

# DUNCAN

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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**We are Hammering out the Deals ...** DAEDF is very close to getting several business deals into the finalization stages. Of the 15 different projects that we are working on, there are three separate projects that are getting very close to reality. Two are expansions and one is a new company to the state. The largest project has members of the DAEDF Board working in a sub committee format to determine next steps and overall project cost, and will require our organization to partner with local banks. The new company project has been very slow in the making but has sped up its process in the last few days (I think they saw something that intrigued them in a fax that was sent to their attention). In this project, DAEDF is working with a site location firm whose client is in another state. This prospective project could add 30 very good paying jobs to our local economy and would service South Central Oklahoma and West Texas. The final prospect is trying to weigh the options for their business. They need a building that will allow expansion opportunities for future growth. While we can not force businesses to just start up, we can entice them. The most important characteristic of an Economic Developer is patience.

**What did Duncan learn while in Phoenix? ...** IEDC had a great conference and reinforced what we already knew: workforce is an issue across the nation. It makes no difference on the size of your community. The stats are staggering. As the Baby Boomers retire in the next 18 years, 79 million people will exit the workforce, to be replaced with only 40 million new workers. 85% of science and math teachers will retire in the next 5 years, and 80% of masters' level nurses will be retiring. The average age of a plumber is 58 and of a farmer is 64. Soon the total number of women will exceed the number of men in the workforce. Currently, 32% of our nation's businesses have either not recognized the problem or are not doing anything to address the issue. Without addressing the workforce of the future, you have no future in today's global market place. We must be innovative to stay on top.

**Duncan High School Tours Local Business ...** DAEDF is creating a partnership between our manufacturers and school systems as a way to solve some of our local workforce problems. The key is to get youth to listen, recognize the growing needs of the market place, and select these technical fields. This past week the Duncan High School career class toured the Cameron Measurement Systems facility to see how a CNC machining operation works. Many of the youth have no idea about the opportunities available within our community, but if we will open the doors of our businesses, give a facility tour, and spend a little time mentoring our youth, we will greatly benefit from the investment for our community's success.

### **Upcoming Dates....**

Tuesday, October 2: DAEDF Program to Kiwanis, 12pm – Simmons Center

Thursday, October 4: Party on the Trail, 5pm – Chisholm Trail Heritage Center

Wednesday, October 10: Manufacturing Conference, all day – Tulsa

Thursday, October 11: ASCOG South Central Oklahoma WIA Meeting, 6pm – Red River

Monday, October 15: DAEDF Board Meeting, 10am – DAEDF