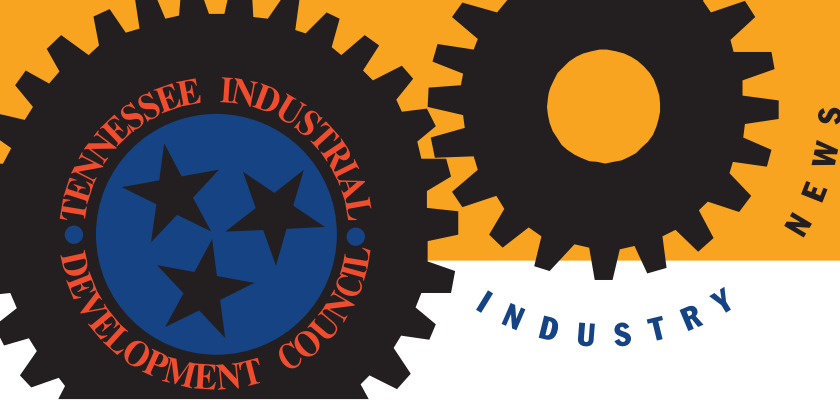


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Planning Session Helps Improve TIDC

**President
Kyle Spurgeon**

All organizations must continually re-examine their focus and priorities if they expect to grow and better serve their membership base. TIDC is no different. We must always look for better and more efficient ways to do things and provide more value to our members.

In June of this year, the TIDC board-of-directors participated in a day-long planning session conducted by Kristin Williams, president of KRW Consulting. Kristin is a former TIDC president and the board felt her experience with our organization would provide a unique insight while conducting the planning session.

In the weeks leading up to the session, we asked TIDC members to participate in an online survey developed to better understand our members' thoughts on a variety of topics. The results of the survey served as a backbone for the planning session.

The survey and the planning session enabled the board to develop three major focus areas for the 2005-2006 year.

Improve the visibility and credibility of TIDC:

To accomplish this, TIDC will improve and increase communications to both internal members and external interests (i.e. public relations efforts, marketing, articles, etc.).

Improve member involvement:

To increase both the number of members and their involvement in TIDC, we will provide more opportunities for members to be involved and offer better communications about current events within the membership.

Enhance TIDC's legislative involvement:

TIDC will support legislation beneficial to economic development in Tennessee and provide the opportunity for members to testify before the legislature when appropriate.

By focusing our improvement efforts on programs directly related to these three areas, we can become a much more viable and valuable organization to our members. I look forward to the coming year and encourage our members to get involved in TIDC and take full advantage of the programs we have to offer.



TIDC Donates \$10,000 in Aid to Katrina victims

Hurricane Katrina roared ashore on August 29, causing massive damage on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and extensive flooding in New Orleans and surrounding areas. Countless storm victims fled to Texas, Alabama and Tennessee. During the recent annual TIDC conference, members voted to donate \$10,000 to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort here in Tennessee. Donated to Tennessee Red Cross chapters, \$5,000 went to West Tennessee and \$2,500 went to both Middle and East Tennessee.

"The idea came from our members, who wanted to do something to help hurricane evacuees in Tennessee," said Kyle Spurgeon, TIDC president and vice president of Business Development for Jackson Energy Authority in Jackson, TN. "We are pleased that our organization had the capabilities to help make a difference in the lives of those affected by the hurricanes."

Calendar of Events

2006

February 15, 2006

TIDC Day on the Hill and Legislative Reception
Nashville, TN

May 3-5, 2006

Spring Conference
Destin, FL



Economic And Community Development Established the Tennessee Leadership Center (TLC)

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

Since Governor Bredesen took office, his strategic vision for job creation in Tennessee has had a singular focus: to create higher-skilled, better paying jobs for Tennesseans.

Tennessee is focused on job growth and expansion, but the complexity of community and economic development in a rapidly changing environment means we must take a new approach in strengthening our community economic development strategies.

Several economic development leaders across the state requested help marketing their communities, and as a result, ECD met that need by establishing the Tennessee Leadership Center (TLC).

This center, which was unveiled in August, will be a statewide vehicle designed to share best practices and provide support in economic development efforts. The Center is an outgrowth of the Governor's Three-Star Program and will be housed in Nashville but its leaders will travel to regions throughout Tennessee to provide on-site training. A first for Tennessee, the center is expected to elevate the leadership and strategic direction of local communities by offering training and seminars for both professional practitioners and community leaders.

This administration understands the power of effective partnerships. We believe economic development is a team effort, and that's why we will

be working closely with the center's Executive Director David Kolzow and the board of Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc. TLC will operate as a public-private nonprofit organization that will be operated by Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc. (TTI). For more information about TLC, visit www.tennesseeleadershipcenter.com

Now more than ever, I encourage Tennessee's leaders to utilize this important center. Governor Bredesen has said on many occasions we should not be satisfied until every single Tennessean who wants a job, has a job. He's also made it clear that good jobs are more than a paycheck. They represent opportunities for working Tennesseans to better provide for their families and enjoy a higher quality of life.



Our state is in a great position right now to achieve even more success in job growth and is working hard each day to aggressively support the job growth strategies of Governor Bredesen.

As we gear up for the new session, ECD's priorities include creating programs to build capacity around technology infrastructure, such

as broadband. Our state continues to transition from dial-up to broadband Internet usage, and the spike in high-speed Internet service has sparked significant growth in online banking, entertainment and commerce. I want Tennessee to be an innovation leader, and in return, show companies the advantages of relocating and expanding here.

With a better-tuned economic engine, a more competitive tool box and out-of-the-box strategies for how to use those tools effectively, we can all work together for even greater economic prosperity for our state and its citizens.



By Deb Woolley
President
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

With the legislative session still two months away, the halls are humming in the Plaza. It already is shaping up as a political, divisive year ... and with ethics legislation at the head of the list, the bickering and grandstanding will get worse.

First and foremost, there will be ethics legislation in the next session and it will probably be dealt with early in the session – setting the climate for the next five months. While, ethics remains very much an “insiders” issue, it is an issue that could well become the most important business issue in the next General Assembly.

A general public distrust of elected officials, lobbyists and big business, a lack of clear ethics rules with strong enforcement and a surprising FBI sting have all converged to create an “ethics crisis” in Tennessee. At this time, it appears that most everyone publicly involved in offering a solution believes public confidence can be restored on the backs of lobbyists and those who hire them.

The atmosphere in which legislation is being crafted is not a healthy one. The general public is not truly engaged in the debate; elected officials are hoping that regulation of lobbyists – not legislators – will prove an acceptable solution and the issue is being driven by perceptions instead of reality.

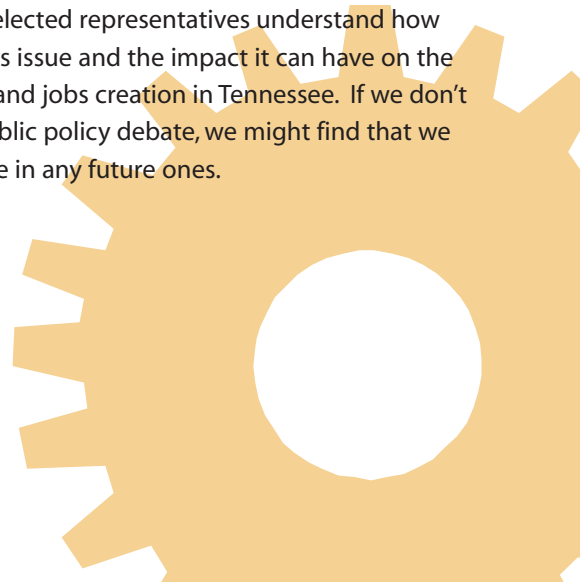
The first set of recommendations propose, among other things, that lobbyists be required to disclose payments they receive for lobbying activities and that employers or principals of lobbyists be required to disclose payments to lobbyists or payments in support of lobbyists – either in actual amounts or pre-determined ranges. In other words, any business, association or other group will have to either report publicly the salary of any employees who are registered lobbyists or the value of any private contracts with a person engaged in lobbying. While recommendations such as these would do nothing to ensure ethical behavior or to expose unethical behavior, they would extend the tentacles of government deep into private business contracts.

What they would do is discourage the involvement of businesses and trade associations in public policy. Ask yourself if any company will continue to invest in public policy if salaries and private contracts suddenly become public information. And, even more frightening, think about what a session of the General Assembly will be like when business representative are not present and trial lawyers, organized labor, taxpayer protection groups, environmentalists and other special interest groups claim the only seats at the table. How long do you think Tennessee will remain a good place to do business?

We don't need window dressings; we need meaningful legislation that sets standards for ethical practices, that requires meaningful reporting from lobbyists and legislators and that ensures the information is easily available for public scrutiny in a timely manner.

The Tennessee Chamber and the state's business community recognize the importance of providing the citizens of our state, through strong ethics rules, the assurance that government officials and lobbyists conform to high standards. We oppose, however, any requirements that would hold certain entities accountable to a different standard by making public the private financial agreements between companies and the lobbyists who represent them. It is a government intrusion into private business that serves no public purpose.

Engaging in an ethics debate is never easy. It is, however, critical that your elected representatives understand how you feel about this issue and the impact it can have on the business climate and jobs creation in Tennessee. If we don't engage in this public policy debate, we might find that we won't have a voice in any future ones.



TIDC Chooses "Volunteer of the Year"

John Hassmiller

Bridgestone Firestone La Vergne
Chairman, Rutherford County Existing Industry Council



John Hassmiller of Bridgestone Firestone La Vergne, Chairman, Rutherford County Existing Industry Council is TIDC's 2005 "Volunteer of the Year".

Every year, TIDC recognizes the Volunteer-of-the-Year. The recipient is someone who has taken time out from normal day-to-day business to be actively involved in a local economic development program during the past 12 months. This year's recipient is John Hassmiller, chairman of the Rutherford County Existing Industry Council.

Upon being appointed to the council position, Hassmiller sent out a request form to council participants for opinions on developing future programs and to establish a council board, to meet once a month. Several of the monthly topics were popular enough that Hassmiller established sub-committees for more in-depth programs. The sub-committees include RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Devices), Safety and Workers' Compensation, Training, Purchasing, Environmental and MTSU (a sub-committee where industries and Middle Tennessee State University work together).

Under the guidance of Hassmiller, the Training committee worked with the state of Tennessee to develop a \$35,000 training grant to be shared by the industries of Rutherford County. The MTSU sub-committee's activities have led to several hands-on training meetings for members.

Hassmiller also encouraged community involvement by inviting representatives from United Way, the Boys and Girls Club and Jazz Fest to meetings to talk to local companies about getting involved. Under his direction, the council expanded and continues to grow with benefits to both members and the community.

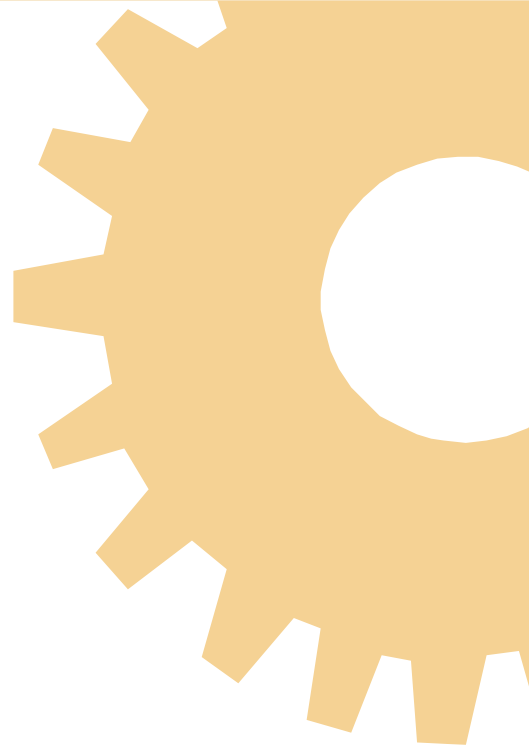
Welcome New TIDC Members

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Bradley Maul, Director of Business Development,
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