

From: Paula Baker <pbaker@southern.org>
To: Paula Bakerpbaker@southern.org
Date: 9/24/2013 3:17:55 PM
Subject: SGPB 2013 Workforce Report Now Available

Dear Southern Growth friends,

On September 9, Southern Growth Policies Board held its final annual conference and issued its final *Report on the Future of the South*. It's fitting that the topic of the report was workforce development, since many have credited Southern Growth with being at the forefront since its earliest years in terms of bringing regional attention to the critical links between human resource development and economic development.

The 2013 report, *Re-imagining Workforce Development*, highlights trends impacting workforce development – from changing workforce demographics to new tools for learning and skill acquisition – and outlines three keys to our success in the future: 1) Re-imagining Readiness; 2) Re-engaging Adult Learners and Disconnected Youth; and 3) Re-aligning Relationships and Resources. I encourage you to download the report and to share it widely with others across the region who may be interested. It is available at http://www.southerngrowth.com/pubs/pubs_pdfs/2013ROFS_DRA.pdf.

While Southern Growth will soon cease to exist as an organization, a number of its legacies and projects will carry on into the future under the leadership of the Southern Governors' Association and/or former Southern Growth staff.

For one, I encourage you to think about holding a forum in your community or organization related to the future of higher education – an important issue related to workforce development and impacting not only individuals, but also business competitiveness and community success. Building on Southern Growth's *Listening to the South* initiative, Linda Hoke and I will be working to promote forums on this topic throughout the region in the coming year. Please contact us at ted@econleadership.com or lhoke@southern.org if you are interested or would like more information.

I also want to invite you to subscribe to my new bi-monthly e-newsletter, to begin in October under the banner of my new company "Economic Leadership." Similar to *Southern Compass*, I will highlight recent research that impacts economic and community development in the region. If you are interested in receiving this information, please email me at ted@econleadership.com.

I am proud of the work that Southern Growth has accomplished not only during my time as Executive Director, but throughout the organization's 42 year history. We appreciate the interest and support you have shown over the years and wish you, your organizations and communities much success in the future.

Sincerely,



Ted Abernathy, Executive Director
Southern Growth Policies Board

Sent by pbaker@southern.org