



**To all Superintendents, Boards of Education, and Principals:**

As we prepare the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce to meet the challenges of tomorrow's economy, young people need to make the best career choice possible. Opportunities for unique career paths are available in southeast Alabama, but it takes collaboration between school systems, businesses, and industries to prepare students for careers that are currently and projected to be well-paying, high-demand jobs. On **February 20 and 21, 2019**, Southeast AlabamaWorks, Inc. will host a showcase of these careers during the fourth annual *Southeast Worlds of Work*. This event will be a hands-on career experience for nearly 5,000 Eighth grade students.

*Southeast WOW* will be held at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds located in Dothan. Ten southeast Alabama counties are invited to attend including Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike. Three counties from Georgia: Early, Miller, and Seminole; and three from Florida: Jackson, Holmes, and Washington are also invited to attend. There is no charge to attend the event other than the cost of transportation.

The purpose of the event is to allow students to engage in careers available regionally and to demonstrate what each career involves through interactive and hands-on activities. The career clusters may include industries such as Agriculture, Automotive Technology, Aviation, Construction, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Media/IT, Public Service/Military, Transportation, and Utilities. The event takes place due in large part to leadership and investments from regional companies, organizations, private businesses, and governments. Southeast WOW is well supervised and logistically coordinated to ensure the safety of all attendees so that the event will be enjoyable and memorable.

We want students in our region to take advantage of this opportunity, and we need your help. Your endorsement of this event as Superintendents, Boards of Education, and Principals to your school counselors, classroom teachers, and students is critical to the program's success.

Eighth grade is a critical year for students as they decide the pathways for their high school years. Hopefully, many of these students will choose to enroll in Career and Technical Education Programs because of their experience at Southeast WOW. This event also benefits industrial recruitment efforts for future employment opportunities and careers. With the assistance of career coaches and school counselors, we have developed pre and post-event lesson plans which may be used by classroom teachers and counselors to familiarize students with the career experiences.

You will receive additional information as we move closer to the event. Please send the name and contact information for your system/group representative to the Education Planning Subcommittee Chair, Mrs. Amanda Hardy at, [Schools@SoutheastWOW.org](mailto:Schools@SoutheastWOW.org) or (334) 796-7785; or Mrs. Emily Peluso at, [empeluso@dothan.k12.al.us](mailto:empeluso@dothan.k12.al.us) or (334) 791-3192. **Once all schools have submitted their registration, an official letter designating each school's time and date will be sent to each school. Registration deadline for all schools is Friday, November 16, 2018. Our goal is to inform each school of their designated date and time by mid-December.**

Please *Save the Date* on your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event with your students. If you would like more general information on the event, feel free to contact one of the people listed below. You are welcome to bring as many others with you as you like from your school system. This event is one you and your students will not forget!

Sincerely,



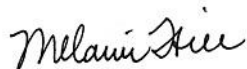
Amanda Hardy, Chair  
Education Planning Subcommittee



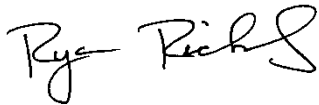
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