



## Spotlight on Local Industry



### Toombs County Development Authority Awards Work Ready Scholarships

The Toombs County Development Authority realizes the importance of Toombs County achieving the Georgia Work Ready County status. Every certificate attained demonstrates the community's ability to provide a talented workforce to fill current and future job demands. The Authority was pleased to offer a scholarship opportunity in 2011 to local high school seniors in an effort to encourage them to become Work Ready.

The Authority recently awarded Vidalia High School senior Alexis Atkins, Toombs County High School seniors Jacob Jay & Carl Ryan Davis and Robert Toombs Christian Academy senior Marvin Cooper Orel, IV, with scholarships for attaining their Georgia Work Ready certificates.



### US Energy Sciences

US Energy Sciences, Inc., located in Vidalia, Georgia, since 2004, is a manufacturer of energy efficient lighting fixtures dedicated to energy conservation and preservation of our natural resources. Major light fixture product lines include Reflector Retrofit Kits, Highbays, Troffers, Surface Mounts, Strips, Vaportights, and more sold under the Reflect-A-Light trademark. Major customers include Wal-Mart, Kmart and Nestle.

Bobby Hicks, Operations Manager, and Buck Moon, Purchasing Manager, recently met with representatives of the Toombs County Development Authority and Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and were kind enough to host a tour of the local facility. They report that the Company is having a record year to date. The local facility currently employs 53 persons, with a projected increase of 7 jobs in the next quarter. The Company works diligently to develop and maintain a supply chain of Georgia companies.

To learn more about US Energy Sciences, Inc., please visit <http://www.usenergysciences.com>.



### Savannah Luggage Works

Savannah Luggage Works (SLW), located in Vidalia, Georgia, since 1978, is a fully integrated contract manufacturer of leading edge military gear and market specific commercial consumer products.

### What is the Vidalia Employer Committee?



The Vidalia Employer Committee is a group of local business leaders who establish and maintain a working relationship between the employer community and the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL). The committee provides an opportunity for all employers to be actively involved in the local employment picture. The committee promotes GDOL services among the employment community and identifies and recommends ways to meet local and state employment-related needs. Officers are Nancy Palmer, Chair; Kay Barnes, Vice Chair & Treasurer; Michele Johnson - Public Relations & Attendance; and Kathy Bradford, Secretary.

The Committee's next quarterly seminar is scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 20, 2011, at Southeastern Technical College's Economic Development Center. Lisa Adams, Project Manager of the Southeastern Advanced Manufacturing and Distribution Work Ready Region, will provide a program on Georgia Work Ready. Area employers, HR managers and key employees are invited to attend.

Please contact Michele Johnson at 912.537.4466 or [michelej@toombschamber.com](mailto:michelej@toombschamber.com) to learn more about the Vidalia Employer Committee or to register for the next seminar.



*Pictured above: TCSG Commissioner Ron Jackson presents a certificate to members of the Southeastern CLCP.*

### Toombs, Montgomery & Tattall Counties Designated Certified Literate Communities

The Southeastern Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) has been declared CLCP certified, having helped over 7,500 local residents without a high school diploma or GED to reach their education goals. The Southeastern CLCP, which spans Toombs,

SLW has three state-of-the-art facilities and employs approximately 350 local persons. Allen Rice, President, recently reported that the Company received a new contract to manufacture body armor vests for the Department of Defense. The initial order is for 60,000 units with future orders expected for three times the initial order.

The Toombs County Development Authority congratulates Mr. Rice on his appointment, along with twenty-two other business leaders across the state, by Governor Nathan Deal to the Georgia Competitiveness Initiative. The initiative will focus on job creation and statewide economic development strategy. The effort concentrates on strategic issues in attracting and keeping high-paying jobs in Georgia: infrastructure, innovation, education and workforce development, business climate, global commerce and government efficiency.

For more information about Savannah Luggage Works, please visit <http://www.savannahluggage.com>.



### Funds Availability

The Toombs County Development Authority, on behalf of Toombs County, is currently accepting pre-applications for low interest funds under the Revolving Loan Program. Successful applicants will have demonstrated new job creation/retention, private capital investment, and provision of jobs to low and moderate income persons. Funds must be used only in the corporate limits of Toombs County. Eligible activities include: acquisition of real property; acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of buildings; infrastructure, site improvements, and utilities; and commercial or industrial buildings or structures and other commercial or industrial real property and improvements. Ineligible borrowers include passive income companies, lending and investment institutions, unregulated media, speculative ventures and charitable organizations.

To obtain a pre-application and to learn more about program requirements and eligibility, individuals may contact Michele Johnson at 912.537.4466 or

Montgomery & Tattnall Counties, achieved this goal a full year ahead of schedule.

The SCLCP set their 10-year goal of helping 7,500 citizens enrolled in the adult education program," said Susan Cross, executive director of adult education at Southeastern Technical College, "They exceeded their goal in nine years, having served 7,680 members of the three communities."

As a major player in the SCLCP, Southeastern Tech understands the importance of community literacy and takes pride in the program's certification.

"It is virtually impossible these days to find a good job without a high school diploma or GED," said Dr. Cathryn Mitchell, president of Southeastern Tech, "By providing these services, we improve the lives of the participants, help supply business and industry with a literate workforce, and improve the quality of life and economic viability of our community."

### Industry-Specific Export Directory

Qualified Georgia companies are invited to participate in a new industry-specific export initiative to help promote products and services internationally. A directory with brief, multi-lingual descriptions of each participating company will be distributed via Georgia's ten international offices located in Brazil, Canada, Chile, Europe (based in Germany), Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the United Kingdom as well as international trade events.



The participation fee includes a 50-word company description highlighting its products and competitive advantages(s) translated into three languages for the environmental and life science industries (Mandarin, Spanish, and Portuguese) and into five languages for the aerospace industry (Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, and Portuguese). Interested firms will be asked to contact each company directly to determine potential mutually beneficial business opportunities.

Act now! As the world economy is outpacing growth in the U.S. economy, now is the time to promote products and services to markets outside of the United States.

#### Questions?

For Environmental Products and Services, contact Dawn Townsend, International Trade Manager, at 678.640.4374 or [dtownsend@georgia.org](mailto:dtownsend@georgia.org).

For Life Science Products and Services, contact Mary Waters, International Trade Manager, at 404.962.4128 or [mwaters@georgia.org](mailto:mwaters@georgia.org).

For Aerospace Products and Services, contact Kathy Oxford, Senior International Trade Manager, at 678.640.4351 or [koxford@georgia.org](mailto:koxford@georgia.org).

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## Community + Commerce + Connectivity

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