

BUSINESS IN THE HUMAN CAPITAL



Austin
Chamber of Commerce

Connecting Business.
Creating Opportunity.

Biotechnology Video Debuts At BioBash

In partnership with Workforce Solutions and production company Arrowhead Films, the Chamber debuted a Biotech Overview video, focused on the burgeoning Biotechnology & Life Sciences industry in Central Texas.

The video is one of 11 to be featured on both BioAustin.com and CoolAustinJobs.com, that focus on a variety of different jobs and companies from within the biotechnology industry, and are intended for company and talent attraction purposes, as well as to educate young people about the biotechnology field and what can be expected of entry level jobs. Representatives from Workforce Solutions and Arrowhead Films were in attendance at the 2009 BioBash event in January to present the videos.



Austin Chamber Discusses Emerging Technology at OneMedForum



The CenTex RCIC recently discussed the Texas Emerging Technology Fund, the most active early-stage, government-backed investment fund in the country, at the second Annual OneMedPlace finance conference, OneMedForum in San Francisco, CA in January. A panel discussion led by the CenTex RCIC presented and discussed the fund's innovative approach to investing in emerging companies.

Topics included the appropriate role of the government in assisting emerging companies and the broader implications on private sector venture capital, the long-term development of companies that accept government-backed investments and how other forms of government, both state and federal, can emulate this model and experience similar success.

Presenters included Susan Davenport, VP Business Retention and Expansion for the Chamber and Program Manager, CenTex RCIC; Andrew Nat, Executive Director, TX Life Science CIC; Timothy Sullivan, President and CEO, Mystic Pharmaceuticals; and Philip Ralston, CEO, MacuCLEAR Inc.

BioWare Austin Receives TWC's Employer Award of Excellence

BioWare Austin, an international video game development and production company, recently received the Employer Award of Excellence for the Capital Area region at the Texas Workforce Commission's 12th Annual Texas Workforce Conference. The award honors employers that are actively involved with their local workforce board and have made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.

BioWare joined forces with Workforce Solutions - Capital Area to explore several skills training initiatives, including new software development process and Chinese language training. These initiatives have increased BioWare employees' ability to communicate effectively with global partners, allowing them to remain globally competitive and beneficial to this industry and the Central Texas region.



News in the Austin Skies

As passenger traffic increases to record-breaking numbers with 9 million passengers in 2008, the Chamber continues to work with ABIA to increase the number of nonstop flights and new locations provided.

New air services added in 2008 were key contributors to building passenger traffic. This included seven new nonstop destinations and two new airlines for Austin.

vivaAerobus, Austin's ultra low cost carrier, has announced new nonstop flights between Austin and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico which began January 15, 2009.

Alaska Airlines has announced it will begin daily service between Austin and Seattle, WA, on August 3, 2009.

"Texas, as a whole, is one of the few economies that's performing extremely well because of the energy and technology sectors,"

-Andrew Gledhill, Moody's Economy.com (11/08)



Chamber Hosts Reception for Dean Gregory Fenves



A reception was held in November honoring the new Dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, Gregory Fenves. Approximately 80 people attended the event at Headliner's Club in downtown Austin to meet, honor and welcome Dean Fenves, who is a specialist in structural engineering and the former chairman of the civil and environmental engineering department at the University of California at Berkley. Speakers included Joe Holt, 2008 Chamber Chair, Chairman JPMorgan Chase- Austin region; Mayor Pro Team Brewster McCracken, City of Austin; and Alan Kirchhoff, Director of the Emerging Technology Fund, Office of the Governor.



Texas Emerging Technology Fund Selects New Recipients



The Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Central Texas Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (CenTex RCIC) recently announced that the State of Texas has chosen seven diverse and innovative recipients of awards funded through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF).

Faradox Energy Storage, Inc., Ironbridge Technologies, Inc. and Merkatum Corporation are the recipients of pre-seed awards in the amount of \$250,000 each. Sunrise Ridge Algae Inc. will also receive a \$250,000 award for the research, development and commercialization of environmentally friendly algae biomass technology, while StellarRay, Inc. was awarded \$750,000 for the development of new X-ray technology.

The largest awards go to NanoMedical Systems and Texas State University, receiving \$3.5 million and \$4 million respectively. NanoMedical Systems will use their \$3.5 million project award to accelerate the completion of pre-clinical testing of nanochannel drug delivery devices and Texas State University plans to utilize their \$4 million award developing the field of multifunctional materials in the San Marcos area.

Austin and Texas in the News

Austin ranks 10th in the U.S. in job creation. The Austin area added 6,200 private-sector jobs in the 12-month period between November 2007 and November 2008—the 10th biggest gain in metro employment in the country—according to figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1/09)

Austin among country's top growth centers. The 10 fastest-growing metros in the prosperous 90s have continued expanding in the present decade, despite the erratic nature of the economy. All 10 hot markets registered population gains of at least 13 percent between '00 and '07. (*Austin Business Journal*, 11/08)

Texas ties for 3rd in business location rankings. Economic development publication Site Selection magazine has ranked Texas the third best state to operate a business in its latest list. (*Site Selection*, 11/08)

Texas No. 2 in giving sales tax dollars back to retailers. Texas ranks second among states for the amount of sales tax revenue it gives back to retailers, a new national report finds. Texas accounts for \$89 million of the \$1 billion handed over by state and local governments in diversions of sales tax receipts to retailers. (Good Jobs First, 11/08)

Recent Expansions and Relocations

ArtistForce	15 jobs	relocated from Los Angeles, CA
Chatsworth Products	35 jobs 40,000 sf	Georgetown, TX
CLEARresult Consulting	30 jobs 6,500 sf	Austin, TX
El Milagro	53 jobs 80,000 sf	San Marcos, TX
H-E-B	320 jobs 392,000 sf	San Marcos, TX
HomeAway	25,500 sf	Austin, TX
Teacher Retirement System of Texas	47,063 sf	Austin, TX
TeleNetwork	200 jobs	San Marcos, TX
U.S. IRS	350 jobs 90,000 sf	Austin, TX
Setcom	22 jobs 7,500 sf	relocated from Mountain View, CA

Susan Davenport, Vice President of Business Retention and Expansion
Austin Chamber of Commerce
210 Barton Springs Road, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78704
tel: 512.322.5657 fax: 512.478.9615
email: sdavenport@austinchamber.com
www.austinchamber.com

