

itawamba Trends

SEPTEMBER 2015

THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE ITAWAMBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Governor's Job Fair This November



The Governor's Job Fair will be held on November 5, 2015 from 9 am until 1 pm at the ICC Intramural Gym. If your business is hiring, we want you

there! Booths are available by reservations only. Contact Vaunita Martin at ICDC at 662-862-4571 or you may email her at the following address: vmartin@itawamba.com to reserve your space today. Lunch will be provided to all exhibitors and the Indian Delegation will assist with loading and unloading all materials you may wish to bring. More detailed information will be published on the ICDC Facebook page about the Governor's Job Fair at a later date.

The Governor's Job Fair Network is a unique, proactive, employment assistance resource for the unemployed, employers and communities of Mississippi. The Job Fair creates an environment that facilitates the hiring process with an ultimate objective being job placement. Our goals are accomplished through community based job fairs offered throughout the state. The job fairs, coordinated by the Governor's Job Fair Network are presented in conjunction with local community efforts to provide people looking for jobs the opportunity to apply for jobs with a number of different employers in a centralized, user-friendly setting. For business and industry, the job fairs provide their human resource representatives the

opportunity to interview a variety of potential employees. Many job seekers receive job offers on the day of the job fair, while others are required to complete additional screening for current and future position vacancies.

Martin Speaks to RCDC Group



Vaunita Martin, Business Development Manager at ICDC, spoke to the Carolina RCDC on September 1.



Martin realizes the importance of the various county RCDC organizations. She asks any RCDC who would like for her to speak to their group to contact her at the council.

ICDC IS MAKING STRIDES!

ICDC is making strides to ensure all businesses in Itawamba County have the opportunity to stay and grow! We are increasing our footprint on the World Wide Web by promoting Itawamba County through Facebook (Itawamba County Development Council) and our new Instagram page (ICDC). Be sure to like us so that you stay in the loop on all the latest events. We are tirelessly working on a new and improved website which will be mobile friendly. Our new website will be a one-stop-shop for all things Itawamba! We will have a Calendar of Events, links to our Facebook and Instagram, Tourism, Economic Development, ICDC Members, and loads of other information.



For businesses wanting an extra boost in marketing, we will provide opportunities for companies to have their logo advertised on our front page which will link to their website. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, contact the ICDC office for more information! We are excited about all the possibilities that are ahead for Itawamba County. If you have not submitted your membership application to ICDC, please do so pronto. We certainly don't want any business to miss out on the tremendous opportunities ahead. "Itawamba County is Changing Lives, One Job at a Time!"

ICDC WELCOMES ANN IZARD

ICDC is proud to welcome Mrs. Ann Izard as our new Executive Assistant! Mrs. Ann has already done wonders with the place. She is in the process of creating a "Hostess with the Mostest" station in the lobby of the ICDC building.

Soon, when you enter the doors of ICDC, you will be greeted by Mrs. Ann's smiling face!

Come on by and take a look at the exciting changes going on at the ICDC office. Be careful though, she just might put you to work. Thanks for all your doing Mrs. Ann to bring professional and courteous assistance to the citizens of, and the visitors to Itawamba County!



Council Hosts Regional Economic Summit

ICDC hosted a Regional Economic Summit at ICC last month as an informative session to



discuss the current economic profile for Itawamba and other surrounding counties. Roberto Gallardo and Becky Smith from the MSU Extension Service shared information regarding economic profiles, vitality and sustainability, and transportation. Some interesting facts were presented in comparing Itawamba County to the rest of state. Our County population is growing, the current median household income is right in line with the rest of the state, and our poverty rate is well below the average for the state.

The needs assessment for Itawamba County are reachable. We need to increase the amount of population graduating with a Bachelor's Degree, encourage young adults to stay or move into the county, and reduce the driving time into work by providing the opportunity for more jobs to be created in Itawamba County. The top key point of the meeting was "Hopes of the future outweighs the legacy of the past". ICDC and our partners are committed to make this point a reality!

Selected by WalletHub as one of best community colleges

ICC RANKS SIXTH IN NATION



Itawamba Community College has been ranked sixth among the nation's best community colleges by the national polling group, WalletHub. In addition, in the same survey Mississippi's community college system is the best in the country.

Factors such as tuition costs and the availability of no cost tuition were the basis for the ranking system in Wallet Hub's comparison of 670 community colleges in the United States.

According to WalletHub, community colleges have long been perceived as the bottom rung of the higher education ladder. "The 'junior colleges' as they're sometimes referred to, are finally garnering the respect they deserve."

The average age of community college students is 28, and a "vast majority of these students balance their studies with jobs, family or both, commitments that often limit their enrollment to one or two classes per semester and force them to delay graduation." ICC's tuition has been consistently ranked among the lowest offered by Mississippi's 15 community colleges. In December, ICC was selected among the 50 Most Affordable Colleges in the United States by AffordableColleges.com with an average in-state tuition of \$2,100 per semester and a 51 percent institutional financial aid rate.

“Providing affordable and accessible education is a significant component of Itawamba Community College’s mission,” said President Mike Eaton. “National recognition of the College’s endeavor is an indication that the College is fulfilling that mission.”



SUEDE HAS RIBBON CUTTING IN FULTON



Several new businesses have opened in Itawamba County. One such business is Suede in Fulton. ICDC was happy to assist with the ribbon cutting at Suede on Main Street in Fulton on September 9. Any new Itawamba County business who would like a ribbon cutting ceremony, simply contact ICDC. Our organization loves to see new businesses locate in Itawamba County! Representing ICDC at the ceremony were Vaunita Martin and Ann Izard.

ICDC Congratulates Itawamba County School District



Congratulations to Itawamba County School District for being named the #10 School District in the State of Mississippi!!! ICDC contacted and congratulated Superintendent Michael Nanney. He offered the following response: “We are proud to see the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students being recognized by our school district being named as one of the best in the state! We will continue to work hard to do the best job we can for the citizens of our county and follow our motto: “To strive to provide a quality education for every child.”



Vaunita Martin of ICDC having fun at the Tremont Labor Day Celebration!