

# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Expanding Companies

#### DeKalb County

**Rainsville Technology, Inc.**, an automotive parts supplier, will invest \$4,127,292 adding new equipment. This investment will create 5 new jobs.

#### Jackson County

**PHP Fibers**, a maker of high quality polyamide and polyester filament yarns for industrial uses, will invest \$19,000,000 in new manufacturing equipment. This investment will create 20 jobs.

#### Limestone County

**Custom Assembly**, a warehouse and distribution center for ATV assembly located in Huntsville, will add 75 jobs.

#### Madison County

**Torch Technologies**, a research and development company located in Huntsville, will invest \$6,000,000 in an expansion to add new lab space. This investment will create 40 jobs.

### Updates

#### Jackson County

**Google**, located in Bridgeport, AL, held its groundbreaking ceremony on April 9, 2018 for the \$600 million data center. The project will create between 75 and 100 technical jobs and will be Alabama's first large-scale data center.



The 2017 New & Expanding Industry Report released on April 27, 2018 by Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Commerce, shows Alabama's economic development efforts resulted in securing 317 projects last year, resulting in 15,465 new and future jobs and \$4.41 billion in new capital investment. The totals exceeded 2016's figures of 14,707 jobs and \$4.2 billion in investment.

## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



Since 1947, Bank Independent has taken pride in serving the customers who count on us to be there for them when they need us most. With 27 branches across north Alabama, we're committed to making a positive difference in people's lives by providing a quality product at a fair price delivered with exceptional service. We believe that "a rising tide lifts all boats," and that everyone benefits when we invest in the people and business of the communities we serve.

**Contact:**  
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*This company has made a commitment to economic development in North Alabama and we hope that companies considering a location in North Alabama will look to our Corporate Partners for their project services.*

## Promoting North Alabama

NAIDA set up display along with over 800 other exhibitors from industry, commerce and government at the MODEX Show in Atlanta, Georgia, April 9-12. The MODEX Show provided attendees access to the latest manufacturing and supply chain equipment and technologies. Currently NAIDA is following up with 5 prospective manufacturing projects that were contacted at the show.



# HEADLINES

## Updates (continued)



**HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology** celebrated its 10 year anniversary a "Decade of Discovery" on April 25, 2018. Since opening its doors on DNA Day in 2008, HudsonAlpha's vision has been to leverage the synergy between discovery, education, medicine, and economic development in genomic sciences to improve the human condition

around the globe. Within 10 years this vision has become a reality with more than 550 research papers, 166 children with unexplained developmental delays diagnosed, 35 life sciences companies created, and \$1.85 billion in economic impact.

## Education-Training

**Calhoun Community College** was awarded a \$1.5 million federal grant toward an automotive technology program center for the college's Decatur campus. The Automotive Technology Program facility will provide entry-level skills necessary to enter into the automotive service and repair industry. The facility is expected to create 219 jobs and generate \$32 million in private investment.

## Morgan County

Barkley Bridge Elementary has become the second school in the state to receive **Advanced STEM Certification**. The certification is an endorsement that the school has in place programs that prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

On March 7, 2018 Students from Morgan, Lawrence, Limestone, and Madison Counties attended the **2018 Career and Workforce Expo** at Calhoun Community College. The Expo is targeted to high school and college students and brings together local businesses, industries and employers who provide jobs in the area. The event is sponsored by the Calhoun Community College Tech Prep Consortium in conjunction with the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, the Limestone County Chamber of Commerce and the Morgan County Economic Development Association.

**AIDT** will help with the recruitment, assessment, and pre-employment training for Mazda-Toyota. Currently a date has not been set for the beginning of the hiring process. For more information visit [AIDT.edu/jobs](http://AIDT.edu/jobs) and check the listings.

## PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of March and April NAIDA assisted with 3 prospect visits to North Alabama.

## Media

Decatur and the Florence-Muscle Shoals area were recognized in the March 2018 issue of *Site Selection Magazine*. Both ranked in the Top 10 of "Metros with Populations Less Than 200,000". The Shoals claimed 5<sup>th</sup> place and Decatur claimed 7<sup>th</sup> place in the ranking. The rankings were based on the number of projects announced in 2017.

According to the U.S. Census the Huntsville MSA is now the second largest metro area in Alabama with growth of 9% since 2010.

## Awards

On April 18, 2018 The Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Technology Network announced the award winners for Automotive Manufacturers of the Year and The Automotive Manufacturing Suppliers of the Year for 2018. The following companies were recognized: ADTRAN Inc. of Huntsville, received the 2018 Large Manufacturer of the Year award, Topre America of Cullman, received Supplier of the Year for Large Manufacturer and Shoals Extrusion of Florence, received Supplier of the Year for Small Manufacturer.

## Recognition

Congratulations to Grady Smith for 25 years of exceptional service to the NAIDA Board of Directors. We wish you good health, happiness, and continued success in your retirement from Cullman Electric Cooperative.



Pictured: George Kitchens, Grady Smith, and Brooks Kracke

## NAIDA STAFF

**S. Brooks Kracke**, President/CEO  
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