



Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS) began in the fall of 2006 as a partnership between business/industry, economic development, industrial relations, education and social services in an effort to enhance and improve workforce development outcomes in meeting the employment needs of the Cullman area.

Mission Statement:

Cullman area citizens committed to the development of a strong, qualified workforce to meet the current and future employment needs of our community.

Current Projects:

Educator Exchange Program. Area educators work for two weeks during the summer at a local industry. The purpose of the program is to help educators gain an understanding of the workplace outside of the educational arena as it relates to the knowledge and skills taught through the school curriculum and the further educational/learning requirements of the varied careers involved in business and industry. Pilot Program Summer 2007.

Supplement to the Cullman Times. Quarterly publication dedicated to educating Cullman area citizens regarding employment opportunities in our area (and what it takes to qualify for those jobs). First issue published May 31, 2007.

Dedicated Website. Developing a website to coordinate all aspects of CAWS effort. www.cullmancareers.com is currently under development.

Cullman Area Career Expo. Sponsor and coordinate an annual career expo for the citizens of the Cullman area so that they can become knowledgeable about the variety of businesses located in our community and the job opportunities available to them. (Target students/parents/educators, commuters, under-employed, etc.)

Resource and Training Manual. Working to develop and publish a comprehensive training and resource manual to give business and citizens of Cullman a booklet that contains all of the resources available regarding training, education, assistance, programs, etc. regarding employment in the area.

Student Programs. To have area employers and students become partners for their mutual benefit. In order for this to be accomplished area employers must be a constant presence in student's life starting at the 8th grade. Programs will be put in place for all Cullman area students (city and county) in grades 8 thru 12.

8th Grade - Career Crunch – Allows students to talk to professionals in career fields in which they are interested. The students learn about the education and training required for careers, the high school courses that would benefit them most in a specific career and the connection between education and income. Representatives of the arts, communications, manufacturing, and technology and healthcare industries are among the volunteers who help make this program possible.

9th Grade - Keeping it Real – gives area 9th graders “real-world experience” in paying household bill and making financial decisions for their “mock” family. Students are assigned a family, job and income. During the exercise they visit 12 booths where they purchase everything from groceries to daycare. Area employers are essential to the program by staffing the booths and assisting the students in their purchasing decisions.

10th Grade - Get a Job –is a career readiness program designed to help students find employment. Volunteers are needed to go into the classroom to offer students information about interviews skills, completing applications and appropriate dress.

11th Grade - Who Wants to be a Millionaire – encourages 11th graders to set goals to achieve a secure financial future. The program focuses on savings, credit card management and financial planning.

12th Grade - The College and Career Fair - Gives 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to network with college representatives and members of the business community. Vendors participate by setting up booths and sharing their career expertise with students. The business volunteers talk to students about college and job opportunities at their company as well as co-op opportunities and internships.