

## Expanding Community Dialogue

- ✓ Hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **TeCMEN Industry Day** featuring an expo hall, keynote presentation, industry panels and educational workshops.
- ✓ Hosted Roundtable breakfast – **“The U.S. Economy: Where Do We Go From Here?”** featuring Adrienne Slack, US Federal Reserve Bank.
- ✓ Assisted the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners with efforts to recognize the value of the local manufacturing sector through the acknowledgement of **“Manufacturing Appreciation Month”** in October 2021.
- ✓ Presented three free professional development webinars – **“Building a Winning Career in a Technical Profession”**, **“Using Branding & Technology to Reach Customers & Attract Talent”** and **“Creative Employee Retention in a Competitive Environment”**.

## Enhancing Competitiveness

- ✓ Developed new **Small Business Spotlight** feature on One Okaloosa EDC’s **Startup Okaloosa** website to share best practices and key lessons from successful local entrepreneurs. Companies featured during 2021 included **TJ’s Chillin Treats** (Mary Esther), **Fortis Fitness Studio** (Mary Esther), **VenYou** (Niceville), **Hub City Smokehouse** (Crestview), **CRC Data Technologies** (Destin), **Murphy Redd Marketing** (Niceville), **Happy Planet Cleaners / Latin Flair Events** (Fort Walton Beach) and **Verus Health Partners** (Fort Walton Beach).
- ✓ Worked with the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce and the Destin Charter Boat Association to develop and launch a four session **“Business Best Practices Seminar Series”** for the Destin Charter Fishing Fleet.
- ✓ Aided the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners with development strategies for the **588 acres of prime industrial land** that the County owns within **Shoal River Ranch Gigasite**. Worked with Barge Design Group to develop site concept renderings.

## Supporting Workforce and Talent Development

- ✓ Expanded the **Talent Attraction Portal** located on One Okaloosa EDC’s website. Added information on private / parochial school options and developed a new **Preferred Provider Directory** spotlighting local service providers within 10 specific sectors.
- ✓ Partnered with the HSU Educational Foundation, the Okaloosa County School District and Rocky Bayou Christian School to host **22 area high school students** for interface with manufacturing / technology sector employers at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual TeCMEN Industry Day.
- ✓ As a result of the BEST 2020-2021 existing industry survey initiative, hosted a Capstone **workforce development breakfast** designed to foster conversation and collaboration between industry representatives and workforce development / education partners.

## Strengthening the Military Mission

- ✓ Continued **Federal legislative outreach** in support of extending the moratorium on oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
- ✓ Through One Okaloosa EDC’s **Defense Support Initiatives (DSI)**, developed a comprehensive **legislative position paper** speaking to key Federal funding and policy priorities for local military installations and missions.
- ✓ In support of the FY 2022 NDAA, conducted virtual issues briefings with representatives from the offices of Congressman Gaetz, Congressman Dunn, Congressman Murphy, Congressman Diaz-Balart, Congressman Franklin, Senator Rubio and Senator Scott.
- ✓ Utilized One Okaloosa EDC’s **Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative (TCPI)** to tackle key community challenges faced by installations. Stood up Purple Star Schools TCPI Task Force and championed passage of legislation creating a new statewide program.
- ✓ Kicked off a community-wide TCPI **“Ideas Refresh”** process led by the **Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations and the Environment (SAF/IE)**.

## Facilitating New Jobs and Investment

- ✓ Continued **BEST (Business Expansion Support Team)** initiative, interviewing **21** local businesses with operations in the manufacturing, defense and technology sectors. Published a summary report of aggregated findings and distributed to city / county elected leaders.
- ✓ Initiated and assisted **42** new investment projects with projected capital investment of over **\$10 billion** and the creation of approximately **13,851** new jobs. Coordinated **15 local site visits** with site consultants and decision makers.
- ✓ Supported two **Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE)** incentive applications for Projects Dunk and Blue Waves.
- ✓ Supported a successful UWF Industry Resilience & Diversification Fund (IRDF) grant application for **US Meltblown** in Fort Walton Beach and a successful USDA Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) for **Big Creek Farms** in Laurel Hill.
- ✓ Recruited **Dunkin’** franchisee **Purple Square Management** to invest **\$4.5 million** in the construction of a 24,500 SF state-of-the-art commercial bakery and distribution facility that will employ **60** individuals in the Okaloosa Industrial Air Park.