

Quick Start, State Tech Colleges like BC Credited

Georgia Workforce Training Named Best in the Nation

Site selection consultants from around the country recently recognized Georgia's workforce training programs as the best in the U.S. This includes the Quick Start program at Bainbridge College (BC), which serves southwest Georgia.

"Programs are judged not only in terms of their financial value but also in terms of ease of usage and applicability," *Expansion Management* magazine reported when announcing the results of its annual survey. "In a poll of 80 corporate site location consultants, Georgia's workforce training program was ranked No. 1 in the country."

Site selection consultants are economic development professionals who advise companies on where to locate new facilities that create new jobs. Quick Start, which provides customized training free of charge to qualified companies, and Georgia's system of technical colleges, which includes Bainbridge College, were specifically credited with earning Georgia the top ranking.

In the southwest Georgia area, Quick Start works closely with BC to support a company's training needs. It provides start-up training, and BC provides ongoing customized training services. Gean Hendrix, a certified economic development trainer, is BC's director of Business and Industry Services and serves as liaison with Quick Start.

"The speed and success that our company startup experienced is directly attributable to the superb training received from Georgia Quick Start," said Larry Welsh, general manager of Stewart Machine Co. in Bainbridge, one of several Quick Start projects coordinated through BC. "Gean Hendrix, director of Business and Industry Services at Bainbridge College, is commended for his role in obtaining approval of and coordinating the training project to train our new employees. The training involving core skills, technical and job specific skills and manufacturing technology skills was 'First Class' in every respect," Welsh said.

"Quick Start and our technical college system are two of Georgia's best assets for attracting new business to Georgia," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "This survey demonstrates that our commitment to a quality workforce is making a difference. When I travel



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overseas and meet with executives of major international companies, the quality of our workforce and praise for Quick Start and our technical colleges is almost always a part of the conversation."

"We frequently boast that 'workforce training is our only business,'" said Mike Vollmer, commissioner of the Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE), which includes Quick Start and Georgia's technical colleges. "And now we can boast that we're the best in that business."

"What we provide companies and the citizens they employ are the training services needed to create and keep jobs in Georgia," said Jackie Rohosky, assistant commissioner for DTAE, who oversees the Quick Start program. "It's an honor to be recognized by the very professionals who help companies decide where they will make new investment."

Last year, Quick Start delivered training for 283 projects – 70 percent of which were outside metro Atlanta - with client companies creating 29,451 direct or indirect new jobs. More than 1,600 companies contracted for customized training with Georgia's technical colleges, which involved more than 120,000 trainees. Quick Start and Georgia's technical colleges are both part of Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education.