Chamber Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

June 2021

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Chris Suddarth, 2021 Small Business Person Of The Year

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Your Cover Photo

Your cover photo features Jeremy Arthur, director of the Governmental and Economic Development Institute at Auburn University; Chris Suddarth, owner of TriState Graphics Inc. and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Small Business Person of the Year; and Delvick McKay, City of Dothan personnel director and the DACC chairman. For more information and pictures from Small Business Week 2021 see pages 4-5.

www.dothan.com

(334) 792-5138

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACCREDITED

CCAA 2017-2021 ALABAMA ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EventsCalendar

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1 **Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

2 **LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: First Citizen Bank – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Dothan Area Young Professionals Weekly Eats – 11 a.m.
Location: 429 N. Broadway St., Ashford (Broadway Café)

3 **Leadership Dothan Closing Retreat – 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
Location: TBA

7 **Ribbon Cutting: Enchantment Beauty Bar – 2 p.m.**
Location: 2135 Denton Road, Suite B

8 **Ribbon Cutting: Southeast Health Cafeteria SouthEats Expansion – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 1108 Ross Clark Circle

9 **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Something Special Boutique & Gifts Expansion – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 2934 Ross Clark Circle

DAYP Weekly Eats – 11 a.m.
Location: 220 E. Powell St. (Stuckey's Diner)

10 **Ribbon Cutting: Farmers Insurance - Jarod Mitchell Agency, LLC – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Leadership Dothan Graduation – 6:30 p.m.
Location: 1369 Headland Ave. (Windmill Station)

14 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Opening Retreat – 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
Location: 300 W. Main St. (First Baptist Church)

15 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Government/Economic Development Day – 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
Location: 795 Ross Clark Circle (Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall)

Ribbon Cutting: Caring Transitions of Dothan – 4 p.m.
Location: 1481 Westgate Parkway, Suite 1 (The Cellar)

16 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Healthcare Day – 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
Location: 445 Health Sciences Blvd. (Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine)

LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Board of Directors Meeting – 8:15 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

DAYP Weekly Eats – 11 a.m.
Location: 3835 W. Main St., Suite 2 (Wharf Casual Seafood)

17 **Ribbon Cutting The Refinery – 4 p.m.**
Location: 2312 W. Main St.

23 **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

DAYP Weekly Eats – 11 a.m.
Location: 115 E. Main St., Hartford (Ketchem's Restaurant & Catering)

30 **LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

A Taste of Louisiana
123 Tree Crest Road
Dothan, AL 36301
Tiffany Harris
(334) 435-2989
FOOD TRUCKS
RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

Alabama Marble & Granite
3850 W. Main St., Suite 803
Dothan, AL 36305
Kimberlee Barnes
(334) 406-5175
www.alabamamarbleandgranite.com
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Rain
145 S. St. Andrews St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Fakir Dogruogullari
(334) 447-3477
www.raindothan.com
RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

The Rollin' Trapp Food Truck, LLC
1731 Prevatt Road
Dothan, AL 36301
Felecia Blackmon
(334) 648-1800
FOOD TRUCKS, RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

Stuckey's Diner
220 E. Powell St.
Dothan, AL 36303
Candice Taylor
(334) 350-2550
RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

NEW**OWNERSHIP**
LaQuinta Inns & Suites
3593 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36303
Nick Shaw
(334) 793-9090
www.lq.com
HOTELS / MOTELS / TRAVEL

Schedule A Ribbon Cutting!

Are you a new Chamber member? Has your business expanded or relocated? Are you breaking ground for a new facility? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to schedule a Chamber Ribbon Cutting or Goundbreaking event.

These events take place weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Chamber staff will work with you to choose the date and time that best fits your schedule. Your event will be included in the Calendar of Events section of the *Chamber Connections* and your picture will also be featured in the newsletter after the event.

For more information or to book an event, contact Hayden Camp, director of membership, at (334) 792-5138 or **hcamp@dothan.com**.

Congratulations!

Chris Suddarth Named Small Business Person Of The Year

Congratulations to Chris Suddarth, owner of TriState Graphics, Inc., in being named the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Small Business Person of the Year. The award was presented during the organization's Small Business Week General Membership Luncheon held May 11 at the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall.

"This gentleman drives business strategy, performs overall operational management and the sales, and is integral to the daily business development efforts," announced Mit Kirkland, Scenic Cable Network and Production and the DACC's Membership Development Council chairman. "He holds a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is retired from the Army Reserves after serving for over 40 years and attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5, performing as a standardization instructor pilot in the CH-47 Chinook, UH-1 (Huey) and TH-67 helicopters. After he and his wife purchased the company back in 2010, they have grown the business from $720 thousand in annual revenue and five employees to over $2.2 million in revenue with 16 employees."

Suddarth was selected by his peers for the award from among a slate of five Chamber members. Each year nominees for the award are ranked on a point system that recognizes leadership in the community, customer satisfaction, business appearance, image and professional and civic involvement. Award nominees must reside in the Wiregrass area and own or operate a business with no more than 25 employees. In fact, 84 percent of the Chamber's membership falls into the small business category.

"This is very humbling, I never expected to receive this (award)," said Suddarth after accepting the award. "As Delvick mentioned we are dedicated to providing Christ-like customer service to our customers and ensuring the well-being of our employees. I have to thank God on what He has brought us through and to. I also want to thank my wife, my kids and staff for all their support"

The DACC's Small Business Week 2021 took place May 10-14, and was filled with events and activities each day that inspired, educated and provided opportunities for Chamber members to connect with each other. the week was dedicated to paying tribute to the area's small businesses and their contributions to the economy.

This year's luncheon guest speaker was Jeremy Arthur, director of the Government and Economic Development Institute at Auburn University. A fifth-generation Alabamian, Arthur's commitment to leadership and service to his community, state and beyond are all well documented.

In his remarks, Arthur told members that the past year has been like the famous movie title *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. "The good has happened. Since the pandemic began, the permanent business closures is below estimates. The 400,000 small businesses that were predicted to permanently close, only half actually did. However, the bad is that 200,000 more U.S. businesses closed than in a typical year, which is one fourth to one third above the normal annual rate of business closures. And then we have the ugly. The ugly is that individual small business accounted for two thirds of the extra closures, 130,000 businesses. Personal services was the hardest hit at half of the additional closings, which was 100,000 businesses," he said.

"Why were permanent business closures lower than expected?" asked Arthur. "It's because of the Paycheck Protection Program, state grants, forgivable loans and other aid like rent deferments, loans and delayed obligations."

Arthur went on to say, "Yes it's ugly, yet hang on! The resiliency of the American economy was strong. Retail sales were up 9.8 percent in March 2021. This is the first time since 2005 that the U.S. is expected to make a bigger contribution to global growth than China. The American economy is expected to grow about 7 percent this year. The resiliency of the Alabama's economy has also stayed strong. Holiday sales grew by double digits for the first time ever over the previous year, by 12 percent. Alabamians spent 11.6 percent more during the end of 2020 than in 2019. Sales tax collections grew 7.13 percent for the entire year. December's sales number beat every other December ever in Alabama."

Delvick McKay (right) presents the 2021 Small Business Person of the Year award to Chris Suddarth, owner of TriState Graphics Inc.

In closure, Arthur said, ""How did you do it? You did it together. You continued to lead, you worked hard, you invested and you continue. Congratulations, you made it!"

Other events throughout the week included a Kick-Off Ribbon Cutting with A Taste of Louisianna, a Ladies Night Out with KS Handmade, leadership seminar presented by Emerald Coast Dale Carnegie, a Wiregrass Safety Center luncheon tour, and a Good Morning Business Connections at Dakota Coffee.

The Chamber's board of directors and staff want to thank the General Membership Luncheon sponsors ***Dothan Eagle***, **Metcalf & Company, LLC**, **MidSouth Bank** and **Slay-All Day Pressure Washing**. Also, a special thank you is extended to Pastor Frederick Thomas from Church of the Purpose for providing the luncheon Invocation.

Jeremy Arthur, director of the Government and Economic Development Institute at Auburn University, was the guest speaker at the DACC's Small Business Week General Membership Luncheon.

Over 220 DACC members attend the Small Business Week General Membership Luncheon.

Honoring You... America's Entrepeneurs

Small Business Week Events

A Taste of Louisiana Ribbon Cutting

General Membership Luncheon

Houston County and City of Dothan Proclamations

Small Business WEEK 2021

The Heart of It All

Ladies Night Out

Uncovering Leadership Blind Spots Seminar

Good Morning Business Connections

Wiregrass Public Safety Center Tour

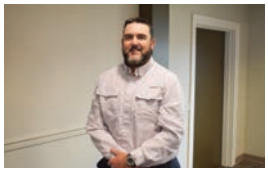
Thank You To Our General Membership Luncheon Sponsors

"Dothan Eagle"

Metcalf & Company, LLC

golden corral

MidSouth Bank



Slay-All Day Pressure Washing

New**Members**

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

Azalea Swim & Tennis Club
Azalea Swim & Tennis Club President
1210 N. Pontiac Ave.
Dothan, AL 36303
PH: (334) 793-6410
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Church of Purpose
Frederick Thomas Jr.
3124 W. Main St., Suite 8
Dothan, AL 36305
PH: (334) 796-4488
www.churchofpurposedothan.org
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The Crossing at Big Creek
Ken Cline
11295 U.S. Highway 231 South
Cottonwood, AL 36320
PH: (334) 803-8138
www.thecrossingbigcreek.com
ARTS / CULTURE / ENTERTAINMENT

Enchantment Beauty Bar
Taylor Rasmussen
2135 Denton Road, Suite B
Dothan, AL 36303
PH: (334) 446-5962
www.enchantmentbeautybar.com
PERSONAL SERVICE & CARE

Lucky Dog Training Academy
Lisa Gunn
212A N. Broadway St.
PO Box 763
Ashford, AL 36312
PH: (334) 790-8320
www.wiregrassluckydog.com
PETS / VETERINARY

Rain
Fakir Dogruogullari
145 S. St. Andrews St.
Dothan, AL 36301
PH: (334) 447-3477
www.raindothan.com
RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

Stuckey's Diner
Candice Taylor Stuckey
220 E. Powell St. (Physical)
502 Woodly Road
Dothan, AL 36305
PH: (334) 350-2550
RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGE

Renewing**Members**

40 To 49 Years
Meadow Ridge Apartments
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Michelin North America Inc.

30-39 Years
Barstone Apartments
Branton Land Surveyors
Christ Church International
DSI Security Services
Farmer Price, LLP
Jeffers Inc.
Kirkland Jewelry
Pinch-A-Penny
Service Industrial Supply
Summerwood Townhomes

25-29 Years
Avadian Credit Union
Dyna-Lift Inc.
Emmanuel Christian School

20-24 Years
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Express Oil Change & Service Center
Oncology Supply
Wiregrass Human Resource Management Association

15-19 Years
Edward Jones - Les Pinckard, Financial Advisor

10-14 Years
Red Elephant Pizza & Grill
Residence Inn by Marriott

5-9 Years
Abbeville Chamber of Commerce
Alden Services
Chavers RV, LLC dba Bama RV
Dakota Coffee Works
JimPam Hydraulics, LLC
Nelson's Electronic Systems
Vistage
Warren Averett, LLC

1-4 Years
Alabama Education Association (AEA)
Blake Floyd State Farm Insurance
Brightway Insurance, The Rachel Davidson Agency
Clark's Hardwood Refinishing, LLC
Community 1st Real Estate
The Courtyard
Evergreen Creative Co.
Golden Corral
Kindred Hospice
Our New Baby Inc.
PACE Inc.
Pam Martin State Farm Insurance
Panache Hair Studio
Ray's Restaurant
Reynolds Agency Allstate Insurance
Short Stuff Photography
Tax Pro Accounting, Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
Telamon Corp.
Vibe Nutrition

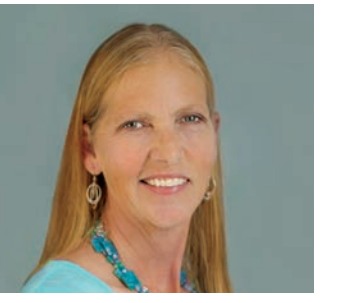
Ambassadors**&Diplomats**

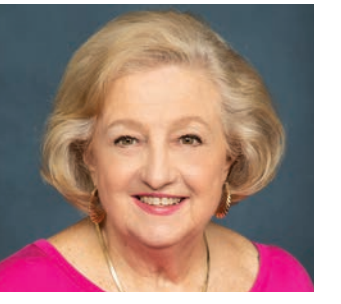
Star Of The Month

Mary Colburn
Wiregrass Auto Care

Team Of The Month

Drawing A Blank





Congratulations to our Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month – Drawing A Blank. Team members (l-r) are Joseph Brackins, ***All in Credit Union***; Mary Colburn, ***Wiregrass Auto Care***; Brad Kendrick, ***Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton***; and Joyce Tyson, ***Century 21 James Grant Realty***.

Thank you to all our Ambassadors and Diplomats who serve as the eyes and ears for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. It is with your dedication and support that assist your local Chamber in meeting its goals.

Be sure to check out next month's *Chamber Connections* to see who will claim the title.

#SaveTheDates For These Upcoming Member Events

Seeds of Hope
Every Thursday • 7 p.m.
Harvest Church Fellowship Hall. This is a grief support group for those who have lost loved ones, are going through a divorce or experiencing any kind of life-changing loss to offer understanding and support to each other as they walk through similar situations. For more information, call (334) 702-6555 or email **ccare@harvestdothan.com**.

Health Chats
June 22 • 6:15 p.m.
Carnes Chiropractic Health Chats are held the fourth Tuesday each month. The monthly topic varies, and Health Chats are free and open to the public. June's topic is Why Do People On Medicine For Low Thyroid Still Have Symptoms? Also, when existing patients attend four Health Chats, they receive a free office visit. For more information, call (334) 794-2225.

HCRW Monthly Meeting
June 24 • 11 a.m.
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall. The Houston County Republican Women hold monthly luncheon meetings the fourth Thursday each month. Events include a Meet and Greet at 11 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting at noon. Reservations are required by noon the Tuesday prior to meeting. To make your reservation, or for more information, email **hcrwlunch@gmail.com**.

Have an upcoming event planned?
Send your event information to **melia@dothan.com**

Dale Carnegie

Carnegie Café

Embrace the Chaos!

Emerald Coast Dale Carnegie invites you to join them the first Wednesday of the month for Carnegie Café: Embrace the Chaos! Ways to Engage in Our New Environment from 11 a.m. until noon. A virtual event, Carnegie Café is a new way to engage with other Emerald Coast leaders to address timely business topics.

This complimentary 60-minute round table with other senior leaders will focus:

- On doubling your organizations engagement by making more efficient and effective decisions;
- Identifying skills that will enhance emotions leading to higher engagement; and
- Discussing challenges, sharing best practices and expanding the network.

June's moderators will be David Balmer and Rena Parent. Both have many years in business development, leadership training and coaching. Seating will be limited and registration is required.

To register, visit **www.dalecarnegie.com/en/courses/5696?franchiseid=190**. Or for more information, contact David Balmer at (850) 437-1920.

wma wiregrass museum of art

WMA Presents Toddler Tuesdays

The Wiregrass Museum of Art will be taken over by toddlers every Tuesday morning in June from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. as Arty Pants is back in a brand new format.

Little ones, ages 18 months to 4 years old, will enjoy creating art in different ways in these special hands-on classes designed for parents and toddlers. Using their powerful imagination, each day WMA will explore a new book and medium to help your child create their very own mess-terpieces.

The cost for the series of five classes is $65 for members and $75 for not-yet members.

For more information, contact WMA at (334) 794-3871, **info@wiregrassmuseum.org** or visit **www.wiregrassmuseum.org**.

Dothan Housing You Are Our Why

Housing Authority Offers Biweekly Landlord Orientations

The Dothan Housing Authority will host virtual biweekly Landlord Orientation's the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 10 a.m. (second Thursday) and 3 p.m. (fourth Thursday).

Conducted by the Housing Authority's Landlord Liaison Keanna Marsh, topics of discussion will include landlord incentives like signing bonus, damage payments, vacancy payments, security deposits and more.

The Dothan Housing Authority is also looking for individuals interested in serving on its Landlord Advisory Committee. To register for the orientations or for more information about the Advisory Committee, visit **www.dothanhousing.org/orientation** or contact Marsh at (334) 794-6713, ext. 135 or **kmarsh@dothanhousing.org**.

For more information about the Dothan Housing Authority and the services offered, call (334) 794-5130 or visit **www.dothanhousing.org**.

Dothan Leisure Services To Hold Youth Fishing

Dothan Leisure services and the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries will hold the 23rd Annual Youth Fishing Day at Eastgate Park Saturday, June 19, from 7:30 a.m. until 10 a.m.

For ages 5-12, children will be fishing for catfish and should bring their own tackle, bait and stringer. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Only the child can fish; however, the adult may help if needed. No one will be allowed to enter the park until 7:30 a.m. and spots cannot be reserved.

The event is free and door prizes and ribbons will be awarded to participants. The prizes will be given away at various times throughout the morning.

For more information, visit **www.dothanleisureservices.org**, email **dcosby@dothan.org** or call (334) 615-3730.To make your reservation, or for more information, email **hcrwlunch@gmail.com**.

JACKSON THORNTON
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

Jackson Thornton Named Auburn University Top Tiger

Jackson Thornton, a certified public accounting and consulting firm headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, is pleased to announce it has been named a "Top Tiger" by Auburn University and the Harbert College of Business.

This year, the Top Tiger program honored 58 businesses for exceptional growth, revenue and entrepreneurial spirit. Honorees are among fast-growing companies either founded, led or owned by Auburn alumni. The program is in its seventh year.

The compounded annual growth rates for nominees were measured over a three-year period and ranked according to total revenue and operations in a manner consistent with the Auburn Creed. At Jackson Thornton, the firm's current president and CEO, all previous managing principals and the firm's chief operating officer are all graduates of Auburn University, in addition to 62 principals, professional and support staff.

"It was an honor just to be nominated as a 2021 Top Tiger and we were delighted to be named to the Large Revenue Companies list of winners," said John Fendley, Jackson Thornton president and CEO, "There is a lot of love and respect not only for Auburn University, but for the Harbert College of Business within our firm. We're certainly appreciative of this honor … War Eagle!"

Founded in 1919, Jackson Thornton is a certified public accounting and consulting firm with more than 200 professionals and associates in six offices located in Alabama and Tennessee. In addition to accounting services, the firm offers wealth management, strategic planning, business consulting services, technology consulting and specialized industry services.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, chief marketing officer, at (334) 240-3641 or visit **www.jacksonthornton.com**.

EYE SURGICAL ASSOCIATES

Joseph H. Sugg Jr., MD Joins Eye Surgical Associates

Joseph. H. Sugg, Jr., M.D.

Eye Surgical Associates, PC is pleased to announce the association of Joseph H. Sugg Jr., MD with its practice as of June 1, 2021. Dr. Sugg joins J. Kenneth Wallace, MD, Allan J. Kelley, MD, and William T. Gannon, MD, in the ophthalmology practice founded by Dr. Wallace in 2009.

Dr. Sugg is a native of Dothan, Alabama. He received his BS from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, then received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Dr. Sugg performed his general ophthalmology residency at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and was fellowship-trained in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the University of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

As a board-certified, fellowship-trained ophthalmologist, Dr. Sugg was previously associated with Dothan Ophthalmology on West Main Street where he practiced ophthalmology for over 20 years. In addition to his board certification from the American Board of Ophthalmology, he is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Sugg will be performing all aspects of general ophthalmology at Eye Surgical Associates with special emphasis in cataract surgery.

Eye Surgical Associates is located at 2664 Hartford Highway in Dothan and welcomes new patients who can contact Dr. Sugg by phone at (334) 699-2244 or toll-free (866) 645-2244, or request an appointment online at **www.esadothan.com**.

"like" us on Facebook

DISCOVER & EXPLORE

ANCIENT GREECE

WITH **THE DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

CHAMBER DISCOVERIES

DOTHAN ALABAMA
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

9-DAY JOURNEY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Round trip scheduled airfare
- Round trip transfers between airports and hotel
- 7 nights at the King Saron Hotel (all-inclusive resort) in Isthmia ... Single Hotel Holiday!
- All meals included while at the hotel
- City tour of Athens
- Corinth Canal Crossing
- Full day tour to Mycenae, Epidaurus & Nafplion

Acropolis

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1
- Transatlantic flight

DAY 2
- Arrive in Athens and transfer to your hotel for 7 nights

DAY 3
- Breakfast at your hotel
- City tour of Athens
- Guided tour of the Parthenon
- Greek festive dinner show

DAY 4
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Day at leisure
- Optional tour to Delphi

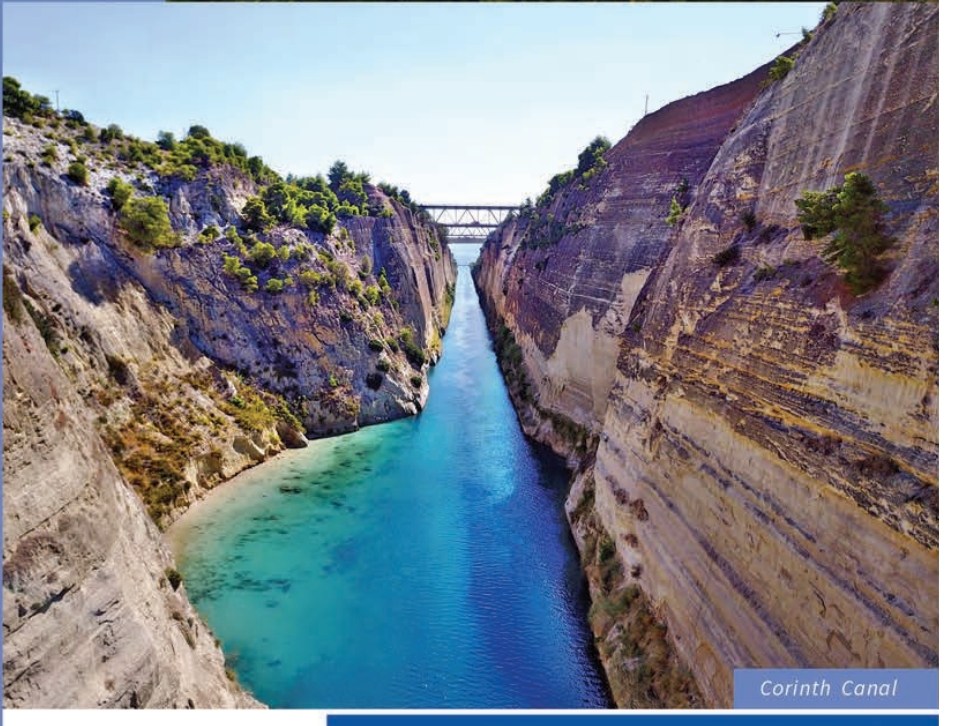
DAY 5
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Full day excursion to the heart of the Peloponnese Peninsula
- Visit to Mycenae, Epidaurus & Nafplion

DAY 6
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Day at leisure
- Optional full day tour of Olympia

DAY 7
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Enjoy the scenery along the drive to the Corinth Canal
- Cross the Corinth Canal by boat

DAY 8
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Day at leisure
- Optional day cruise to Saronic Gulf

DAY 9
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Transfer to the airport to fly home or join the Optional Santorini Post-Tour



Corinth Canal

BOOK NOW

$3,099 PER PERSON

Departing October 21, 2021

For more information, please contact
Hayden Camp at hcamp@dothan.com

Workplace Skills That Are In Demand In 2121

Steve Turkoski, Project Manager

Economic Modeling Specialists Internal is a company whose mission statement says they use data to drive economic prosperity by informing and connecting people, educators and employers. They recently published a report on the top skills for 2021. They looked at three categories of skills: technical skills, human skills and hybrid skills.

The top human skills identified through their survey, which was conducted by reviewing job postings by employers, ranked by importance are: Leadership, innovation, problem solving, accountability, influencing skills, investigation, critical thinking, collaboration, curiosity and self-discipline.

The top technical skills are all related to truck driving. They are: a CDL license, over-the-road driving, flat-bed truck operations, collision avoidance systems and good driving record.

The top hybrid skills are operations, research, integration, infrastructure, strategic planning, advocacy, scalability, business acumen, onboarding and workflows.

The report can be accessed at **www.economicmodeling.com/2021/01/29/top-skills-for-2021/**.

A paper by Deb Volzer, Ph.D., published by Wiley Edu LLC, titled Reimagining the Workforce 2021, Closing the Skills Gap Through Education highlights the role of tuition assistance benefits offered by companies as an excellent way to develop and maintain employee skills.

The paper states in its key findings that, "Upskilling/reskilling employees is the top way to close the skills gap." The absence of these programs within a company is attributed to lower prioritization by leadership. It further states, "Tuition assistance programs positively influence retention," but communications regarding these programs need to be more robust.

According to respondents to the authors survey, 51 percent of employers believe that the average length of time before technology skills are: outdated is two-years or less. Respondents to the survey indicated the reasons for the skills gap are: lack of qualified labor pool – 51 percent, lack of employee development initiatives – 34 percent, slow or unable to adapt to changes in technology -32 percent, compensation packagers not competitive enough – 32 percent.

The document may be downloaded at **www.edservices.wiley.com/reimagining-the-workforce-2021/**.

An online resume writing service, TopResume lists the top 13 skills employers are looking for in 2021 are: continuous learning, time management, decision making, collaboration, emotional intelligence, creativity and resilience, adaptability, change management, coaching mindset, project management, cloud computing, knowledge of new social and digital media, and artificial intelligence.

These skills are very similar to the human skills. Listed by EMSI, and the skills that Forbes says recruiters are looking for (**www.forbes.com/sites/forbeshumanresourcescouncil/2020/11/09/the-top-10-skills-recruiters-are-looking-for-in-2021/?sh=411d8b6d7e38**).

O*Net is the governments online occupational skills network and it lists required skills for many occupations, it is very useful for employers creating job descriptions. The system is constantly being updated, and in the last year alone, 233 occupations have been updated. Additionally, the Military Occupational Classification crosswalk has been updated as of March 2021. O*Net is very specific on workplace skills and lists them by knowledge, skills and abilities as well as other categories.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA WORKS!

Upcoming Southeast AlabamaWorks Events

Southeast AlabamaWorks, whose mission is to recruit, train and empower a highly-skilled workforce driven by business and industry needs, has several events scheduled for June, including:

- **Tuesday, June 22, 9 a .m. - 4 p.m.**
  Leadership Future Training
  Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce $59; Virtual $39
- **Wednesday, June 23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
  Leadership Future Training
  CA3L Pike County Schools, Troy
  $59
- **Thursday, June 24, Time TBD**
  Regional Workforce Summit
  Wiregrass Electric Cooperative, Hartford

Southeast AlabamaWorks strives to identify and address the workforce needs of new and existing business and industry by developing mutually beneficial partnerships with education systems, training providers, job seekers and the communities it serves.

If you would like more information about any of the above events or Southeast AlabamaWorks, contact Ann Maria Carr, executive director, at (334) 792-5138, **acarr@southeastalabamaworks.com** or visit **www.**

DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS • THE HEART AND FUTURE OF DOTHAN • est. 1885

Dothan City Schools To Hold Job Fair

Dothan City Schools will host a Job Fair at the Dothan High School Convocation Center Wednesday, June 23, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. On-site application process and interviews will take place to fill critical roles of food service/child nutrition program, custodial and bus drivers. Kelly Services will also be onsite to recruit substitute roles for teachers, clerical aides custodians, food service and nurses.

Dothan City Schools offers benefits that include single and family health insurance with optional cancer, indemnity, vision and dental plans, state retirement, employer paid life insurance, sick leave and summers off for bus drivers and food service/child nutrition program workers.

The Dothan City Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, national origin or age in employment, programs or other activities.

For more information, visit the Dothan City Schools' website at **www.dothan.k12.al.us**.

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

READYTOWORK

Ready to Work- What is it?

Ready to Work (RTW) is a FREE program available to individuals who are unemployed, seeking entry-level skills, or want to re-enter the workforce. It is managed by the Alabama Community College System Office (ACCS).

Ready to Work- What does it cover?

Ready to Work's workplace environment provides trainees the entry-level skills required for employment with most businesses and industries in Alabama by covering the following areas:

- ✓ Communication Skills
- ✓ Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Financial Management Skills
- ✓ Problem Solving Strategies
- ✓ Time Management
- ✓ Computer Technology Skills
- ✓ Structured Decision Making
- ✓ Career Exploration
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Workplace Ethics & Behaviors

Ready to Work- What's in it for You?

- Learn what it takes to be successful on the job.
- Gain confidence in your skills and abilities.
- Improve your earning potential.

Upon successful completion of the RTW program, graduates will receive the following:

- National Career Readiness Certificate – issued by ACT
- Alabama Certified Worker Certificate – issued by AIDT
- Tuition waiver for a **FREE** 4 credit hour course at Wallace Community College (some restrictions apply).

Enrollment & Eligibility Requirements: Individuals must obtain a minimum TABE placement score of 537 in math and 536 in reading assessments prior to beginning the course.

Class Begins June 7

Call Today to Enroll

334-556-2414

Courses Meet Online!

*ACT WorkKeys must be administered in person

#SaveTheDate
For Our Next Luncheon Seminar
Reputation Management

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, June 23 • 11:30 a.m.

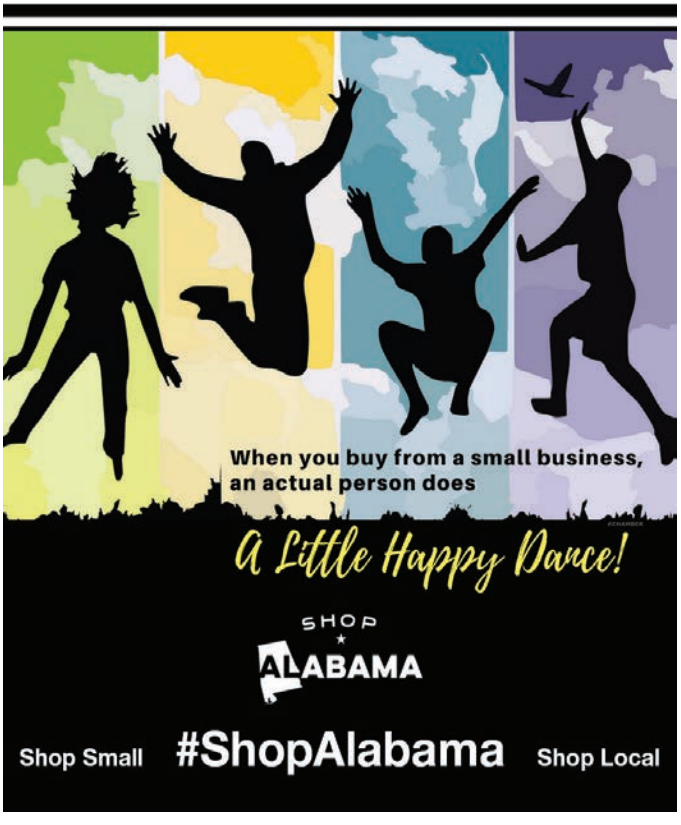
Mary Beth Maddox

Your work hard at your business. You put in long hours to make sure your business is on track and can be successful for the benefit of your employees, your family and your community. One of the factors that plays a BIG role in the success of a business is the company's reputation in its community.

To help you, make plans to join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for a luncheon seminar titled Reputation Management on Wednesday, June 23, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Presented by Mary Beth Maddox, Personnel Resource's senior executive vice president, she will give us some great tips on the components of building a great reputation including your personal and business brand.

The seminar cost is $15 per person and includes lunch. Seating will be limited and preregistration is required. To save your seat, contact Hayden Camp at (34) 92-=5138 or **hcamp@dothan.com**.

Personnel Resources
Partner with experts.



DOTHAN
Business Hall *of* Fame

Laureate Nomination Form

Deadline: July 15, 2021

The Dothan Business Hall of Fame's board of advisors is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Dothan Business Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame's mission is to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our outstanding business leaders, to perpetuate and inspire values of entrepreneurial spirit, personal integrity and community leadership in all generations. To be eligible for selection, a person must have made a significant impact on the development of Dothan and/or Houston County by promoting the free enterprise system and entrepreneurship; by demonstrating civic leadership; and by their philanthropy and humanitarianism toward their fellow citizens.

Name of Nominee: _____

Born (date and place): _____

Deceased (date and place): _____

Company/Organization (if currently employed): _____

Work Address: _____ Work phone: _____

Web Address: _____ Work E-mail: _____

Present Title/Position: _____ No of Years: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Please provide a biographical description of the nominee (not to exceed 500 words) and on a separate sheet please submit information for each section below (1-5). Feel free to include supporting documents (news clippings, magazine articles, etc.). A photo (preferably color) will be used in the program and MUST be submitted with the biographical/supporting documents.

1. **Significant achievements – any achievements that are first-time achievements**
2. **Awards and honors bestowed upon nominee (chronologically)**
3. **Memberships**
4. **Professional, business or vocational history (chronologically)**
5. **Photo of the nominee for the program**

Thank you for taking the time to put forth your nominee for the 2019 Dothan Business Hall of Fame. Laureate inductees will be notified by end of July 2021.

Nomination submitted by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Nominations are due by July 15, 2021. Submit your nomination to:

Dothan Business Hall of Fame
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attention: Amanda Burns
P. O. Box 638
Dothan, AL 36302
aburns@dothan.com

Leadership Dothan Class 39

20/20 Gun Drawing
Southern Outdoor Sports

LEADERSHIP DOTHAN

Now Accepting Applications

Deadline: July 15, 2021

The Dothan Area Chamber Foundation is now accepting applications for Leadership Dothan Class 40. The nine-month program focuses on community resources, education, quality of life, political arenas, health and human services and public safety. Local professional conduct lectures, participate and panel discussions, simulations and tours to educate program participants about our community.

The program year begins in September and concludes in May. The two-day Opening Retreat will be held Sept. 22 and 23, 2021, and attendance is mandatory. Participants meet one day per month, usually the third Thursday, for nine hours starting in October.

Participation in Leadership Dothan is open to any person living or working in Houston County. The Steering Committee reviews applications solicited from all walks of community life to select a class of interested, motivated and concerned individuals who have a desire to offer their time and talents to improving their community. One of the foundation's goals is to select emerging leaders and systematically inform, challenge and educate participants about our community opportunities and needs.

The application is also available on the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce website **www.dothan.com** and the deadline is Friday, July 15, 2021. A maximum of 30 people will have the opportunity to participate in Leadership Dothan each year. Tuition is $850 for each participant. The tuition covers the Opening Retreat, meals, program materials and transportation.

For additional information contact Linda Kelley at (334) 792-5138 or **lkelley@dothan.com**.

Either mail, fax or email completed applications to:

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Linda Kelley
P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302
Fax: (334) 794-4796
lkelley@dothan.com

Applications are due by July 15, 2021

Chamber
Connections

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Economic**Indicators**

▼	**Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for March:** 63,576 in 2020; 63,567 in 2021 61,823 in 2020; 61,537 in 2021 Employed
▲	**Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for March:** 2.8% in 2020; 3.2% in 2021
▲	**Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for March:** 8 issued ($2.52 million) in 2020; 25 issued ($8.44 million) in 2021
▼	**Home Sales in Dothan for March:** 174 sold in 2020; 173 sold in 2021
▼	**Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for March:** 2,821 in 2020; 2,707 in 2021
▲	**Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections ($) for March:** $1,654,240 in 2020; $1,689,418 in 2021 (County) $6,164,033 in 2020; $6,298,189 in 2021 (City)

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 5/03/21. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.

Chamber Connections is published monthly (USPS 700-660) for the members of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 102 Jamestown Blvd., Dothan, AL 36301. Subscription rate is $24 annually. Postmaster: Send address changes to Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302. Periodicals postage is paid at Dothan, AL and additional mailing office.

DOTHAN
ALABAMA

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(334) 792-5138
melia@dothan.com

meeting the challenge shaping the future

www.dothan.com