

****Mullins: Tyler Economy Remains Strong****

TYLER -- The Tyler-area economy is definitely taking a hit these days. But Tyler Economic Development Council President/CEO Tom Mullins says the local picture continues to be much better than the rest of the nation. Mullins addressed a Wednesday breakfast gathering of Tyler Area Chamber members. Among the key factors in local economic strength: the medical sector. Mullins says, "We have people coming in from a large radius around East Texas to get medical services here."

The higher education community is also strong. Mullins says all told, there are now about 17,000 students at TJC, UT Tyler, and Texas College. He notes that the perceived "college town" of Nacogdoches, home of Stephen F. Austin State University, has only 12,000 college attendees. Mullins also cites a busy local retail market. He says in Tyler's primary retail trade area, there are about 440,000 people who come to town, several times a week in some cases, to buy goods and services.