

ACCS Introduces New Workforce Development Head

Dr. Perry W. Ward Addresses Community Impact

MONTGOMERY, Alabama – October 12, 2016 - At a press conference held by the Alabama Community College System, Jeff Lynn was introduced as the senior executive of workforce and economic development. With a focus more toward economic development, he is expected to enhance efforts between the system and the private sector.

"So my job right now is to go around the state, listen to all the great companies around the state, work with our partners in our colleges, our presidents of our colleges, work with our chambers across the state, other workforce development councils," Lynn said. "Understand what the true needs are."

"Workforce development is a multi-tiered collaborative effort," Lynn said. "Our success depends on our ability to work together to meet the collective needs of our state – residents who need good jobs, employers who need skilled workers, and communities that need business and industry in order to thrive. We must listen to the needs of our industries and provide world-class workforce solutions."

One ACCS institution that was honored by the White House for its workforce development initiatives was Lawson State Community College. "Workforce development provides businesses and industries the employees they need, and it provides those employees better opportunities for a better quality of life," said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State. "The right skills are critical to the success of business, industry and the community."

Noting that the college has been recognized by the White House for its workforce development initiatives, Ward presented some of the major initiatives taking place at Lawson State that include the Special Populations Homeless Shelter Training Program, the Trane/Ingersoll Rand partnership with the City of Birmingham, The Mechatronics Center of Excellence, The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence and a recent Environmental Protection Agency grant that will provide job training in our communities.

Lynn, who grew up in Alabama and is an Auburn University graduate, comes back to Alabama from Louisiana, where he has implemented workforce training programs, including one called the LED FastStart.

"Jeff Lynn is the Warren Buffett of workforce development," said Jimmy Baker, acting chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. "He is great at what he does, and he is known for getting results. We are thrilled to welcome him to Alabama and eager for him to hit the ground running."

Annette Funderburk, workforce and governmental affairs officer for the ACCS, said Lynn is replacing Tim Alford, who retired earlier this year as chief workforce officer for the system.