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Carroll Tomorrow activities helping to grow Carroll County

CARROLLTON, GA - Carroll Tomorrow officials report strong results for the first quarter of the Advantage Carroll 2020 five-year plan for the continued development of Carroll County. Nearly 50 percent of the new investment dollars and almost all of the job gains reflect existing business growth, according to Andy Camp, Vice President of Economic Development for Carroll Tomorrow.

Capital investments totaled \$15.6 M, with 475 jobs resulting in \$16.6 M in new payroll in Carroll County.

The Advantage Carroll 2020 plan, fully funded recently by approximately 70 local businesses, municipalities and individuals, outlines strategies for economic development, workforce education and development, community development, and leadership development.

As a major initiative during the first quarter, Carroll Tomorrow hosted “Take Aim at Carroll County,” a familiarization tour for state project managers from partner agencies. This event showcased Carroll County resources and the Buffalo Creek Technology Park site.

“Carroll Tomorrow’s continued involvement and partnership with the statewide economic development efforts of the State of Georgia, utility partners, and local business leaders regularly result in project leads and opportunities,” said Daniel Jackson, President/CEO of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and Carroll Tomorrow.

Highlights for The Burson Center include graduating three businesses from the incubator; hosting 32 meetings, seminars and events; and providing business development services to 28 client businesses. Sales from incubating companies totaled \$1,656,550.

Leadership Development activities included the launching of the Junior Chamber of Commerce program, an eight-month personal and community leadership program. Twenty-one students representing seven local high schools completed the program. The 12-week Leadership Academy for adults provided training for 20 participants.

The 2016 Carroll County Day at the Capitol had 24 attendees representing business, government, education and non-profit sectors. Both the House and Senate executed resolutions citing the work of Carroll County in the areas of workforce education and development.

The Carroll Tomorrow team is actively involved in multiple Community Development projects in partnership with local governments. These include housing, business corridor development, beautification and sustainability focused efforts to maintain or improve the quality of life in the region.

Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Senior Vice President of Business Development for Carroll Tomorrow and the Carroll County Chamber, noted that an important component of Carroll Tomorrow responsibilities, while somewhat behind-the-scenes, is monitoring bond compliance and state reporting requirements of local incentive projects. First quarter activities included monitoring for Trident Seafoods, Southwire, Yachiyo and Decostar.

State-mandated certification reports were completed for the Carrollton Payroll Development Authority, Development Authority of Carroll County, Carrollton Redevelopment Authority, Bowdon Industrial Development Authority, and the Greater West Georgia Joint Development Authority.

In the area of Workforce Education and Development, the second Eighth Grade Career Expo was conducted, hosting 1,523 students from county, city and independent schools, as the students prepared for high school pathway placement. Students chose two out of 18 possible sessions presented by business professionals from a variety of career pathways.

In collaboration with the Times-Georgian, the first issue of the quarterly magazine SmartWorks was published and distributed throughout the County, highlighting workforce education and development achievements in the community.

Another highlight included the creation of a Workforce Education Speakers Bureau made up of over 90 local professionals representing over 35 business sectors who are available to enter PK-16 classroom to share career information and life skills programs.

To view the complete Advantage Carroll 2020 First Quarter Report, visit the Carroll Tomorrow website at www.carrolltomorrow.com or contact Camp at andy@carroll-ga.org for more information.

CUTLINES

Daniel Jackson, President/CEO of Carroll Tomorrow and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, addresses eighth graders during the Second Annual Eighth Grade Career Expo. (Seated, l-r) Steve Daniel, President of West Georgia Technical College, and Dr. Kyle Marrero, President of the University of West Georgia, also encouraged more than 1,500 students from throughout Carroll County to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities.

Representing the business interests of Carroll County to local, regional, state and federal policymakers is an ongoing activity of Carroll Tomorrow. A local delegation of business and community leaders attended the 2016 Carroll County Day at the Capitol where both the House and the Senate presented resolutions praising Carroll County's efforts in the area of workforce education and development.

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