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*Pictured above: Chicken of the Sea - Georgia Canning facility located in Lyons, Georgia*

### **Chicken of the Sea - Georgia Canning Celebrates One-Year Anniversary**

Chicken of the Sea - Georgia Canning celebrated its one-year anniversary in Toombs County in October 2010. The facility celebrated with an employee party attended by approximately 700 employees and family members.

Mr. Bob Blatt, Chief Financial Officer & Controller of Chicken of the Sea International, was kind enough to share some exciting news about the Company's first year in Georgia. The average monthly, permanent employee count from October 2009 thru September 2010 was 214 - this does not include temporary employees and guard services. Over the past 16 months, the facility has contributed over \$9.0 million wages directly to the community. Over 95% of COS Georgia Canning's staff are local hires. The investment in plant and equipment spending since its inception is over \$16.0 million - not including the value of leased machinery.

The plant is running smoothly and producing daily high-quality canned tuna. Due to efficiency gained in 2010, the plant is budgeted in 2011 to produce 13% more cases than its original design.

The Toombs County Development Authority is very excited with the Company's decision to locate in Toombs County and would like to extend a very "Happy One-Year Anniversary!" to Chicken of the Sea - Georgia Canning on behalf of Toombs County and the State of Georgia.



*Pictured above: Chris Clark, President/CEO of the Georgia Chamber*

### **New President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber Visits Toombs County**

Mr. Chris Clark, new President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber, visited Toombs County on November 8, 2010. Mr. Clark met with local leadership at a breakfast sponsored by the Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce at Southeastern Technical College's Economic Development Center. The purpose of the visit was to get to know members of the Chamber and learn what they believe are the biggest challenges facing the business community today. Mr. Clark's goal is to make the Georgia Chamber a more proactive and aggressive advocate for Georgia businesses in order to create jobs and build the state's economy.



*Among those representing Georgia communities at the SEUS/Japan 2010 conference were (l-r): Pat Topping, Macon Economic Development Commission; Greg Wright, Coweta County Development Authority; Scott McMurray, Georgia*

### **Toombs County Development Authority Participates in SEUS/Japan Conference and The Consultants Forum 2010**

Mr. Bill Mitchell, Executive Director of the Toombs County Development Authority, attended the Southeast U.S./Japan Association (SEUS/Japan) 2010 conference on October 16-19 in Nashville, Tennessee. Fifty other economic development professionals from Georgia also attended. The Association was created in 1976 to promote trade and investment between Japan and U.S. member states. Today's members include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Mr. Mitchell also participated in the *Area Development Magazine* Consultants Forum 2010 on December 5-7 in Savannah, Georgia. The outstanding program featured major site location consulting professionals and corporate real estate executives that provided insight to participants regarding the current decision factors in the site selection

Department of Economic Development; Bill Mitchell, Toombs-Montgomery Chamber & Toombs County Development Authority and David Luckie, Griffin-Spaulding Development Authority.

process.



### Tri-CREST & SBDC Partner to Provide Maximum Retail Course

The Tri-County Regional Entrepreneur Support Team (Tri-CREST), in cooperation with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), is excited to provide local small businesses the Maximum Retail series beginning January 20th. Maximum Retail is an interactive course that meets for two hours, once a week, over a five-week period. The session will help small retail businesses enhance sales and profitability by helping them refine all areas of their dynamic retail businesses. Modules include:

January 20th: Know Your Customer  
 January 27th: Sales and Service Enhancement  
 February 3rd: Loss Prevention and Security  
 February 10th: Profit Enhancement  
 February 17th: Online Retailing and Summary

Instructional costs for the series are provided through grant funds provided by the OneGeorgia Authority.

Please contact Mr. David Yarbrough, Entrepreneur Facilitator, at [dyarbrough@southeasterntech.edu](mailto:dyarbrough@southeasterntech.edu) or 912.537.3119 for more information or to register.



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