



IMPACT ACTION

June '08 Newsletter

Workforce Development & Education

2008 Goal: Establish a “Boot Camp” to develop better managers and supervisors. Goal for 2008 is 100 managers and supervisors.

Boot Camp for Experienced Supervisors was held on May 20 at the Department of Labor. 33 supervisors from various companies were in attendance, bringing the total to 63 supervisors served thus far in 2008. Topics of discussion were “Managing the Multi-Generational Workplace,” “Dealing with Difficult Employees,” “Workers Compensation Case Studies”, “Harassment” and “Human Resource Issues Specific to Supervisors”.



Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development

2008 Goal: To serve 500 clients in the S.E.E.D.S. Center (Sowing Entrepreneur and Economic Development Success).

The S.E.E.D.S. Center served 30 clients in May, bringing the total number of clients served in 2008 to 258 — more than halfway to the goal for the year .

The Professional Consultants Program has met the goal for the first half of 2008 with 19 consultations.

Services of the S.E.E.D.S. Center are available free of charge to anyone, regardless of Chamber membership.

Pictured at right: New S.E.E.D.S. Center Coordinator Hunter Harper consults with a client in the Center, located in the offices of the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber.



Expansion of Targeted Businesses

2008 Goal: *To facilitate the creation of 200 new jobs for college and university graduates in Information Technology, Environmental Technology, and Medical Services and Support.*

As part of the Targeted Business Expansion initiative for Impact 2012 the Chamber will host Charles Landry, an international authority and leading expert on innovation-inspired urban design. Charles has written books such as *"The Art of City Making"* and *"Innovative and Sustainable Cities."*

The event will kick off the IMPACT 2012 "Drive to Thrive Speaker Series" that will host experts in non-traditional approaches to molding a community's growth. The event will take place July 7, at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.



Enhancement of Pro-Business Environment

2008 Goal: *Host a regular forum among elected officials, education leaders and other economic development partners regarding business issues and initiatives.*



Nearly 150 regional business, government, and education leaders attended the South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development's inaugural luncheon on June 2 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center with Keynote speaker Ken Stewart, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Economic Development. Commissioner Stewart commended the chambers in Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Lanier, and Lowndes counties for their efforts in bringing the group together. "If only one business relationship is generated at only one table in this room, this effort has been successful," said Stewart. The purpose of hosting the SGPRD quarterly luncheon is to offer regional leaders a forum to explore regional growth opportunities and provide focus on the need for regional growth.

The next SGPRD Luncheon will be August 11, at the Conference Center. Keynote speaker will be George M. Israel, III, President and CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Retiree Attraction

2008 Goal: *Attract 80 amenity-seeking retiree households to the area*



- Three retiree households were recruited to the Lowndes County area in May. The Top "100 Places to Live" promotional campaign was successful.
- Valdosta was chosen by Relocate-America.com as one of "America's 100 Places to Live" in 2008. The list was announced on June 4, 2008 and is being promoted nationally on the www.Relocate-America.com. This is the only list that is determined by statistics and feedback of the people who live, work, play, and retire in the communities. Valdosta will be featured in the September issue of the national publication "Where to Retire" magazine. This is the most widely used magazine by retirees and pre-retirees as they research a retirement destination. A travel writer spent three days in Valdosta touring the area, our amenities and interviewing retirees who chose Valdosta as their retirement destination. The magazine can be found at bookstores or ordered at www.wheretoretire.com.

This month's featured "CHAMPION OF BUSINESS"

Thanks to the City of Valdosta for their investment in IMPACT 2012!



"The City of Valdosta is committed to supporting the goals of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce initiative IMPACT 2012. We acknowledge the present and future success of IMPACT 2012 through the partnership of business, government and citizens and appreciate how this teamwork of shared goals will positively impact our entire community in the years to come."

—City of Valdosta Mayor John J. Fretti