



STIMULATING JOB GROWTH FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY

2018 Accomplishments

Expanding Community Dialogue

- ✓ Hosted Roundtable breakfast - **“Military-Friendly Doesn’t Just Happen: A Conversation with Florida’s Defense Support Partnerships”** featuring the Florida Defense Support Task Force, Florida Defense Support Contractors Association, Florida Defense Alliance, Defense Support Initiatives and Veterans Florida.
- ✓ Held the 2nd Annual **TeCMEN Industry Day**, where more than 300 attendees enjoyed an expo hall, keynote presentations, industry panels and educational workshops.

Enhancing Competitiveness

- ✓ Partnered with Okaloosa County to apply for and secure a **\$1.5 million grant award** from Triumph Gulf Coast for water and sewer Infrastructure to the 10,000 acre Shoal River Ranch Gigasite.
- ✓ Assisted the City of Fort Walton Beach with a comprehensive **master planning** process for the **Fort Walton Beach Commerce & Technology Park**.
- ✓ Supported educational efforts for the successful **Half Cent Sales Tax** referendum, providing vital funding for community infrastructure and public safety.
- ✓ Partnered with Gulf Power, PowerSouth and Enterprise Florida to host **Opportunity Showcase Luncheons** spotlighting the **Shoal River Ranch Gigasite** to site selectors in Atlanta and Dallas.

Supporting Workforce and Talent Development

- ✓ Partnered with the Hsu Educational Foundation and the Okaloosa County School District to host **22 area high school students** for interface with manufacturing / technology sector employers at the TeCMEN Industry Day.
- ✓ Partnered with University of West Florida to provide nine (9) **no-cost training / industry certification courses** to companies participating in the EDC’s TeCMEN committee.
- ✓ Unveiled a **Talent Attraction Portal** on the EDC website complete with job listings and community information. Utilized geo-targeting technology to promote local job opportunities to Emerald Coast visitors.

Strengthening the Military Mission

- ✓ Undertook targeted **Federal legislative outreach** in support of the modernization / enhancement of the Gulf Range and extending the current moratorium on offshore oil drilling activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
- ✓ Spearheaded a successful community educational campaign supporting the adoption of **Amendment 9** prohibiting oil drilling in state waters.
- ✓ Hosted an **Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) workshop** designed to highlight the process for proposing development opportunities on select underutilized, non-excess Federal lands.

Facilitating New Jobs and Investment

- ✓ Initiated and assisted **16** new investment projects with Projected Capital Investment of **\$45 million** and approximately **1,507** associated new jobs.
- ✓ Conducted **19 site visits** with site consultants and decision makers.
- ✓ Supported 1 County and Municipal **EDATE incentive application** and established an Incentive Policy Document with Okaloosa County Staff.
- ✓ Announced the competitive expansion of **Beast Code LLC** into the Fort Walton Beach Commerce & Technology Park. This company will create 40 new jobs paying 174% of the average wage in Okaloosa County and \$401,000 in capital investment.
- ✓ Announced the competitive expansion of **Allegiant Air LLC** at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. The company will create 65 new jobs and invest \$49 million to establish a year-round base.