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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local students and business representatives gearing up for 2008 School-to-Career Transition Workshop**

OPELIKA, AL – (October 20, 2007) – Today’s students are tomorrow’s employees. It sounds simple enough, but making the right choices now can make all the difference later. To help students bridge the gap between school and career, the Opelika Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee will host the 2008 School-to-Career Transition Workshop on October 27 and 28. The two-day program is designed to provide practical information to high school seniors about what to expect in a business climate and how to achieve the career goals they will set for themselves. School to Career is sponsored by East Alabama Medical Center, Fredericks Funeral Home, Hanwha LC Alabama and Mando America Corporation

The first day of the workshop will be held at Southern Union State Community College. New this year, students will participate in mock interviews and sample applications with the help of East Alabama Society for Human Resource Management (EASHRM) members. Other sessions will include where to find a job, business etiquette and interview skills.

On the second day of the program, the students will get to apply what they learned during the sessions and get a sneak-peek at a local job of their choice as they job shadow at various businesses. This year’s job shadowing assignments include a mix of local jobs such as nursing, funeral home director, graphic design, fashion industry, teacher and vet tech. After the job shadowing, the students will meet with local educators to answer questions and follow-up on what they experienced that day.

To celebrate their completion of the program, the students, their families and others will gather Tuesday evening for a reception and a graduation ceremony at Southern Union Community College’s Student Union Center. The students will receive a letter of recommendation signed by all workshop presenters, a certificate of completion and a graduation gift.

“Our community has and will continue to experience phenomenal growth. We are continuously adding new jobs to the market and these students will have the opportunity to work in these jobs,” said Wendi Routhier, President of the Opelika Chamber of the Chamber. “This program is just another way to help them prepare for life after high school – life in today’s business environment.”

Also attached: Fact Sheet

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## 2008 School-To-Career Transition Workshop Fact Sheet

- **What**

The School-To-Career Transition Workshop is a two-day event encouraging and empowering students to pursue their business careers after graduating from high school. Through this program, educational and motivational speakers provide students with useful information on what to expect in a business climate and discuss helpful topics. Students also participate in a half-day job shadowing program with a local business (in a business or industry of interest to them).

- **Schedule**

**Monday, October 27**/Southern Union State Community College, Administration Building, Auditorium, Room 104

8:00-9:00	Ice Breakers & Team Building Activities	Isabelle Warren, Troy University at Phenix City
9:00-9:15	Break/refreshments	
9:15-11:00	Sample Applications/Mock Interviews	ESHRM
11:00-11:30	Team Building Activity	Isabelle Warren, Troy University at Phenix City
11:30-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-1:30	Where are the Jobs?	Alison Mueller, City of Opelika
1:30-2:20	How to Get a Job and Keep It	Brian Henderson, Wal-Mart Distribution
2:20-2:50	Success Story	Dolly Marshall, McDonald's
2:50-3:00	Wrap Up	Opelika Chamber of Commerce

**Tuesday, October 28**

8:00-12:00	Job Shadowing	At various local businesses
12:00-12:45	Lunch with Mentors	SUSCC, Administration Bldg, Auditorium, Room 104
12:45-1:30	On the Job HR Video	
1:30-2:50	Discussion Groups	Education Committee
2:50-3:00	Final Evaluations/Wrap Up	Opelika Chamber of Commerce
5:30-6:30	Graduation/Reception	SUSCC, Student Union Building

- **Location**

Southern Union State Community College, Administration Building, Auditorium, Room 104  
 Graduation ceremony: Southern Union State Community College, Student Union Building

- **Who is attending?** 43 area high school seniors who have applied and been selected to participate in this program

- **Number of years the workshop has been held:** 10

- **Host/Organizer:** Opelika Chamber of Commerce, Education Committee  
 President of the Chamber of Commerce: Wendi Routhier, (334)745-4861

- **Sponsors:** BFGoodrich  
 East Alabama Medical Center  
 Fredericks Funeral Home  
 Mando American Corporation  
 Hanwha L&C Alabama, LLC  
 Southern Union State Community College