

Expanding Community Dialogue

- ✓ Hosted Roundtable breakfast – **“Still Making Cents: Okaloosa’s Infrastructure Sales Surtax”**
- ✓ Hosted free professional development webinar – **“Leading Through Chaos: Lessons From 2020”**

Enhancing Competitiveness

- ✓ Unveiled the **Startup Okaloosa** virtual incubator, an on-line resource and information clearinghouse for existing and aspiring entrepreneurs
- ✓ Formalized a **strategic partnership with FloridaMakes** providing additional resources and expertise to Okaloosa manufacturers participating in One Okaloosa EDC’s TeCMEN (Technology Coast Manufacturing & Engineering Network)
- ✓ Developed initial **concept plans and promotional flyer for a new research park** devised to house U.S. Department of Defense contractors and research entities in a collaborative environment
- ✓ Aided the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners with the **acquisition of 588 acres of prime industrial land** located within **Shoal River Ranch Gigasite**, setting the stage for transformational economic development
- ✓ Supported **“School Cents Makes Sense”** public awareness campaign spotlighting school infrastructure needs and the importance of the half cent surtax for schools which won voter approval in November

Supporting Workforce and Talent Development

- ✓ Assisted the University of Florida Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering with establishing a **UF Innovation Station** at the UF REEF (Research Engineering Education Facility) in Shalimar, only the second such facility in the state
- ✓ Helped champion a \$7,000,000 Triumph Gulf Coast grant for the Northwest Florida State College **Aviation Center of Excellence**, developed in partnership with the HSU Educational Foundation

Strengthening the Military Mission

- ✓ Continued **Federal legislative outreach** in support of extending the moratorium on oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, culminating in President Trump issuing an Executive Order protecting the Gulf for an additional 10 years
- ✓ Collaborated with Eglin AFB and Okaloosa County on efforts to support Eglin’s **Westside Area Expansion Plan**
- ✓ Utilized One Okaloosa EDC’s **Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative (TCPI)** to tackle key community challenges faced by installations and service members. Stood up new work groups focused on addressing community **workforce housing deficiencies** and **installation resiliency** needs.
- ✓ Participated in **diversity and inclusion** discussions with military leadership; provided forums to promote broader community awareness

COVID-19 Support

- ✓ Launched a **COVID-19 Business Information Portal** and distributed timely information to Okaloosa County citizens and businesses concerning COVID-19 business regulations, emergency loans and relief grants
- ✓ Undertook **individualized assistance** with companies seeking to overcome challenges brought forth by the pandemic
- ✓ Hosted presentations focused on Florida’s **Emergency Bridge Loan** program, the **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan** and the newly enacted **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)**
- ✓ Served on the Emergency Bridge Loan committee, assisting **46 companies** with loans totaling **\$3.056 million**
- ✓ Partnered with Saltmarsh, Cleaveland & Gund to host a free webinar spotlighting the **Payroll Protection Program (PPP)**

Facilitating New Jobs and Investment

- ✓ Launched **BEST (Business Expansion Support Team) initiative** and undertook targeted interviews with 20 local businesses operating in the manufacturing, defense and technology sectors
- ✓ Assisted **WR Davis Engineering**, a defense contractor, with standing up a new production facility and relocating their corporate headquarters from Virginia to Fort Walton Beach
- ✓ Recruited **American Elite PPE**, a manufacturer of melt blown polypropylene material used in facemasks and medical gowns, to a vacant building in the Fort Walton Beach Commerce & Technology Park. The company expects to create **50 jobs** and invest **\$3,000,000**.