



Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 9

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Southwest Alabama is truly a region on the move! The key to our economic future and sustainable prosperity is driven by the productivity of our people. Our challenge is to devise a service system that integrates people, employers, education and training for all of our citizens. A quality workforce is the key to attracting future investment that can result in quality benefit earning employment for generations to come.

Mobile Mayor Samuel Jones, in 2006 engaged over 100 volunteers, working across many sectors of our community, to develop a comprehensive strategic workforce plan. Leadership from the City of Mobile, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile Works (WIA Board management entity), Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, Mobile Area Education Foundation and The Community Foundation of South Alabama recently formed the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council Region 9 (SAWDC9), a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and hired an Executive Director, Jim Kellen, to begin implementing the strategic workforce plan. This plan works to identify and align public and private assets that will be focused into a regional workforce development system. The goal is successful employment for both people and employers!

The Regional Workforce systems are informed by data compiled by up-to-date sources including local, state and federal data which is analyzed for workforce trends so the Council can work to better align investment to serve the needs of businesses. Specific issues include career readiness, adult training (for those outside of school age), nourishing the career paths pipeline, social issues, workers with 21st century skills, and business recruitment. The workforce sectors consist of leading employers that produce quality employment in our region. The education/training sector is composed primarily of formal K-20+ pathways and includes K-12 education, higher education, the community agencies, private foundations and community stakeholders.

Governor Bob Riley's decision in 2008 to place the eight counties within the SAWDC9 area, which also corresponds with the service area of The Community Foundation of South Alabama, resulted in an empowered Council charged to provide the primary leadership for implementing a seamless workforce development system across all sectors of the region. Housed at The CFSA office, the SAWDC9 phone number is 251-445-2090.

