



Spotlight on Local Industry



Picture Above (L-R): Tom Cato, General Manager, Cintas; Bill Mitchell, Executive Director, Toombs County Development Authority; Matt Edgington, Plant Manager, Cintas; Blake Tillery, Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Toombs County; Tommy Rollins, Member, Toombs County Development Authority; Wendell Dixon, Vice Chair, Toombs County Development Authority; Debbie Evans, Executive VP of Chamber Operations, Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce; Michele Johnson, Senior VP of Economic Development, Toombs County Development Authority; and Brenda Macoy, Regional Coordinator, Georgia Department of Labor.

Cintas

The Toombs County Development Authority and other local community leaders visited Cintas on January 24th. Mr. Tom Cato, General Manager, and Mr. Matt Edgington, Plant Manager, hosted the local contingent on a brief tour of the Vidalia facility. The local facility employs 68.

Headquartered in Cincinnati, OH, Cintas Corporation provides highly specialized services to businesses of all types. Cintas designs, manufactures and implements corporate identity uniform programs and provides entrance mats, restroom cleaning and supplies, promotional products, first aid, safety, fire



Pictured Above (L-R): Mayor Willis NeSmith, City of Lyons; Mayor Ronnie Dixon, City of Vidalia; Pat Merritt, Manager, Community Development at Georgia EMC; Chairman Blake Tillery, Board of Commissioners of Toombs County; Wendell Dixon, Commissioner, Board of Commissioners of Toombs County; and Ryan Waldrep, Regional Project Manager, Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Toombs County Leadership Participates in Community Economic Development Orientation Program (CEDOP)

Representatives of the Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, the City of Vidalia, the City of Lyons, Southeastern Technical College, the Toombs County Board of Commissioners and Vidalia City Schools joined the Toombs County Development Authority in Atlanta on March 13th to participate in the comprehensive Community Economic Development Orientation Program (CEDOP) offered by Georgia EMC. CEDOP is a one-day orientation initiative designed to give community volunteers and elected officials an overview of economic development in Georgia. CEDOP teaches participants about the critical role that local leadership plays in economic development success.

The contingent visited the Georgia Resource Center on March 14th. They met with state developers with Georgia Power Company, as well as senior management and project managers of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

The Authority would like to commend Mayor Ronnie Dixon, Wendell Dixon, Romanus Dotson, Robert Greene, Tony Head, Michele Johnson, John Jones, Pollyann Martin, Chip Matheson, Bill Mitchell, Mayor Willis NeSmith, Tommy Rollins, Susan Taylor, Chairman Blake Tillery, Garrett Wilcox and David Yarbrough for taking this opportunity to gain insight into the "economic development" process, as well as market Toombs County.

The Authority would like to thank Romanus Dotson, General Manager, Altamaha EMC; Jim Lovett, Regional Project Manager, Southern Company; Pat Merritt, Manager, Community Development at Georgia EMC; Tammye Vaughn, Manager of Marketing and Communications, Altamaha EMC; and Ryan Waldrep, Regional Project Manager, Georgia Department of Economic Development, for organizing the CEDOP and the visit to the Georgia Research Center.

19th Class of Leadership Toombs-Montgomery Graduates

The 2012-2013 Leadership Toombs-Montgomery Class Graduated on Friday, March 22nd.

Leadership Toombs was started by the Toombs



protection products & services and document management services for approximately 900,000 businesses. Cintas operates 430 facilities, including 6 manufacturing plants and 9 distribution centers that employ more than 30,000 people.

For more information about Cintas, please visit www.cintas.com.



Dot Foods

The Toombs County Development Authority and other community leaders visited Dot Foods on February 28th. Jennifer Evans, Human Resources Manager; David Hodges, Warehouse Manager; and George Garbutt, Transportation Manager, were kind enough to have lunch with the local contingent followed by a brief tour of the facility.

Located in Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia, since 1999, the local facility employs 258 persons. Dot Foods is the first and largest food redistributor in the United States.

For more information about Dot Foods, please visit <http://www.dotfoods.com>.

County Chamber of Commerce in 1994 under the leadership of Jack and Lynette Dell. The Dells continued to serve as Program Chairs until 1997. During their tenure, they laid the groundwork for what has become one of the Chamber's most highly recognized and prestigious programs. In the 19 years since the program began, the Chamber has seen more than 250 individuals graduate. Many of these people are now in high level leadership positions including: city councils, county commission seats (even serving as chairman), school board positions, chamber board members and serving on boards of many service organizations. Quite a few graduates are in high level positions in major corporations in the area.

In 2000, the chamber merged with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and became the Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and the leadership program became Leadership Toombs-Montgomery.

If you are interested in applying for the 2013-2014 Class, please contact Debbie Evans, Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, at 912.537.4466 or debbiee@toombschamber.com. For additional information, please visit the Chamber's website at www.toombsmontgomerychamber.com.



Pictured Above Front Row (L-R): Ashley McIntyre, Southeastern Technical College; Mary Bennett, OptimOrthopedics; Tonya Green, Vidalia City Schools; and Val Holton, Ameris Bank. Second Row (L-R): Tim Quigley, Vidalia City Schools; Krysta Rushing, Southeastern Technical College; Nicole Roberts, Southeastern Technical College; Jessie Williams; and Cindy Williams, Program Co-chair. Third Row (L-R): John Underwood, Rhodes Electric; Tiffany Moore, Four Rivers Veterinary Center; Wanda Kent; Tina Hill, Vidalia City Hall; and Sheila Adams. Fourth Row (L-R): Blake Tillery, Program Co-chair; Tyler Corley, City of Lyons; Terry Hall, Meadows Regional Medical Center; Josh Beck; Al Ross, Peoples Bank; and Charles Lang, Session Facilitator.



Sustainability Skills Survey

Researchers from Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern University, the University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia are working with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and several regional economic development authorities to conduct a short survey focusing on the workforce skills that are important to organizations trying to increase their sustainability. By taking the survey, you will help the research team design education and training programs at Georgia's universities and technical colleges that better suits the needs of the state's businesses and industries.

Take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z5D76SS>

As material and energy costs increase, water becomes scarce, and consumer preferences change, sustainability is becoming increasingly important. A new emphasis on sustainability, however, will require workers with different skills than they may have now. This survey is part of a larger study to identify the changes that are needed to ensure Georgia's universities and technical colleges continue to provide students with the type of education and training that businesses and industry need now and in the future.

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