



Tyler Economic Development Council

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March/April 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 28, 2008, 3:30
TEDC Board Meeting
Genecov Room

UT TYLER

On Feb. 5, Tom Mullins attended the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Site Visit Luncheon for accreditation of the UT Tyler Department of Human Resource PhD program. Coordinating Board representatives said the program had potential to be one of the leaders in the field. A final decision by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is expected by April 24.



OTHER PROSPECT ACTIVITY

TEDC submitted 3 prospect proposals for manufacturing/distribution companies totaling over 200,000 sf, \$31 million in investment and 85 new jobs. Another proposal for a call center was submitted for 20,000 sf, and 175 jobs.

TECHNOLOGY PROSPECTS TEDC is working with four companies that could create 2,000 technology jobs over the next several years in Tyler/Smith County.

- An internet based financial services company could create 960 jobs with an approximate average salary of \$60,000. The company is waiting for final federal approval and is reviewing options for leasing or constructing space for their operations.
- Tyler is one of four cities being considered for a work-at-home technical support company that would hire 350. The company is an independent third-party administrator of extended service plans, buyer protection services and product support programs.
- Tyler is one of three cities being considered for a Fortune 100 business-to-business customer service center that would create 650 new jobs and invest \$15 million to construct or renovate a facility.
- A local engineering company considering an expansion could create 100 new jobs and invest approximately \$18 million on a new 100,000 sf building.

LUMINANT ACADEMY held an open house March 26 for their new facility on the Luminant TJC West Campus.

The Academy will provide technical, leadership and management training to TXU power generation, leadership and contractor construction teams and TJC students. TXU has invested \$5.8 million to build and equip the training facility. The Academy will employ 10 instructors and support staff will train about 300 students every year. Training modules will range from a few days up to 18 weeks. "TEDC began working with Tyler Junior College in 2006 to convince Luminant that this was the place for this academy," said Barham Fulmer, Tyler Economic Development Council Board Chairman.

TYLER AREA INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL



On March 11, Gloria Conway, Voluntary Preparedness Program Coordinator for OSHA based in Dallas met with the TAIC. Ms. Conway provided an overview of the Voluntary Preparedness Program, and representatives from three local employers (Tyler Pipe, Carrier, and the US Postal Service) talked about their positive experiences with the program.

Matt Wrye of Trane gave an overview on the principles of Lean Manufacturing and outlined a plan to create a *Lean Consortium* in Tyler and East Texas.

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW The City and County tax abatement committees met April 1 to review the current tax abatements for Carrier, CB&I, Hood Packaging, John Soules Foods, Suddenlink, Target, Thoroughbred Motorsports, and Trane. The results will be presented to the City of Tyler on April 23, Smith County on April 28, and Tyler Junior College on May 15. These companies have invested nearly \$173 million and have created over 1,900 jobs in Tyler/Smith County.