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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Students and Business Representatives Gearing Up for 2011 School-to-Career Transition Workshop

OPELIKA, AL – (February 11, 2011) – 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 2011 School-to-Career Transition Workshop on February 23 and 24. 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, Mando America Corporation, and Opelika Economic Development.

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 complete 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 including nursing, funeral home director, graphic designer, 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.

The students will receive a letter of recommendation signed by all workshop presenters, a certificate of completion.

Also attached: Fact Sheet

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2010 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, February 22 /Southern Union State Community College, Administration Building, Auditorium, Room 104

8:00-8:30	Ice Breakers & Team Building Activities	Opelika Chamber of Commerce
8:30-9:00	Application Completion	
9:00-9:15	Break/refreshments	
9:15-11:00	Sample Applications/Mock Interviews	ESHRM
11:00-11:30	Team Building Activity	Opelika Chamber of Commerce
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, February 23

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?** 35 area high school seniors who have applied and been selected to participate in this program

- **Number of years the workshop has been held:** 12

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

- **Sponsors:**

East Alabama Medical Center
 Lambert Transfer & Storage
 Mando American Corporation
 Opelika Economic Development (City of Opelika)
 Southern Union State Community College