



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF ALABAMA

The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama is a totally private, non-profit organization supported by 70 of Alabama's leading companies and institutions that are committed to quality growth. EDPA's mission is to provide private sector leadership for economic development in Alabama.

The Partnership was created in 1990 by a group of Alabama business leaders who shared a vision for a more dynamic economy in the state and a commitment to support the state's economic development efforts. Since its inception, EDPA has worked to accomplish several core objectives, which include: Raising Alabama's profile as an outstanding business location, attracting new industry, encouraging expansion of existing industry, growing jobs within the state and creating a better climate for growth.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF ALABAMA

500 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, AL 35209
800-252-5453
205-943-4700
205-943-4703 (fax)
www.edpa.org
partners@edpa.org

Editor STEVE SEWELL
Managing Editor RAY MARTIN
Associate Editor WENDY WALLACE
Editorial Assistant CHRISTINE DUKE



Partners is produced in conjunction with Martin Communications
641 Camden Ridge
Birmingham, AL 35226
205-942-3258
remartin@bellsouth.net

VantagePoint

Top Training

Ask any economic developer in Alabama to name the state's best incentive for industry and you'll likely get a four-letter response.

That's not a statement about the kind of language used by economic development professionals, but rather a testament to the high regard we all have for AIDT, Alabama's worker training program.

Alabama Industrial Development Training is the state agency that provides training services for new and expanding companies. The agency will recruit, screen and train an entire work force to the company's specifications. And, it's done at no cost to new and expanding companies.

For a long time now, those of us associated with economic development in Alabama have held that there is no better worker training program in the country. Now, our admittedly biased belief has validation. In its August issue, Expansion Management magazine includes its annual ranking of work force training programs in the country and, based on a survey of site selection consultants, AIDT is at the top of the list (see Advances, page 6).

AIDT has earned its reputation based on the level of service it provides and the results it delivers in the form of workers who are highly productive. It boasts an impressive track record in providing these customized services to leading companies,

which have come away not merely satisfied, but genuinely impressed.

An example is Lockheed Martin, whose Pike County operation (featured on page 24) has been recognized in the past as one of the top manufacturing facilities in the country. As you can see from the comments in the story in this issue, Lockheed Martin General Manager Jody Glazner views AIDT as a contributor to the company's success.

Some companies were understandably skeptical when they first came to the state and learned of the services that Alabama offered through AIDT. After all, we're talking about leading

manufacturers that have high standards, many of which employ their own systems for training their employees.

But these companies quickly realized that AIDT was not a run-of-the-mill training program. Companies that were initially reluctant to turn over such an important

function were quick to bring AIDT back to the table when expanding their operation.

Just about every state offers some form of worker training as an incentive, but not all programs are created equal. AIDT gives Alabama an advantage in recruiting industry — and Alabama companies an edge when it comes to training a work force that can get the job done. ■



Steve Sewell
Editor