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Top Five Stories

from 2017 that make us *excited*
to be in Decatur-Morgan County

It is time to prepare for a new year. As a community, it is important for us to look back and reflect on a year of news and events that have brought us to where we are today. At times, the news around us is full of conflict and divisiveness, which quite often drowns out the news we should be celebrating in our community. There is so much happening in Decatur and Morgan County that show our high quality of life, and we as a community need to tell that story.

With that thought in mind, the Chamber would like to share the top five stories from 2017 that make us excited to be in Decatur-Morgan County.

A new superintendent for Decatur City Schools

In August, Dr. Michael Douglas took the lead as the new superintendent of Decatur City Schools – the largest school system and employer in Morgan County. Coming to Decatur from Oneonta, Ala., where he led their city school system for three years. Douglas quickly established himself as a community partner and leader in initiatives like the One Decatur comprehensive plan, meeting in town hall settings with members of the Decatur City Council and their constituents, and participating in the Chamber’s State of Decatur City Schools after merely two months on the job. With students being at the front of his mind, first priority, Douglas began addressing instructional challenges like tracking data and reorganizing a vertically aligned feeder system, which organizes where students will attend schools as they move through the system. Along with taking on the logistics of opening two new high schools for the 2018-2019 school year, Douglas has created an environment of community excitement as he

has transitioned into this new leadership role.

Area schools recognized for excellence

This year, each school system in Morgan County was recognized for excellence, which continues a tradition of educational achievement in our area. In the Morgan County Schools system, Priceville Elementary earned recognition as a “Lighthouse School” through the international Leader in Me program. Decatur City’s Leon Sheffield Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence – one of five in Alabama – for the second time in nine years, while Dr. Teddi Jackson, principal of Somerville Road Elementary was named the District 1 nominee for Alabama’s national Distinguished Principal Award. In Hartselle, Crestline Elementary, F.E. Burleson Elementary, and Hartselle High School earned the Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence status. Also in Decatur City, the system was recognized as the most diverse system in the State of Alabama by niche.com after Austin High was ranked number two and Decatur High was ranked number seven in school diversity rankings. State, national, and international recognition for our systems shows the strength of our schools and how our educators are creating opportunities to prepare the next generation of leaders and learners.

Daikin gives \$200,000 for community development projects

In May, Daikin America announced plans to donate \$200,000 to community development and beautification projects in Morgan County. From that gift, the City of Decatur received \$100,000 for much needed renovations to the historic marquee of the Princess Theater Center for the Performing Arts in downtown, a location listed on the National

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Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce

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The Chamber Board

Executive Committee

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Amanda Parker, DVM, Animal Tracks Veterinary Hospital

Raul Piers, First Commercial Bank
Yvette Rice, LLVE, Inc.

Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., Decatur Morgan Hospital

Kelly Thomas, Courtyard by Marriott (President, Decatur Jaycees)

Terry White, Edward Jones

Joseph Wynn, Wear, Howell, Strickland, Quinn & Law, LLC

Rhonda Peebles, Progress Bank (President, Decatur Women's Chamber)

Leon Sheffield recognized as National Blue Ribbon School



The Chamber's Board of Directors passed a resolution congratulating the school on their hard work and accomplishments, which was presented to principal David Kross during the event by Board Chair Patrick Johnson.

On Nov. 17, the Chamber was honored to participate in celebrating the students, teachers and administrators of Leon Sheffield Magnet School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education - one of five schools in the state. The Chamber's Board of Directors passed a resolution congratulating the school on their hard work and accomplishments, which was presented during the event by Board Chair Patrick Johnson. More than 400 students, teachers, parents and administrators attended the assembly to celebrate the school's hard work and

achievements. The Chamber is proud of the school's work and looks forward to their continued success.

Text of the Chamber resolution:

"WHEREAS, the mission of the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce is formed to advance the civic, commercial, environmental, educational and cultural interest of the City of Decatur and Morgan County; and

WHEREAS, the National Blue Ribbon Program is a United States Government program created in 1982 to honor schools which have achieved high levels of performance and made significant improvement in closing the achievement gap in schools where at least 40% of the student population is classified as disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, only four elementary schools in the state of Alabama have been designated as Exemplary High Performing schools; and

WHEREAS, Leon Sheffield Magnet Elementary School has been designated a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School,



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize and honor Leon Sheffield Magnet Elementary School for bringing honor to our community."

continued on page 6

Leon Sheffield *continued*



More than 400 people attended the Leon Sheffield Magnet School National Blue Ribbon recognition event.



Centerstage, a choir of Leon Sheffield students, performed during the Leon Sheffield Magnet School National Blue Ribbon recognition event.



Cassandra Ayers, former member of the Leon Sheffield team, performed during the Leon Sheffield Magnet School National Blue Ribbon recognition event.



Decatur City Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Douglas spoke briefly during the Leon Sheffield Magnet School National Blue Ribbon recognition event.

Member appreciation event an afternoon “fiesta”



More than 175 people attended the Chamber’s annual Member Appreciation event.

On Nov. 3, the Chamber building was transformed into a fiesta environment to celebrate the most important part of our Chamber: our members. The annual Member Appreciation event, made possible by the generosity of silver sponsors **Pepsi of Decatur** and **The Terrace at Priceville**, was a “thank you” to our members and partners for collaborating on the work the Chamber does to sustain our area’s high quality of life and make Decatur-Morgan County a business-friendly environment. Thanks to the more than 175 people who attended the come-and-go event. The Chamber looks forward to another year ahead of working to make our community even stronger!



The Chamber’s annual Member Appreciation event was made possible by silver sponsors Pepsi of Decatur and The Terrace at Priceville



Members from across north Alabama visited the Chamber during the annual Member Appreciation event.



With more than 850 member businesses, non-profits, partners and individuals, the work the Chamber happens only because of the faithfulness and commitment of men and women who want a strong Decatur-Morgan County. We are thankful for their dedication to our work!



Save the Date!

Chamber closed for the Christmas holiday
Monday, Dec. 25

Chamber closed for the New Year's holiday
Monday, Jan. 1

State of Healthcare
Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 a.m.
The Doubletree by Hilton Decatur Riverfront
Presented by Decatur Morgan Hospital

Montgomery Public Policy Trip
Tuesday-Wednesday, March 13-14

Washington D.C. Public Policy Trip
Sunday-Tuesday, April 15-17

(other events to be announced
once they are confirmed)

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Douglas excited about future of Decatur City Schools



More than 150 educators, business leaders and community advocates attended the Chamber's annual State of Decatur City Schools.



Dr. Michael Douglas, superintendent of Decatur City Schools for less than two months, spoke during the Chamber's annual State of Decatur City Schools address of his excitement of leading the system in the years to come.



On Oct. 17, the Chamber welcomed newly minted Decatur City Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Douglas to the annual State of Schools Address, presented by **BBVA Compass of Decatur** and hosted by **Calvary Assembly Epicenter**. More than 150 members of the education, business and non-profit communities listened to Dr. Douglas discuss student and school achievement, a capital projects update and strategies for the future of the system. The Chamber is thankful for the relationship it has with our schools and looks forward to even greater collaboration ahead in preparing our future leaders in the workforce.

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During the Chamber's annual State of Decatur City Schools address, Superintendent Dr. Michael Douglas discussed several areas of the system he plans to address, including instructional plans and the system's feeder patterns.

Business, community and education leaders from across Morgan County attended the Chamber's annual State of Morgan County Schools address.

New Members

We thank the following businesses and organizations who made new commitments to our area by their investment in the Chamber. We look forward to serving you!

Bendall's Pharmacy, Inc.

BRPH

David Burt Financial Solutions

Driven Solutions, LLC

Face to Face Marketing

First Commercial Bank

GrubSouth

IMS, Inc.

Jubilee Cold Brew by Clover Coffee
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Lifepoint Church

Morgan County/Decatur Farmers
Market

Signs of the South

Such-n-Such

The Pilot Club of Decatur



Top Five Stories continued

Historic Registry. The Morgan County Commission, in conjunction with Morgan County Schools, are planning to build a baseball field located on the campus of Sparkman School in Hartselle for children with special needs to participate in sports and physical education classes. Daikin's generosity spurred collaboration between private industry, non-profits, government and school systems where thousands will benefit in our community.

Grocery stores drive development

During the year, two grocery stores announced new locations in Decatur that will both serve growing population areas while spurring other retail development options for our community. Lidl, a German-based grocer with 10,000 locations in 27 countries around the world, announced in September that Decatur would serve as their first Alabama location as the company opens their second round of stores in the United States. Located on the Beltline, Lidl developers noted the area's high traffic count and the Highway 67 "retail corridor" as appealing qualities to build on the former Calvary Assembly Church property.

In March, Publix announced a second store to serve as the anchor tenant in the Point Mallard Centre development located at the intersection of Highway 67 and Indian Hills Road. The development, which will feature outparcels as well as other adjacent retail space, will serve the Burningtrees Mountain area of the city while capturing traffic from Interstate 65 and the Priceville community. Both developments show confidence in a growing local economy and serve as additional opportunities for Decatur-Morgan County residents to shop locally and help grow our tax base.

Beautification and community clean-up efforts

This year a particular focus on an initiative to spend more resources and attention on cleaning up the community and recognizing its impact on our quality of life has made a significant impact. As an issue addressed in the One Decatur comprehensive plan for the city, interest is growing from residents for better utilization of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and our natural resources. In the fall,

a collaboration of city departments and non-profit partners, as well as private investors, began the clearing and cleaning of the west boundary of the Refuge along Country Club Road, which will later feature walking and biking trails. Later, Dry Branch Creek in northwest Decatur was cleaned in areas adjacent to Decatur Cemetery. In early 2018, other areas of the city will be targeted for clean-up, including tributaries along the Tennessee River. With a long list of community partners taking an active role – both with volunteer hours and financial resources – in beautification, Decatur's spirit of putting our best foot forward can be seen in "first impression" opportunities by visitors and potential new residents. Also, the campaign is a reminder to long-time residents about the beauty all around us in the River City. In both cases, it's an increased quality of life and an investment in our city with great returns!

Renewing Members

The Chamber would like to thank the following members who reinvested in Decatur and Morgan County by renewing their Chamber membership.

1st Impression Cleaning Services
Alabama Credit Union
Amanda G. Scott - Revenue Commissioner
American National Insurance Webb Awtrey Agency
BMSI
Burningtree Country Club
CashMaster
Cerro Wire, LLC
City Cafe
Clinic for Women, PA
Cornerstone Baptist Church / Cornerstone Christian School
Corporate Billing, LLC
Country Paradise
Courtyard by Marriott
Decatur Comprehensive Dentistry
Decatur Industrial Supply
Decatur Jaycees
Decatur Mall
Decatur Optical Dispensary
Decatur Women's Chamber of Commerce
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Decatur Riverfront
Drake and Wallace Dentistry

Eddy's Auto Parts
Edward Jones
Elder Law Firm of Tom Minertree
Electronic Express
EvaBank
F1 Solutions, Inc.
Firehouse Subs
First Baptist Church
First South Farm Credit
Fish Window Cleaning
Fredricks Outdoor
Friends of the Joe Wheeler Home Foundation
Frost Construction & Custom Homes, Inc.
Goodwyn, Mills, & Cawood, Inc.
Greater Morgan County Builders Association
GSE, Inc.
H. R. Moore Company, Inc.
Hampton Inn
Hardy Chiropractic
Harris, Caddell, & Shanks, PC
HealthSpring
Home Pest Control
HTI General Contractors
J. Felton Davenport, DMD

Jackson Plumbing Heating & Cooling
Jamie Hood Jewelers, Inc.
Julia's Pools
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
Lyons HR, Inc.
Marketing Works
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North Alabama Glass Co., Inc.
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Party Central
Pill Box Pharmacy
PNC Bank
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Strategic Systems, Inc.
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TriGreen, LLC
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Veterinary Regional Referral Hospital
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Hopkins talks college and career readiness at State of Morgan County Schools address



More than 150 people attended the Chamber's annual State of Morgan County Schools address, presented by the Morgan County Commission and hosted by Decatur Baptist Church.



Dr. Dee Fowler, chief of staff for the Alabama State Department of Education, introduced Superintendent Bill J. Hopkins, Jr., during the Chamber's annual State of Morgan County Schools address.

On Nov. 16, the Chamber hosted its annual State of Morgan County Schools address, featuring Superintendent Bill J. Hopkins, Jr.. During the hour-long event, Mr. Hopkins shared with the more than 150 in attendance the system's work and accomplishments on making sure each child is college and career ready once they graduate. This work includes leadership development, career planning, AP access, STEM programming and much more. The event was presented by the **Morgan County Commission**, along with venue sponsor **Decatur Baptist Church**. We are thankful for the healthy and encouraging relationship with Morgan County Schools, and look forward to more work ahead preparing the next generation of leaders and learners.



Students from Morgan County Schools took part in the Chamber's annual address to show the different tools the system uses to make each student college and career ready once they graduate.

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Superintendent Bill J. Hopkins, Jr. shared his thoughts on the system during the Chamber's annual State of Morgan County Schools address.



Leadership programming continues a busy fall schedule



Excellence participants received a briefing on our court system from District Judge Shelly Waters during October's session focusing on law and public safety.

Excellence participants took part in a mock court trial during their October session focusing on law and public safety.

The Chamber's three leadership and workforce programs – Excellence, Edge and Equip – continue their busy schedules focusing on topics that connect each of us in our community.

Excellence, the Chamber's program for career professionals met in October to focus on law, order and public safety. Early in the day, the group was briefed by several Morgan County judges on their jurisdiction and participated in a mock trial. Class members served as judges, jury, prosecution and defense teams. Following lunch at the courthouse, the group traveled to the Decatur Fire Training Center in the Flint community for briefings and demonstrations from Decatur Police Department Chief Nate Allen and Fire Chief Tony Grande about the work of public safety officers in our community. The November Excellence program focused on education. After starting the day at the State of Morgan County Schools address and breakfast, the group traveled to Hartselle for a tour of the high school and a visit with Hartselle City Schools Superintendent Dr. Dee Dee Jones, stopped at Leon Sheffield Elementary Magnet School in Decatur for a tour from student ambassadors, and lunch at Decatur Heritage Christian

Academy. Following lunch, which featured Dr. Yvette Rice of LLVE, LLC and her "Dream Challenge" presentation, the group had a "windshield" tour of Calhoun Community College and a walking tour of the Alabama Center for the Arts from Director Jennifer Bunnell – an Excellence in Leadership alumnus. Later in the day, students and the superintendents from our three school systems – Jones, Dr. Michael Douglas from Decatur City Schools, and Bill J. Hopkins, Jr., from Morgan County Schools – took part in a question and answer session focusing on goals for each system, the

role of workforce development in curriculums, leadership training and how they arrived as leaders in education. We are thankful for each participant's passion for education and developing young people, and we look forward to more partnerships together in the future. Excellence is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**.

Edge, The Chamber's leadership program for 10th and 11th graders, met in November at Promise Land Church in Hartselle to participate in the Simulated Society - or SimSoc - exercise. SimSoc is a "game" used



In November, as part of their session focusing on education, students toured the Alabama Center for the Arts, a collaboration between Athens State University and Calhoun Community College.

Leadership continued



Jennifer Bunnell, director of the Alabama Center for the Arts, gave Excellence participants a tour of Phase II of the campus, which features a studio theater.



Education day for Excellence featured a Q&A panel with the three superintendents in Morgan County: (L-R) Dr. Michael Douglas from Decatur City Schools; Mr. Bill J. Hopkins from Morgan County Schools; and Dr. Dee Dee Jones from Hartselle City Schools.

by groups to teach various aspects of sociology, political science and communications skills. The exercise provides a way for participants to better understand the problems of governing in a society. Participants navigate issues including economic inequality, justice, diversity, trust, power dynamics, and leadership while dealing with topics such as labor-management relations, political turmoil and natural disasters. The goal of SimSoc is to bring a deeper understanding to everyday experiences as well as social and organizational theory. Edge is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**, along with SimSoc day sponsor **Indorama Ventures**.

In October, the class of 23 eighth graders taking part in Equip Leadership started their day at Decatur Utilities to discuss careers in the utility industry, including linemen, positions, gas, sewer and wastewater. Later in the morning, the group toured DU's Water Treatment Plant on Highway 20. Before lunch, Equip visited Calhoun Community College for a campus tour and briefing from their team of career coaches. After lunch on campus, the group returned to the Chamber for group activities focused

on improving "soft skills" needed in the workplace. In mid-November, the Equip class gathered again and visited Valley Rubber in Falkville to discuss careers in manufacturing and fabrication. Later in the day, Dr. Amanda Parker of Animal Tracks Vet Clinic in Decatur welcomed the group to discuss animal care in a clinical environment. After lunch, Master Sergeant Robert Cornett of the Alabama Army National Guard visited with the students to discuss the wide range of technical careers in the Guard, especially in the fields of science, research, medical care and engineering. Equip is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**, along with October session sponsor **Indorama Ventures**.



Students taking part in SimSoc are broken up in different color-coded regions to learn about class structure, economics and sociology.



Students took part in SimSoc, an exercise that examines poverty, governance and communication inside a closed community.



Master Sgt. Robert Cornett of the Alabama Army National Guard described different career paths in the military during the November gathering of Equip.



More than 20 eighth graders from across Morgan County are in this fall session of Equip.

**Excellence, Edge and Equip
Presenting Sponsor**



Chamber takes “field trip” to Tuscaloosa to discuss regional career tech center



More than 25 business and education leaders traveled to Tuscaloosa in October to visit their area’s Career & Technology Academy.

During the second week of October, a group of education, business, non-profit and Chamber leaders took a “field trip” to the Tuscaloosa Career & Technology Academy to discuss with local leaders the positive impact the center has on the area’s workforce development efforts and whether a similar regional facility could be a benefit to our area. Conversations and continued partnerships around this topic will continue, as the Chamber trip provided a starting point for determining the feasibility of a similar facility in Morgan County. The trip was presented by **Contractor Service & Fabrication, Inc.**, of Decatur.

Endless Opportunities two-day expands for greater engagement



Attendees had the chance during Endless Opportunities to experience hands-on training they would have in the skilled trade fields like welding.



Manufacturing and assembly exhibitors like GE had hands-on activities and games for the nearly 3,000 Endless Opportunities attendees.

On Oct. 26-27, nearly 3,000 eighth graders from across Morgan, Lawrence and Limestone Counties visited Ingalls Harbor Pavilion in Decatur for Endless Opportunities – an annual joint venture between the Decatur Morgan County Chamber, the Morgan County Economic Development Association and the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce.

Presented by **3M Decatur**, the hands-on expo gave students the chance to explore career opportunities in fields they one day may work. Professionals from each area engaged students in activities explaining how careers in each area are developed and how to prepare for each field of study. The vision for the event is after attending the expo, students are better equipped to complete their four year

plan, now part of each student's high school requirements. Day one featured students from private schools and students from Morgan County Schools, Decatur City Schools and Hartselle City Schools systems, while day two welcomed students from Lawrence County Schools, Limestone County Schools and Athens City Schools.

continued on page 18



Nearly 3,000 eighth graders took part in Endless Opportunities and visited booth from exhibitors like United Launch Alliance.

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Endless Opportunities continued



Basics in electrical systems were on full display for the nearly 3,000 Endless Opportunities attendees.



Students from across the region had the chance to visit with more than 20 exhibitors from a variety of fields during the annual Endless Opportunities event.

Support for the event was also made possible by corporate sponsors **Ascend Performance Materials, Calhoun Community College, Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA LLC, J.M. Smucker Company, Nucor Steel Decatur, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Robin Rents, LLC, and United Launch Alliance.**

Presenting Sponsor



YP-Junior Chamber social visits The RailYard



The Chamber's Young Professionals (YP) group and the Junior Chamber gathered in November for an after-hours networking social in downtown. Presented and hosted by The RailYard, the event welcomed more than 45 during the open house event. We are thankful for the generosity and hospitality of The RailYard staff for hosting another great event.

Presenting Sponsor



Fall Golf Classic continues tradition of networking, perfect weather



On Oct. 13, the Chamber held our annual Fall Golf Classic, presented by **Valley Budweiser**, along with gold sponsors **Window World of Huntsville** and **Burningtree Country Club**. More than 120 golfers took part in the day-long event, and we are thankful for everyone who joined us for this great networking event.

Presenting Sponsor



Morning A Flight

1st

58 - Cintas

Travis Womack
John Wynn
Jon Anderson
Jeff Davis

2nd

58 - 3M

Kyle Taggert
Steve Johnson
Marc Wallace
Shannon McCormick

Morning B Flight

1st

68 - United Launch Alliance

Greg Richardson
Jason Conley
Shannon Carlton
Todd Rose

2nd

69 - Morgan County Commission

Ray Long
Jeff Clark
Randy Vest
Darren Tucker

Closest to the pin winner

Todd Schrimsher

Longest drive winner

Kyle Taggert

Afternoon A Flight

1st

52 - Wilson Machine

Nick Sparks
Erik Aviles
Ray Brown
Sam Murphy

2nd

55 - Fite Building

J. Robert Fite
Chuck Reep
Bryan Askew
Mark Hightower

Afternoon B Flight

1st

67 - Decatur Morgan County Chamber

John Seymour
Jeremy Seymour
Rick Roden
Allen Roden

2nd

67 - I.C.E.

Russell Casey
Austin Smith
Justin Bedwell
Jeremy Latham

Closest to the pin winner

Buddy Carden

Longest drive winner

Sam Murphy

Networking events continue to connect community leaders



City Center Village, located on Bank Street in downtown Decatur, hosted the October networking event, Coffee & Cards.

October and November featured two morning events that welcomed more than 100 members combined to connect and network in our community. On Oct. 24, our friends at **City Center Village** in Decatur hosted Coffee & Cards at their Bank Street NE location in downtown, while on Nov. 14, our friends at **Alabama Credit Union** did the same at their Sixth Ave. branch location. Networking opportunities are a member benefit with the Chamber, and we encourage our members to take advantage of the opportunity. A healthy business community is built on developing relationships in our area, and we're thankful for the hospitality of City Center Village and Alabama Credit Union to help make events like these possible.



Thanks to member City Center Village of Decatur for hosting nearly 50 people at our October networking event.

October Presenting Sponsor



November Presenting Sponsor



Nearly 50 people attended the November Coffee & Cards networking event, hosted by Alabama Credit Union.



The Chamber is thankful for the hospitality of Alabama Credit Union for hosting the November networking event, Coffee & Cards.

Diversity, inclusion good for business affirms local workforce professional



More than 30 business and community leaders attended the Chamber's Breakfast & Biz development session, presented by Redstone Federal Credit Union.

On Nov. 30, Mary Ila Ward, president of Horizon Point Consulting, Inc. of Decatur, discussed what diversity and inclusion really is, the business case for diversity and inclusion, and how to foster diversity and inclusion in your workplace. The Breakfast & Biz business development session, hosted by The Magnolia Room in downtown Decatur, presented by **Redstone Federal Credit Union** with breakfast made possible by **Morningside of Decatur**, served as an opportunity to discuss the benefits of diversity of thought, work/life experience, race, gender, education, age and the benefits of fostering a workplace environment where differences are valued.

Ward, who has a rich history of working with businesses around the world to help implement diversity programming and improve their organization's business culture, involved the audience of more than 30 local business owners and leaders in several activities to highlight key issues related to diversity and inclusion. One activity, known as the "Privilege Walk," included a group of seven attendees standing in a line and moved forwards or backwards based on their answers to life experience questions asked during the exercise. The end result showed how issues like having access to transportation, a two-parent household, English as a second language, healthcare availability and much more impact one's ability to achieve success.

We are thankful for everyone who attended Breakfast & Biz, which is an ongoing business development training and networking opportunity for our local business partners. Look for the next session in winter 2018.



Mary Ila Ward, president of Horizon Point Consulting, Inc. of Decatur, discussed the business case for diversity and inclusion at the November gathering of Breakfast & Biz.

Presenting Sponsor



Breakfast Sponsor

**MORNINGSIDE
OF DECATUR**

YP Leadership Luncheon features networking strategies



More than 40 people turned out to hear from Claire Geno during the October YP Leadership Luncheon, presented by Ascend Performance Materials.



Claire Geno, business development representative for Abacus IT Solutions, spoke during the October gathering of the Chamber's YP Leadership Luncheon.



Claire Geno of Abacas IT Solutions spoke to more than 40 people during the Chamber's YP Leadership Luncheon.

On Oct. 31, more than 40 young professionals gathered at Community Action Partnership of North Alabama for the Chamber's bi-monthly YP Leadership Luncheon series, presented by Ascend Performance Materials of Decatur. Keynote speaker Claire Geno - business development representative for Abacus IT Solutions in Birmingham - discussed strategies and techniques for effective career networking. Geno shared stories of her own experience coupled with "lessons learned" from mentors to focus on how to connect with your community. The Chamber is thankful for her insight and her expertise in a field vital to young professionals looking to develop their careers.

Presenting Sponsor



Happy Holidays

from all of us
to you



Published for the Decatur-Morgan County
Chamber of Commerce by
Tennessee Valley Printing Company, Inc.
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