



WAEM

West Alabama–East Mississippi

Appendix

Alabama Southern Community College Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

The ASCC Team continues to be active in Alabama Southern Community College's six county service area by promoting the WAEM Initiative. This team remains active in attending meetings regarding workforce development, community development, leadership, and rural place building.

Over the past three months, the progress of rural place building is evident in the strategic planning sessions occurring in Evergreen as part of the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program. The ASCC Team maintains a strong leadership role in these sessions by organizing the various planning sessions as well as facilitating the individual community sessions. Also, the ASCC team continues to be active in the ACE Associates Council, by chairing a recruitment committee and by volunteering for various ACE projects.

The ASCC Team still supports Auburn University's Urban Design Studio, with rural place building efforts in the cities of Monroeville and Evergreen. This past quarter, both cities held "roll-out presentations" to celebrate their results from the charrettes and accomplished part one of their Rural Place Building Process. In fact, the City of Monroeville was able to host a state speaker, Lee Sentell—Director of Alabama Department of Tourism, to discuss the impact of tourism in Alabama, the 50th Anniversary of To Kill a Mockingbird, and the importance of planning for the future of Monroeville.

In other counties, rural place building is progressing nicely with ASCC's involvement of the Alabama Rural Heritage Center and the Town of Thomaston. Also, efforts in Monroe County continue to be positive with work continuing in conjunction with the Industrial Development Board, civic center committee, and county officials.

Finally, the ASCC remains very persistent in pursuing community development workshops and professional development conferences. Recently, the ASCC Team members were able to attend a community branding workshop in Andalusia, AL and Auburn University's Economic and Community Development Institute. These opportunities have improved the team's combined knowledge, experiences, and business networks, as well as provide opportunities to talk about WAEM and educate others not only from around the region, but in neighboring counties and states about the work being done in the WAEM region through the WIRED Grant.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

The ASCC Team maintains the distribution and creation of the Start-It Cards for its thirty (30) communities Start-It Cards. Also, ASCC has a total of thirty-three community connectors, and the ASCC anticipates on training three to five network navigators some time next quarter.

Another focus for the ASCC Team is the promotion and marketing of the MyBiz.am website and its resource providers. The ASCC promotes MyBiz.am during monthly partnering meetings with the Women's Business Center to assist entrepreneurs in efforts to learn and share information.

Also, the ASCC Team continues to provide non-profit resource partners for the MyBiz.am network to help strengthen the website's reach and growth.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

Over the past quarter, Goal 3 has been working to develop a strategy for implementing the M3 Credential in the Alabama Southern service area. ASCC currently has twenty-seven students processed into the M3 program. As of now, all twenty-seven students are working on Basic Production Certification, however, ASCC hopes in the future they will complete Basic Production and continue with Advanced Production. ASCC has also been working on innovative ways to promote and market the M3 credential, potentially through online social networking sites and brochures/fliers.

Successes

The ASCC Team has maintained a presence with local and regional entities to create awareness about the WAEM Initiative. Here is a list of some of the items that the ASCC Team has accomplished over the last quarter.

- ACE awarded an ASCC team member as the “Outstanding Team Captain” for his efforts in the City of Evergreen.
- Continued participation in a leadership role for Alabama Communities of Excellence and their work in Evergreen.
- Continued participation in the Alabama Communities of Excellence Associates Council and the ACE Recruitment Subcommittee.
- Continued participation in the Economic Development, and Community Development Task Forces of the Alabama Rural Action Commission.
- Active participation with the Alabama Rural Heritage Center.
- Continued collaboration with Alabama Region 6 Workforce Development.
- Continued collaboration with Alabama Region 9 Workforce Development.
- Worked as a Resource Partner for the Thomasville Rural Suppliers’ Conference.
- Participated in the Department of Labor Workforce Innovations Conference and the Auburn Economic and Community Development Institute.

Service Area: Alabama Southern Community College

Evergreen: The ASCC WAEM Team has worked in partnership with the City of Evergreen, Alabama Communities of Excellence, the Evergreen/Conecuh Chamber of Commerce, and the Small Town Design Initiative through Auburn University's Urban Design Studio. This partnership yielded an STDI plan, which will serve as a 'map' for future projects in Evergreen. This plan will be used by the City in coordination with their Strategic Plan, which will be finished in upcoming quarters, to continue moving forward with rural place building. At the celebration event held in September, the City and the Chamber of Commerce purchased copies of Jack Schultz's BoomTown USA: 7 1/2 Keys to Big Success in Small Towns for the nearly 50 people in attendance.

Linden: The ASCC WAEM Team has determined through various conversations with the newly elected mayor, Mitzi Gates, that the City of Linden is open to Rural Place Building. They will take part in a Small Town Design Initiative Charrette organized by Auburn University's Urban Design Studio, which is scheduled to take place during the first quarter of 2009. The City of Linden is also sending a delegation to the upcoming WAEM Town in Louisville, MS during the last quarter of 2008.

Monroeville: The ASCC WAEM Team has worked in partnership with the City of Monroeville, the Alabama Historical Commission, the Monroeville/Monroe Chamber of Commerce, and the Small Town Design Initiative through Auburn University's Urban Design Studio. This partnership yielded an STDI plan, which will serve as a 'map' for future projects in Monroeville. This plan will be used by the City to continue on the path of rural place building in order to better the City of Monroeville and the citizens who call the community home. At the celebration event held in September, the City had 2 guest speakers; Mary Mason Shell from the Alabama Historical Commission spoke about the historical integrity of the town and Lee Sentell, Director of the Alabama Department of Tourism, motivated the community and reminded them of the tourism opportunities available to them as potential options for economic development. There were about 40 individuals in attendance at this celebration event.

***Please NOTE:** this only represents changes updated on the community involvement matrix since the previous quarter. **Unless a task has been fully accomplished, the matrix does not denote it as being complete.**

Bevill State Community College

Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

Bevill State Community College is making real strides in “place building” which is also referred to herein as community building. Activities are underway in Fayette, Guin and Pickensville. Significant engagement will occur next month in Carrollton. Details are described in our community-by-community narrative.

Bevill State is involved in a supportive role in community building activities through the Small Town Design Initiative (STDI) which is a joint project of the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University, and the Center for Economic Development at The University of Alabama. Bevill State has six communities that have a completed Urban Studios Strategic Master Plan Study. These communities have been visited for possible community-building projects from their Master Plans and SDTI is providing assistance. BSCC Staff are currently working to start and/or complete coaching the in communities where identified projects will advance WAEM/WIRED goals.

Plans are in place for Bevill State to partner with the STDI team for three days of intense groundwork in Carrollton that will produce a Strategic Master Plan. In preparation for this event, three community leaders from Carrollton have been selected to attend “WAEM Town” later this month. WAEM Town is intended to replicate the highly successful community and design training model of “Your Town Alabama.” Bevill State looks forward to the opportunity for community engagement in Carrollton with leadership being provided by STDI team which has a proven track record in community development.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

As noted in or last report, Bevill State staff initiated efforts to locate an Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network—AERN Center in Guin to serve Marion County. We anticipate the AERN-Center being located in the new “Life Center/Safe Shelter,” which has several computers with internet access that are available for public use. The AERN Center for Guin is an ongoing project that has not been finalized; however, it has the potential to stimulate the desire for additional ERDS components in the community. See (Guin) narrative for additional information.

As noted in previous reports, Bevill State staff initiated discussion to locate an Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network—AERN Center in Jasper to serve Walker County. When discussions first began, Bevill staff sought out and obtained a necessary letter of support for this project from the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County which was an essential step in the process. Discussion has continued this quarter. Although we are optimistic that the AERN-Center will eventually be located in the business incubator complex that is operated by the College, there is no agreement in place at this time. We are further optimistic that having an AERN-Center in Jasper will be utilized by entrepreneurs and spark the need to add additional ERDS components in the future.

Bevill State staff held a regional meeting with economic developers covering six counties and with the Mayor of Guin to discuss the potential use of the concept of “economic gardening.”

Chris Gibbons, an economic developer in Littleton, Colorado is co-inventor of economic gardening and he is a noted lecturer and trainer on the subject. WIRED staff has arranged for one of the economic developers who will be in the Denver area in October to meet personally with Chris Gibbons to learn more about this economic development strategy and this information will be shared with the other members of the group. See our response to question 2 and (Guin) narrative for additional information.

WIRED staff have been continuing to assist the City of Fayette in updating its Strategic Plan that will incorporate components of an ERDS including, youth entrepreneurship. BSCC Staff began working in June with the City of Fayette to revise the City's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. A Steering Committee was formed shortly thereafter and the revisions to the plan will be complete by the end of October. The revised plan will incorporate entrepreneurial components into the Economic Development Goal and Education Goal including, usage of the REAL Program in the Fayette City School System and greater utilization of the AERN-Center. Mayor Ray Nelson has committed to securing the necessary \$1000 funding needed from the Fayette Community Foundation for a one-day REAL workshop for 15-20 educators. This training is essential to introduce REAL into the Fayette City School System. The revision of this plan relates to objectives of goal 1, goal 2 and goal 4. See (Fayette) narrative for additional information.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

Bevill State Community College has made significant progress in the necessary steps in implementing the M3 Basic and Advance Production Qualification at our College. BSCC has obtained all necessary approvals for purchase of equipment for this undertaking. Some of the equipment has arrived and is currently being stored off-site until renovations are complete at the facilities that will house this project. Significant renovations are planned that include: constructing classrooms, offices, conference room, installation of lighting, heating/ventilation/air-conditioning, three phase power and pneumatic outlets. Due to construction delays, renovations should be complete in November, 2008. All other aspects necessary for this project to be a reality in the near future have been pursued, including obtaining furniture, laptops, fax, LCD projector, wiring for fast access internet connection, and telephone service. The narrative herein describes in greater detail our accomplishment pertaining to Goal 3.

Goal 4: Quick Summary

Work is underway to introduce and encourage the use of the REAL (Rural Entrepreneurship Through Action Learning) program to secondary school officials in our service area. Real is an initiative of The University of Alabama's Center for Community-Based Partnerships and the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration. The Real program links the resources of The University to public schools throughout the state by supporting the delivery of high quality entrepreneurial education for students in grades K-12, the development and operation of school-based enterprises, and the institutionalization of entrepreneurship as a critical and effective economic strategy, particularly in rural areas.

The first Real meeting with school officials occurred recently in Fayette and the concept is supported by the Mayor and will be incorporated into Fayette's Strategic Plan that is currently being updated with assistance of WIRED staff. Moreover, the REAL program activities that will

be incorporated into Fayette's Strategic Plan relate directly to goal 2, as they are components of an ERDS. See (Fayette) narrative for additional information.

Successes

- Bevill staff played a key role that led to the selection of Guin Mayor Phil Segaves as one of only five mayors from across the state to participate in an upcoming Alabama Mayors Design Summit. The Mayor credits Bevill staff for his acceptance and he is excited about the opportunity to attend the Design Summit. Additional information is contained in the community narrative for Guin.
- Bevill State staff coordinated a meeting to bring a project manager from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to attend a meeting in Guin. The intent of the meeting was to allow the project manager to see firsthand the initial mural that was recently completed in Guin and to explain grant funding and offer advice to move the project forward. WIRED staff is assisting in the mural project, which relates to place building and will compliment economic development through tourism and produce an overall positive image for the City. The Mayor of Guin is very appreciative of the community coaching and support that he has received from WIRED. We anticipate other surrounding communities will be interested in pursuing similar mural projects as a place building initiative that will spark community pride.
- Bevill State staff held a regional meeting with economic developers covering six counties and with the Mayor of Guin to discuss the potential use of the concept of "economic gardening." The outcome of this meeting produced the need for additional information. Bevill State staff arranged for one of the economic developers who will be in the Denver area in October to meet personally with Chris Gibbons, an economic developer in Littleton, Colorado and co-inventor of economic gardening. What is learned in Littleton will be shared with the above referenced group and they will assess the option of bringing Chris Gibbons to the area to conduct an intense one-day workshop on economic gardening. This group is also the Economic Development Committee for the I-22 Corridor Development Commission. The Mayor of Guin and the regional economic developers are appreciative of WIRED staff for taking the time to gather information on economic gardening and bringing this economic development strategy to their attention.
- Last quarter, it was noted that final planning was underway for the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) to offer its Community Leadership Educational Opportunity (CLEO) training, currently referred to as Community Leadership Training (CLT), via BSCC's Distance Learning capabilities—providing the opportunity for interactive participation at any campus throughout Bevill State's service area. The first training session occurred in August at Bevill State distance learning facilities in Fayette, Hamilton, Jasper and Carrollton. Another training session is scheduled for late October. This delivery format was considered highly successful with positive feedback and attendance from 47 participants from across our service area. Two other economic developers are now partnering with Bevill State to bring the training to sites in Winston and Franklin counties. Bevill State is

partnering with Northwest Shoals Community College to expand this training to include these locations. The training utilizing this delivery format is expected to continue after WIRED funding ends.

- WIRED staff have continued to assist the City of Fayette in updating its Strategic Plan that will incorporate place building strategies and components of an ERDS including, youth entrepreneurship. BSCC Staff began working in June with the City of Fayette to revise the City's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. A Steering Committee was formed shortly thereafter and the revisions to the plan will be complete by the end of October. The revised plan will incorporate entrepreneurial components into the Economic Development Goal and Education Goal including, usage of the REAL Program in the Fayette City School System and greater utilization of the AERN-Center. Mayor Ray Nelson has committed to securing the necessary \$1000 funding needed from the Fayette Community Foundation for a one-day REAL workshop for 15-20 educators. This training is essential to introduce REAL into the Fayette City School System. In addition, coaching by BSCC staff has led to the establishment of a Beautification Committee within the revised plan with specific objectives that will enhance place building. The revision of this plan relates to objectives of goal 1, goal 2 and goal 4. See narrative (Fayette) for additional information.
- The Small Town Design Initiative Team and Bevill State staff achieved community support for conducting a Strategic Master Plan Study in Carrollton. The first Town Hall Meeting/Charette is scheduled for November 13th and will consist of three days of intense community engagement. As noted earlier, in preparation for this event, three community leaders from Carrollton have been selected to attend "WAEM Town" later this month.
- BSCC initiated and facilitated a meeting in September with community members of Fayette and Berry, State Representative William Thigpen, and Mayor Dobbs of Berry to discuss the Tom Bevill Reservoir project that began in 1968. Ten Concerned citizens came together to discuss the project and discover why the project has not come to fruition, especially since it is a water source that can provide water to Fayette County citizens that are having to *carry* water to their homes. If completed, the reservoir stands to improve infrastructure, quality of life, and economic development in Fayette, Marion, Walker, and Tuscaloosa counties. In the meeting, BSCC Staff Member Karla Quesenberry informed the group of her meeting with Bill Taylor, CEO of Mercedes Benz US International and Governor-appointed Member of the West Alabama Rural Action Commission, in the previous week. Mr. Taylor committed to meeting and/or speaking to Fayette County members to generate more interest for project success. The group agreed to approach Mr. Taylor about the possibility of meeting with them. A Roundtable Meeting occurred on October 1, 2008 with Mr. Taylor and 27 other attendees, including Nisa Miranda (Director of West AL Rural Action Commission, the 4 Fayette County Mayors, the Fayette County Administrator and County Commissioners, the Fayette Probate Judge, Representative William Thigpen, Paul Housel (Congressman Aderholt's Field Representative), City Council Members, two mayors from Marion County, and business owners from Fayette and

Berry communities. The project also gained support from the West Alabama Mayor's Association when approached by Mayor Nelson of Fayette. The association officially voted and agreed to give the project their support. This is a regional project with Belk, Berry, Fayette, Glen Allen, Winfield, and Guin coming together for the Tom Beville Reservoir/Lake. All six mayors have committed to working together for helping the project to come to fruition.

Service Area: Bevill State Community College

The following narrative represents a Start It! Card status report that is set out by each county and the respective communities therein within the service area of Bevill State. In addition, this community-by-community narrative provides a detailed account of developments and activities for each goal with the exception of goal 3, which has an update under a separate heading.

WALKER COUNTY

Jasper

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of several key connectors and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connector: Walker County Career Center (CareeLink)

Connector: Jasper City Hall

Connector: Library—Jasper Campus of Bevill State

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at each of the above locations.

Other activities/development

As previously noted, the ERDS process was initiated and considerable work has been done in Jasper, but no final plan was developed due to decline in interest. However, we are optimistic that WIRED efforts will result in an AERN-Center being located in the Jasper area and lead to stimulating interest for the additional ERDS components and the development of a plan.

The Economic Developer for Walker County, who is based out of Jasper, participated in a regional meeting where WIRED staff discussed the concept of “economic gardening.” This was mentioned in greater detail in our above response to question 2.

The President of The Chamber of Commerce of Walker County also serves as Chair for our Regional Workforce Council. We enjoy an excellent relationship with this highly motivated and capable individual. There exist future opportunities for WIRED to partner with the Chamber to accomplish projects that are mutually beneficial.

Sumiton

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in the successful identification of several key connectors and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connector: Sumiton City Hall

Connector: Sumiton Public Library

Connector: Library—Sumiton Campus of Bevill State

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at each of the above locations.

Comments: There are no developments to report for this quarter.

Dora

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of connectors and willingness by the primary connector to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our connectors are listed below:

Connector: Dora City Hall

Connector: Sides Appliances & Furniture

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at Dora City Hall.

Additional information: The Dora Public Library is currently closed for renovations; however, upon reopening the library will serve as a connector.

Comments: The Mayor of Dora is retiring and a new mayor will take office in November. This may present opportunities for greater community engagement; however, the current Mayor has been very appreciative to the College for the development of the Start-It! Card for his City.

Cordova

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of key connectors and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connector: City of Cordova

Connector: Cordova Public Library

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at above locations.

Other activities/developments: BSCC staff is currently working with the Small Town Design Initiative team. Bevill State staff and other participating colleges on the WIRED initiative met at the STDI studio in Birmingham in August to assess potential STDI communities and review what is occurring in communities that have been through the STDI process. Cordova is one of those communities which previously worked with the STDI team and completed a Strategic Master Plan Study. Bevill staff noted during this meeting that Cordova was recently awarded a \$300,000 demolition grant to tear down old homes and buildings. The STDI team suggested that Bevill State follow-up to ensure that the City has identified any homes or buildings that may need to be preserved because of historical value. Bevill State made an immediate inquiry and was informed by the City Administrator, Randall Gammon that the grant required the City to go through a historical assessment process with technical assistance from the Historical Commission of Alabama. According to Randall, several sites will not be destroyed because of historical significance.

The City has some promising assets including, two exists just off Corridor X (future Interstate 22) that upon completion will connect Memphis to Birmingham. Warrior River is likewise a significant asset for the small town located in the footprint of Birmingham. Randall Gammon has mentioned that he envisioned that with proper planning and design, the City has the opportunity to become a bedroom community of Birmingham. However, he acknowledged that the ongoing controversial strip mining issue has divided the community and has inhibited the ability of the community to work collectively towards common goals.

Comments: Randall Gammon, mentioned above, died recently. He was not only the City Administrator, he was our community champion. The Mayor commented in the local newspaper about how difficult it would be to replace Randall. No doubt, he was a champion for Cordova, which was a place dear to his heart and will be deeply missed by those in the community. Staff from the STDI have highly positive comments about their previous community engagement with Randall and that his death will present challenges for future work as he is irreplaceable.

Parrish

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Town of Parrish

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Comments: No other developments to report for this quarter.

Other activities/developments

The current Mayor was defeated in the primary election and a new Mayor will take office in November. This may present greater opportunities for community engagement. The City Clerk has been our primary contact; however, she is no longer employed with the City, but she will be returning to her position once the new Mayor takes office. This will be beneficial, as we have an excellent working relationship with the City Clerk.

Sipsey

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of key connectors and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Sipsey Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Comments: No additional information to report for this quarter.

Eldridge

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Eldridge Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

Discussion has occurred between WIRED staff and the City Clerk about potential economic development opportunities associated with Town's proximity to Corridor-X (future I-22). We

will follow-up during this next quarter and specifically, seek to connect the town with individuals who can assist with this endeavor. The latest census data reflects a population of 184; however, the Clerk notes a decline in population in recent years and the need to stimulate tax revenue and increase population.

Kansas

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Town of Kansas

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Comments: No additional information to report for this quarter.

Oakman

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Oakman Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

The Town of Oakman voted in a new Mayor who will take office in November. This may present greater community engagement opportunities.

Carbon Hill

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: City of Carbon Hill

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

The Mayor of Carbon Hill decided not to seek re-election and the citizens voted in a new Mayor who will take office in November. This may present greater community engagement opportunities for this struggling community that was hoping to capitalize on its close proximity to Corridor X (future Interstate 22); however, this has not happened. Fairly recent newspaper articles reveal the financial distress and concern of citizens. Prior engagement of this community revealed no significant interest beyond the Start-It Cards.

Nauvoo

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Nauvoo Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is currently located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

The Town of Nauvoo will be getting a new Mayor who will take office in November. This may present greater community engagement opportunities. It is noteworthy to mention that this small town with a population of only 284 had five recorded entries in the MyBiz Logbook, consisting of the vast majority of our total count for the quarter.

MARION COUNTY

Bear Creek

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Bear Creek Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

The Mayor of Bear Creek decided not to seek re-election. The newly elected Mayor will take office in November. This may present additional community engagement opportunities in this small rural community that is in the northern corner of our service area. The community has a tremendous asset with its local lake known as bear creek that has fairly large camp grounds which are typically at full capacity.

Hamilton

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of key connectors and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connectors: Hamilton City Hall, Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton Career Center

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton Career Center

Other activities/developments:

The Hamilton Campus of Beville State was one of for locations that participated in a distance learning broadcast where civic leaders, elected officials and economic developers were invited to hear a presentation from an area economic developer on “working with prospect” which is part of the Community Leadership Training (CLT) curriculum offered through the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA). This is now ongoing, monthly training offered through this delivery format.

The economic developer for Marion County, who is based out of Hamilton, participated in a regional meeting where WIRED staff discussed the concept of “economic gardening.” This was mentioned in greater detail in our above response to question 2.

Additional information:

The Mayor of Hamilton was defeated in the primary election. A run-off occurred on October 7th and the Mayor-Elect will take office in November. This may present greater community engagement opportunities.

Guin

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Guin City Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Other activities/developments

Last quarter, we noted the interest of Mayor Phil Segraves in learning more about the concept “economic gardening,” which was featured at the entrepreneurship conference held last fall in Meridian. As noted above in our above response to question 2, this quarter, WIRED staff held a regional meeting with the Mayor of Guin and economic developers representing six counties to discuss the potential use of the concept of economic gardening.

As noted in our last report, BSCC staff is assisting Mayor Segraves with efforts to locate an Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network—AERN Center in Guin to serve Marion County. We anticipate it being located in the new “Life Center/Safe Shelter,” which has several computers with internet access that are available for public use. An impressive grand opening for the Life Center/Safe Shelter was held in May. Numerous officials, including Governor Riley were on hand for the occasion. What makes this Center unique is that it is the only one like it in the nation and it serves as a model facility. The AERN Center for Guin is an ongoing project that has not been finalized; however, it has the potential to stimulate the desire for additional components of an ERDS.

As noted above in our response to question 2, this quarter, WIRED staff coordinated a meeting to bring a project manager from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to attend a meeting in Guin to see firsthand the initial mural that was recently completed, explain grant funding and offer advice to move the Guin mural project forward. The Mayor of Guin is very appreciative of the community coaching and support that he has received from WIRED and specifically, the assistance that he is receiving on advancing the mural project forward which will facilitate place building and compliment economic development through tourism and produce an overall positive image for the City. Our goal for the immediate future is to work with our partners on this project and community champions to identify our next steps that will produce a written plan that incorporates the overall vision and avenues for funding.

As noted earlier in this report, Mayor Segreaves was selected to participate in the “Alabama Mayors Design Summit” which is a unique opportunity for only a handful of mayors from across the state to have the honor for selection. Bevill State staff has been credited for providing the level of community coaching that lead to his selection. The Design Summit will be held in February in Montgomery. This is a two day roundtable workshop, which is a project of Design Alabama, Alabama League of Municipalities, and the State Council on the Arts. The Design Summit will discuss smart growth strategies, downtown redevelopment, greenspace planning, and making the most with existing assets. The Design Summit will be community specific by requiring each mayor to present a particular design issue that will be addressed at the Summit.

Guin has received the Alabama Communities of Excellent (ACE) award and Guin has worked previously with the STDI team. They are very familiar with Guin and they have done considerable work with the Mayor. STDI is providing guidance and input in our community engagement. Due to the strong level of support for our community engagement efforts, we anticipate further work in Guin which will produce positive and noticeable outcomes.

Gu-Win

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is:

Connector: B & B Antiques, Auctions and Real Estate (Mayor’s business)

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Note: Gu-Win is a small town and Town Hall does not maintain operating hours for the public. Town Hall is used for conducting council meetings. The City Clerk is a volunteer and she is the mother of the Mayor. She works at the above business with her son, who is the Mayor. When someone has questions about transacting Town business, both the City Clerk and the Mayor are assessable at the above business. This is the most reasonable location for maintaining the MyBiz Logbook and achieving a connector for the area.

Comments: No additional information to report for this quarter.

Winfield

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Winfield City Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Additional information:

The Mayor of Winfield was defeated during a runoff election that was held on Tuesday, October 7th. The new Mayor will take office in November. Bevill State staff met the Mayor-Elect, as he is already engaged in activities. He attended a regional meeting pertaining to the Fayette County Lake reservoir project. We have had an excellent working relationship with the Mayor and we look forward to working with the incoming Mayor. It is noteworthy to mention that the City of

Winfield has a Main Street Program with a full-time Director. This is unique to our service area and presents significant engagement opportunities for WIRED staff. During this quarter, we have discussed possibilities for engagement with the Director of Main Street. Now that the election is over, we anticipate further discussion during this next quarter.

Hackleburg

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Hackleburg Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No additional information to report for this quarter.

Brilliant

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Brilliant Town Hall

Note: The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

The Mayor has previously expressed his interest in converting a vacant mobile home manufacturing plant located within the town limits into a business incubator. We have been unable to provide meaningful assistance with this potential project; however, WIRED staff met someone this quarter at the ACE Kickoff meeting who has a company that is in the business of buying and leasing large commercial buildings and this company has projects in Alabama. WIRED staff will look into this matter further during this next quarter.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Belk

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Belk Town Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No additional information to report for this quarter.

Fayette

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of two key connectors and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connector: Fayette City Hall

Connector: Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce/AERN Center

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at each of the above locations.

Other activities/developments

- BSCC Staff began working with Fayette, AL in revising and re-energizing its 2006-2011 Strategic Plan in June, 2008. A Steering Committee was formed in July, 2008 for follow-up, celebrating successes, and driving the process. All five of the plan goals committees have met and submitted recommendations for plan revisions. New plan committee volunteers, with much success, have been solicited at Chamber Luncheons each month, monthly City Hall Meetings. Revisions will be complete October 31, 2008. The revised plan will include entrepreneurial aspects in the plan's Economic Development Goal and Education Goal. As a way of celebrating their successes, Goals Committee Chairs report on goal progress at monthly Chamber Luncheons. After plan revisions are complete, the Mayor will report successes through a "Mayor's Corner" in the local newspaper. The City Council has agreed to include a "Plan Update" in their monthly meetings. With coaching of BSCC Staff, a Beautification Committee was added to the Quality of Life Goal, which began work on August 8. The committee has had much success in recruiting volunteers from church youth groups, businesses, the Fayette Chamber, Master Gardeners and Gardeners Associations for completing several beautification and/or clean-up projects throughout the community. Projects included landscaping at the courthouse, re-vitalizing the community center, abandoned parking lot and building clean-up, and repairing the chain-link fence that surrounds the elementary school. The committee has enjoyed much notoriety and success celebration in the local newspaper, monthly Chamber Luncheons, and "word-of-mouth." BSCC Staff, Karla Quesenberry, secured commitment from Mercedes to lend their Fayette employees to a project. This came about when she described the work ZF Industries of Tuscaloosa was doing in Fayette as a way of "giving back" to the communities where their employees live. Mercedes CEO, Bill Taylor, liked the idea and offered his Fayette employees for a project. **Note: Fayette is an Urban Studios Community.**
- The Mayor of Fayette, the Fayette City Education Goal Committee Chair, Anne Uhlman, Fayette school system representative, Dr. Rene Nichols, and Bevill Staff met with Mason Bonner and Tommie Syx on September 30, 2008 to discuss implementing the REAL Program in the Fayette School System. The meeting concluded with a commitment from Mayor Nelson to secure the \$1000 funding from the Fayette Community Foundation for the one-day REAL workshop for 15-20 educators. In the interest of fulfilling the city's Education Goal Objective to implement an entrepreneurial program in the Fayette School System, the goal's Committee Chair, Anne Uhlman, and the city's Education Committee have taken ownership of this effort.

- The Fayette Campus of Beville State was one of four locations that participated in a distance learning broadcast where civic leaders, elected officials and economic developers were invited to hear a presentation from an area economic developer on “working with prospects” which is part of the Community Leadership Training (CLT) curriculum offered through the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA). This is now ongoing, monthly training offered through this delivery format.
- The economic developer who serves this area also participated in a regional meeting where WIRED staff discussed the concept of “economic gardening.” This was mentioned in greater detail in our above response to question 2.

Berry

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Berry Town Hall
 Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: The previously referenced Tom Beville Reservoir project is a major project for Berry and the Mayor is a champion for this project.

Glen Allen

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Glen Allen Town Hall
 Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

LAMAR COUNTY

Beaverton

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector listed below:

Connector: Value Star Grocery
 Note: A MyBiz Logbook is not located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Detroit

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector listed below:

Connector: Detroit Grocery

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is not located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Kennedy

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Kennedy Town Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Millport

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Millport Town Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Sulligent

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Millport Town Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Vernon

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Vernon City Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: A new mayor will take office in November. This may present greater community engagement opportunities.

PICKENS COUNTY

Aliceville

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of two key connectors and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connectors are listed below:

Connector: Fayette City Hall

Connector: Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce/AERN Center

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at each of the above locations.

Other activities/development: As mentioned in our last report, Aliceville has had the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University complete a study and recommendation for their community planning efforts. A Town hall meeting was held in April to celebrate the work that had been completed thus far, and to get further input from the community. The final chart and recommendations have been completed, and will soon be unveiled to the community.

Aliceville has expressed very high interest in completing a strategic plan, which will include the ERDS. They have also expressed interest in BSCC assisting them in the Alabama Communities of Excellence program (to be included as a goal in their strategic plan). Aliceville has past failures in strategic planning efforts; however, BSCC anticipates being able to successfully coach Aliceville through the ERDS Process at this time. The reasons for past failures will be carefully explored to avoid the same pitfall in the future. Initial input is that the community needs a “simple,” “easy-to-understand-and-follow” plan to keep the community’s momentum and interest during planning and implementation stages.

BSCC Staff have been working with Cheryl Morgan from the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University to determine a suitable WAEM project based on the plans and recommendations made to the community during their Urban Studios venture.

Current development for this quarter is that the community will have a completed Comprehensive Plan In October, 2008. They have communicated interest in BSCC Staff coaching them through a strategic planning (3-5 year plan) process in January, 2008. **Note: Aliceville is an Urban Studios Community.**

Carrollton

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Carrollton City Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: As previously noted plans are in place for Bevill State to partner with the STDI team for three days of intense groundwork in Carrollton that will produce a Strategic Master Plan. In preparation for this event, three community leaders from Carrollton have been selected to attend “WAEM Town” later this month. WAEM Town is intended to replicate the highly successful community and design training model of “Your Town Alabama.” Bevill State looks forward to the opportunity for community engagement in Carrollton with leadership being provided by STDI team which has a proven track record in community development.

McMullen

As noted in our last report, efforts in locating a willing Connector that is able to distribute the Start It! Cards have been unsuccessful. This community is all residential with no retail or any other commercial establishment. Their Town Hall is in name only, and non-active.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Ethelsville

As noted in our last report, efforts in locating a willing Connector that is able to distribute the Start It! Cards have been unsuccessful. This community is all residential with no retail or any other commercial establishment. Their Town Hall is in name only, and non-active.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Gordo

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Gordo City Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Other activities/development: Gordo has had the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University complete a study and recommendation for their community planning efforts. The community has expressed that they are fast becoming an “arts” community. They have implemented youth programs in their community, which have resulted in much youth participation and better school participation (including grades) by that youth. There has also been a flux of retail space being bought in the downtown area by artisans. There is an available site that the community is considering for an incubator site. BSCC Staff suggested looking into an “arts” incubator. Much interest was sparked in that and completing the ERDS process.

BSCC Staff are currently working with Cheryl Morgan from the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University to determine a suitable WAEM project based on the plans and recommendations made to the community during their Urban Studios venture. BSCC staff are suggesting that we look at ERDS process and arts incubator as the WAEM project, and how it fits into what Urban Studios has recommended.

Comments: Gordo will be getting a new Mayor who will take office in November.

Old Memphis

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector listed below:

Connector: Willie King

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is not located at the above location. Also Note: Willie King is a world-know blues artist.

Comments: No developments to report for this quarter.

Pickensville

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Pickensville Town Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Through work with the Small Town Design Initiative, Pickensville completed a Strategic Master Plan Study. During this quarter, contact was made with Ben Wieseman of KPS, to discuss the possibility of building a Comprehensive Plan for Pickensville, AL. A great need was identified during Pickensville's Strategic Master Plan Study with assistance from the Small Town Design Initiative. A meeting with Mr. Wieseman will be set for sometime in November, 2008. **Note: Pickensville is an Urban Studios Community.**

Reform

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

As noted in our last report, community engagement has resulted in successful identification of a key connector and their willingness to maintain the MyBiz Logbook. Our primary connector is listed below:

Connector: Reform City Hall

Note: A MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Comments: Reform will be getting a new mayor in November.

East Central Community College

Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

The ECCC WAEM staff engaged and coached local public officials, economic developers, business and industry leaders, entrepreneurs, civil leaders, educators, and others in our five county district to promote “Start-It” card distribution, strategic plan committees, incubator projects, Mississippi Main Street projects, the new WAEM TOWN Program and the Technology Resource Institute of Mississippi State University in helping business owners and local governments with the Business Research Assistance Program.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

The ECCC WAEM staff was asked by the East Central Mayor’s Association to get Tom Adkins with the Business Research and Services at Mississippi State University to speak at their quarterly meeting on September 11, 2008. Mr. Adkins accepted the invitation of the ECCC staff to speak, and the meeting proved to be very beneficial to several cities and towns by helping them with much-needed free research assistance. This group is made up of twenty-three mayors.

ECCC Work Force class offerings have been posted on the MyBiz website.

Successes

- Innovative, web-based access to advanced manufacturing training systems developed by the WAEM initiative continues to be very successful in the ECCC district. In the previous quarter, we stated that 37 people had taken advantage of this customized training with quality instructional content with the convenience of this training offered at their work place. We are proud to say that as of the end of this quarter, ninety- seven people have taken advantage of this Anytime-Anywhere resource.
- The City of Carthage in our district was the first community to participate in the charrette program in the WAEM region in Mississippi. Funding came from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Montgomery Institute and the Alabama Center for Economic Development. The ECCC WAEM staff helped conduct the charrette held on September 15, 16, and 17. The charrette was well-received by the community, and they eagerly wait seeing the final product in the near future.
- On September 8 and 9th, the ECCC WAEM staff held a Wired M3-Amatrol training session at the ECCC-ITTC at Choctaw, MS for all WIRED college participants. This session also covered beyond the grant M3 with Amatrol and advanced skills updates.

Community Involvement Matrix

East Central Community College

COMMUNITY		Initial contact made with community																		
		Community has and uses a strategic plan																		
		Community needs a strategic plan it will use																		
		Community is open to "place building" planning or project support																		
		Place building initiative started																		
		ERDS "first champion" identified																		
		ERDS "start-it" card developed and circulated																		
		ERDS "connector" identified and trained																		
		ERDS "connector" is reporting referrals																		
		ERDS "navigator" identified and trained																		
		ERDS "start-it" book developed and printed																		
		Community is open to ERDS process																		
		ERDS process started																		
		Place building plan/project completed																		
		ERDS plan completed																		
ERDS implemented																				
1	Carthage	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2	Lena	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
3	Walnut Grove	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
4	Philadelphia	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
5	Chunky																			
6	Decatur	█			█			█	█			█								
7	Hickory	█						█	█											
8	Newton	█	█		█			█	█	█										
9	Union	█						█	█	█										
10	Forest	█			█	█	█			█	█			█						
11	Lake	█						█	█											
12	Morton	█			█			█	█	█										
13	Sebastopol	█						█	█											
14	Louisville	█	█	█		█		█	█					█						
15	Noxapater	█						█	█											

Legend:

█	Leake County
█	Neshoba County
█	Newton County
█	Scott County
█	Winston County

Service Area: East Central Community College

Leake County: The ECCC WAEM staff met with representatives with the City of Carthage, Town of Lena, Town of Walnut Grove, Leake County Board of Supervisors, Leake County Board of Education, Leake County Chamber of Commerce and the Leake County Development Association in November, 2006, and together developed a strategic plan for Leake County that yielded a total of 64 focus areas in business development, social infrastructure, physical infrastructure and workforce development.

The Mississippi Economic Development Council gave this strategic plan the Community Economic Development Award recognizing them for their efforts in advancing the economic viability of their communities through economic and development programs.

East Mississippi Community College Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal One: Quick Summary

EMCC Staff continued working with political leadership of Macon, Mississippi and Noxubee country during this quarter on completion of development of incubator/leadership center for leadership training and entrepreneurship. EMCC continued to partner with Mississippi Department of Corrections /Noxubee County Sheriff to utilize prisoners for construction of project. Wired staff continues to meet with the mayor of Macon and members of the Board of Supervisors of Noxubee County and with the new Noxubee County Economic Alliance. Staff presented to the Alliance Board on September 17th a plan to fold-in the ERDS efforts started in 2007 with the Renaissance Project. The Economic Development Alliance has agreed. Wired staff met with team members of the Mississippi State University MSCAT personnel. A strategy was devised to include to collaborate with WIRED and the Alliance to further the success of the Renaissance up-date to its strategic plan on October 22, 2008. WIRED staff met with members of the Macon Main Street Groups to help organize a downtown facelift of an existing storefront building. WIRED staff invited participants in Clay, Noxubee, Lowndes, and Kemper Counties to the WAEM Town retreat at Lake Tiak O’K’ahtha.

Wired staff met with Mayor Homer Hall of DeKalb and discussed ways to collaborate. Mayor seems receptive to ERDS effort. The mayor gave a tour of the city pointing out some of the positive and negative elements of DeKalb. Wired staff met with Kemper County Superintendent of Schools Jackie Pollack and with EMCC Career-Tech personnel to determine what collaborative efforts could be pursued. It was agreed that a seamless approach could be implemented.

Wired staff reported on Regional Water problems to Commission on the Development of Northeast Mississippi in Tupelo MS.

Goal Two: Quick Summary

EMCC staff continues to assist West Point Growth Alliance in implementing its entrepreneurship training for small businesses in the community. An additional session was held at the growth alliance offices. Wired staff met with Noxubee County Board of Supervisors President and Noxubee County Administrator and with Noxubee County Civic Center Director to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Main Street in Macon. EMCC WIRED Staff briefed Northeast Community College, Northwest Community College and Itawamba Community College workforce staff on progress to date of Wired efforts at Consortium Summit held on September 4th and 5th. A syllabus has been prepared for the EMCC Entrepreneurship Institute being developed at the Golden Triangle Campus. Approval by Workforce Services is pending awaiting a review meeting with Meridian Community College(MCC) Wired staff related to the Entrepreneurship Bootstrap project syllabus being used at MCC.

Wired staff added EMCC to MyBiz.am network. Wired staff provided continuing support for West Point Growth Alliance business development training.

Goal Three: Quick Summary

EMCC staff continues CRC training efforts. Amatrol Systems have been set up for M3 credentialing program and staff is operating the process. The pilot program for GED option students has been expanded to the EMCC West Point Center and is operating at West Point. 10 students are taking this training during this quarter.

Advanced training for a major engine supplier has been presented to the company and has been accepted. Three major industries in the area have decided to implement as a pre-employment tool.

Goal Four: Quick Summary

A high school Entrepreneurship program has been implemented in the EMCC footprint at Columbus High School. Columbus school teachers and admin staff have prepared the curriculum for this program and have been trained by the Southern Entrepreneurship Training program and the JCJC Train the trainer session held on July 23-24 2008. Classes have started. EMCC worked in partnership with the Southern Entrepreneurship Institute staff and JCJC WIRED Staff to coordinate the first of three symposiums during the year for the high schools in the WAEM region who will participate. The first symposium was held at JCJC on September 30th. WAEM team members continued to support West Point High School's leadership program.

The third GED Option/ Basic Manufacturing Skills training class have begun training in West Point at EMCC's West Point Center. Columbus Municipal School's dual-enrollment effort for Metals Cluster and Industrial Maintenance Technology was implemented. Additional dual enrollment with Starkville City Schools and Columbus High School has been started. Columbus High School's Entrepreneurship classes for fall 2008 have been implemented. 35 students are enrolled in two classes.

Successes:

- One hundred percent completion of Start-it Cards has been accomplished. Cards have been printed and distributed in all communities.
- West Point Growth Alliance has continually held a series of entrepreneurship training sessions.
- A new West Point GED/options class with Basic Manufacturing has begun its tasks during the quarter.
- Entrepreneurship Education planning continues to move forward. Growth Alliance of Noxubee has been formed and an agreement has been reached to utilize ERDS/place-building ideas to implement Renaissance Strategic Plan. MSCAT/MSU efforts will collaborate with EMCC Wired/Noxubee Alliance.

Service Area: East Mississippi Community College

West Point: West Point continues its ERDS efforts. It has and uses a strategic plan and has updated its plan for 2008-2009. West Point continues to be open to place building planning. The place building initiative has been started and a “first champion” and a “connector” have been identified. The start-it card continues to be distributed across the community. An implementation schedule has been approved for the entire year of 2009. The West Point/Clay County Growth Alliance has held four entrepreneurship training session for the community. A leadership effort with the High School has continued. Training for GED -option students was implemented for the West Point School system adding a Basic Manufacturing Component to the course. EMCC has assisted West Point and Columbus Schools in developing a GED program. A West Point The options course continues to be offered on the EMCC West Point Center... Dual enrollment procedures were implemented. AN Alliance staff member will participate in WAEMTOWN.

Columbus: Columbus has and is implementing a strategic plan and is open to the ERDS process. Champion(s) have been identified. Start-It Cards have been distributed. Columbus has requested WAEM Data to be included in its new Columbus/Link web page format. Basic Skills Dual enrollment is being implemented in the Columbus High School. Students are being trained in the first year of the college’s two year Industrial Maintenance Technology program. The high school entrepreneurship classes have begun at Columbus High School. A task force of local citizens is being developed. The first symposium for the entrepreneurship classes has been held at another Wired community college. The next one is scheduled for January 22, 2009 at EMCC’s Mayhew campus. Columbus mayor is attending WAEMTOWN

Caledonia: Caledonia has been initially contacted but no real interest has been shown by either the Mayor or any other groups. A Start it card has been circulated in the community.

Artesia: The mayor of Artesia has been initially contacted by the college. A Start It card has been circulated in the community.

Crawford: The mayor of Crawford has been initially contacted by the college. Start It card has been circulated in the community. The county District 4 supervisor has requested assistance from the college in leadership issues in Crawford.

Macon: Macon leadership and Noxubee County and Brooksville and Shuqualak has established a Economic Alliance to help steer county development. A board has been established and contributions from the corporate jurisdictions have contributed to a fund to maintain this organization .Communities continue to be open to place building initiative. Noxubee County is open to ERDS process and City/county has agreed to incorporate the ERDS process into the implementation strategy of the strategic plan called the Renaissance Plan. A meeting will take place on October 22, 2008 to begin this process. WIRED staff have met with MSCAT staff at Mississippi State University to incorporate their efforts with Wired in the Renaissance Strategic plan update .ERDS Start-it card is being circulated in the communities. Dual enrollment procedures were begun. An incubator and entrepreneurial center continues to be under construction in Macon. Prison labor has been used to build center and certificates of training have been issued to prisoners. In response to Main Street Mississippi participants in Macon,

WIRED Staff have begun efforts to help Macon organize to improve a downtown building, Leadership efforts begun in Macon will be folded into this effort.

Shuqualak: This community has begun the ERDS process, but with limited capacity. It is now included in the Noxubee county cooperative Alliance effort. Start-it card has been circulated in the community.

Brooksville: This community has begun the ERDS process, but with limited capacity. It has been included in the Noxubee county economic development cooperative effort. Start-it card has been circulated in the community. The Brooksville Mayor is invited to WAEMTOWN

Starkville: Starkville has and uses a strategic plan. Development leadership, including the Mayor is open to place building and has pledged their cooperation with this process. ERDS “first champion” has been identified. A start-it card has been completed and distributed in the community. The Greater Starkville Development Partnership has hired a new director. Dual enrollment efforts are implemented with the Starkville school system.

Maben: Initial contact made with community. Town has limited capacity. Start it card has been circulated in the community. EMCC will plan to use an instrument called the Plantersville Playbook (being prepared by ARC Funds through the Stennis Institute to assist Maben

Sturgis: No contact has been made with community. Start-it card has been circulated through the Greater Starkville Development Partnership.

DeKalb: Community has and uses a strategic plan. EMCC is assisting in the effort to update the strategic plan. Economic Authority leadership is cooperating, is open to place building. A “first champion” has been identified. Start it Card is circulated throughout the community. The college has begun working with the mayor and the superintendent of education to determine new programs to develop.

Scooba: The Mayor of Scooba has been initially contacted by the WAEM Team. Community is not open to ERDS process at this time. Start It card developed is printed and ready for distribution.

EMCC: The college continues efforts to implement a high-school entrepreneurship curriculum for high schools. The college continues to implement GED training to include Basic Manufacturing Skills and has expanded it to the Noxubee County Schools system for fall 2008. The college has continued to assist consultants who are working with the Noxubee County School Board. The college is participating in dual enrollment initiatives with three school systems for fall 2008. The college is building an incubator and an entrepreneurial center in Macon in an unused manufacturing facility.

Jones County Junior College

Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

Numerous contacts have been made throughout the district to continue to promote the WAEM Region. We have been actively participating in the County Wide Strategic Planning Initiative in Jones County and will continue to be involved in the process until the plan is developed.

The WIRED Staff has partnered with the Mississippi Development Authority and the City of Ellisville to build on the First Impressions Report that was completed. An asset mapping exercise took place during the month of August. The WAEM WIRED Staff worked closely with MDA and elected officials from Ellisville to identify and map the assets in Ellisville.

WAEM WIRED is involved in the strategic planning efforts underway in Covington County. We have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to help facilitate the planning process and the coordination of activities to build sustainability in Covington County.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

Start-It cards have been developed for each community & connectors have been identified in each place. The cards are placed in strategic locations throughout the communities. We have targeted Town Halls, Public Libraries, Accountant Offices, Lawyer Offices, Realtor Offices, and Chamber Offices to place the cards.

WIRED Staff members have been able to assist entrepreneurs in navigating the MyBiz.am website. Entrepreneurs have contacted the WIRED Staff as a result of the Start-It Cards for help with identifying resources for starting a business.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

Because of WAEM Wired leadership, SBCJC has allowed the junior and community colleges in the state access to KeyTrain software. This software is a curriculum to help individuals master applied workplace skills tested by WorkKeys.

Since the beginning of the grant, Jones has submitted 113 individuals for certification on the Career Readiness Certificate.

During the 3rd Quarter of 2008, Jones submitted 44 individuals for certification. Some of the student accounts are community individuals that have contacted the college for help acquiring skills necessary for becoming teacher assistants. These community individuals are assigned a user id and password so that the individual is able to access KeyTrain from any computer. Without this access to training, these individuals would be less likely to obtain a CRC.

JCJC has set up an Amatrol Lab in the Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville. The lab is open to M3 Participants so E-Learning can take place along with skills demonstration. Currently, there are 96 students using the lab in pursuit of an M3 Basic Level Certification.

Goal 4: Quick Summary

The JCJC WAEM WIRED Team has partnered with the Southern Youth Entrepreneurship Program, formerly known as the South MS Youth Entrepreneurship Program, to support Entrepreneur Classes in the local high schools. Entrepreneur classes are currently being taught in the following schools in the JCJC district: Bay Springs, Laurel, and Stringer High Schools.

JCJC WAEM WIRED sponsored a curriculum training session for the teachers involved in the entrepreneur classes. The two-day training was held during the month of July 2008 at the JCJC Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville. Teachers from across the state attended the session and were instructed on the NFTE Curriculum.

Successes:

- Jones sponsored a CRC Information Session for local business and industry. The session gave local human resource agents an opportunity to see the benefits of requiring a CRC for applicants. As a result of the session, several businesses are considering requiring a CRC for incoming applicants. JCJC is currently working with the local WIN Job Center to accommodate the testing of the individuals.
- The Southern Youth Entrepreneurship Program sponsors three symposiums throughout the school year for the students. The first symposium was held during the month of September 2008. JCJC hosted area 100 area students during the retreat. An entrepreneurial panel discussion was held so that the students would have the opportunity to interact with people who have started their own business. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about business interests and roadblocks that the entrepreneurs faced.

Community Involvement Matrix

Jones County Junior College

COMMUNITY		Initial contact made with community																																					
		Community has and uses a strategic plan		Community needs a strategic plan it will use		Community is open to "place building" planning or project support		Place building initiative started		ERDS "first champion" identified		ERDS "start-it" card developed and circulated		ERDS "connector" identified and trained		ERDS "connector" is reporting referrals		ERDS "navigator" identified and trained		ERDS "start-it" book developed and printed		Community is open to ERDS process		ERDS process started		Place building plan/project completed		ERDS plan completed		ERDS implemented		Kick Off Meeting		Opportunity Retreat		First Impressions Visit			
1	Bay Springs	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		
2	Collins	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue		
3	Ellisville	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple		
4	Enterprise	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
5	Heidelberg	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		
6	Laurel	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple		
7	Leakesville	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple		
8	McLain	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	
9	Mize	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	
10	Mt. Olive	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue		
11	New Augusta	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	
12	Quitman	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
13	Raleigh	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
14	Richton	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	
15	Sandersville	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	
16	Seminary	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
17	Shubuta	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
18	Soso	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
19	State Line	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	
20	Stonewall	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
21	Taylorville	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
22	Waynesboro	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	

Legend:

Jones County
Jasper County
Clarke County
Covington County

Legend:

Wayne County
Perry County
Greene County
Smith County

Service Area: Jones County Junior College

Bay Springs: Several meetings have been held in Bay Springs to bring WIRED to the public's attention. See narrative for more details.

Collins: There have been several awareness meetings with leaders from Collins over the past few months. The community is part of a county wide strategic plan and the WIRED staff is working to integrate WIRED into that plan. WIRED Staff members are taking an active role in the strategic initiative in the county. Members of the WIRED team took on the facilitator role in some of the planning sessions.

A 1st Impressions Report will be given to the Board of Aldermen and city leaders during the month of October.

Ellisville: Extensive work has been done in Ellisville to guide the community toward and ERDS. An Opportunity Retreat was held with business and civic leaders. The opportunity that the community sees as the biggest need is the development of a strategic plan.

WIRED staff has been active in working with the Jones County Chamber of Commerce to help new businesses in Ellisville. WIRED members have assisted in the opening of businesses in town.

WIRED Staff partnered with the City of Ellisville and the Mississippi Development Authority to conduct a Asset Mapping exercise during the month of August 2008.

Enterprise: Meetings with several business and civic groups have been held to make the public more aware of the WIRED Initiative.

Heidelberg: Meetings have been held with leaders in Heidelberg. The community is open to the ERDS process. A Kick-Off meeting will be held in the near future.

Laurel: A meeting was held with the City Council. Laurel High School is participating in the Southern Youth Entrepreneurship Program. This program offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate in a semester long entrepreneurship class and a semester of Quickbooks training. This will be the second year that Laurel has participated in the program.

WIRED staff has been active in working with the Jones County Chamber of Commerce to help new businesses in Laurel. WIRED members have assisted in the opening of businesses in town.

Leakesville: Presentation has been made to the Board of Aldermen.

Mize: Presentation was made to the Board of Aldermen.

Mt. Olive: Meetings have been held with the mayor and Board of Aldermen. The community is part of a county wide strategic plan and the WIRED staff is working to integrate WIRED into that plan. A First Impression visit was made to Mt. Olive. The WIRED Team has presented the report to the Chamber of Commerce and a presentation to the Board of Aldermen will be forthcoming.

A 1st Impressions Report will be given to the Board of Aldermen and city leaders during the month of October.

Quitman: Several meetings have been held with civic and business leaders in the community.

Raleigh: Presentation was made to the Board of Aldermen.

Richton: Meetings have been held with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. A Kick-Off meeting was held with several business and civic leaders. The town is excited about the ERDS process.

Sandersville: A Kick-Off meeting was held and a steering committee has been established. The town is going to begin working on a strategic plan during 2008.

Seminary: Meetings have been held with the mayor and Board of Aldermen. The community is part of a county wide strategic plan and the WIRED staff is working to integrate WIRED into that plan. A First Impression visit was made to Seminary. The WIRED Team has presented the report to the Chamber of Commerce and a presentation to the Board of Aldermen will be forthcoming.

A 1st Impressions Report will be given to the Board of Aldermen and city leaders during the month of October.

Stonewall: Several meetings have been held with civic and business leaders in the community. The town is becoming involved in the First Impressions Program.

Taylorsville: Presentation was made to the Board of Aldermen. Meetings have been held with the mayor and key citizens to help identify the needs of the community. The community is excited about the ERDS process. Taylorsville is becoming involved with the First Impressions Program.

Waynesboro: Presentation was made to the Board of Aldermen. Follow-up visits have been made with the Economic Developer and Chamber of Commerce in Wayne County. The organizations are excited about the First Impressions Program and the support that the WIRED Team can offer them. The WIRED Team has been working with the Economic Development District and Chamber of Commerce to help identify Connectors and Navigators for the MyBiz Website.

Meridian Community College

Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

The Goal one facilitator has continued to build relationships with Collinsville, Marion and Meridian. Presented “First Impressions,” designed to help communities assess and improve themselves through a structured visitation program, to the Marion Board of Alderman. The group was in favor of participating in the program and facilitator is working on scheduling a community visit. Facilitator has spoken to two representatives of Collinsville about “First Impressions” as well but has to meet with several more community contacts before a consensus is reached. Facilitator has made up packets for both Collinsville and Marion consisting of organizations and agencies the communities can access as well as grant material and other pertinent information they can use to grow their communities. Promoted the upcoming WAEM Town retreat to Collinsville and Marion and representatives from both communities will be at the retreat to take place in the upcoming quarter. TMI connected with Meridian representative. Continue to promote the WAEM Initiative through newspaper articles and other public venues.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

The Goal two facilitator has continued relationships with area bankers to encourage entrepreneurship and re-distributed Start-It cards to them to disseminate to interested individuals in their communities. The Goal 2 facilitator has met with several local entrepreneurs in Meridian to help them navigate MyBiz.am and has worked with the Job Placement Coordinator in our local Career Development Center to encourage potential entrepreneurs to navigate the entrepreneurial website. Goal 2 facilitator will continue to seek students to enroll in the online entrepreneur training program.

Interest in entrepreneurship continues to grow in our area through promotion and implementation of activities and services designed for entrepreneurs. Plans are being finalized for an entrepreneur class to begin in January. Also, a Youth Entrepreneur Business Day Camp will be held in November to promote youth entrepreneurs.

The East Mississippi Development Corporation, (EMDC) at MCC continues to develop partnerships with area banks and entrepreneurs. EMDC provides assistance to area banks in making loans to new and expanding businesses and minority loans.

New opportunities since last quarter include new or expanding businesses in the region.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

A welding instructor was hired under the WIRED grant. MCC has completed the design for an initial construction project in the new workforce training center. This initial construction will provide the space required for both the welding program and the industrial maintenance program developed under the WIRED grant. This project will be out for bid in Oct. 2008.

This construction will again use leveraged funds. MCC initiated an additional investment of \$100,000 of leveraged funds for the development of 3 computer lab / classroom spaces.

These rooms will be in use by October 20, 2008.

Leveraged funds were used to conduct training for 247 individuals in 33 varied courses which included basic production level M3 credential training. As an example of this training

is a pre-employment program for aircraft assembly. Through this pre-employment program 50 individuals began the process of qualifying for an M3 production level credential. The industrial maintenance instructor completed the instructor certification training program for NCCER at the Mayhew campus of EMCC.

Through 11 meetings of industry clusters, education leaders, East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, local workforce council and high school vocational education directors 103 individuals shared possibilities for the use of CRC, M3 and other WIRED initiatives within the region.

Within the Workforce Training Center (WTC), leveraged funds have been used to prepare the facility for use in both local and WIRED region initiatives.

- Instructors hired to initiate two new advanced manufacturing programs at Meridian Community College. The programs are Welding and Industrial Maintenance. Both are working with local industry, other WIRED schools and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges to develop curriculum that will meet the needs of industry.
- \$100,000 in leveraged funds was committed to the development of classroom spaces within the WTC to conduct initial employee training for a new company moving to the Meridian Area. Training will include the computer portion of the WIRED developed M3 production level credential. Construction will be complete and training will begin on October 20, 2008. (*upcoming quarter*)
- A 400,000 construction project for the WTC was released for bid this quarter. This project will be completed during the first quarter of 2009. This construction, using leveraged funds, will provide the needed space for the two new programs being developed by the WIRED instructors.
- Equipment under the WIRED grant to support M3 and the industrial maintenance program were advertised for bid. Bids to be opened on Oct 6th. (*upcoming quarter*)
- A steel cluster meeting was conducted with local industry leaders in an effort to design the new welding facility as well as clarification of the curriculum. The standard requirement in this area was found to be the AWS D1.1 certification.
- Received a donation of construction materials from a local industry for the Workforce Training Center.

Total leveraged funds raised and expended by MCC in support of advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurialism and distribution operations this quarter: \$263,509

Goal 4: Quick Summary

MCC participated in meetings including representatives of all high school vocational programs in the county and at-risk youth programs. Meetings allowed for coordination of the MCC Workforce Training Center, WIRED initiatives, high school redesign programs and statewide initiatives. Programs for at risk youth are being evaluated for inclusion of M3 skills. These programs are run using WIA funds through twin districts.

Dual credit programs this quarter were conducted at MCC in nursing, machine tool trades, telecommunications, horticulture, graphic arts, auto mechanics and drafting and design. Enrollment in these dual credit programs this semester is 27 high school students.

Successes

- Doubled media exposure to WAEM initiatives such as CRC and M3 and advanced manufacturing in at least 3 area publications. Continued monthly articles about local successful entrepreneurs in two publications and educating “would-be” entrepreneurs of specific services and helpful information available to them in the region.
- Continue to identify area entrepreneurs with specific challenges and assist them with the appropriate services and contacts needed to address their challenges
- College recognized as being leader in the state with number of CRC’s awarded
- Held ribbon cutting for Career Development Center whereby individuals can test for CRC’s
- Received \$250,000 from the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors in support of the Workforce Training Center (WTC) to support advanced manufacturing training
- Began dual credit in area high schools in telecommunications, machine tool trades, graphic arts, automotive, drafting and design this quarter with 27 students enrolled.
- M3 credential skills are being taught in occupational programs at the college this quarter
- High schools in area can now offer the M3 and CRC credential to their students
- Meridian Public Schools announced that all senior vocational students must take the CRC assessment

Service Area: Meridian Community College

Collinsville: Goal 1 Facilitator continues to meet with First Champion and other connectors. Community is looking at “First Impressions” program. Informational packets distributed with resource information (including grant material) to First Champion and Navigator. One representative from community to attend WAEM Town retreat. Goal 2 facilitator is working with area banks and current businesses to promote entrepreneurship. Overall, progress is steadily moving forward.

Marion: Goal 1 facilitator continues to meet with mayor, town clerk and board. “First Impressions” program presented to board and visitation date is in the works. Two representatives are attending upcoming WAEM Town Retreat. Community Block grant awarded to town and meetings are taking place on how to proceed. Informational packets distributed with resource information (including grant material) to Mayor and board.

Meridian: Our WAEM staff is working closely with Meridian’s economic development entity (the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation) and will begin the ERDS process at a time that is appropriate for both the city, county and the EMBDC. Goal 2 facilitator is working with area banks and current businesses to promote entrepreneurship. Overall, progress is steadily moving forward.

Shelton State Community College

Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

This quarter, we continued to visit the leaders in the communities in our region to provide additional Start-It Cards where needed and to gather other information as to how we may be of assistance to their community. Goal 1 and 2 Staff attended the YOUR TOWN ALABAMA conference this quarter and has followed up with a meeting with the YOUR TOWN staff in Birmingham this month. Due to these meetings, Mr. Ken Walker of the University of West Alabama in Livingston has agreed to partner with the WAEM Staff and the YOUR TOWN staff in working with the City of Eutaw, which has expressed an interest in developing a YOUR TOWN strategic plan for their community.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

Twelve communities where Start-it cards have been distributed are in Akron, Greensboro, Moundville, Brookwood, Vance, Livingston, Eutaw, Forkland, Coker, Lakeview, Cuba and York. We are continuing to pursue the other communities in our four county area that have expressed an interest in Shelton State providing them with Start-It Cards. We signed up an additional resource for the MyBiz Website this quarter and continue to solicit additional resources for the Website.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

Shelton State Community College has now started the intake process of the M3 credential. Implementation of the M3 has begun in our Ready to Work pre- employment program. A template has been put in place and we anticipate increasing the number of intakes in the near future.

Successes

- We are very pleased to note that due to the efforts of our staff here a Shelton State, Phifer Wire, in Tuscaloosa, has adopted AMATROL as a training component for their maintenance technicians. Phifer Wire is one of the largest employers in Tuscaloosa, and is one of the largest manufacturers and worldwide distributors of wire products. The plant will begin implementing a new web based training program in January of 2009. The WIRED WAEM staff of Shelton State Community College also is continuing to meet with various service providers in our region to determine what initiatives are servicing our area and how we can partner with these initiatives to provide more services to our communities.
 - The foundation has been laid to begin advanced manufacturing in 5 secondary schools in Tuscaloosa and Hale Counties.
4. Over the last quarter, we issued 126 Career Readiness Certificates, and have issued 356 Career Readiness Certificates year-to-date.

Community Involvement Matrix

Shelton State Community College

COMMUNITY	Initial contact made with community	Community has and uses a strategic plan	Community needs a strategic plan it will use	Community is open to "place building" planning or project support	Place building initiative started	ERDS "first champion" identified	ERDS "start-it" card developed and circulated	ERDS "connector" identified and trained	ERDS "connector" is reporting referrals	ERDS "navigator" identified and trained	ERDS "start-it" book developed and printed	Community is open to ERDS process	ERDS process started	Place building plan/project completed	ERDS plan completed	ERDS implemented	
	Greene County																
	Boligee	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Eutaw	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Forkland	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Union	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Hale County																
	Akron	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Newbern	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Greeneboro	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Moundville	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Tuscaloosa County																
	Brookwood	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Coaling	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Coker	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Lakeview	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Northport	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Tuscaloosa	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Vance	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Sumter County																	
Cuba	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Epes	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Gainesville	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Geiger	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Livingston	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
York	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	

Legend:

	Greene County
	Hale County
	Tuscaloosa County
	Sumter County

Service Area: Shelton State Community College

Following is our Community Involvement Narrative for each of the communities in our service area including the status report for the Start-It Cards for each of our communities. Start-It Cards have been developed and circulated in twelve communities. We have continued to visit the leaders of the other communities that we have been able to contact to gather information for Start-It Cards for their community. Connectors have been identified for all of the communities that have been distributed Start-It Cards and the staff at Shelton State will serve as the Navigators, however, training for the Navigators has not yet been provided by TMI.

GREENE COUNTY

Boligee: The Mayor of Boligee is part-time, and it has been difficult to contact him for an appointment to gather information regarding the Start-It Card. However, I recently caught the mayor on a visit to Tuscaloosa and gave him some information regarding the Start-It Card. He has expressed interest and is to get back with me regarding the information needed to print the card..

Eutaw: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Eutaw. Several Start-it cards have been distributed to potential entrepreneurs in Eutaw, but none have been yet reported to us by the connector.

Forkland: Start-It Card has been developed and circulated in the Town Hall. I also contacted the Mayor of Forkland this month with an invitation to attend the WAEM Town conference to be held in October.

Union: The Mayor of the town of Union has been difficult to contact for an appointment. However, we are going to continue to pursue the Mayor and identify the connectors for the town of Union.

HALE COUNTY

Akron: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk is serving as the connector for Akron. Several Start-it cards have been distributed to potential entrepreneurs in Akron, and the connector has referred four people.

Newbern: Contact was made with the Mayor of Newbern and he informed us that no new business could be started until a sewage system is installed in Newbern. Due to the critical infrastructure concerns the mayor did not feel that the Start-It Cards should be developed and circulated at the present time, or any other Wired/Waem initiative begun.

Greensboro: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk and librarian will serve as the connectors for Greensboro. Several Start-it cards have been distributed to potential entrepreneurs in Greensboro and I received one phone call from an individual referred by a connector.

Moundville: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Moundville. I have continued to provide Mr. Larry Taylor, a champion in Moundville, information regarding possible grants that the City may be able

to obtain for improvements downtown. Shelton State continues to work with leaders in Moundville to help with revitalization of the downtown area and the archaeological park.

SUMTER COUNTY

Cuba: Start-It Card has been developed and delivered to the Town Hall/Mayor's office. The Mayor's office will serve as the connector. No one has yet been referred to us by the connector. I also contacted the Mayor of Cuba this month with an invitation to attend the WAEM Town conference to be held in October. He expressed interest in the conference, but will be unable to attend because of work commitments. He said he would like to attend the next Your Town Conference to be held in Alabama next year, and I told him I would keep him informed.

Epes: I met with the Mayor of Epes this year and collected data for the Start-It card. At that time, the Mayor expressed interest in us providing the town with the Start-It Card. However, once I developed the Card and forwarded it to Epes for approval, I was informed by some of the leaders of Epes that they had decided to develop their own card or booklet for the town with money they had obtained from an unrelated grant. They told me to not print the card at this time. I did send the Mayor and invitation to attend the WAEM Town conference to be held in October, but received no response.

Gainesville: I met with the Mayor of Gainesville this year and explained the Start-It card initiative to her. She expressed interest in the card, but said she would have to meet with the other leaders of the community and get back in touch with me. I have not heard from her since, and am unable to get in touch with her. Because she is a close friend with the Mayor in Epes. I feel like the town will be producing their own card, also. However, I will continue to try to contact her this month.

Geiger: The Mayor of the town of Geiger has been difficult to contact for an appointment. However, we are going to continue to pursue the Mayor and identify the connectors for the Start-it Card.

Livingston: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the Small Business Center at the University of West Alabama will serve as the connector for Livingston. Several cards have been distributed to potential entrepreneurs in Livingston, but we have had not connector referrals at this time.

York: Start-It Card has been developed and circulated. The City Clerk will serve as the connector for York. No connector referrals have been received at this time.

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Brookwood: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Brookwood. I also provided additional Start-It cards to Brookwood at the local Regions Bank Branch. No referrals from the connector have been received this quarter. An invitation was sent this month to the Mayor of Brookwood to attend the WAEM Town meeting to be held in October.

Coaling: We are in the process of collecting data and identifying the connectors for the Start-it Card. I have met with the town clerk of Coaling and delivered to her a sample Start-It Card. She is in the process of getting approval for the Start-It card from the Mayor. However, due to recent elections in Coaling, the process has been delayed. We anticipate having the card developed and circulated shortly.

Coker: Start-It Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Coker. No connector referrals have been received at this time.

Lakeview: Start-It Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Lakeview. No connector referrals have been received at this time.

Northport: We are in the process of collecting data and identifying the connectors for the Start-it card, however, due to the election of a new Mayor in Northport, the process has been delayed. We anticipate meeting with the new Mayor this month regarding the Start-it Card.

Tuscaloosa: The leaders of Tuscaloosa have not been in a rush to get approval for the Start-it Card. This is due to the fact that the City has a booming economy already and the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama already has established a One-Stop Center that provides detailed information that is free to the public on starting a business in Tuscaloosa. We have put the One-Stop Center on the MyBiz web site. We will continue to work with the leaders regarding this.

Vance: Start-it Card has been developed and circulated, and the town clerk will serve as the connector for Vance. Some cards have been distributed to potential entrepreneurs in Vance but no referrals have yet been sent to us by the connector.

Wallace Community College Selma Quarterly Report Summary: July – September 2008

Goal 1: Quick Summary

WCCS has continued to actively participate in the Region 6 Alabama Tom Bigbee Community Development Committee. Recently, we identified the first Regional Customer Service Winner for WCCS's territory. We have also continue meeting with community leaders and organizers to ensure the goals of WIRED are effectively being implemented and that assistance is adequately provided from our team.

Goal 2: Quick Summary

The WIRED team attended several training events and hosted 2 major training Events during this quarter, those training events included a 2-week training at Auburn University entitled the Intensive Economic Development Institute and hosting training on our local colleges for faculty and staff. . This training focused on community development through place building, entrepreneur support and community organizing.

Goal 3: Quick Summary

A large number of companies in the WCCS has expressed an immediate interest in enrolling their employees in the Industrial Maintenance program, however we have been unsuccessful in obtaining the final equipment, and receiving the necessary training to begin M3 training.

WCCS Ready to Work program actively engaged students in workforce development, approximately 25 students were enrolled in ready to work during the 3rd quarter.

Goal 4: Quick Summary

WCCS team met with educators to discuss the possibility of brings M3 and Ready to Work to the upper level classrooms.

Community Involvement Matrix

Wallace Community College Selma

COMMUNITY		Initial contact made with community																					
		Community has and uses a strategic plan																					
		Community needs a strategic plan it will use																					
		Community is open to "place building" planning or project support																					
		Place building initiative started																					
		ERDS "first champion" identified																					
		ERDS "start-it" card developed and circulated																					
		ERDS "connector" identified and trained																					
		ERDS "connector" is reporting referrals																					
		ERDS "navigator" identified and trained																					
		ERDS "start-it" book developed and printed																					
		Community is open to ERDS process																					
ERDS process started																							
Place building plan/project completed																							
ERDS plan completed																							
ERDS implemented																							
1	Benton	X		X					X														
2	Fort Deposit	X	X		X	X	X	X													X	X	
3	Gordonville	X																					
4	Hayneville	X	X		X	X	X	X														X	
5	Lowndesboro	X		X	X	X	X	X														X	
6	Marion	X		X	X	X	X	X														X	
7	Mosses	X			X			X	X													X	
8	Orrville	X																				X	
9	Selma	X	X		X			X	X													X	
10	Uniontown	X		X	X			X	X													X	
11	Valley Grande	X							X	X													
12	Whitehall	X		X	X			X	X													X	

Legend:

Dallas County
Lowndes County
Perry County

Service Area: Wallace Community College Selma

Lowndes County

- Attended Lowndes County Workforce Meeting
- Attended Lowndes County Town Hall Meeting
- Met with County Commissioners regarding Start it cards.

Perry County

- Met with Uniontown City Administrator regarding Ready to Work,
- Met with Marion Chamber of Commerce regarding Start-It Card Residents
- Met with Superintendent regarding M3 and Ready to Work Credentialing

Dallas County

- Met with Dallas County Chamber of Commerce regarding regional branding, the Chamber is the point of contact for the Dallas County excellence in Customer Service nomination.
- WCCS met with City of Selma planning director to discuss new businesses moving to the area.
- WCCS also met with Career link and Employment office director to discuss workforce training, in the area , met with city leaders during Technology Building dedication, , Attending Congressional district town hall meeting.