

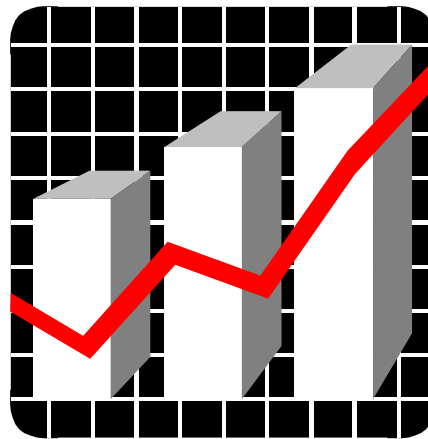
Recovery of Upstate Economy Continues

Evidence presented in the *Economic Activity Report of the SC Upstate, Third Quarter 2002* suggests a continued upturn in the region's economy. A number of businesses announced plans to either establish new Upstate locations or expand current operations.

Poly-Med, Incorporated, a high-tech firm that researches and develops biological materials used in pharmaceutical applications, announced its relocation to a new, larger facility in Anderson County's Clemson Research Park. Cherokee County was chosen as the new location for Enviro-Tek, a global distributor of environmentally friendly car care products.

Although Greenville County suffered a major blow through the loss of approximately 1,000 jobs at G.E. Power Systems, plans were also announced for the development of a new automotive research park that could ultimately create 20,000 new jobs. The park is proposed just south of the city limits of Greenville, along Interstate 85. The automotive and motor sports industries will be the focus of the park, which is slated to include a \$50 million wind tunnel.

Compact Automation is constructing a facility in the new Oconee County Commerce Center, and hopes to attract other industrial tenants. Pickens County welcomed news of Liberty Denim's plans to open a new facility in the former Greenwood Mills Plant, which closed last January. The new operation will create approximately 230 new jobs.



Spartanburg County celebrated news of BMW Manufacturing's \$400 million expansion, which will create 400 new jobs. Dallas-based Turner Construction also announced plans to establish a regional office in Spartanburg. The company, which will be the first tenant of the Renaissance Park office complex, plans to bring 125 new jobs to the county.

ACOG Information Services Department publishes the *Economic Activity Report of the South Carolina Upstate*. This quarterly publication lists details for industrial and commercial projects that involve new construction, expansion, and renovation. Statistics on plant closings, lay-offs, and hiring plans are also included. Please contact Beth Lewis at ACOG to purchase the publication for a single quarter or to order a yearly subscription.



The Ombudsman Program Welcomes Jamie Guay



The Ombudsman Program welcomes Mrs. Jamie Guay (pronounced "Gay") to the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Jamie has joined the Ombudsman Program as the Assistant Long Term Care Ombudsman. Her job responsibilities include varied clerical, secretarial, administrative and other support services for the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

She brings both professional skills and personal skills that will be an asset to the Ombudsman Program. Jamie is a graduate from Bridgewater State College, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. She has worked in a long term care facility for the past three years as a Social Services Assistant. Jamie is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Counseling at Webster University.

She is originally from New Bedford, Massachusetts, and relocated to Greenville in 1999. Jamie was mar-

(Guay continued on page 3)

Study of EDA Planning Districts Conducted

A new study concludes that EDA Planning Districts provide valuable Economic Development assistance. (Note to Reader: In South Carolina, the ten Councils of Governments are the EDA-funded Planning/Economic Development Districts.)

Economic Development Administration (EDA) funded economic development districts across the nation are both effective and essential to local development, according to a new study by the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University. Economic development districts show a strong ability to leverage EDA funding to secure investment from other sources, according to the study, in addition to facilitating a comprehensive strategic planning process that provides the critical backbone for economic development planning at the regional level.

The analysis focused heavily on the districts' experience with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) process. Researchers gathered information in a number of progressive steps, including several site visits, a survey of district staff and another survey of CEDS committee members, community stakeholders and local policy officials. In making overall observations, the report finds that most district planning processes appear strong, the district staff leadership is very experienced and highly educated, and districts use and leverage EDA funds very effectively.

The report states that districts place a strong emphasis on capacity building – and that these activities appear to be extensive and creative, and are well received by constituents within the district's region. Common technical assistance activities include planning services, data gathering and analysis, grant development and writing, marketing and training. The districts are effective at forming new economic development groups, promoting minority busi-

ness development, and establishing business development loan funds. They also provide a forum for regional actors to communicate and coordinate. The report observes that the CEDS documents produced by the districts are high-quality planning documents that reflect the dedication of both the CEDS committee to craft a strong statement about the region and the professionalism of the planning district staff.

The report addresses several challenges facing districts, noting that the local political environment and the nature of local factors are often barriers to the success of planning district efforts. Funding for the districts has substantially declined over the life of the program, making success more difficult to achieve.

The report concludes by stating that the EDA-funded "economic development districts have been effective instruments in promoting cooperation, coordinating needs assessments, and through the CEDS process, generating the kind of regional planning needed to effectively promote positive economic change."

(Reprint of an article appearing in the NADO News Special Edition, September 20, 2002.)

ADC News

Since September, the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) has had the following activity:

A loan of \$85,000 was approved for Performance Automotive, Inc., of Gaffney in Cherokee County. J. Warren Harrison is the owner of a company that repairs and services all types of automobiles and trucks. The ADC's money, along with funds from First Piedmont Savings Bank, will allow Mr. Harrison to purchase the property instead of continuing to lease it.

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Carolyn Breeze Receives Service Award

At the 2002 S. C. Conference on Aging, Carolyn Breeze was recognized for 20 years of outstanding service in the S. C. Aging Net-



work. Carolyn is Finance Officer in the Council's Finance Department. Her responsibilities include Council payroll, fringe benefits and finance activities of the aging program. In the aging program, Carolyn helps with budget and contract administration, internal and external financial reports, fiscal monitoring and technical assistance to service providers, AIM replication, requesting and distributing pass-through funds, and audit reconciliation. Our reputation and outstanding performance as the SCACOG Area Agency on Aging is due in no small part to Carolyn's service. We congratulate Carolyn on receipt of this award and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the Council of Governments.

During the Service Award ceremony, others recognized from the Appalachian region included:

- Five Years – Pauline West, SCACOG; Shirley Still, Senior Action; Virginia Morgan, Leslie Pearson, Tinnie Smith, Lorene White, and Joan Wood, Senior Centers of Cherokee County
- Ten Years – Sue Lancianese, Senior Action; Lurline Dawkins, Debbie Peeler, Betty Jo Williams, and Patricia Wright, Senior Centers of Cherokee County

(Breeze continued on page 3)

Outstanding WIA Program Participant Named

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board named Beverly Gunnels as the recipient of the Pendleton District Outstanding Workforce Investment Board Program Participant.

Here is just a short version of her wonderful success story: Beverly Gunnels was out of money and out of a job. She had been looking for a job as a buyer, but could not find work in that field. The problem was that she did not have a college degree. Her experience in that career field began in the military, and after persistently looking for a job, she kept running into one dead end after another because she did not have a college degree.

After September 11th, things got tighter. Beverly began helping her husband with his bread truck deliveries. They enjoyed working and traveling around together. She and her husband also began talking with a company that said they may have a job for them to work together as a team. Beverly spoke with her intensive service case manager, Ann Pearman, about the possibility of obtaining her Commercial Driver's License (CDL). She completed the SCOIS assessment, which revealed her interest and abilities in the field. Beverly enrolled in Truck Driving Training at Tri-County Technical College through the WIA program. She completed training and earned her CDL. About a day after she was out of training, she started a new job. She and her husband, Ken, now work for AM-CAN of Anderson and love it. Beverly's trainer, Sam Breazeale, said she is doing better than most men. Her husband said he wished everyone could see her handle the eighteen-wheeler out in Los Angeles.

Beverly received recognition in the August 1, 2002, AM-CAN Weekly Newsletter. "Congratulations go out to our new trainee, Beverly Gun-

nels, for her corrective action during a front tire blowout last week. Rather than a panic reaction of hard braking, Beverly correctly fueled the unit and brought it back under control, thereby avoiding a serious accident in the midst of busy Dallas traffic." Her company president, Swain Thompson, honored her at an employee cookout.

Congratulations to Beverly Gunnels, who has proven herself in a non-traditional career field.

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board Outstanding Participant award is presented annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding participation in the WIA programs. Ms. Gunnels was recognized at the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board meeting and was given a plaque.

(Guay continued from page 1)

rried September 28, 2002, to her college sweetheart in New England.

She owns a house in the Westside of Greenville where she lives with her husband, Jarod, and their "child" (dog), Dakota. She is a relatively new aunt (9-29-02) to Madison Olivia.

(Breeze continued from page 2)

- Fifteen Years – Lorna Aiken, Senior Action; Doris Moore, Mary Foster, Bontee Hoey, Eula Johnson, Martha Parker, and Margaret Woodcock, Senior Centers of Cherokee County
- Thirty Years – Joyce Beason, Senior Centers of Cherokee County.

The SCACOG Area Agency congratulates each of these individuals and thanks them for their service on behalf of the region's older citizens.

Joint Terrorism Task Force



A program of the U.S. Department of Justice promoting communication and local cooperation.

In order to respond to the growing terrorist threat within the United States, the U. S. Department of Justice has established a number of "Joint Terrorism Task Forces" working with FBI field offices throughout the country. Originally, the JTTFs were located only in large metropolitan areas. Now, offices are being established in South Carolina, including Greenville.

The JTTFs are primarily responsible for proactive initiatives, and investigation of domestic and international terrorism issues, as well as crime scene response and investigation of potential terrorist acts. At this time, the local JTTF is comprised of six full-time agents from the FBI, SLED and Greenville City Police Department. Additional agencies will be asked to appoint "points of contact" and invited to participate on a more limited basis. Greenville's JTTF will also receive support and assistance from other U. S. Intelligence Community members as needed.

By bringing together local, state and federal agencies under the FBI's JTTF concept, the FBI can more fully investigate potential terrorism and better work with and communicate with local governments and agencies. The participating law enforcement agencies, working as one, provide the needed knowledge, skills, and resources essential for fighting the menace of terrorism.

VIEWPOINT

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Easley Transportation Study Committee

This summer, the City of Easley formed a long range transportation study committee at the request of Mayor Chris Christopher-son. The mission of the Committee is to recommend future transportation projects for Easley, as well as to advocate the need for the identified road improvements in the community. The community has experienced a significant population growth over the last ten years and traffic, both local and flow through, has increased as well. A need to help provide relief has become apparent. The Committee is comprised of local residents, business leaders, and government officials. Since July, the Committee has met regularly to study issues such as road levels of service (current and projected), railroad crossings, projected growth areas, air quality, transit, and quality of life.

Reviewing this data has allowed the Committee to begin to prioritize intersection improvements,



short range corridor improvements, and major long term projects. Additionally, in October, the Committee had a field review of potential projects, with SCDOT and ACOG staff members present to assist. The Committee plans to hold several public meetings in early 2003 to solicit input from civic organizations and citizens before presenting its findings to Easley City Council. The Appalachian COG's Planning Services Department has provided technical support to the Committee. For more information, please contact Steve Pelissier or Dan Wagner.

(ADC continued from page 2)

Performance Automotive currently employs three people and anticipates hiring an additional two people.

A loan was approved for North American Heritage Brands, Inc., in the amount of \$200,000 from the Corporation Revolving Loan Fund. An SBA 504 loan for \$800,000 was also submitted to assist in financing the purchase of assets in Westminster, Oconee County, known as the Beacon Blanket Company. North American Heritage Brands plans to reestablish the manufacture of cotton blankets at this facility and employ in excess of 100 people.

The ADC was notified that an SBA 504 loan was approved for J. Peters and Associates Professional Association in the amount of \$130,000. The ADC loan, combined with financing from BankAmerica, will allow the business to purchase office space on Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville. J. Peters and Associates is a construction management company owned by Joan Peters, a civil engineer. The company currently employs six people and will be hiring an additional two people.