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Larry Ponder, working at East Systems in May 2021. Photo taken by Deanna Robinson.
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At Steel Dynamics, once we make a commitment, we stick with it. That’s why we continue to invest in our Columbus Division. Since purchasing the steel mill in 2014, we’ve invested $100 million, with another $230 million currently in progress. This not only helps the local business economy, but all of Mississippi. The latest addition is our new galvanizing line, which adds value to our customers and strengthens our position in the steel industry.

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East Mississippi Community College provides access to high-demand career pathways, experiential learning, and supportive services to ensure students are prepared for work.

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## Golden Triangle Manufacturers Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Motors &amp; Service</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Manufacturing of motors, controls, pumps, and air compressors, metal products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellis Steel Company</td>
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<td>Steel production, machinery, and foundry services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexsteel Industries, Inc.</td>
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<td>Steel production, machinery, and foundry services</td>
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<td>General Machine Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Machine Works, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial Fabricators</td>
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<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Paper (CFMW)</td>
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<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Paper (Columbus Cellulose Fibers)</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnston Tonn&amp;Eagle Machine Co.</td>
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<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirby Building Materials</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Branch Co., Inc.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi Precision Cast Parts, LLC</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi Steel Processing Co.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morton Integrated Technologies</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Vernon Mills, Inc.</td>
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<td>Papermaking equipment, machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nunnally-Teakle Company</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Process Steel</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orman’s Welding &amp; Fabrication</td>
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<td>210</td>
<td>Machine shop, welding, and fabrication of industrial products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paccar, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peco Foods</td>
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<td>Engine manufacturing and assembly, metal products</td>
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<td>Rempel Roto-Cast Company</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<td>Southwire Company</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>S&amp;N Wood Products</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<td>Steel Dynamics, Inc.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Insys</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<td>Southern Reel</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern RPI</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Srides</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sturgis Mill Company Inc.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talley &amp; Co.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valmet</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Manufacturing of castings and forgings, metal products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Machine Co.</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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**Official Website:** [www.cdispatch.com](http://www.cdispatch.com)
The National Geographic piece is a really good, comprehensive way to see from A to Z what we do when we're manufacturing a helicopter,” Callender said.

The 22-minute episode gives facts and figures about the H125 (the facility also manufactures Lakota helicopters for the U.S. Army, but those were not featured in the episode) and includes interviews with facility employees. Calendar said about 40 percent of the facility’s employees are veterans, a fact of which Airbus is extremely proud.

“We have really competent workers who are extremely dedicated and do a fantastic job of supporting customers and building helicopters out of Mississippi,” she said.

The facility saw other changes this year, including a new facility manager in Johannes Dienemann, who has worked for Airbus since 2007 when he worked with the company in France in 2007. Originally from Berlin, Germany, he moved to the U.S. in 2008 and has spent the last few years going between Airbus’ facilities in Columbus and Dallas. When he took the reins for outgoing facility manager Mike Spears, he said he was happy to be in Columbus permanently.

“Now I get the opportunity to spend my time in Columbus and I’m excited about that,” Dienemann said when he started full-time at the facility in March. “It’s exciting what’s happening here and to be a part of it.”

Calendar said the COVID-19 pandemic has also made the past year an “interesting one” for Airbus, but said the facility remained open with only about a 10-percent drop in activity due to the pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

“We’ve stayed open since the beginning,” she said. “We’ve continued building helicopters, we’ve continued supporting all of our customers, especially since most of them are essential missions and essential business, so we’ve done everything we can to keep our employees safe so that we can keep our doors open.”
Supporting space exploration from the skies

Helicopters can’t fly to space just yet, but they can support some of the most important missions on Earth. Built and completed in Columbus, Mississippi, by a 40 percent U.S. military veteran workforce, Airbus helicopters perform missions around the country saving lives, protecting communities, maintaining critical infrastructure – and even providing aerial security at rocket launches.

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SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

SALUTE TO INDUSTRY

LINK grant helped lead way for WorkKeys testing throughout state’s high schools

Story by Slim Smith
smith@cdispatch.com

When a grant expires, it may be a sign that it has failed to achieve its goal or is no longer relevant. But in the best cases, grants expire because they have achieved their goal. That’s why Macaulay Whitaker is talking about bicycles? Yes, bicycles.

Whitaker, Chief Operating Officer for the Golden Triangle Development LINK, says the LINK grant that funded WorkKeys testing at area high schools, was a lot like the training wheels used to teach children how to ride a bike.

The initial grant was for five years, providing $5,000 to each high school that would provide juniors and seniors. The grant, which began in 2015, was extended another year because of COVID-19 and other factors, but expires this year.

“When the training wheels are coming off,” she said.

WorkKeys is owned by the American College Test, a nonprofit educational organization that developed the ACT to measure student readiness for college. ACT founded WorkKeys in 2001 to measure applied skills commonly used in the workplace. Although it is a complement to ACT rather than an alternative, the nature of the WorkKeys test has led to it being used to assess workplace readiness for students who may not be on a college track.

When The Golden Triangle Development LINK was pursuing certification as a WorkKeys Training facility, they knew they needed to expand, but like most small business owners, they could not just write a check for the construction and new equipment.

That was when they called Joe Max Higgins, CEO of the Golden Triangle Development LINK.

“They really helped us get started,” George East said of Higgins and the LINK team.

Higgins connected George and Judy with the Mississippi Development Authority, which ultimately awarded the Easts a grant of $9,800, 10 percent of the expansion cost.

“We really appreciate everything they did to help make this happen,” George added.

Armed with needed seed money, the Easts launched the construction. They said they have been pleased with the work so far.

“We’re keeping the money in town because we’re using local contractors,” George said. “We’ve hired local people.”

Hiring local people is especially important to the Easts, who have made Columbus their home over the past quarter century after both growing up in Houston, Mississippi.

“We’re proud to live here,” George said. “We have made this our home.”

When asked what advice he had for anyone wanting to start their own business, he said the answer was easy.

“Always be planning for the long-term future,” he said. “Always plan for what might happen next. Find your own pace and move at the right speed. And you should stay here in our community. There’s a lot of opportunity here.”

A branch of the union has already awarded one new contract to East Systems, with more likely to follow.

Despite today’s booming business, success did not always seem so likely.

“I haven’t always been a glorious ride,” Judy explained to The Dispatch in February. “We’ve had to use up a lot of our savings just to keep our doors open and our employees paid over the years.”

Eventually, another challenge loomed even larger than the ebb and flow of daily business. The company had lost great opportunities because their workforce and facilities were too small to handle many customers and contracts.

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East Systems employee Jon Ferguson.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

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Photo by Deanna Robinson

East Systems employee Jon Ferguson.
"When I came here there was one 161 kW feed to the industrial park," Golden Triangle Development LINK CEO Joe Max Higgins said. "So, with each new industry, we had to build that number in our structure. We have five now, so when TVA started contracting for those solar facilities, we had the electrical infrastructure they needed."

Suddenly, those transmission lines to supply industry with power came perfectly together.

"It all boils down to the ability to provide renewable energy to our customers in a reliable and affordable way," Vanhee said. "Siting the transmission, especially when combined with an energy storage facility, is a rare occasion in attracting new businesses. Finally, what is the local economic development culture and leadership support, which is very crucial, and can our investment contribute to absorbing more renewable generation?"

"When I came here there was no electrical infrastructure," Vanhee said. "All of the power that will be generated at these solar facilities in the Golden Triangle is a rare occasion that will not significantly impact the local environment. We take into account environmental and social justice aspects to eliminate negative impacts to the local communities."

"That's why we had to build that power infrastructure for the industry." Higgins said. "All of the power that will be generated at these solar facilities have already been sold. "This is a gamble on TVAs part. It's a done deal."

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Having that electrical infrastructure in place was an important factor in Origis' decision to develop facilities in the Golden Triangle, but it wasn't the only factor, said Johan Vanhee, chief commercial and procurement officer for Origis. Vanhee began talking with 14 landowners to secure the 4,000 acres that will be the site of the two Lowndes County solar developments in 2018.

"It all boils down to the ability to provide renewable energy to our customers in a reliable and affordable way," Vanhee said. "Siting the right location for utility scale solar generation, especially when combined with an energy storage facility, is a part of a science or art. There are a number of factors that are evaluated, such as but not limited to, solar resources. There is more sunshine in the south than in the State of Vermont, so to speak. Second is there sufficient transmission capability to avoid new transmission line construction? Third, is there sufficient generation that will not not significantly impact the local environment? We take into account environmental and social justice aspects to eliminate negative impacts to the local communities. Finally, what is the local economic development culture and leadership support, which is very crucial, and can our investment contribute to absorbing more renewable generation?"

TVA has been very aggressive in using state and federal funding. The DispaTch

Continued from Page 13

The Dispatch

Photo courtesy Colin Kennedy

The Dispatch

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SALUTE TO INDUSTRY

Recipients of platinum cords for the WorkKeys certification program. 15 students received stipends for scoring bronze or higher with the Gateway Training Program, each earned $500.

Recipients of gold cords for the WorkKeys certification program. 15 students received stipends for scoring bronze or higher with the Gateway Training Program, each earned $500.

LINK

Continued from Page 6

Ready Company as part of its economic development efforts, it focused on incorporating the existing WorkKeys program at East Mississippi Community College's workforce development program with local businesses and industries.

"What we discovered was the high schools were the missing component," Whitaker said. "So in 2015, we started a grant program for $5,000 for any school in our area that wanted to provide WorkKeys testing.

The grants covered the $50 charge for the testing, enough for 100 students at each school.

"The goal of the grant program was to get the high schools started and then track what was happening in the Legislature and Department of Education."

In 2019, state legislation appropriated $1 million for WorkKeys at high schools in the state. This year said Leviwa Hogan, director of Starkville High School's Mississippi Career and Technology Center, WorkKeys will be incorporated into the accountability standards, making it available at all high schools through state funding.

The LINK's WorkKeys grant arrived at the same time Hogan took over as Milliput director. While she immediately saw the potential of the program, she confesses selling the idea to some parents was more difficult.

"There was some misunderstanding at first," Hogan said. "The first year, I made (WorkKeys) a requirement for the seniors, some parents were calling and asking why their kids, who were going to college, were having to take this test for going into factory work. I had to explain to them that WorkKeys was something that was for every kid. I told them if their kid wanted to be an engineer and was looking for an internship, that WorkKeys certification would help them get better internships. I want my students to have every certification they can get. WorkKeys are as much for college-bound kids as they are for people who think they want to work in a factory."

Courtney Taylor, director of EMCC's Community Services, said bringing WorkKeys to high schools has been a real eye-opener.

"I think it's been very important," Taylor said. "It allows for a couple of things. First, it's a separate measure than the ACT in giving high school students a frame of reference as to where they stand in terms of college readiness for the workforce. On our end, it gives us a lot of good data about where students' needs are coming into our program. Do the scores on the math section show a little more work is needed there? Things like that. It really helps us identify and tailor our programs to meet areas of need."

Whitaker said the success of the LINK's WorkKeys grant program is an example of the teamwork applied to enhance the Golden Triangle's reputation in the competitive world of economic development.

"I think the Work Ready certification demonstrated something we here in the Golden Triangle are particularly good at: Teamwork around an initiative," Whitaker said. "We have to have some people involved to make it work."

Photo courtesy Colin Kennedy

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Large scale solar energy production in Golden Triangle didn't arrive by happenstance

Story by Tom Ward

George East answered his cell phone quickly. After operating a local business for 25 years with his wife Judy, the phone rings now more often than ever. New customers and the expansion of their company have made 2021 the busiest year yet for East Systems Inc. First launched in their garage, East Systems designs, manufactures, installs and maintains specialized electric control equipment for the printing, mining, packaging and converting industries and more.

"It's like taking on another job," George said with a laugh about their business expansion. "We're about halfway through. The slab is done and the construction is going great."

The business expansion, at a cost of approximately $890,000, marks the next step in a successful journey for the husband and wife team. Judy, an accountant, deals with the finances while George, an electrical engineer, handles production.

Although the expansion is still underway, it has begun paying dividends by inspiring the confidence of new customers. An Alabama company, East Systems Inc. owners, George East and his wife Judy, are in the process of expanding their business.

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Photos by Deanna Robinson

East Systems Inc. owners, George East and his wife Judy, are in the process of expanding their business.

Large scale solar energy production in Golden Triangle didn't arrive by happenstance

Story by Slim Smith

The old saying goes, "Cut your own firewood and it will warm you twice."

That idea, applied to economic development in the Golden Triangle, goes a long way in understanding the sudden arrival of an emerging industry built on renewable energy. It will have a real impact on the community. While the solar facilities won't produce many permanent jobs — no more than four or five employees are needed to maintain operations once the hundreds of thousands of solar panels are installed — it will produce millions of dollars in tax revenues for local government and schools.

To understand how it is that the Golden Triangle has become a key player in solar energy production, it began not with the first solar facility built in Lowndes County in 2014, a relatively tiny 1 megawatt facility built near the Lowndes County Industrial Park, but at the turn of the millennium when the area's industrial boom was in its infancy.

To accommodate the large factories that were arriving in the county, large transmission lines were needed to supply the power needed by the newly-arriving industries.
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The old saying goes, “Cut your own firewood and it will warm you twice.” That idea, applied to economic development in the Golden Triangle, goes a long way in understanding the sudden arrival of a new industry, solar power.

Over the last 15 months, three large-scale solar energy facilities have been approved by TVA — two on adjoining properties in west Lowndes County and another in Clay County. Florida-based Origis Energy will build and operate all three facilities, which when fully operational, will generate a combined 550 megawatts of solar energy and 300 megawatts of battery, or reserve, solar power. The first of the three facilities is scheduled to begin solar power production in October 2022 while its sister facility will come on line in the fall of 2023. The Clay County facility should be operational in 2024. Starkville-Okatibbeha county officials have signed a tentative fee-in-lieu agreement for the potential development of a facility there while the Clay County site has an additional 2,000 acres available for future expansion.

Combined, the two solar facilities in Lowndes County represent the largest solar energy facility in the state.

It might be a bit of a reach to say that the Golden Triangle has become the Solar Triangle, but the arrival of an emerging industry built on renewable energy will have a real impact on the community. While the solar facilities won’t produce many permanent jobs — no more than four or five employees are needed to maintain operations once the hundreds of thousands of solar panels are installed — it will produce millions of dollars in tax revenues for local government and schools.

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Husband and wife team mark the next step in a successful journey

Story by Tom Ward

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Combined, the two solar facilities in Lowndes County represent the largest solar energy facility in the state.

It might be a bit of a reach to say that the Golden Triangle has become the Solar Triangle, but the arrival of an emerging industry built on renewable energy will have a real impact on the community. While the solar facilities won’t produce many permanent jobs — no more than four or five employees are needed to maintain operations once the hundreds of thousands of solar panels are installed — it will produce millions of dollars in tax revenues for local government and schools.

To understand how it is that the Golden Triangle has become a key player in solar energy production, it began not with the first solar facility built in Lowndes County in 2014, a relatively tiny 1 megawatt facility built near the Lowndes County Industrial Park, but at the turn of the millennium when the area’s industrial boom was in its infancy.

To accommodate the large factories that were arriving in the county, large transmission lines were needed to supply the power needed by the newly-arriving industries.
Solar

- The solar facilities in the Golden Triangle, sit in place was an important purpose.
- Suddenly, those transmission lines to supply power with ease the mangers of the renewable power that will soon be generated by the solar facilities. Like cutting the power that will soon be generated, such as but not limited to, solar resources. There is more sunshine in the south than in the State of Ver-
- fessor for Origis. Vanhee said that while his company has the potential to expand on its operations in the Golden Triangle, it's difficult at this point to predict what the future might hold. “Much will depend on the capacity of the TVA transmission system to absorb more renewable generation,” Vanhee said. “Only the future will tell if there is room for more utility scale solar facilities in the years to follow.”
- “It all boils down to the ability to building its green energy portfolio, where all the pieces of that puzzle fit together. Finally, what is the local economic impacts to the local communities. Second, is there sufficient transmission capability to avoid new transmission line construction? Third, is there sufficient capacity and cost-efficient land available that will not only impact the local environment? We take into account environmental and social justice aspects to eliminate negative impacts to the local communities. Finally, what is the local economic development culture and leadership support, which is very crucial, and can our investment contribute to the local economic development efforts? It focused on incorporating the existing WorkKeys program at East Mississippi Community College’s workforce development program with local business and industries. “What we discovered was the high schools were the missing component,” Whitaker said. “In 2015, we started a grant program for $5,000 for any school in our area that wanted to provide WorkKeys testing.” The grants covered the $50 charge for the testing, enough for 100 students at each school. “The goal of the grant program was to get the high schools started and then track what was happening in the Legislature and Department of Education.”
- In 2019, the Legislature appropriated $1 million for WorkKeys at high schools in the states. This year said Lerava Hogan, director of Starkville High School’s Millipeds Career and Technology Center, Workkeys will be incorpo-
- state funding. The LINK’s WorkKeys grant arrived at the same time Hogan took over as Millsaps director.
- “There was some misunderstanding at first,” Hogan said. “The first year, I made (Workkeys) a requirement for the seniors, some parents were calling and asking why their kids, who were going to college, were having to take this test for future going into factory work. I had to explain to them that WorkKeys was something that was for every kid. I told them that if their kid wanted to be an engineer and was looking for an internship, that WorkKeys certification would help them get better internships. I want my students to have every certification they can get. WorkKeys are as much for college-bound kids as it is for people who are going into the workforce.”
- The LINK’s WorkKeys grant is an example of the teamwork applied to enhance the Golden Tri-
- “I think it’s very important,” Taylor said. “It allows for a couple of things. First, it’s a separate measure than the ACT in giving high school students a frame of reference as to where they stand in terms of being ready for the workforce. On our end, it gives us a lot of good data about where students’ needs are coming into our program.Do the scores on the math section show a little more work is needed than expected? Things like that. It really helps us identify and tailor our programs to meet areas of need.”

SALUTE TO INDUSTRY

The DispaTch

Recipients of platinium cords for the WorkKeys certification program. 15 students received stipends for scoring bronze or higher with the Gateway Training Program, each earned $500.

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When a grant expires, it may be a sign that it has failed to achieve its goal or is no longer relevant. But in the best cases, grants expire because they have achieved their goal.

That’s why Macaulay Whitaker is talking about…bicycles? Yes, bicycles. Whitaker, Chief Operating Officer for the Golden Triangle Development LINK, says the LINK grant that funded WorkKeys testing at area high schools, was a lot like the training wheels used to teach children how to ride a bike.

The initial grant was for five years, providing $5,000 to each high school that would provide juniors and seniors. The grant, which began in 2015, was extended another year because of COVID-19 and other factors, but expires this year.

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The training wheels are coming off,” she said.

WorkKeys is owned by the American College Test, a nonprofit educational organization that developed the ACT to measure student readiness for college. ACT founded WorkKeys in 2001 to measure applied skills commonly used in the workplace. Although it is a complement to ACT rather than an alternative, the nature of the WorkKeys test has led to it being used to assess workplace readiness for students who may not be on a college track.

When The Golden Triangle Development LINK was pursuing certification as a Work, the LINK grant helped lead way for WorkKeys testing throughout state’s high schools

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When The Golden Triangle Development LINK was pursuing certification as a Work...
Supporting space exploration from the skies

Helicopters can’t fly to space just yet, but they can support some of the most important missions on Earth. Built and completed in Columbus, Mississippi, by a 40 percent U.S. military veteran workforce, Airbus helicopters perform missions around the country saving lives, protecting communities, maintaining critical infrastructure—and even providing aerial security at rocket launches.

“Over the years, we’ve located industry with investments of close to $7 billion and about 8,000 jobs in the Golden Triangle. Most of this has centered around the Golden Triangle Regional Airport. When we get aerospace projects, GTR Airport is usually the first call we make. On other prospects, we involve them at an early, early stage because we view them as integral partners in what we do. It’s really important for local industry to have access to an airport to fly in customers, executives and technicians.

GTR Airport is extremely valuable in our successful recruitment of industry.”

- Joe Max Higgins, CEO
Golden Triangle Development LINK
Airbus

Continued from Page 3

"The National Geographic piece is a really good, comprehensive way to see from A to Z what we do when we’re manufacturing a helicopter," Callender said. The 22-minute episode gives facts and figures about the H125 (the facility also manufactures Lakosa helicopters for the U.S. Army, but those were not featured in the episode) and includes interviews with facility employees. Calendar said about 40 percent of the facility’s employees are veterans, a fact of which Airbus is extremely proud.

"We have really competent workers who are extremely dedicated and do a fantastic job of supporting customers and building helicopters out of Mississippi," she said.

The facility saw other changes this year, including a new facility manager in Johannes Dienemann, who has worked for Airbus since 2007 when he worked with the company in France in 2007. Originally from Berlin, Germany, he moved to the U.S. in 2008 and has spent the last few years going between Airbus’ facilities in Columbus and Dallas. When he took the reigns for outgoing facility manager Mike Spears, he said he was happy to be in Columbus permanently.

"Now I get the opportunity to spend my time in Columbus and I’m excited about that," Dienemann said when he started full-time at the facility in March. "It’s exciting what’s happening here and to be a part of it."

Calendar said the COVID-19 pandemic has also made the past year "an interesting one" for Airbus, but said the facility remained open with only about a 10-percent drop in activity due to the pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

"We’ve stayed open since the beginning," she said. "We’ve continued building helicopters, we’ve continued supporting all of our customers, especially since most of them are essential missions and essential business, so we’ve done everything we can to keep our employees safe so that we can keep our doors open."
Columbus facility featured in National Geographic series

Story by Isabelle Altman
iAltman@cdispatch.com

This past year, Airbus’ Columbus facility was featured in a National Geographic video series on manufacturing in America. The documentary series, titled “Made in America,” offers viewers a look into the facility on Airport Road. Since the plant’s opening in 2003, it has produced more than 14,000 helicopters for departures and corporations from the US Army to individual law enforcement agencies around the country to NASA. The facility employs more than 250 workers locally and stayed open during most of the COVID-19 pandemic. Erin Callender, head of communication from Airbus’ North American region, said Airbus representatives were “extremely pleased” to be included in “Made in a Day,” which gives viewers an insight into the facility’s operations and shows the parts and processes of the helicopters.

Airbus Helicopters, Inc.
Columbus • 662-327-6226
Employees: 176

Products: Helicopter manufact. and assembly
Columbus facility was featured

Airbus Helicopters, Inc.
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Employees: 176

Products: Helicopter manufact. and assembly

Airbus Helicopters, Inc.
Columbus • 662-327-6226
Employees: 176

Products: Helicopter manufact. and assembly

Yokohama Tire Manufacturing, LLC
Employees: 220

Products: Commercial tires

Xeruim
Employees: 109

Products: Paper mill roll covering and reconditioning

Motion Industries
Employees: 45

Products: Industrial parts

Southern Pharmacal Corp.
Employees: TBA

Products: Compounded medications (evaluations)

Southern Riel
Employees: 36

Products: Sodium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide

Columbus Machine & Welding Works
Employees: 70

Products: Steel fabrication

Sturgis Mat Company Inc.
Employees: 70

Products: Electrolyte replacement beverage

S&N Wood Products
Employees: 5

Products: Chipboard, paper products

Navistar Defense
Employees: 1

Products: Defense vehicles

Mississippi Precision Cast Parts, LLC
Employees: 10

Products: Custom castings, sandblasting for steel and iron buildings

Mississippi Steel Processing, LLC
Employees: 5

Products: Steel castings

Motion Industries
Employees: 45

Products: Industrial parts

Silver Creek Trucking
Employees: 1

Products: Trucking services

Southern Industries
Employees: 80

Products: Investment casting and foundry

Sparrow Precision Cast Parts, LLC
Employees: 40

Products: Steel fabrication

Spencer Corporation
Employees: 49

Products: Paperboard weighing scale

Southern Outdoor Technologies
Employees: 350

Products: Hunting blinds and stands

Southern Precision Tool and Manufacturing
Employees: 35

Products: Steel fabrication

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SALUTE TO INDUSTRY

The Dispatch
SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

Nothing says commitment like $330 million.

At Steel Dynamics, once we make a commitment, we stick with it. That’s why we continue to invest in our Columbus Division. Since purchasing the steel mill in 2014, we’ve invested $100 million, with another $230 million currently in progress. This not only helps the local business economy, but all of Mississippi. The latest addition is our new galvanizing line, which adds value to our customers and strengthens our position in the steel industry.

Steel Dynamics, a proud member of the Golden Triangle.

East Mississippi Community College provides access to high-demand career pathways, experiential learning, and supportive services to ensure students are prepared for work.

Eastms.edu
Salute to Industry

Larry Ponder, working at East Systems in May 2021. Photo taken by Deanna Robinson.

Forward to a carbon neutral future

Valmet
617 Yorkville Park
Columbus, MS 39702
www.valmet.com