State of Stephens” electronic newsletter sent quarterly and monthly to more than 100 subscribers
- SCDA’s Facebook page now has 192 “Likes”
- Regular blogs on Facebook fan page, as well as Twitter & Blogger
- Multiple enhancements to the SCDA webpage including upgraded content, interactive maps, streaming video footage, aerial photography, and Search Engine Optimization (SEO) technology
- “I Am Toccoa-Stephens County” video featuring industries –Adams Container, Big A Signs, City Electric Supply, GEM Plastics, Osborne Wood Products, Sage Automotive Interiors, and TJ Solutions
- We put Quick Response (QR) codes on all of our available buildings linking to website flyers
- SCDA budget/minutes/etc. can now be found posted on the SCDA website
- *Toccoa Record* and WNEG AM630 spotlighted area industries throughout the year
- Article in *Business Expansion Journal* magazine featuring our Hayestone Brady Business Park Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) designation
- *Outdoor Life* listed Toccoa as #19 on the list of the 35 Top Hunting and Fishing Towns in the US
- 2011 successes listed in *Georgia Trend’s* Economic Yearbook
- Hayestone Brady Business Park featured on Select Georgia’s website

- A SCDA ad in the *Living on Main Street* publication
- We placed a SCDA ad in T-SC Chamber of Commerce's Toccoa-Stephens County street map
- Conducted economic development sessions for the Adult and Youth Toccoa-Stephens County Leadership classes
- Presentations to a variety of organizations such as the Banks County Rotary Club and the Georgia Upstate Lakes Board of Realtors
- Co-sponsored the annual Tri-County visit to the Georgia Resource Center (25 project managers)

WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- Gerald Turner, Greg Pitts, Mark Ivester, Tim Martin served on the GMM Workforce Development Initiatives executive committee
- All six high schools improved their graduation rates, averaging 84%
- More than 1,400 high school seniors took the Work Ready assessment
- We supported student industry tours and attendance at manufacturing related conferences
- We paid for GED books and testing fees, and Southern PolyTech engineering career pathways textbooks
- Teachers and administrators took the Work Ready assessment
- We exceeded our goal of 19% of all assessments at the gold level (we had 8 platinum scores –each of them received a \$50 gift card)
- We conducted plant tours for school administrators and principals (American Woodmark, Caterpillar, CMC, Osborne Wood Products, and Sage Automotive Interiors)
- We visited more than 85 industries
- We established 3 Engineering Pathways between our high schools, North Georgia Tech, and Southern Polytech
- 18 volunteers from education, industry, & government helped us produce a video touting the benefits of the work ready assessments
- We sponsored 15 Job Fairs & Career Expos
- We made 18 presentations to schools, industries, and civic groups
- 53 of our companies use work ready certificates in their hiring, retention, and promotion decisions: 11 require, 18 prefer, and 24 recognize
- We had 38 companies participate in a survey to identify key job skills our education and training partners should address, the goal was 25
- We established critical jobs for our region
- We completed 17 industry Job Profiles
- We held multiple industry training events: OSHA, 6 sigma, lean manufacturing boot camps, soft skills, supervisory skills, communication skills, workers compensation insurance and unemployment laws
- We purchased 15 computers and setup a mobile laboratory to use with assessments and industry training
- White County gained Georgia work ready community status
- Banks County will qualify for GWR community certification under the new statewide guidelines; and through the month of April
- Several of our GMM initiatives were recognized as "Best Practices"
- Published a monthly e-letter
- 58 attended the Industry Forum featuring GOWD Executive Director Melvin Everson
- Awarded \$50 payments for improved Work Ready assessment scores
- Participated in "Apply to College Day"
- Employed Sammy Howe as school system liaison
- Supported Tri-County Manufacturers' Associations events and goals

Annual Report, FY 2011 - 2012

- We spent \$306,571.37 of the \$350,000 grant
- In summary, we met all of our grant goals!

SCDA BOARD:

- Participated in the Georgia Chamber's Georgia Competitiveness Initiative
- Hosted several plant managers luncheons with Chamber Chairman Barry Roberts
- Attended the Celebrate Rural Georgia conference in Tifton where we were presented a \$140,000 ceremonial check by the One Georgia Authority for our six-county broadband feasibility study
- Mayor English and Chairman Hudgins served on the Regional TSPLOST Roundtable to develop the investment list
- Attended the Janus Forum – an interactive economic development forum focused on critical issues facing communities, organizations, and practitioners.
- ESPLOST
- Attended seven GEDA events (Aug, Sep, Nov, Jan, Feb, May, Jun, served as chairman of the 2012-2016 Strategic Planning Task Force, served as program chairman for the May Ignite! Program, served on the nominating committee
- Hosted U.S. Senator Isakson's "Open Office Day for Constituents" staffed by NE GA Field Rep. Tate O'Rourke
- Co-sponsored and spoke on "Working with Statewide Developer and Site Location Consultants" at the Fanning Institutes' Development Authority Training session
- Served as host for the Autumn Train Excursion (1000 visitors)
- Presented semi-annual updates to city, county and chamber
- Conducted mock interviews with graduating TFC seniors
- Co-sponsored with the T-SC Chamber of Commerce the annual SCSS Report to Community Luncheon
- Attended the GA Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Eggs and Issues Breakfast
- Participated in pre and post Legislative Forums
- Attended the Annual Farm City Dinner (speaker: Lt. Governor Casey Cagle)
- Attended the GMRC annual dinner at the Dillard House
- Served as Class Proctor for the IEDC Technology-led Economic Development Course at Georgia Tech
- Served as evaluator in the annual Chamber of Commerce Business Plan competition
- The Tri-County JDA was a featured case study at ACCG
- Sponsored "Meet and Greets" for 3 – 9th Congressional District candidates
- Co-sponsored with Chamber of Commerce the Toccoa –Stephens County Day at the Capitol
- Gave an update on SCDA to the Stephens County Grand Jury
- Served on the EDA regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) group
- Visited with US Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Representative Broun
- Attended the Trachte celebration acknowledging the shipment of their 400th building unit
- Worked with regional counterparts to extend Hartwell Railroad to CSX in Elberton
- Kayla Carpenter attended the Georgia Academy for Economic Development
- Kayla Carpenter earned Economic Development Finance Professional certification
- Served on the City of Toccoa Streetscape Design Consultant selection panel
- Participated in two Chamber sponsored TSPLOST Forums