



## 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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# VantagePoint

## A Higher Calling

**H**igher education's link to economic development is well established, and its role has never been more important. From research and development that creates and supports industry, to preparing an educated work force that can compete for jobs of the future, colleges and universities are the cornerstones of quality economic growth.

But in this issue we look at three areas where the efforts of Alabama universities go beyond economic development and answer a higher calling that have far reaching implications for our nation and even the world.

By whatever yardstick experts use, The University of Alabama at Birmingham is a center of excellence for medical research, especially in the treatment of cancer. UAB was designated as one of the first 11 Comprehensive Cancer Centers more than 30 years ago and its work today puts it in the company of institutions such as Johns Hopkins and MD Anderson. In fact, those two medical centers and UAB stand alone in the number of SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence) grants for cancer research.

In, "Call this Cancer Center Comprehensive," Marti Webb Slay profiles the four UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center SPORE grant recipients and the awe-inspiring work they are doing to develop new treatments for cancer patients.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville, the anchor of one of the leading science and technology parks in the world, has long supported the space and defense industries through its engineering programs and research and development. Current projects, highlighted in "Helping Save American Lives" by Ray Garner, focus on bringing even greater precision and efficiency to our nation's defense systems.

Whether refining sensors that can detect the use of chemical or biological weapons during conflict or developing unmanned vehicles that can perform potentially life-threatening tasks, UAH

is managing programs to make our military personnel safer.

With students from 60 countries studying in Alabama and thousands of other foreign students at its campuses in 11 countries, Troy University is fulfilling its vision of becoming an international university. This international focus gives students

exposure to the people and culture of other countries and allows faculty members to gain valuable international experience.

What writer Andy Ellis describes in "Troy University International" may not be of life and death importance, but considering an economy that becomes more global every day, it seems far-sighted for a university to seek to give its students a true international education experience. ■

*Steve Sewell*  
Editor

