

DUNCAN

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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Help Wanted... No one likes to lose a company, especially an economic developer. I'm sure you have already read about the closing of Haulmark Trailer Company in our North Industrial Park. The company has about 100 good employees with various skill sets. The role of DAEDF has now become that of a conduit to help the employees find new job opportunities in the Duncan area. Haulmark has handled this announcement with concern for and commitment to their employees. They have displayed open cooperation and dedication to placing their people in other jobs, and have offered severance packages to those who continue to work until the plant ends production on September 28th. They have requested that area companies refrain from hiring their employees until after this date, and have asked for the DAEDF office to be the point of contact for their upcoming job fairs.

DAEDF will be assisting the workers and company in two separate job fairs at the Haulmark plant. The first one will be on Thursday, August 30 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. We will be gathering resumes, setting up job interview and organizing the entire event.

DAEDF will partner with Workforce Oklahoma, ASCOG, Manufacture Alliance and Red River Technology Center to assist Haulmark in any way possible, specifically working toward enhanced retraining programs for these employees. The training will be a fast track approach with a 40 hour program. At this point, we do not know how many Haulmark employees will pursue the free training opportunity since it will be offered after their workday and/or after the closing on September 28. We will also begin looking at specific needs of the area businesses such as CNC or welding enhancement skills. If your company or business is looking for employees, contact Christy Dixon at our office to reserve a spot to participate in this event. You can call 580-255-9675, or email at christy@ok-duncan.com. We would like to have a brief description of your company for the potential employees as soon as possible, and before the job fair you will also need to prepare job descriptions and company benefits as an effort to assist us in showing these potential employees what is available. A second job fair for Haulmark will be held in mid-September.

Benchmarking in Ponca City... A small group of eleven community leaders from Duncan took the opportunity to see how Ponca City operates their tourism, city government, economic development, Main Street, and Chamber of Commerce. Collectively, we viewed the community as outsiders should. The approach was to look at the cities curb appeal, and also hear about how the cooperative leadership followed a plan of action, building on the community strengths while setting egos aside. Each person was then paired with their counterpart to view their specific entity. As a group we were very impressed with what the leaders of the Ponca City community have been able to work together to accomplish in the past four years. Duncan will play host to their community in the near future.

Upcoming Dates....

Thursday, August 16: First Day of School – Duncan

Monday, August 20: DAEDF Board Meeting, 10am – DAEDF

Wednesday-Saturday, August 22-25: Stephens County Free Fair – Stephens County Expo

Thursday, August 30, 9am – 12pm: Job Fair for Haulmark Employees – Haulmark