



**WAEM**

West Alabama-East Mississippi

## Appendix

# Community Engagement Reports

## **Alabama Southern Community College Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

The ASCC Team has continued to be active in the communities of the Alabama Southern six county service area. The promotion of the WAEM Initiative was of great importance. The ASCC Team attended meetings regarding workforce development, community development, and rural place building throughout the quarter. The ASCC Team has continued working with the City of Gilbertown during their strategic planning/rural place building process. The ASCC Team has continued to not only work with the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program through the ACE Associates Board, but have continued leadership roles within the organization. The ASCC Team has continued organizing and facilitating strategic planning sessions with ACE for the City of Evergreen. The team has also supported the Auburn Urban Studio with the results presentation of the Evergreen Charrette and the Monroeville Charrette.

Rural place building work is also taking place in Marengo County using the Rural Heritage Center as the lead organization for the Town of Thomaston; as well as in Monroe County through partnerships with the City, County, and Industrial Development Board.

Also, The ASCC Team has actively pursued professional development opportunities by attending Auburn University's Small Town Success workshop, as well as YourTown, Alabama. 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**

Within the past three months, the ASCC Team has created and distributed Start it Cards for twenty-nine communities, bringing the total number of communities with Start It Cards to thirty. A total of thirty-three community connectors have been identified and trained.

The promotion of the MyBiz.am website has been of importance for the ASCC Team. By partnering with the Women's Business Center, we are holding monthly meetings in three communities that allow women business owners and future women entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn, discuss, and share information and ideas. Counseling is also available onsite by the Women's Business Center. The ASCC Team has strengthened relationships with existing service providers while continuing to discover and recruit non-profit service providers into the MyBiz.am network.

### **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.

- Participated in WAEM Tourism Initiative that is being created in the WAEM Region.
- 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.
- Active 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 9 Workforce Development.
- Active participation in Alabama Region 6 Workforce Development.
- Worked in conjunction with WCCS to support Region 6 Workforce Development efforts, including the preparation of a region-wide Strategic Plan.
- Presidential Nominee John McCain visited west Alabama, including a presentation at the Thomasville Campus of Alabama Southern.

### **ERDS Update**

The community of Gilbertown, AL started the ERDS process in previous quarters, however has turned their focus from ERDS toward Rural Place Building. The community is in the final stages of creating a Strategic Plan centered on Infrastructure, Tourism/Recreation, Youth Retention, Economic Development, and Education. The Strategic Plan will act as the Rural Place Building Plan for the Town of Gilbertown.

The community of Thomasville, AL started the process in previous quarters as well, and decided to put the ERDS Process on hold.



## **Service Area: Alabama Southern Community College**

**\*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.**

**Beatrice:** The ASCC WAEM Team has located a first champion. Start It cards are developed, printed, and in circulation. Two community connectors for Beatrice have been identified and trained.

**Butler\*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Butler have been identified and trained.

**Camden \*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Camden has been identified and trained.

**Castleberry:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Castleberry has been identified and trained.

**Coffeerville:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Coffeerville has been identified and trained.

**Demopolis:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Demopolis has been identified and trained.

**Evergreen \*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Evergreen has been identified and trained. Evergreen is also working with the ASCC Team on Rural Place Building efforts.

**Excel:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Excel have been identified and trained.

**Faunsdale:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Faunsdale has been identified and trained.

**Frisco City:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Frisco City have been identified and trained.

**Fulton:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Fulton has been identified and trained.

**Gilbertown:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Gilbertown have been identified and trained.

**Grove Hill\*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Grove Hill has been identified and trained.

**Jackson:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Jackson has been identified and trained.

**Linden\*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Linden has been identified and trained.

**Lisman:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Lisman have been identified and trained.

**Monroeville \*:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Monroeville have been identified and trained. Monroeville is also working with the ASCC Team on Rural Place Building efforts.

**Myrtlewood:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Myrtlewood has been identified and trained.

**Needham:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Needham have been identified and trained.

**Oak Hill:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Oak Hill has been identified and trained.

**Pennington:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Pennington have been identified and trained.

**Pine Apple:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Pine Apple has been identified and trained.

**Pine Hill:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Pine Hill has been identified and trained.

**Repton:**

The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Repton has been identified and trained.

**Silas:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Silas have been identified and trained.

**Sweet Water:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Sweet Water has been identified and trained.

**Thomaston:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. One community connector for Thomaston has been identified and trained. Thomaston is also working with the ASCC Team on Rural Place Building efforts.

**Toxey:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Toxey have been identified and trained.

**Vredenburgh:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards; the cards are currently in circulation. Two community connectors for Vredenburgh have been identified and trained.

**Yellow Bluff:** The ASCC WAEM Team has developed and printed Start It cards, however the cards are not currently in circulation due to scheduling conflicts between the ASCC Team and Yellow Bluff Town Hall.

## **Bevill State Community College**

### **Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

#### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

Bevill State Community College is continuing to be involved in a supportive role in community building activities that have been initiated in Aliceville through lead efforts by the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University, and The Center for Economic Development at The University of Alabama. These are on-going activities that compliment both community-building and entrepreneurship. We look forward to the opportunity to work more closely with these organizations that have a proven track record in community development.

#### **Goal 2: Quick Summary**

The narrative contained herein provides a community-by-community account of our engagement activities pertaining to the development and distribution of our Start It! Cards. Bevill State's service area, as it relates to the WIRED initiative, includes Walker, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens and Marion Counties for a total of thirty-seven communities for development and distribution of Start It! Cards. Bevill State is of the opinion that our College has fulfilled its obligation of development and distribution of Start-it Cards per the revised implementation plan for the above referenced communities. More specifically, all Start It! Cards have been developed and distributed with the exception of two small communities in Pickens County, Ethelsville (population 81) and McMullen (population 66). Efforts to identify a connector in either location were unsuccessful, as these are mainly small residential communities with no commercial establishments.

#### **Implementation Strategy**

Bevill State's implementation strategy consist primarily in utilizing city halls, public libraries, campus libraries, and a couple of commercial establishments as key community connectors. The Career Centers located throughout Bevill State's territory will serve a dual role as community connectors and network navigators. Some of our communities have multiple connectors and others have a single connector. We recognize that there still exist potential connectors throughout our service area and that adding connectors will remain an on-going process.

#### **Data Collection**

A MyBiz Logbook (developed by Bevill State) is being maintained in each community to capture and document connections within the network of support. This information is collected quarterly and recorded on the Metrics Progress Report.

#### **Layout and Design**

All Start It! Cards have been developed pursuant to a uniform template design that has allowed for the insertion of a community picture. The community service information on the back of each card is likewise community specific and is formatted under uniform headings, such as license and fees, and sales tax. The Cards were printed in-house with a laser-jet printer purchased through WIRED funds.

For simplification, goal 1 and goal 2 activities are described herein in greater detail using a community-by-community narrative that is contained within this report. This information is under the "narrative" heading.

### **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 August. 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.

### **Successes**

- With the limited exception of two small communities, Bevill State met its goal of development and distribution of all Start It! Cards. The Start It Cards are posted on the Collaborative Workspace.
- The development of Start It! Cards has allowed our college to make significant one-on-one contacts with mayors and city clerks throughout our service that would otherwise not have been achieved. In addition, the Cards have provided a tangible deliverable that has been well received.
- The WIRED Initiative has allowed our college to work closely with the Career Centers and our community engagement has helped communities understand some of the employer and job seeker services that are available.
- Initiated contacts and provided written justification that supported an award of three hundred thousand dollar in grant funds for refurbishing the business incubator complex, which will enhance entrepreneurship and house Advanced Manufacturing (M3 Basic and Advance Production Qualification).
- Initial meeting occurred this quarter, with the assistance of BSCC Staff, between BSCC WAEM Staff, University of Alabama Staff and the Mayor of Guin to discuss the possibility of locating an Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network—AERN Center for Marion County in Guin. There will also be a request that the Guin, Hamilton, and Winfield Chambers join Guin City Hall as partners in the AERN; BSCC Staff have been asked to also assist in this process.
- On June 5, BSCC (WAEM Initiative) and the Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce partnered to host a workshop held for the Fayette County and Pickens County AERN Partners (Fayette County's AERN Center is located in Fayette and Pickens County's AERN Center is located in Aliceville). The partners include Aliceville City Hall, Aliceville Public Library, Aliceville Chamber of Commerce, Fayette City Hall, and Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the workshop was to bring

Paavo Hanninen from the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network at the University of Alabama to conduct a train-the-trainer session for the partners. The training was aimed at giving them a better understanding of the center's resources and how to aid entrepreneurs in the use of those resources. The meeting also produced ideas for better marketing the AERN Centers and holding regular workshops for entrepreneurs. BSCC Staff have generated flyers and cards (well received by Mr. Hanninen and the centers' partners) that will be distributed throughout Fayette and Pickens counties for marketing purposes.

- Final planning is underway for the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) to offer its Community Leadership Educational Opportunity (CLEO) training, newly named Community Leadership Training (CLT), via BSCC's Distance Learning capabilities—providing the opportunity for interactive participation at any campus throughout Beville State's service area. The first training date is set for August 8, 2008 at the Beville State distance learning facilities in Fayette, Hamilton, Jasper, and Carrollton.

Note: BSCC Staff and EDAA are working with the County Commissioners Association to get the hours spent at the CLT sessions counted as continued education hours that are required of all Alabama County Commissioners.

- BSCC staff attended a Regional Economic Development Summit. Additional information is contained in the community-by-community narrative under the heading of Hamilton.
- BSCC staff had the unique opportunity to attend Your Town Alabama Training with WIRED staff from across the region. Your Town Alabama is a community planning and design training offered through the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University. The Center for Economic Development at The University of Alabama is also a partner in this endeavor.
- Other accomplishments are listed in the narrative below, including work in Aliceville and the promising opportunities for engagement in Guin.

### **ERDS Update**

Jasper has begun the ERDS process; however, the final plan has not been developed at this point. Other potential ERDS communities for the near future include Aliceville and Guin. The process has not been started; however, significant community engagement and planning is underway in Aliceville through lead efforts by the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University, and The Center for Economic Development at The University of Alabama. Our College is assisting in this ongoing process, which is laying the foundation for ERDS engagement and community building. The Mayor of Guin is interested in a joint venture to learn more about the concept of "Economic Gardening" and obtaining implementation assistance from Beville State, if the concept is viable for his area.





## **Service Area: Bevill State Community College**

### **WALKER COUNTY**

#### **Jasper**

**Status of Start It! Card:** Printed and distributed.

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:** The ERDS process has been initiated and considerable work has been done in Jasper.

#### **Sumiton**

**Status of Start It! Card:** Printed and distributed.

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.

#### **Dora**

**Status of Start It! Card:** Printed and distributed.

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. Due to the close proximity of Sumiton and Dora, the Sumiton Campus Library of Beville State is a key connector for the citizens of both Sumiton and Dora.

### **Cordova**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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 are currently working with Cheryl Morgan from the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies to determine a suitable WAEM project based on the plans and recommendations made to the community during their Urban Studios venture.

### **Parrish**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

### **Sipsey**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

### **Eldridge**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Kansas**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Oakman**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Carbon Hill**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Nauvoo**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

## **MARION COUNTY**

### **Bear Creek**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

### **Hamilton**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

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

**Other activities/developments:** It is note worth to mention that during this quarter, a Regional Economic Development Summit was held at the Hamilton Campus of Bevill State Community College. The Summit was hosted by the Hamilton Career Center, Bevill State Community College, and the Community Development Foundation of Marion County. Numerous elected officials and stakeholders turned out to hear keynote speaker Dennis Cuneo, Former Senior Vice President of Toyota Motor North America and currently, Senior Advisor to Toyota on site selection and other issues. As noted at the Summit, Hamilton is well positioned to benefit from the Toyota Pant in Tupelo and the newly developed Interstate system (I-22), which upon completion will connect Memphis to Birmingham.

### **Guin**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

Other activities/developments: Mayor Phil Segraves, continues to express a real interest in learning more about the concept “Economic Gardening,” which was featured at the entrepreneurship conference held in Meridian. The Mayor has furthered expressed interest in

joining BSCC staff to learn more about this economic development concept and explore this option for implementation in Guin as part of the ERDS process. In addition, BSCC staff is assisting Mayor Segraves with efforts to locate an Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network—AERN Center to service Marion County in Guin. It is intended to locate the center at the new “Life Center/Safe Shelter,” which has several computers with internet access that are available for public use.

It is note worthy to mention that a 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 is serving as a model facility.

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

Final thoughts: 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.

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)

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. The facility 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.

### **Winfield**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

**Hackleburg**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

**Brilliant**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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

The MyBiz Logbook is located at the above location.

**FAYETTE COUNTY**

**Belk**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

Other activities/development: The Mayor of Brilliant has expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of developing a business incubator in his area by converting a large vacant building that was previously used for manufacturing mobile homes. The Mayor specifically requested that his interest be communicated to college officials—information was communicated.

**Fayette**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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: Fayette has had the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies at Auburn University complete a study and recommendation for their community planning efforts. Fayette also has a completed 5-yr strategic plan (2006-2011). They have accomplished some of the goals put forth by their plan, including downtown revitalization. They are currently having trouble keeping the plan committees motivated, and are questioning some changes that need to be made to their plan. BSCC Staff have been asked to coach the community through the process of examining the existing plan and re-motivating the plan committees. This will include helping them celebrate successes that have already taken place.

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 are suggesting that the work we are doing with Fayette and their current strategic plan goals as the WAEM project.

**Berry**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Glen Allen**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**LAMAR COUNTY**

**Beaverton**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Detroit**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Kennedy**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Millport**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Sulligent**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Vernon**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**PICKENS COUNTY**

**Aliceville**

Status of Start It! Card: Printed and distributed.

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: 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 express 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 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 are suggesting that Aliceville be coached through a strategic planning and ERDS process, which will include recommendations given by Urban Studies, as the WAEM project.

### **Carrollton**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

### **McMullen**

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.

### **Ethelsville**

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.

Collection

### **Gordo**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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 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.

**Old Memphis**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

\*\*\*See the attached Q & A (Attachment B) completed for the WAEM Newsletter for further details.

**Pickensville**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

**Reform**

**Status of Start It!** Card: Printed and distributed.

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.

## **East Central Community College Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

The ECCC WAEM staff engaged and coached local public officials, Economic Developers, business and industry leaders, entrepreneurs, civic leaders, educators, and others in our five county district to promote and encourage participation in “Start It Card” information and distribution, strategic plan committees, incubator projects, starting small business workshops, educational/taskforce projects, Mississippi Main Street projects, and Your Town Alabama training in preparation for the new WAEM Town Program

### **Goal 2: Quick Summary**

During the last quarter the ECCC WAEM staff developed and distributed two more “Start-It” cards in the towns of Hickory and Lake Mississippi and have now finished all of our “Start-It” cards in our five county district, plus furnishing a card for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. In addition two more service provider interviews were conducted and submitted for the MyBiz.am website. Meetings have also been scheduled with Economic Developers to discuss a new strategic plan for the city of Forest and to explore ideas to help the Newton Chamber of Commerce promote their downtown businesses.

### **Successes**

- The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has reported giving out fifteen “Start-It” cards to potential or aspiring entrepreneurs during the quarter as well as receiving referrals from the MyBiz.am website.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the Mayor of Forest, the ECCC WAEM staff, and Economic Developers to begin discussions on developing a new strategic plan for the city, which hasn’t been updated in over twelve years.
- Innovative web based access to advanced manufacturing training systems developed by the WAEM initiative has been very successful this quarter in customized training for Taylor Machine Works, La-Z-Boy, Weyerhaeuser Co., in the ECCC district. At present thirty seven workers are taking advantage of the quality instructional content with the convenience of this training offered at their workplace. Many more workers are expected to take advantage of this Anytime-Anywhere resource in the future.
- The ECCC WAEM staff met with representatives of the city of Carthage, Town of Lena, and 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 of 2006 for Team Building meetings. Meetings were held monthly until a new strategic plan was developed for the county. The effort was named Team Leake. The final strategic plan was celebrated on May 21, 2007 with Gray Swoope with the Mississippi Development Authority challenging the members to implement the plan they developed. Committee members continued to meet monthly and have now completed thirty seven of the forty listed objectives. For their efforts Team Leake has been awarded this quarter the Community Economic Development Award for

Community Development and Community Involvement in the Central District for 2007. This award will inspire the committee members to accomplish their remaining objectives. The ECCC WAEM staff will continue to coach and assist in these efforts.

- Applied Geo Technologies on and operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians share a building with the ECCC Integrated Technology Training Center in Choctaw, Ms. and has taken advantage of the workforce training at that location. Their facility in Carthage, MS. has been named this quarter the Central Mississippi Governors Cup award winner for 2007.
- Carthage, Mississippi's participation in the Main Street program (March, 27 2008) has been timed well. Carthage has been picked for a charrette, along with two other towns in Mississippi. Funding will come from the Appalachian Regional Commission, The Montgomery Institute, and the Alabama Center for Economic Development. ECCC WAEM staff has worked with the Carthage Main street program from day one. The charrette will be conducted by WAEM CCJC staff, Your Town Alabama staff and the new WAEM Town staff.

#### **ERDS Update**

The Team Leake communities of Carthage, Lena, and Walnut Grove have completed 30 of the 47 listed objectives in their strategic plan. Teaching programs for entrepreneurship and knowledge of career opportunities have been added to current class materials for the 2008 school year.

A strategic plan effort has been started in Forest, MS.

# East Central Community College

## Community Involvement Matrix

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	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake
2	Lena	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake
3	Walnut Grove	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake	Leake
4	Philadelphia	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba	Neshoba
5	Chunky																
6	Decatur	Newton		Newton		Newton	Newton	Leake									
7	Hickory	Newton															
8	Newton	Newton	Newton			Newton	Newton	Leake									
9	Union	Newton				Newton	Newton	Leake									
10	Forest	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Leake	Scott								
11	Lake	Scott						Leake									
12	Morton	Scott		Scott		Scott	Scott	Leake									
13	Sebastopol	Scott					Scott	Leake									
14	Louisville	Winston	Winston	Winston	Winston	Winston	Winston	Leake		Winston							
15	Noxapater	Winston					Winston	Leake									

**Legend:**

Leake County
Neshoba County
Newton County
Scott County
Winston County

## **Service Area: East Central Community College**

**Leake County:** Youth WAEM skills programs continue to be taught in the Vo-Tech Center. Work is in progress on complying with the Main Street/Your Town process and the Certified Local Government process.

**Neshoba County:** The Small Business Coordinator with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has reported referrals from the MyBiz.am website and has reported success in distributing “Start-It” cards and has received positive responses from them.

**Newton County:** Final “Start-It” cards were printed and placed in the County. A Resource Partner Interview was conducted and posted with the ECCC Workforce Development Center. In addition the ECCC WAEM staff referred SBDC IT assistance to the Newton Chamber of Commerce.

**Scott County:** Final “Start-It” Cards were printed and placed in the Lake Town Hall and Public Library. Preliminary work was started in Forest on “Place Building”.

**Winston County:** A Resource Partner Interview was conducted with the Winston County Economic Development District and posted on the website. Web based advanced manufacturing training has been accessed by industries in Neshoba, Newton, and Winston Counties.

## **East Mississippi Community College Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

### **Goal One: Quick Summary**

EMCC , working with political leadership of Macon Mississippi and Noxubee country, EMCC staff is nearing completion of development of incubator/leadership center for leadership training and entrepreneurship. EMCC partnered with Mississippi Department of Corrections and Noxubee County Sheriff to utilize prisoners for incubator construction project. Training in construction skills was provided to prisoners and 6 certificates of achievement have been awarded. 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. Alliance has agreed to be champion and navigator for MyBiz.am network and start-it cards. Staff met with team members of the ARC Asset Mapping effort led by Stennis Institute and other Mississippi State University personnel. A strategy was devised to include and enhance asset-mapping tool with West Point, DeKalb and Macon to assist in implementation of plans these communities have. Wired staff met with leadership of Mississippi Power Company regarding their needs for the training of power plant workers and lignite mining training.

Continue to assist Macon/Noxubee County community leaders in establishing leadership/entrepreneurship training facility. Continued to help ARC consultant with issues regarding Noxubee School board. Help Create develop a water update for its August report. Assisted Kemper County Economic Authority in its Strategic Plan update. EMCC Wired staff attended Your Town Alabama Training in June. EMCC staff attended Tourism Meeting with West Point Growth Alliance to help implement a tourism strategy for the WAEM region.

### **Goal Two: Quick Summary**

EMCC staff continues to assist West Point Growth Alliance in implementing its entrepreneurship training for small businesses in the community. Four sessions have been held at the growth alliance offices. Wired staff met with ARC Asset Mapping leadership to coordinate their assistance to West Point/Clay County. Wired staff met with Clay County Board of Supervisors. EMCC Wired staff briefed the Workforce Board on progress of Wired grant. EMCC provided assistance to Northeast Community College, Northwest Community College and Itawamba Community College to implement Start-it cards in their regions. Two additional contacts were received regarding navigation on the MyBiz.am site. Contact was made with the Veteran's Affairs Office of Lowndes County to assist veterans with business assistance for business start-up. A syllabus is being prepared for the EMCC Entrepreneurship Institute being developed at the Golden Triangle Campus.

Start-It cards were completed for the all Lowndes County and have been printed and distributed throughout the cities and Lowndes county. The Columbus Lowndes Link staff has agreed to be the navigator for the My Biz network and will be a champion for this effort in the communities.

Distributed Start-it Card for Starkville, Maben and Sturgis to Greater Starkville Partnership.  
Distributed Start-it Cards for Columbus, Artesia, and Crawford, Mississippi to Columbus/Lowndes Link. Distributed Start-it Cards for Noxubee County (Macon, Brooksville,

Shuqualak) West Point held series of entrepreneurship training sessions. Writing of Entrepreneurship training syllabus is ongoing. EMCC staff helped plan and prepare for Workforce Innovations Conference presentation.

### **Goal Three: Quick Summary**

EMCC staff continues CRC training efforts. Amatrol Systems are being set up for M3 credentialing program and staff has been assigned to conduct the testing. The pilot program for GED students has been expanded to the EMCC West Point Center and has been added to West point GED student's requirements. West Point students completed this training during this quarter. EMCC has initiated contact with Noxubee County Schools for the same purpose to try setting up for fall classes.

Advanced training for a major engine supplier is 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. 5 graduates of Basic Skills training, who were Sara Lee employees, are being considered for employment with a new company in West Point.

### **Goal Four: Quick Summary**

A high school entrepreneurship program is be implemented in the EMCC footprint and Columbus High School will participate in 2008-2009. West Point will do this next year because it wants to concentrate on drop-out prevention in 2008. Columbus school teachers and admin staff are preparing the curriculum for this program and will attend a July 21<sup>st</sup> training session with the Southern Entrepreneurship Training program and the JCJC Train the trainer session on July 23-24 2008. EMCC will work in partnership with the Southern Entrepreneurship Institute staff and JCJC to coordinate three symposiums during the year for the high schools in the WAEM region who will participate. WAEM team members continued to support West Point High School's leadership program

The second GED/ Basic Manufacturing Skills training class completed training in West Point. Continued planning with Columbus Municipal Schools on dual-enrollment effort for Metals Cluster and Industrial Maintenance has occurred. Agreements have been developed. Continued similar effort with West Point will take place for 2009 school year. EMCC is also discussing this with Noxubee County High School for fall 2008 semester. Offering dual enrollment classes with Starkville High School. Preparations for Columbus Schools Entrepreneurship classes for fall 2008 are ongoing.

### **Successes**

Nearly one hundred percent completion of Start-it Cards has been accomplished. Cards have been printed and distributed in all but two municipalities. West Point Growth Alliance has successfully held a series of entrepreneurship training sessions. The new West Point GED class with Basic Manufacturing has completed its tasks during the quarter. Entrepreneurship Education planning continues to move forward.



## **Service Area: East Mississippi Community College**

**West Point:** West Point continues its ERDS efforts. It has and uses a strategic plan and is updating its plan for this year. 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 has been printed and is distributed across the community. A start-it booklet continues to be finalized. A meeting to adopt the ERDS implementation plan was held by the leadership and the plan was adopted. An implementation schedule has been approved for the entire year of 2008. The West Point/Clay County Growth Alliance has held three entrepreneurship training session for the community. A leadership effort with the High School has continued. Training for GED students was implemented for the West Point School system adding a Basic Manufacturing Component to the course. A West Point instructor was trained for this purpose and the course was conducted at the EMCC West Point Center... Dual enrollment procedures were started.

**Columbus:** Follow--up contact has been made in Columbus. Columbus has and is implementing a strategic plan. The first stages of contact with the Mayor and development leadership has been accomplished and Columbus 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. EMCC has arranged for Basic Skills classes to be filed to be included. Dual enrollment is being implemented in the Columbus High School. Basic manufacturing skills will be included. Training has been arranged for teachers in the high school for entrepreneurship classes to be taught in the 2008-2009 year.

**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.

**Macon:** Macon leadership has established a steering committee and have conducted a rollout meeting and an ERDS exercises. Community is open to place building initiative. An ERDS “first champion” has been identified. Community is open to ERDS process and City/county has agreed to follow the new model of the ERDS process. ERDS Start-it card has been circulated in the community. A new economic alliance has been established to continue the ERDS effort. Meetings between the leadership and the college were held to further this effort. Dual enrollment procedures were begun. An incubator and entrepreneurial center is under construction in Macon. Prison labor has been used to build center and certificates of training have been issued to prisoners.

**Shuqualak:** This community has begun the ERDS process, but with limited capacity. It needs to

be included in the Noxubee county cooperative effort with Macon. 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.

**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. Dual enrollment efforts are started with the Starkville school system.

**Maben:** Initial contact made with community. Town has limited capacity. Start it card has been circulated in the community.

**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 has assisted the effort in updating the strategic plan. Economic Authority leadership is cooperating, is open to place building. A “first champion” has been identified. Start it Card is ready for submission to TMI.

**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 information has been developed and is ready for submission to TMI

**EMCC:** The college has begun efforts to implement a high-school entrepreneurship curriculum. The college continues to develop a leadership institute and an entrepreneurial institute. A syllabus is being written for the course. The college has begun 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. State prisoners have been trained in a basic carpentry class to help construction of the facility and have been issued certificates.

## **Jones County Junior College** **Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

Numerous contacts have been made throughout the district to continue to promote the WAEM Region. We have begun participation 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 will take place during the month of August. JCJC WIRED Staff members are working with the other organizations to identify the assets in Ellisville.

We have also been working with leadership in Covington County to begin the preliminary work to start a Strategic Planning Effort in that county. We have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to help facilitate the planning process and the coordination of activities to build 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. Jones has submitted 75 persons for certification on the Career Readiness Certificate. 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.

### **Goal 4: Quick Summary**

The South Mississippi Youth Entrepreneurship Program held its third youth retreat. The theme of the retreat was the business plan competition. Students presented their business plans to a panel of judges which consisted of representatives from Mississippi Technology Alliance, Jones County Junior College, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Recruiting efforts were conducted to bring in other schools to participate in the program. The following schools in the JCJC District have committed to teaching the NFTE Entrepreneurship Curriculum during the 2008-2009 School Year:

- Laurel High School
- Taylorsville High School
- Bay Springs High School
- Stringer High School

A training session will be held on July 23-24 at JCJC for teachers participating in the program. The session will focus on the implementation of the curriculum in the classroom.

### **Successes**

- JCJC has been working with several industries in the district in an effort to require applicants to have the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) before hiring takes place. Conversations are ongoing with Human Resource representatives from organizations to promote the CRC and the M3 Certification.
- The M3 lab equipment has been received and a Testing Lab has been established for individuals interested in the M3 Credential. The lab is located at the Whitehead Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville.

# Jones County Junior College

## Community Involvement Matrix

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
2	Collins	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
4	Enterprise	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
6	Laurel	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
8	McLain	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
10	Mt. Olive	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
12	Quitman	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
14	Richton	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
16	Seminary	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
18	Soso	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
20	Stonewall	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
21	Taylorsville	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

**Legend:**

- Jones County
- Jasper County
- Clarke County
- Covington County
- 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.

**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. The steering committee is now working on the development of a strategic plan for the town.

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 has 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.

**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.

**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. A visit will be made to Taylorsville during August 2008.

**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 introduced the ERDS Process to the Kiwanis Club.

## **Meridian Community College**

### **Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

#### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

MCC facilitator has continued to build relationships with Collinsville, Marion and Meridian. New facilitator met with Collinsville Community Connector and First Champion. Revised Start-It cards for Collinsville and placed cards in prominent locations to best facilitate interested entrepreneurs in the area. Met with Marion First Champion and redesigned Start-It cards for that community. Met with EMBDC staff in Meridian and redesigned Start-It cards to better reflect services available. Worked with staff at City Hall and County Courthouse to make it possible for individuals purchasing a privilege license at either location to receive a Start It card. Also met with Winstead Commercial Realty group whereby they will distribute all three area Start-It cards to individuals looking for commercial property.

Goal 1 facilitator continues to work with Collinsville, Marion and Meridian. Weekly contact with First Champions in Collinsville and Marion to discuss concerns, interests and share success stories from other similar communities that would be helpful to their communities. Plans to introduce First Impressions program to both communities to give them direction, and help them maintain established partnerships and help develop new ones. Continue to work with Meridian Navigators to identify new resource partners and connectors.

#### **Goal 2: Quick Summary**

MCC facilitator has formed relationships with area bankers to encourage entrepreneurship and distributed Start-It cards to them to disseminate to interested individuals in their communities. Goal 2 facilitator has also met with local entrepreneurs in Collinsville and Meridian to help them navigate MyBiz.am. Will continue to work with area banks to encourage them to seek out future entrepreneurs and direct them to the MyBiz.am website. An online training program based on a proven 10-year entrepreneur program at MCC was completed and first student enrolled. This program will be enhanced with online video by the end of the year. MyBiz.am and Start-It card data will be used as reference material in this course.

Goal 2 facilitator is using the entrepreneurial website, MyBiz.am, to post classes and events for local entrepreneurs – one of two community colleges doing so. Facilitator has made it possible for entrepreneurs who participate in the bi-monthly “How to Start a Business” classes to receive a Start-It card and be referred to the MyBiz.am website. Goal 2 facilitator is developing the JumpStart Entrepreneur program for start-up in the fall. An online training program based on a proven 12-year entrepreneur program at MCC was completed and first student enrolled. This program will be enhanced with online video by the end of the year. MyBiz.am and Start-It card data will be used as reference material in this course.

#### **Goal 3: Quick Summary**

An industrial maintenance instructor was hired under the WIRED grant and an offer has been made to a welding instructor who will support M3 training through basic and advanced M3 credential assessments. Using leveraged funds of \$362,550.00, MCC further prepared the Workforce Training Center WTC (former Walmart building) as a manufacturing training facility. These preparations included: construction cost for installation of equipment, purchase of

AMATROL training equipment, equipment and supplies to support advanced welding training, basic and advanced production level M3 training, fitter training, distribution operations, tool and die training and industrial electricity training.

M3 credential training will be included in occupational programs at the college in upcoming quarter(fall). Leveraged funds were used to conduct training for 115 individuals in 23 varied courses which included basic production level M3 credential training. Two individuals attended a grant writing workshop in Gulfport, MS led by the DOL. These individuals will assist MCC in seeking additional grant opportunities to maintain our programs beyond the life of the WIRED grant.

#### **Goal 4: Quick Summary**

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 WTC, WIRED initiatives, high school redesign programs and statewide initiatives. Through this effort we have begun plans for out-of-school at-risk youth to obtain M3 credentials through leveraged funds. High schools in the area will be able to offer the M3 and CRC credentials to their students in the upcoming quarter (this fall). Verbal agreements by all meeting participants to assist high school students in being better prepared to enter the workforce through WIRED initiatives have been secured. During next quarter the MOA's to this effect will be finalized and programs will begin.

Dual enrollment programs this quarter were conducted at MCC in electronics and machine tool trades as summer short courses. Upcoming quarter there will be dual enrollment programs with all area high schools in nursing, machine tool trades, telecommunications, horticulture, graphic arts and drafting and design.

Through meetings with representatives of all high school vocational and at-risk youth program, plans for out-of-school at-risk youth to obtain M3 credentials through leveraged funds will be a reality. High schools in the area will be able to offer the M3 and CRC credential to their students in the upcoming quarter (this fall). Verbal agreements by all meeting participants to assist high school students in being better prepared to enter the workforce through WIRED initiatives have been secured. During next quarter the MOA's to this effect will be finalized and programs will begin.

Through the effort of the WTC, WIRED initiatives, high school redesign programs and statewide initiatives, plans for Dual enrollment programs this quarter were conducted in electronics and machine tool trades as summer short courses at MCC. Upcoming quarter(this fall) there will be dual enrollment programs with all area high schools in nursing, machine tool trades, telecommunications, horticulture, graphic arts and drafting and design.

A program which began in the fall of 2007 with Clarkdale High School training with hydraulics and pneumatics trainer stations on site, has proved to be a success and will be continued in the upcoming quarter (fall).

#### **Successes**

- Initiated series of monthly articles about local successful entrepreneurs in two area publications to educate “would-be” entrepreneurs of specific services and helpful information available to them in the local area
- Identified area entrepreneurs with specific challenges and assisted them with the appropriate services and contacts needed to address their challenges
- Tripled number of locations of Start-It cards in identified communities
- Tripled number of CRC’s awarded this quarter
- One of two community colleges using MyBiz.am to post classes and events for local entrepreneurs
- Received a \$10,000 donation from the Mississippi Manufacturing Association (MMA) in support of Workforce Training Center WTC (former Walmart building) to support advanced manufacturing training
- Received a donation of 3 robotic welders from local automotive supplier to support advanced manufacturing training operations
- Began dual enrollment in 2 areas this quarter – electronics and machine tool trades and will institute dual enrollment programs in area high schools in nursing, telecommunications, horticulture, graphic arts, drafting and design in the upcoming quarter
- Spoke to Civitan, Rotary, Optimist and Exchange clubs describing the CRC’s, M3 credentials, and advanced manufacturing training. After sharing the programs – beginning to see industry buy-in to CRC’s and M3 credentials. Lockheed Martin and Tower Automotive are now requiring the CRC’s at some level as part of the application process
- Completed on line training program based on a proven 12-year entrepreneur program at MCC and first student enrolled. This program will be enhanced with on line video by the end of the year. MyBiz.am and Start-It card data will be used as reference material in this course
- M3 credential training will be included in occupational programs at the college in upcoming quarter (this fall).
- High schools in area will be able to offer the M3 and CRC credential to their students in the upcoming quarter (this fall).

### **ERDS Update**

Steady progress is being made in the Collinsville and Marion communities. Facilitator continues to meet with First Champions in both communities on an ongoing basis.



## **Service Area: Meridian Community College**

**Collinsville:** Goal 1 Facilitator has met with one First Champion and community connector. New Start-It cards have been designed and are out in the area and are working to add another connector soon. Facilitator is researching First Impressions program used throughout the state as a possible tool for this community, since the community needs a strategic plan it will use. Other “like” communities have been identified and a possible meeting is in the works. Goal 2 facilitator is working with area banks and current businesses to promote entrepreneurship. Overall, progress is steadily moving forward.

**Marion:** Goal 1 facilitator has had several meetings with First Champion. Start-It cards have been redesigned and are out. Plans are in the works to add another community connector for this community in the near future. Facilitator is researching First Impressions program used throughout the state as a possible tool for this community, as this community also needs a strategic plan it will use. The community has suffered some minor setbacks (2 aldermen resigned). Plans are, when the new board is up and running, to meet again and move forward.

**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.

## **Shelton State Community College**

### **Quarterly Report Summary: April – June 2008**

#### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

Shelton State Community College is continuing to actively work with civic and community leaders in our four county region to fulfill the goals of the WAEM WIRED Initiative. The WAEM staff continues 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.

#### **Goal 2: Quick Summary**

We have continued, this quarter, to visit the leaders in the communities in our region to gather information for the Start-It Cards. Start-it Cards have been developed and circulated in twelve of the fifteen communities that have chosen to participate in the Start-It Card Initiative . We were able to print and distribute Start-It Cards in five additional communities in our region: Forkland, York Coker, Lakeview and Cuba. We have still been unable to contact the leaders in three communities in our region (Union, Boligee, and Geiger). However, we feel we will be able, with a concerted effort, to catch them this month. All start it cards should be distributed in the communities that choose to participate in the initiative this month.

Three communities in our region – Newbern, Epes, and Gainesville have decided to not participate in the Start-It card Initiative at the present time. We are actively pursuing the other communities in our four county area, and are continuing to solicit resources for the MyBiz Website.

We signed up one non-profit organization for the MyBiz SourceLink Resource web-site this quarter –The Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority. Another non-profit has expressed interest in the web site, but has not yet provided us with the information needed on their business .

#### **Goal 3: Quick Summary**

Implementation of the M3 has begun in our Ready to Work pre employment program. Students are being entered into the LMS and working on modules for the M3. Students will remain on the LMS and given an opportunity to complete all modules. All AMATROL equipment had been ordered with an arrival date of October. Technical faculty, pre employment trainers and training for existing business and industry staff have been trained on AMATROL. Other training dates are being scheduled to further train these staff.

Now that our credit technical faculty has completed the AMATROL training, we will incorporate AMATROL into the classroom this fall. Our training for business and industry team has started implementing AMATROL into some of the training programs offered. AMATROL is now in place in our pre-employment programs as students are being logged into LMS.



## **Service Area: Shelton State Community College**

Enclosed in our Community Involvement Matrix is our 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 we have 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. Since Janina Nobles has left Shelton State, the development of the Start-It Cards for each community has slowed a little because of now having one employee for goals one and two instead of two people.

### **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, Janina Nobles met with him before she left Shelton State, and he is open to the WAEM initiative. I will continue to pursue him this quarter to gather the information needed.

**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.

**Union:** The Mayor of the town of Union has been difficult to contact for an appointment. However, we are going to pursue the Mayor and identify the connectors for the town of Union diligently this month, and hope to have the cards distributed soon.

### **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 this quarter based on the sign in sheet.

**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. We provided additional Start-It cards this quarter to Moundville at two new locations. I also provided Mr. Larry Taylor, a champion in Moundville, information regarding possible grants that the City may be able to obtain for improvements downtown.

#### **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.

**Epes:** I met with the Mayor of Epes last quarter 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.

**Gainesville:** I met with the Mayor of Gainesville last quarter 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. We anticipate having the card developed and circulated this month.

**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. Last quarter, I provided additional Start-It cards to Brookwood at he local Regions Bank Branch. No referrals from the connector have been received this quarter.

**Coaling:** We are in the process of collecting data and identifying the connectors for the Start-it Card. I met with the town clerk of Coaling last quarter, and delivered to her this

quarter a sample Start-It Card. She is in the process of getting approval for the Start-It card from the Mayor. 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 and we anticipate having the card developed and circulated this month..

**Tuscaloosa:** We are in the process of collecting data and identifying the connectors for the Start-it Card and we anticipate having the card developed and circulated this month.

**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: April – June 2008**

### **Goal 1: Quick Summary**

WCCS WIRED team members attended meetings to support community involvement and organizational development. Those meetings include: Kick-Off of Regional 6 Customer Service Campaign; attended Tombigbee Regional Community Development Meeting; attended Alabama Rural Action Commission meeting.

#### **Dallas County**

##### **Goal 1**

- Attended the Alabama Tombigbee Community Development Meeting.
- Attended Alabama Rural Action Commission Meeting
- Attended Alabama Tombigbee Workforce Committee Meeting.

#### **Lowndes County**

##### **Goal 1**

- Met with community leaders at the Joint Workforce Development Committee Meeting
- Met and identified resource partners in all Lowndes County Communities.

#### **Perry County**

##### **Goal 1**

- Met with City Administrator in Marion, AL
- Attended the Alabama Tombigbee Community Development Meeting

### **Goal 2: Quick Summary**

WCCS made progress in Goal 2 through the distribution of Start-It Cards in 12 WCCS WIRED Communities, throughout the three WCCS WIRED counties.

WCCS also applied for funding through the Babcock Foundation (Winston-Salem, NC) in order to create CABLE (Center for Advancements in Business Leadership and Education) on WCCS main campus. The Foundation made a site visit to campus during this quarter as a result of the College becoming a finalist in the selection process. For this visit, WCCS WIRED involved its State Board of Education representative, Mrs. Ella Bell; Mason Bonner-Alabama WIRED Director; Ken Smiley-Project Director AIDT; Clifford Hunter-Director, Selma Dallas Career Link. CABLE will serve as an outlet for the implementation and sustainability of WIRED initiatives for workforce training, entrepreneurship and K-12 activities.

#### **Dallas County**

##### **Goal 2**

- Met and identified resource partners for Start-It cards
- Distributed Start-It Card Notebooks in Orrville, Selma and Valley Grande

#### **Lowndes County**

##### **Goal 2**

- Completed Start- It Cards
- Distributed Start-It Cards for all Lowndes County communities

- Included Lowndes communities as benefactors for CABLE funding

### **Perry County**

#### **Goal 2**

- Delivered Start-It Cards to City Hall
- Met with County clerk regarding Start-it Card
- Delivered Start-It Card to Uniontown
- Met with City Administrator regarding Start-It Card Support

### **Goal 3: Quick Summary**

WCCS made progress in Goal 3 by continuing the development and nurturing of M3 opportunities; assisting with WCCS Ready to Work Training; attending Lowndes County Workforce Quarterly Meeting, providing training for Dallas County Summer Workers; attending the Selma Dallas Renaissance meeting, where WCCS WIRED serves as chair the Workforce Development Committee; and attending workforce development meetings sponsored by State Representative Yusuf Salom, where a WCCS WIRED member serves as an advisor to this group. As part of the Alabama Rural Action Commission, WCCS WIRED worked with Alabama Southern WIRED team to help develop a strategic action plan for Region 6 WIA.

Also, WCCS WIRED developed a College 30-page proposal for review by the U. S. Department of Education for supporting Goal 3 activities, which include:

- Basic education skills credentialing of degree-enrolled WCCS students;
- Career Readiness Certification and the use of WorkKeys Career Profile as part of individual educational plans (IEP), and Goal 2 activities, which includes
- Entrepreneurial studies, with college credits, as part of special topics for student development and leadership series.

WCCS WIRED assisted the College in putting together a proposal to the Alabama State Board of Education and Department of Post Secondary Education for offering a new course of study in Industrial Maintenance Systems, which has been a highly demanded profession that is seeking skilled and trained persons for employment by local industries and businesses.

WCCS WIRED is also working with the WCCS technical department to plan for an Open House after the installation of WIRED M3 training equipment is installed. In addition, WCCS WIRED is also in development with WCCS technical departments to host a tour of WCCS technical studies for Perry County career/tech students in early September.

### **Dallas County**

#### **Goal 3**

- Provided Soft Skills training for Dallas County summer workers
- Assisted WCCS with High School Students Workforce Training
- Attend Selma/Renaissance: Workforce development Committee.
- Organized new WCCS Course Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting

### **Lowndes County**

#### **Goal 3**

- Attended Lowndes County Workforce Planning Committee Quarterly Meeting.

- Recruitment for Career Readiness

### **Perry County**

#### **Goal 3**

- Attended Alabama Tombigbee Workforce Committee Meeting.
- Assisted with development of Regional Soft Skills Promotion Distributed Soft Skills Promotion

### **Goal 4: Quick Summary**

WCCS WIRED hosted a meeting in Perry County to explain and discuss dual-enrollment as a measure to improve student achievements, address skills shortages within the region, and accelerate skills training and earning degrees. The meeting was held with community leaders and system career/tech educators at the Perry County Board of Education's alternative school. Ms. Bethany Clem, Director for Career Tech Programs for Alabama Postsecondary Education, was the featured speaker. Others on program included Dr. James Mitchell, Shandra Smith, and Mr. James Heard (Perry County Schools Superintendent).

WCCS WIRED also developed a funding proposal that was sent to the Director of the Office of Workforce Development requesting support for the dual-enrollment of 25 Perry County career/tech high school students.

### **Dallas County**

#### **Goal 4**

- Pre-employment skills training for summer youth employment

### **Perry County**

#### **Goal 4**

- Presented dual enrollment program to community and County educators
- Obtained \$11,425 in funding for the dual enrollment of high school career/tech

### **Successes**

- The WCCS WIRED Team co-hosted, with the Alabama Employment Office, a soft skills training session for all students obtaining summer jobs in Dallas County.
- WCCS WIRED received funding approval notification from the Governor's Office for Perry County high schools dual enrollment of its school career/tech students. Funding will include costs for tuition, books, and course instructors. Fall 2008 is the expected date of enrollment. Total value of the award is \$11,425; WIRED participation in Perry County was leveraged in this proposal.
- WCCS WIRED also received notification that its request for funding CABLE at WCCS was approved by the Babcock Foundation, for a total of \$100,000 over 2 years.
- WCCS WIRED was informed that WCCS is approved for establishing a new course of study for Industrial Maintenance Systems.



## **Service Area: Wallace Community College Selma**

### **Lowndes County**

- Met with community leaders at the Joint Workforce Development Committee Meeting.
- Completed Start- It Cards
- Met and identified resource partners in all Lowndes County Communities.
- Attended Lowndes County Workforce Planning Committee Quarterly Meeting.
- Recruitment for Career Readiness.
- Distributed Start- It Cards For all Lowndes County Communities.

### **Perry County**

- Met with City Administrator in Marion, Al
- Attended the Alabama Tombigbee Community Development Meeting.
- Delivered Start-It Cards to City Hall
- Met with County clerk regarding Start-it Card
- Delivered Start-It Card in Uniontown
- Met with City Administrator regarding Start-It Card Support
- Attended Alabama Tombigbee Workforce Committee Meeting.
- Assisted with development of Regional Soft Skills Promotion
- Distributed Soft Skills Promotion

### **Dallas County**

- Provided Soft Skills training for Dallas County Summer Workers
- Assisted WCCS with High School Students Workforce Training
- Attended the Alabama Tombigbee Community Development Meeting.
- Distributed Start-It Cards Notebooks in Orrville, Selma, Valley Grande
- Met and identified resource partners for start it cards.
- Attend Selma/Renaissance: Workforce development Committee.
- Organized M3 Course Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Attended Alabama Tombigbee Workforce Committee Meeting.