



UNIVERSITY-BASED ENTITIES

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ECDI)

Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Education System

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MISSION

The mission of ECDI is “to promote economic prosperity and improved quality of life for communities throughout Alabama.”

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Goals

ECDI has four primary goals:

- **Education and Training:** Improve the practice of economic and community development in Alabama through targeted educational programs.
 - Conduct Intensive Economic Development Training Course
 - Conduct Alabama Rural Roundtable
 - Administer Alabama Community Leadership Network (ACLN)
 - Conduct Alabama Prosperity Forum (*A series of short courses focusing on areas in which Alabama economic and community development professionals have expressed a desire for more training*)
 - Provide County Extension Coordinators with training in economic and community development
 - Administer the state’s only Graduate Minor in Economic Development
- **Research and Communication:** Conduct research and disseminate findings on issues related to economic and community development in Alabama.
 - Disseminate economic development information, articles, toolkits, tutorials and current research through the ECDI website
 - Publish and disseminate research on topics relevant to Alabama economic and community development policy and practice
 - Conduct economic impact, economic forecast, demographic, workforce competency, occupational, and career cluster analyses for Alabama economic and community developers
- **Connections and Partnerships:** Facilitate communication, coordination, and partnerships among Alabama’s economic development community, Extension, and Auburn University.
 - Provide administrative support for the I-85 Corridor Alliance
 - Participate on economic and community development advisory boards throughout the state

- Support and facilitate Auburn University and Extension faculty and staff engagement in community and economic development projects, programs and initiatives
- Maintain strong relations and provide support to tourism agencies and organizations throughout the state – and coordinate the development of rural tourism partnerships
- **Consultation and Engagement:** Help build and strengthen economic and community capacity in Alabama communities through a) leadership development, b) civic engagement, c) strategic planning, and d) economic development.
 - Administer Extension RC&D grant program
 - Administer Rural Alabama Initiative grant program
 - Provide leadership and support for the Alabama Communities of Excellence program
 - Support and expand the Alabama Agri-Tourism Trail
 - Facilitate community and regional strategic planning, assessment and asset mapping efforts throughout the state
 - Facilitate deliberative forums, roundtables, and town meetings
 - Provide leadership development guidebook for Alabama communities
 - Support regional efforts to promote tourism and retiree attraction

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (UCED)

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OVERVIEW

UCED was founded as an umbrella organization that draws from the resources of The University of Alabama to support the state's public and private economic development initiatives. The Center facilitates this support by providing access to university technical resources and the specialization of faculty and professional staff. A major emphasis of the UCED is community development. UCED clients are Alabama local governments and civic leaders.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- UCED provides technical assistance to civic and elected leaders for economic development and planning through partnerships with state and federal organizations, agencies and Alabama institutions.
- UCED provides leadership and support to the Alabama Communities of Excellence and Your Town Alabama, both non-profits providing guidance to Alabama communities and civic and elected local leaders.
- UCED provides relevant training (topics and content) to local civic and elected leaders in support of local and regional economic development and planning.

CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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OVERVIEW

The Center for Business and Economic Development is one of six consulting and research divisions of Auburn Montgomery Outreach. Founded in 1976, the Center functioned as an integral part of Auburn Montgomery's School of Business until 1982. The Center's primary focus during its early years was supervisory and management training. In 1982, the Center's mission was redefined to emphasize test development, selection procedure validation, and equal employment opportunity. The Center's first project under its new mission was a substantial validation and litigation support effort for the United States Air Force arising from a Title VII lawsuit. Over 250 job analyses and content validation studies were performed between 1982 and 1985. Since that time, the Center has worked with numerous private and public sector organizations to develop and validate employee selection procedures. In addition, the Center has provided consulting services to many of these clients in the areas of management training, organization development, and performance management.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Center for Business and Economic Development provides comprehensive consulting in the areas of human resources management, organization development, grant management/evaluation, and economic and community development. Staff members have experience and expertise in: Job Analysis, EEO Litigation Support, Employee Selection, Performance Management, Organization Development, Economic Impact Analysis, Classification and Compensation, and Strategic Planning.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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OVERVIEW

The Center for Economic Development at JSU concentrates on providing specialized assistance to business and government. Examples of services provided include economic impact studies, marketing surveys, employee attitude assessment, training, and personnel and pay plan development. In addition to the Center's consultants, the faculty is involved in providing expertise to area businesses and governments. The Center publishes a monthly newsletter, *JSU Economic Update*, which provides data on the economy of northeast Alabama.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Government Services:** The Center for Economic Development is dedicated to assisting governments as they work to resolve complex issues and problems. Types of managerial and operational services offered by the CED include: Personnel and Organizational Analysis, Financial Analysis, Consumer Opinion Studies, Community Marketing, Economic Base Study, Feasibility Study, Impact Analysis, Law Enforcement Analysis, Computer Needs Assessment, Retiree Attraction, and Safety Analysis.
- **Business Services:** Jacksonville State University maintains a strong commitment to economic growth and the continuing development of a business environment that fosters the creation of jobs, increases in investment, and the expansion of Alabama's industrial base. As an integral part of the University's business outreach program, the CED offers Business Services Consulting to provide a direct link between the academic and business communities.

Utilizing a professional staff and the College of Business faculty, the Center provides management expertise and technical assistance on a contractual basis. Some of the Center's recent projects include the following: Organizational Assessment Studies, Impact Studies, Personnel and Organizational Analysis, Safety Programs, Statistical Process Control, Existing Business Retention / Expansion, and Financial Analysis.

- **Business Research:** The Business Research Bureau of the JSU Center for Economic Development provides an array of services to meet the needs of businesses, individuals, and governments, including:
 - **Consumer Opinion Surveys:** The Bureau will design survey instruments customized to meet the specific needs of a community. After interviewing consumers, the Center prepares an analysis that summarizes its findings and provides recommendations.
 - **Community Marketing Plans:** The Business Research Bureau can assist communities by developing a marketing plan custom-made to reflect the strengths and attractive features of the community.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CIBED)

Troy University

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Centers

CIBED is comprised of four centers:

- **Small Business Development Center (Troy Campus)**
The SBDC offers one-to-one consulting, training, information and government bidding opportunities to small businesses in a ten-county area of southeast Alabama. The SBDC provides services to small businesses in:

- Consulting: The TROY SBDC provides free consulting to help new entrepreneurs evaluate their business ideas and existing businesses remain competitive in today’s dynamic, global marketplace. SBDC consultants have advanced degrees and varied backgrounds with years of practical experience. The Center’s consultants provide assistance in the following areas: Developing Business Plans and Loan Proposals, Creating Marketing Strategies, Identifying Funding Sources, Marketing to the Government, and Starting a Business.
- Training: The SBDC offers affordable training seminars on business topics including business planning, marketing, finance, management, taxes and government contracting. These seminars are designed to help broaden business knowledge of customers with diverse levels of experience.
- Financing: The SBDC provides information about and guidance with Small Business Administration loan and grant programs to assist small businesses.
- Center for Business and Economic Services (Troy Campus) and Center for Business and Community Partnering (Montgomery Campus)
These Centers conduct applied research and provide services to businesses and government agencies throughout Alabama. Activities include applied research, educational activities, management consulting, and publishing the *Troy University Business and Economic Review* semiannually. The Centers support the economic development of small businesses through two subsidiary programs – the SBDC and the Small Business Institute (SBI). The SBI links business students and faculty together with businesses to provide research projects for small firms. Students receive practical knowledge and earn class credits
- Center for Economic Education (Dothan Campus)
 - Troy’s Center for Economic Education seeks to promote and increase the economic literacy of local, state, and national entities. The Center places emphasis on its role in preparing today’s youth in order to effectively create more savvy consumers, productive workers, informed voters and globally-minded individuals. It also stresses a need to target local educators in order to accurately disseminate this information. The Center is committed to this task by offering workshops, training seminars, resources and assistance. Through this partnership, the Center works to increase economic literacy throughout Alabama.
 - The Center for Economic Education acts as a liaison between the business community, Troy University, educational administrators and local educators to provide tangible data and materials to increase the economic literacy of students. It targets all K-12 students through its initiative. The Center works to provide these resources at no charge to the teachers.

UAH OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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MISSION

The mission of the Office for Economic Development at UAH is to facilitate the creation of jobs and economic prosperity by building innovative and competitive companies and industries. The Office specializes in corporate and economic development strategies regarding high-tech, automotive, aerospace and logistics industries.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Centers

The Office for Economic Development contains the following:

- Continuous Improvement & Alabama Technology Network (ATN): Nationally recognized center for lean manufacturing. Clients include Mercedes, Boeing and many suppliers to the automotive and aerospace industries. The ATN also provides lean and quality implementation and training to manufacturers throughout the state.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC): National leader in government procurement counseling. In 2002, clients were awarded \$680 million in government contracts.
- Economic Development Strategy, Industry Clusters and Innovation: Leader in developing industry cluster maps and working with cities, counties and regions to formulate economic development strategies.
- Office for Infrastructure, Logistics and Transportation (OILT): Assessing the infrastructure and logistical needs for growing Alabama industry.
- Center for Innovation in Strategic Supply Chains: A leader in supply chain optimization, integration, optimization and lean logistics.
- Administration of Industry Associations: Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association (AAMA)
Alabama Aerospace Industry Association (AAIA)