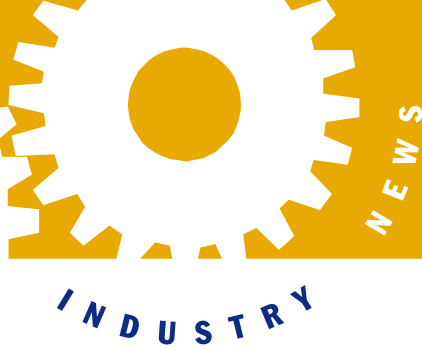


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## 2004-2005, The Year In Review

**President  
 Kim Denton**

It has been my pleasure serving as your TIDC president this past year – and what a year it has been! We've dealt with everything from the Cuno vs. DaimlerChrysler case to helping promote Senate Bill 2272 and defining how we determine future conference locations.

The TIDC board of directors wanted to accomplish three things this year: 1) resurrect the scholarship program 2) revamp the TIDC web site and make it more user friendly and 3) restructure the awards recognition program. I was fortunate to work with an outstanding board this past year who took ownership of these goals and truly worked as a team.

I am pleased to report that we did indeed meet our goals and accomplished what we set out to do. Doug Lawyer took on the scholarship program, Mark Herbison took on the web site and the board collectively tackled awards recognition. Details of these restructured initiatives have been communicated separately,

but let us know if you need more information.

Many thanks go to Kyle Spurgeon and Suzie Lusk who did a fantastic job on our conferences this past year. A special thanks goes to our sponsors who continue to make these conferences possible. I also want to personally thank our outgoing board members Randy Brewer, Bob Grimes and Allen Hester, whose tireless efforts have made TIDC a better organization.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your input, your participation and your interest in TIDC. You've heard me say before that this is your organization. We must continue to work together to strengthen it. We need your ideas, comments and constructive criticism. Kyle Spurgeon will do an outstanding job as your TIDC president. I look forward to serving as your past president and supporting Kyle in the coming year.

## Welcome Kyle Spurgeon



Thanks for allowing me to serve as TIDC president for the 2005-2006 term. Our organization has grown and changed since I first joined in 1989; it is important that we continue to grow, change and become better and more visible in the community.

As a membership organization, our members receive benefits proportionate to what they contribute to the organization. The more time and effort you devote to this organization, the more you'll get out of the program. That's true of any organization, company, or team.

It is imperative that our board of directors continues to develop programs and events that allow more of our members access to TIDC's valuable resource network. At our upcoming July strategic planning session we will discuss the results of a membership survey, currently being conducted by KRW Consulting. By listening to our members and formulating a clear vision for the future, TIDC can and will become an even stronger organization.



## Get Revved Up For The Governor's Conference On Economic And Community Development

**Commissioner Matthew Kisber**  
Matt.Kisber@state.tn.us

Our annual Governor's Conference is rapidly approaching and this year we are focusing on the theme, "RPM – Realizing Performance Matters." This is a great theme that builds off our previous "Boot Camp" and "Planning for Job Growth Success" conferences.

On August 30-31 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in downtown Nashville, we will provide the expertise and tools necessary to empower communities to reach new heights in economic development. This conference is quickly becoming one of the most prominent annual events for Tennessee's business community.

The reason why is simple – we're providing informational-packed sessions and expert speakers who bring valuable, "real world" tools that our communities can use to execute a successful economic development plan. It's practical information that energizes our local communities to take on the challenges of the New Economy. Our sessions will cover everything from infrastructure development, foreign markets and technology to small business enterprises, higher education and diversifying the rural economy.

On the first day of the conference, August 30, an important economic development announcement

will be made during the luncheon. This will be a major announcement that will add a significant component to our community development efforts highly complementing the strategic direction we've taken with programs like Three-Star and Main Street, which are getting local communities better prepared for sustainable economic growth. On that same evening, we'll recognize the newly certified Three-Star communities across the state for their economic and community development successes in completing the program. Last year's Three-Star Recognition Ceremony hosted over 700 people from communities all across the state.

It is certainly to our department's benefit to have a governor so strongly committed to what we are doing at ECD and, as always, one of the highlights of the Governor's Conference is the keynote address from the governor himself. One of the most exciting accomplishments from the closing of a very dramatic legislative session was the passage and signing of the Jobs Bill. Governor Bredesen wants every Tennessean who wants a job to have the opportunity to get a good job. Now that our department has more resources at our disposal to enhance training and technology development across the state, I am more than confident we will deliver on the governor's promise. All of our restructuring, hiring and strategic planning has given us a strong foundation and prepared us for this challenge.

This year's conference is sure to help our local officials and economic development partners gain access to the right tools to rev up their economic engines. We hope to see you at the conference in August. Ready, set go...to [www.tnecd.gov](http://www.tnecd.gov) for more information on sessions and how to register or call 615-532-9831 or toll-free at 877-768-6374.



## TIDC Chooses 2005 "Professional of the Year"

Robert E. Barnes Jr. was chosen as this year's "Professional of the Year" by TIDC. Barnes is the executive director of the Pulaski-Giles County Economic Development Commission in Pulaski, Tennessee.

For over 14 years, Barnes has served in the field of economic development. In 1998, Barnes was named to his current position where he has worked with six major expansions and seven new locations. Additionally, he has managed the development of the new, full service 400 acre Industrial Park South in Pulaski.

Prior to working with the Pulaski-Giles County Economic Development Commission, Barnes completed his Master of City Management degree at East Tennessee State University. He then served as the executive director of the Hickman County Economic Development Authority, followed by a stint as executive director of Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce.

Robert E. Barnes Jr., Executive Director of the Pulaski-Giles County Economic Development Commission, is TIDC's 2005 "Professional of the Year"



By Deb Woolley  
President  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

It is not unusual in Tennessee for events or functions to end to the gentle sway of the Tennessee Waltz. It is a song that has long symbolized a conclusion, an end, a time to go home.

Unfortunately, it also rang through the marble halls of the Capitol, spurring a quick end to the 104th Session of the General Assembly. Only it wasn't the soft melody we all know and love; it was the discordant chorus of handcuffs snapping shut as FBI agents completed a three-year sting. It is a sad memorial to a beautiful song and a productive session – a session in which several major legislative initiatives passed that will support a growing economy and additional job creation.

And that, quite frankly, is what government should be all about. Good policy and good laws allow the business community to do what only it can do...create jobs and increase the wealth of Tennesseans. After all, it takes a business – a healthy business – to create and sustain a job.

As corporate citizens, we have the same responsibilities as every private citizen. We pay our fair share of taxes, we share responsibility for the quality of our environment, we support education, we contribute to the care of those who require government support and we are involved in the selection and work of our elected officials.

In the 2005 session of the General Assembly, our legislators introduced more than 2,400 bills and 1,500 regulations – an all-time record. We are pleased that a number of important bills passed that will help grow our economy and improve our quality of life, and none of the bills passed that would have damaged it.

The Tennessee Chamber supports a pro-jobs, pro-growth agenda that proactively addresses issues that will help our state grow. First and foremost, the business community supported the governor in his efforts to bring TennCare under control. A well-intended program, it had ballooned out of control, consuming all our state's revenue growth. The price was being paid by businesses and by individuals. The Governor's perseverance and commitment to make the hard decisions is one that we, in the business community, understand and admire, and for that, we thank him.

Our pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda also included three issues related to education. One of the greatest challenges facing employers – and potential employees – is being prepared to succeed in the workplace. All three bills passed the General Assembly and have been signed by the Governor. They address present and future education needs:

The creation of a voluntary, statewide pre-kindergarten system is an investment in our children and in the workforce of tomorrow.

The expansion of the charter schools law allows greater opportunity for communities, parents and school district to customize education to meet unique needs.

The commitment of \$20 million for "Fast Track" infrastructure development and jobs training will ensure that today's workforce will have access to training to help them in their jobs.

There were several other bills that were important to the business community. Cracking down on methamphetamine – or "meth" – labs is as important to the business community as it is to the law enforcement community and to all our citizens. Meth addiction and production is a plague that has infested our communities, our schools, our workplaces and our social fiber and will require the hard work of all of us to eliminate it. Passage of the governor's bill is a critical first step.

Other important bills that will help our state's economy grow and sustain our quality of life include:

Compliance with the federally mandated State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) that prevents abuse of the unemployment tax law.

Assurance that business representatives, like representatives of other groups, will be able to participate in appeals to the Water Quality Control Board.

Delaying the implementation of the Streamlined Sales Tax will allow businesses – large and small – have more time to prepare and will ensure that it is implemented at a time when it is not disadvantageous to the state.

There are a number of bills that will continue to the 2006 session. One of the most important ones is a small business regulatory flexibility act that would require any state agency promulgating a regulation to prepare a statement showing the economic impact on small businesses.

And, as we listened to the waning "discord" of the Tennessee Waltz, we all know that meaningful, effective ethics legislation must be passed. It is our right as both corporate and private citizens to share our views with our elected officials, and that is a right that must be protected. We don't however need legislators legislating against lobbyists, and we don't need lobbyists lobbying against legislators. We need legislation that clearly defines the publicly acceptable relationship between lobbyists and legislators, and we need a system that ensures that those relationships are open, enforced and reported to the public. After all, we, as voters, hold the ultimate accountability.

*Deb Woolley is president of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the largest statewide, broad-based business and industry trade association.*

## Welcome 2005-2006 TIDC Officers...



### **PRESIDENT**

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## Welcome New TIDC Members

**Tim Thompson**, Melton Hill Regional Industrial Development

**Matt Largen**, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

**Susan Todd**, Lauderdale County Economic Development

**Mike Knotts**, Pickering, Inc.

**James Weaver**, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis

**Denise Watts**, TVA

**Mike Demster**, Memphis Regional Chamber

**Tom Johnson**, Greene County Partnership

## Calendar of Events 2005

**September 14-16**

TIDC Fall Conference

Memphis, TN (Call 1-800-PEABODY by August 24th for  
TIDC \$139 room rate.)

**February 15, 2006**

Legislative Reception

Nashville, TN