

3rd Time at Top Makes GA Best Overall Since 1999

Survey Names Ga. #1 in U.S. for Workforce Training Bainbridge College an Integral Part

Georgia has again been selected the No. 1 state in the nation for work force training in *Expansion Management* magazine's annual survey of site selection professionals.

In a poll of more than 80 site location consultants Georgia was ranked No. 1 for workforce training for its Quick Start program, the magazine reported in its latest issue. This includes Quick Start at Bainbridge College (BC), which serves southwest Georgia, working to support a company's training needs. Quick Start provides start-up training, and BC provides ongoing customized training services, said BC's Business and Industry Services Director Gean Hendrix.

"Georgia Quick Start has been paramount" in regards to quality, productivity, and efficiency for TRACO, said Human Resources Manager Jim Hall, who worked in two other states through their Special Schools functions of their technical education system. TRACO, which manufactures doors and windows, broke ground in October 2006 in Decatur County Industrial Park and produced its first door in March 2007.

"The partnership with Georgia Quick Start in conjunction with Bainbridge College has, without any reservation, been a cornerstone in our successful and ongoing start-up," Hall said. "The absolute willingness to satisfy our needs of ...Georgia Quick Start (personnel) and Gean Hendrix with Bainbridge College could not have been more genuine and resourceful..."

In its announcement, *Expansion Management* noted that for six years, Georgia ranked either No. 1 or No.2, and its consistent performance makes it the overall top-ranked state in the U.S. since the survey began in 1999. Gorton Wood, *Expansion Management's* director of economic development, said he is not surprised. "You can't talk about work force training without talking about Quick Start," he said, describing the reputation of Georgia's training program.

"Quick Start has proven itself time and again that it is one of Georgia's best assets for economic development," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "The quality of our work force attracts investment from around the globe, and Quick Start's work force training helps guarantee those companies' success in Georgia."

"It's an honor that site location professionals recognize the value of Quick Start," said Commissioner Ron Jackson of the Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE), of which Quick Start is a part. "It is the linchpin for our agency's economic development efforts."

Expansion Management's Managing Editor Ken Krizner attributed Georgia's consistently high rankings to the fact that the state "has created an environment that is very attractive to expanding companies from anywhere in the world."

"Quick Start is an important part of that environment," he said, adding that it "has the ability and the knowledge to train a work force that is ready to go from Day One."

"Working together, Quick Start and Georgia's technical colleges are able to provide businesses in Georgia with a state-of-the-art, total solution for workforce training," said DTAE Assistant Commissioner Jackie Rohosky, who has led Quick Start 15 years.

For more on this year's rankings visit www.expansionmanagement.com and scroll to the 2007 WORK FORCE TRAINING article. More on Quick Start is at <http://www.georgiaquickstart.org>.