



SAWDC

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAWDC  
Quarterly  
Council  
Meeting**

March 16, 2011

8:30 am –12:30 pm

American Red  
Cross

35 North Sage Ave

Mobile, AL 36607

To RSVP, email  
asmith@sawdc.org

**Welcome to  
our Newest  
Executive  
Committee  
Members**

David Scheid  
*ThyssenKrupp*

Sandra Koblas  
*Austal*

# Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council

# Region 9 News

MARCH 2011

## Mobile County Tax Renewal Vote: Vote Yes for Our Children

On Tuesday, March 22, voters in Mobile County will make the decision on whether to renew a set of property taxes that contribute to our public schools. These taxes bring in more than \$55 million annually for Mobile County public schools. If the funding is renewed it will not create new or raise any existing taxes. Should the funding be discontinued, more than 400 teachers and school employees will be laid off, maintenance and repair contributions will be cut, and the number of students per classroom will increase. In addition, schools will experience a decrease in funding for arts, classroom technology and athletics. Not only will our schools suffer from this cut, but it can also hurt business growth in Mobile. If you would like to get involved in this effort to save school funding please visit [www.ourchildrenourfuture.info](http://www.ourchildrenourfuture.info) and remember to vote YES for the Mobile School Referendum on March 22, 2011.



## SAWDC to Receive Award from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions

On February 15, 2011, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions announced six sites in the South and Southwest that will receive grants totaling \$1.8 million to support job training and career support in their areas. Each of these sites, including SAWDC, will receive \$300,000 over two years. This grant includes \$150,000 in federal money and \$150,000 in private foundation funding. It will allow SAWDC to support workforce partnerships with the maritime, aerospace, healthcare, and process manufacturing industries. For more information on the National Fund for Workforce Solutions please visit [www.nfwsolutions.org](http://www.nfwsolutions.org).

## SAWDC's Cheryl Williams named to Speaker's Commission on Job Creation



Last month, SAWDC Council Member Cheryl Williams, along with three other members of the Business Council of Alabama's Board of Directors, was named to the Speaker's Commission on Job Creation. This commission was established to pinpoint opportunities for private sector job growth in the state. These opportunities will be addressed through changes in state laws and policies. Cheryl is the Owner of Spherion Staffing Services in Mobile. She has served on numerous community boards including but not limited to the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Gulf Federal Bank, Mobile Junior League, American Red Cross, Mobile United, Volunteers of America and Mobile Works. Cheryl currently serves on the SAWDC Council as a member of the Executive Committee.

## Employment Incentives with Kenyen Brown, United States Attorney

US Attorney Kenyen Brown and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce invites business owners and managers to learn about benefits and incentives for employing ex-offenders. Speakers include Doug Burris, US Chief Probation Officer, Dr. James Lowe, President of Bishop State Community College, Travis Short, President of Horizon Shipbuilding, Senator Vivian Figures, and Carlos Williams, Federal Public Defender. The Mobile Chamber will host a presentation on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Chamber Board room located at 451 Government Street. There is no cost to attend, but please make reservations by calling 251-431-8631.