In the past there were two chartered organizations operating within Obion County with the responsibility of generating new growth in the areas of Tourism, Housing, Commercial, and Industrial Development (The Obion County Chamber of Commerce since 1922 and the Obion County Industrial Development Corporation since 1987). In many instances these agencies encountered duplication in both program delivery and expenditure. In an effort to improve efficiency in programmatic and budgetary areas, the two agencies formed the "Obion County Joint Economic Development Council" (JEDC) in early 2004.

The JEDC acts as the administrative organization of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and the Obion County Industrial Development Corporation. The JEDC’s overall objective is to keep abreast of municipal and county government activities and legislation dealing with commerce or infrastructure and changes in the law that will affect retail or industry.

Chamber Membership:
- Business Makers
- Business After-Hours
- Breakfast with the President
- 12@12
- Lunch-N-Learns
- Annual Banquet
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Member Visits
- Recruit Volunteers
- Recruit New Members
- Ambassador Program

Retail Recruitment and Retention:
- Maintain Retail Marketing Brochure
- Keep inventory list of buildings and land
- End retail trade shows
- Partner with TVA and West TN Retail Alliance

Expiring Industry Retention:
- Host Industry Roundtable Meetings
- Expanding Industry Visits
- Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament
- Obion County Industrial Training Center
- Workforce Development

Industrial Recruitment:
- Market expiring industrial buildings and property
- Complete Requests for Information (RFI’s) from prospects, site consultants, State of TN, TVA, West TN Industrial Association

Tourism:
- Discovery Park of America
- Mississippi River Corridor
- Great River Road Trail
- Reelfoot Lake Tourism

Public Relations:
- Distribute Obion County Guides and Maps
- Website and Newsletter
- Resource kiosk displaying numerous brochures from Chamber members
For the JEDC to become and remain an effective resource and advocate for the local community, the organization, its staff, and Board of Directors, we must establish and maintain an effective working relationship with the elected officials at the local, regional, state and federal levels. In addition, strong ties must be formed with regional, state and federal agency personnel to ensure the strongest advocacy possible for the local community. Active liaison activities between these groups is essential for success and is an ongoing integral part of the JEDC work scope. All state and federal agencies, private sector business development organizations, as well as regional advocacy groups distribute information to their membership and to the general population through regular and annual seminars and conferences. It is essential that JEDC attend all such events to keep abreast of new information program changes that will affect funds delivery or impact local business, and to maintain a strong relationship with service providers.

- Site Selector Guild
- KY TN Retail Conference
- SEDC Conferences
- MidSouth ED Summit
- TEDC Conference
- TCCE Conference
- CO.STARTERS Course
- OC Health Council Meetings
- OC Interagency Council Meetings

**Community Participation:**

- Adult Leadership Obion County Board of Directors
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Patient/Advisory Council
- Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors
- CornFest Board of Directors
- Discovery Park of America Board of Directors
- Hometown Walk of Hope Committee
- Union City Main Street Board of Directors
- WestStar Alumni Council Member
- TN Promise Mentor Program
- MS River Corridor Board of Directors
- NWTN Workforce Board
- NWTN Economic Development Committee

**Organizational Memberships:**

- International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
- International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
- Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC)
- Tennessee Economic Development Council (TEDC)
- Tennessee Economic Partnership (TEP)
- Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives (TCCE)
- West Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives (WTCE)
- West Tennessee Industrial Association (WTIA)
- West Tennessee Retail Alliance (WTRA)
- Northwest TN Regional Economic Development Group
2015-2016 CHAMBER BOARD
Jo Ann Speer-Past President, ESRA
Donnie Walton-Tennessee College of Applied Technology
Judy Barker, Attorney-at-Law
Donny Bearden, AmeriClear Rx
Jennifer Eason, Reelfoot Bank
Jim Cheatham, Universal Contractors
Lisa Isbell, Simmons Bank
Billy Jack Cranford, City of Union City
Jim Douglas, City of Union City
Hadley Malone, Obion County Farm Bureau
Trent Ams, Union City Carpet Center
Danny Patterson, Cox Oil Company
Lesley Anderson, Williams Sausage
Kerry Speer, Union City Daily Messenger
Kyle Baggett, First Citizens National Bank
Skipper Bondurant, St. Mary Memorial Hospital
Kim Warr, Center Point Business Solutions

2015-2016 CHAMBER AMBASSADORS
Pictured: Tim York, Ma Sanner, Du n McBride, Cassie Hickey, John Fry, Bradley Zill, Donnie Johnson, Bobie Collins, Tracy Boucher, Jean eDavis, Allison Aumiller, Amber Armour, Sara Boyd, Lorraine Gos Bandi Wyrick, Amy Keathley, Emily Billingsley, Caitlyn Landry, Barbie Hardy
Not Pictured: Heather Waggoner, Bo Pate, Mikki McLeary, Emily Hall, Debbie Ams, Charlene Burpo

Amber Jones, Chamber President 2015-2016 Commercial Bank
Greg Dozier, Vice President 2015-2016 Leaders Credit Union
In January, Lindsay and Kate met with Melissa Hassell and Chuck Maquis with TVA as well as Jim Blankenship from West Tennessee Industrial Association. The group discussed the retail outlook for 2015 and local initiatives to strengthen existing retail as well as recruit new business.
2015
RIBBON CUTTINGS

Brundige & Moore Insurance
Carey Counseling Center
Center Stage School of Dance
Comprehensive Pain Specialists
Doctor’s Clinic
Foxy Zazz
Friends of Reelfoot Lake State Park
Hippy Fox

InsWoWioWnal Casework IncorporaWioWn
Jerry Ward Autoplex
Obion County Fair AssociaWioWn
Obion Co. Public Library Amphitheater
Riley’s Graphics
ScarleW Rain, LLC
Simple Weddings & PhoWtophography
Tennessee NaWioal Guard
The Gallery Showroom
The StaWioBurger Co.
TLM Associates, Inc.
Union City Forkli
Zaxby’s
January
Topic: "Taxes"
Speaker: Phillip Creswell
Sponsor: ATA

March
Topic: "How Pharmacy Benefits Your Bottom Line"
Speaker: Donny Bearden, Ma Sanner, Jason Kizer
Sponsor: AmeriClear Rx

April
Topic: "Regions At Work Employer Presentation"
Speaker: Lance Young & Brandi Mitchell
Sponsor: Regions Bank

May
Topic: “Adult Leadership Obion County”
Speaker: Past and Present Class Members
Sponsor: Leaders Credit Union

June
Topic: “Obion County Fair”
Speaker: Obion County Fair Board Members
Sponsor: Obion County Fair Association

July
Topic: "How to choose a Marketing Designer"
Speaker: Lane Last
Sponsor: Evere-Stewart Regional Airport

August
Topic: "Career Center Services"
Speaker: Ginger Powell and Lindsey Hegler
Sponsor: Dyersburg State Community College

September
Topic: "West Tennessee Tourism"
Speaker: Marty Marbry
Sponsor: Red River Waste Solutions

October
Topic: "Human Resources"
Speaker: Kim Wals
Sponsor: Center Point Business Solutions

November
Topic: "Healthcare Advancement Workshop"
Speaker: Team at Golden Living Center
Sponsor: Obion County Farm Bureau

December
Topic: “Baptist Memorial Hospital Advancements”
Speaker: Skipper Bondurant
Sponsor: Baptist Memorial Hospital
Breakfast with the President

Breakfast with the President is designed to get our new chamber members engaged, involved and acquainted with each other as well as our chamber president and board. We provide a relaxed and casual environment for each new business to introduce themselves and network. Each business is encouraged to tell us a fun fact we already know about their business but also, a fun fact we do not know about their business.

12@12 Program

The 12@12 Program is a new program implemented in 2015. With the 12@12 program, there is no formal outline for the conversation, so it is up to our members to drive the conversation based on what they are passionate about, any questions that need answers to and how to grow their chamber involvement.
The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED Center), housing the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), was established to meet the needs of existing and potential business owners through one-on-one consultations and interactive training programs. The Obion County JEDC has a strong partnership with the REED Center. In 2015, the REED Center hosted a Lunch N Learn with Regions Bank in conjunction with the Obion County Chamber of Commerce.

The UT Martin REED Center/TSBDC counseled 19 Obion County residents in 2015 for a total of 84.25 hours, an average of 4.43 hours per client. From those clients, 4 businesses were opened in Obion County. The UT Martin REED Center/TSBDC also nominated Final Flight Outfitters for the Tennessee Family Owned Small Business of the Year, and Final Flight was named the winner of this award. Pictured: Brother & Owners Jon Ed Powers, Tripp Powers and Kelley Powers.

Main Street Union City is a nonprofit organization composed of dedicated citizens, business owners and other friends of Obion County and Union City who recognize the role a vital downtown plays in preserving and furthering our community’s identity, spirit and economy.

Main Street Union City is a National and State Main Street organization that works with economic development and local civic groups and also directs the Adult Leadership Obion County program.

Visit www.obioncountyleadership.com to see what our leaders are up to.
ANNUAL JEDC BANQUET WINNERS

Thank you to our sponsors!

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
Commercial Bank
Union City Insurance
White & Associates

GOLD SPONSORS:
ATMOS Energy
Don Sol Mexican Grill
First Citizens National Bank
Jerry Ward Autoplex
Leaders Credit Union
Reelfoot Bank

BRONZE SPONSOR:
Mobile National

2015 "You Made it Happen" Award: Mike Cox, Li le General Convenience Stores

2015 Board Member of the Year: Judy Barker

2015 Ambassador of the Year: Du n McBride
ANNUAL JEDC BANQUET WINNERS

2015 Volunteer of the Year: Lolly Bearden

2015 Small Business of the Year: Kizer Pharmacy

2015 Business Partner of the Year: Goodwill CS

2015 Business of the Year: Final Flight Ou i ers

2015 Industry of the Year: Bap st Memorial Hospital

2014-2015 Past President: Jo Ann Speer
Ji’y Steamer
Celebrates 75 years!

Abernathy’s Harley Davidson
Celebrates 60 years!

Bap’st Memorial Hospital
Celebrates 65 years!
TCAT Newbern Celebrates 50 years!

Steve’s Jewelers Celebrates 22 years!

HealthQuest Celebrates 20 years!

Lowrance Sound Celebrates 40 years!

The Obion County Chamber congratulates all of our businesses and industries who have celebrated significant anniversaries in the year 2015! We wish you many more years of success and appreciate all of the support you show towards the Obion County Chamber!

-Katie Keathley and Lindsay Frilling
Discovery Park of America
Obion County Cruise-In
Obion County CornFest
Obion County Fair
OC Hometown Walk of Hope
Reelfoot Lake
Mississippi River Corridor
Great River Road Trail
Kenton White Squirrel Festival
White Squirrel Winery
Taste of Ken-Tenn
Troy Pecan Festival
Banana Festival
Numerous Sports Tournaments
Agriculture/Animal Shows

Take a walk in Union City’s revitalized downtown and discover more about the area in its restaurants, shops and historic landmarks including the 1939 Obion County Courthouse and the 1927 Capitol Theatre, home to the Masquerade Theatre Company.
This year was our fourth annual Obion County Cruise-In featuring nearly 80 antique and show cars, motorcycles, and tractors in downtown Union City. The Obion County Cruise-In was a great add on to Obion County’s Cornfest “Day in the Park” happening during the month of September.

www.obioncountycornfest.com
We had a GREAT golf tournament this year with 25 teams of four playing. Because of our sponsors, we were able to give over $2500 of door prizes away! We hope you will join us next year as we plan to make it bigger and better every year!

**First Place Winner:** Union City Insurance  
**Second Place Winner:** 5 Seasons Men’s Shop  
**Third Place Winner:** Gibson Electric

Thank you to our sponsors!

- Commercial Bank  
- Kohler  
- Darling Ingredients  
- First Citizens National Bank  
- Simmons Bank  
- Gibson Electric  
- Hamilton-Ryker  
- Hilliard Lyons  
- Reelfoot Bank  
- Republic Services  
- Tyson Foods  
- Union City Carpet Center  
- Waymac  
- ATMOS Energy  
- Union City Electric System  
- TLM Associates  
- Wynridge Golf Course
TNAchieves Mentor Lindsay Frilling addressed a group of TN Promise students at Dyersburg State's Bridge Program on Interview Preparation and Tips. The Summer Bridge Program is a FREE three-week program designed to help incoming students start school on a more college-ready level, both academically and socially. At the end of the program, students will have a chance to test out of certain developmental courses at the community college they plan to attend.

Kaye Keathley spoke at CO.STARTERS about new businesses taking their business to the next level by getting involved within the community. The Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC) of Marion, TN, runs CO.STARTERS, a nationally renowned six-week business development program that helps aspiring entrepreneurs put ideas into action and take the necessary steps in building a sustainable small business.

Lindsay Frilling was recognized as one of West Tennessee’s Up-And-Comer Forty Under 40 by The Jackson Sun and Jackson Chamber. Nominees were chosen for making significant contributions to their industries, their companies or who are viewed in the community and have a heart and drive to make West Tennessee a better place. To be considered, candidates must be 39 years old or younger, live or work in West Tennessee outside of Shelby County, serve as a role model to others in their profession or in the community, and display creativity and innovation and contributes these talents to the growth of their profession or community.
Obion County Adult Leadership
Legislative Day in Nashville

"Legislative Day in Nashville was very informative. As a leadership group, we were able to meet and have lunch with Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Senator John Stevens, and State Representatives Bill Sanderson and Andy Holt. They were very gracious in their hospitality and answered all our questions. The day was filled with a tour of the capital and sitting in on hearings pertaining to certain bills. All in all, it was a great day and a different perspective of our leaders and the hard work they put in every day."

~David Keeling, Class Member 2014-2015
There was a sense of unity this past year in the Twin Cities. Community leaders and residents representing two cities, two counties, and two states came together midday to celebrate the opening of South Fulton’s park - Unity Park. A large crowd gathered under sunny skies in front of a pavilion stage at the new park on East State Line as South Fulton Mayor Ed Campbell and park benefactor Jeff Campbell officially dedicated the recreational area.

In June of 2015 the Obion County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Legislative Breakfast. Senator John Stevens, Representative Andy Holt, and Representative Bill Sanderson shared updates on the recent legislative session, which covered many topics from transportation to education to jobs and the economy.
Governor Haslam, Commissioner Boyd Announce
Ins\textsuperscript{t}itional Casework, Inc to Expand Current Operations in Tennessee

NASHVILLE-Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd along with Ins\textsuperscript{t}itional Casework Inc. (ICI) officials announced the company will expand its current operations in Tennessee, opening a new manufacturing facility in Union City. ICI is expanding due to market demand and will invest $6.2 million in this new facility, creating 200 new jobs in Obion County.

"We want to thank Ins\textsuperscript{t}ional Casework Inc. for choosing to expand in Tennessee and the new jobs in Union City and Obion County," Haslam said. "Our focus has been not only fostering a business climate that helps businesses be created here but also grow and succeed, and it's exciting to see companies like ICI thriving and expanding their footprint here in Tennessee."

"Ins\textsuperscript{t}ional Casework Inc. started their business in West Tennessee in 2006 and is once again making an impact on this area by expanding and creating valuable new jobs," Boyd said. "I appreciate ICI's investment in Tennessee and I look forward to their continued success in our state."

"Our industry realized a dramatic change in just the last few months, and we needed a building where we could take immediate possession with little or no adaptations required," ICI President/CEO Jim Arthurs said. "For several months, ICI investigated potential sites in Henry, Carroll and Obion counties. We were delighted to find a building of adequate size, with a skilled workforce in place and where local city and county governments were willing to work with us."
The Obion County facility will be located at the Lennox Building at 503 E. Reelfoot Ave. in Union City. This expansion in Union City will house the manufacturing of ICI laboratory-grade painted steel casework and furniture, phenolic laboratory casework and work surfaces under the division name: ICI Laboratory Products Division of Union City.

Established in 2006, ICI is a West Tennessee-based corporation. ICI builds laboratories and learning environments for K-14 schools, colleges, universities and the pharmaceutical industry. ICI is known for exible, functional and innovative products. The company provides design assistance and coordinates projects through casework, xtures, custom fume hoods, work surfaces, safety showers, work stations and overhead service centers from start to finish.

"We are very excited about ICI coming to Obion County and Union City," Obion County Mayor Bennie McGuire said. "This company will provide much needed employment opportunities in our area. We are committed to working with ICI in any way possible to enhance their manufacturing process and their company growth in our region."

"We are so thankful that ICI selected Union City," Union City Mayor Terry Haley said. "They are good people with a great company and I think they will really be impressed with our workforce. We welcome ICI to our community."

"ICI is a welcome addition to Union City," Obion County Joint Economic Council Chairman, Art Sparks, said. "Our mission at the JEDC is to foster an environment for job creation through both expansion and new investments. ICI's 200 new jobs will strengthen our tax base in the form of both sales and property taxes, which are used to fund our city and county governments and local schools. Ultimately, this new location for ICI is a win-win for everyone."

"Congratulations to In tional Casework Inc. on its decision to expand and open a new facility in Union City, Tennessee," TVA Senior Vice President of Economic Development John Bradley said. "TVA and Union City Electric System are privileged to partner with the state of Tennessee, Obion County Joint Economic Development Council, Union City and Obion County to facilitate highly impactful new job creation in the Valley region."

All ICI products and brands are sold nationally and internationally through an extensive network of dealer/distributors for casework speci c to: educational K-14, college/university, health care, pharmaceutical, industrial, petrochemical, municipal, library, athletic and OEM markets. The company hopes to begin metal casework production in early 2016. ICI is working with the Tennessee Career Center in Union City to host a job fair later this year.
TN Economic & Community Development Commissioner Boyd visits Obion County

Clint Joiner with Jiffy Steamer welcomed TN ECD in February with a company overview and plant tour followed by Representative Bill Sanderson welcoming him at his newly opened White Squirrel Winery in Kenton.

MIA Seating Donates First Chair to Discovery Park

MIA Seating CEO Darius Mir happily donated the first chair produced in Union City to Discovery Park of America. On hand for the milestone was Obion County Benny McGuire, Union City Mayor Terry Hailey, Mr. Mir, DPA CEO Jim Rippy and Lindsay Frilling.

After donating the first chair to Discovery Park of America, MIA Seating employees worked to get the first shipment of 9,000 chairs to Sam's Club. The American made chairs are now available in Sam's Club store throughout the United States, labeled and produced in Union City, TN!
Congressman Fincher Visits Tyson Foods

Tyson Foods Complex Manager Keith (far right) gave Congressman Fincher (second from right) and his field staff a tour of the Obion County facility in June. Tyson Foods has a McDonald’s facility in Union City, employing approximately 1,100 team members from Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Pictured left to right: Lindsay Frilling, CEO Obion County JEDC; Bedford Dunnavant, Chairman Union City IDB; Janna Hellums, Business Consultant TN ECD; Art Sparks, Chairman Obion County JEDC.

Tyson Corporate Headquarter Visit

In June, Obion County and TN ECD officials visited Tyson Foods corporate headquarters in the Springdale, Arkansas. After meeting with company officials, the group toured the headquarter facility. Tyson Foods has a McDonald’s facility in Union City, employing approximately 1,100 team members from Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Pictured left to right: Lindsay Frilling, CEO Obion County JEDC; Bedford Dunnavant, Chairman Union City IDB; Janna Hellums, Business Consultant TN ECD; Art Sparks, Chairman Obion County JEDC.

JD Distributor Receives Million Dollar Award

JD Distributors recently earned the One Million Dollar Award by Spartan Chemical Company. Congratulations to JD Distributors for this prestigious honor and thank you for being a part of our Obion County business community!
The Obion County JEDC hosted the Obion County Leadership Class in February for Economic Development Day. The day began with a presentation and discussion at the Obion County Chamber of Commerce with CEO Lindsay Frilling and Membership Director Kase Keathley followed by a tour and lunch at Titan Tire. The class then toured Evere Stewart Regional Airport while Manager Jo Ann Speer talked about the asset we have in our local airport. Finally, the class visited Final Flight Ouiers and participated in candid discussion with owner Jon Ed Powers.

The WestStar Class of 2015 participated in their first session of the year in Ma and Union City on January 9 -10th. The theme for the session was “Agriculture and Transporta”. Obion County’s day included a class tour of the Tyson plant in Union City where they process poultry for McDonald’s products. The class was also able to visit Discovery Park of America. DPA’s CEO, Jim Rippy, treated the class to many of the extra events that guests can participate in. They also heard a presentation on the Port of Cates Landing and as well as from Jo Ann Speer on Evere Stewart Regional Airport.
Mayors RoundTable Meetings

Obion County has an active Mayors Economic Development Executive Roundtable meeting each quarter. The mayors, city managers, and economic development partners take the opportunity to discuss their community’s strengths and weaknesses. This collaboration has proven to bring unity within Obion County and each of the nine municipalities.

Obion County ThreeStar Certification

Obion County was once again certified as a ThreeStar Community at the Governor’s Conference for Economic and Community Development. Lindsay Frilling accepted the plaque from Governor Haslam and Commissioner Boyd. Pictured left to right are Jody Sliger, Jo Ann Speer, Governor Haslam, Frilling, Rep. Bill Sanderson, Commissioner Boyd, Janna Hellums, Blake Swaggart, and Amy New.

Human Resources Round Table

Each quarter, the Obion County JEDC convened education and workforce officials to discuss regional education efforts and the existing and future workforce pipeline. Current programs are presented and potential ideas for strengthening the workforce are exchanged. This has been a successful workforce development effort for Obion County!
JEDC Hosts Discussion of Education Efforts

On June 3rd the Obion County JEDC convened educators and workforce officials, as well as human resources professionals, to discuss our regional education efforts and our existing/future workforce. The Tennessee Career Center here in Union City sponsored breakfast and graciously hosted the meeting. This time together was viewed as a round table opportunity to discuss current programs and potential ideas for strengthening our area's workforce.

One of the most challenging issues facing our area across several industries is not only hiring, but successfully retaining skilled labor. A representative from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) addressed this concern with an opportunity that some Tennesseans are probably not aware of. The TN Reconnect Program is a statewide initiative to help adults, regardless of their current educational standing, enter higher education to gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and complete a degree or certificate. Over 11,000 adults across our great state have already taken advantage of this tuition-free grant. Some TCAT fields of study include HVAC, welding, industrial maintenance, practical nursing, and computer information technology. If you are reading this article and are interested in more information, or know someone who might be, please visit www.TNReconnect.gov.

In addition to this program, an Area Specialist from the USDA informed the group about their REAP grant. This stands for Renewable Energy for America Program and has been made available to small businesses and agricultural producers in rural areas. The goal is to assist with the purchase of renewable energy systems or to make energy efficient improvements. This is another great example of a resource for our area that people need to be made aware exists. We are also fortunate to have the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, the West Tennessee Industrial Association, UT Martin, the REED Center, and the UT Center for Industrial Services. And this is by no means an exhaustive list of the many amenities that residents, as well as businesses, are able to utilize in our part of the state.

In my opinion, the most important aspect of the meeting was getting this information out in the open and establishing lines of communication. These programs and resources could potentially prove invaluable for not only businesses, but individuals looking for a career, or even a fresh start. Working together as a community will continue to strengthen our students, workforce, and industries, as well as increase employee retention rates. This inaugural roundtable was a great opportunity for people from different companies and backgrounds to come together for a common goal. Ultimately, we are all focused on the success of our little corner of the world, and hope to continue these meetings well into the future.

Tim York, Center Point Business Solutions, Client Manager
Obion County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador 2015-2016
Obion County Adopts Framework to Drive Economic Growth

Obion County announced today its participation in the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative, a workforce system designed to assist sites and regions in developing their workforce pipeline to provide skilled workers for employers. Held at the Humboldt Medical Center, the Kick-Off Celebration recognized the efforts of the Obion County Work Ready committee and 10 other counties in northwest Tennessee as the first counties in Tennessee to launch the program.

Obion County has been accepted into the ACT Work Ready Communities Academy, an executive leadership and training program for local officials. The Work Ready Communities framework allows each participating community to quantify and improve the skill levels of its workforce through a standardized workforce skill credential and a robust data infrastructure that help measure, identify, and close skill gaps.

As communities sign up and begin to work toward their certification goals, they will empower:

- Business and industry to identify the foundational skills they need for a productive workforce and easily communicate their needs
- Individuals to understand what skills are required by employers and how to prepare themselves for success
- Policy makers to consistently measure the skills gap at the national, state, and local levels
- Educators with tools and industry-recognized credentials to help close the skills gap
- Economic developers with an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of the local workforce.

Obion County is one of only 11 counties in the state participating in the 2-year project, all of which are located in northwest Tennessee. Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire states, "The goal is to have more than 868 people in Obion County certified during the project and to bring on board at least 31 employers supporting ACT WorkKeys Job Profile and the National Career Readiness Certificate. As of today we are at 85% of the goals we are set to attain by May 2017. I'd like to encourage our employer community to support this initiative as we go forward in order to continue to move beyond our goals!"

For more information about Obion County's progress, go to http://workreadycommunities.org/TN/131
For general information on this initiative, go to http://workreadycommunities.org.
For more information on all of ACT's workforce solutions, go to http://act.org/workforce.

The Work Ready Community Initiative is a collaboration of community partners led by the Northwest TN Workforce Board. For more information on the northwest Tennessee ACT Work Ready Community efforts, contact Ginger Powell at 731-784-5221.
Obion County recognized again as one of the top places to live in Tennessee

A new study from SmartAsset has ranked Obion County as one of the best places to get a mortgage in the state. The financial technology company previously ranked Union City among the top 10 places to retire in the state.

SmarAsset factors:
- Overall borrowing costs
- Ease of securing a mortgage
- Cheap property taxes
- Cheap annual mortgage payments

Union City Named #9 of Top Ten Places to Retire in Tennessee

Union City has been ranked one of the Top 10 places to retire in Tennessee by SmartAsset, a financial technology company.

A happy, healthy retirement depends a lot on location. To find the best places to retire, SmartAsset gathered data for a study and considered four main factors that affect the quality of life for retirees.

SmartAsset factors:
- State and local tax rates
- Income and sales
- Number of Doctor offices
- Recreation centers
- Retirement centers/ thousand residents
Governor Bill Haslam and Tennessee Tourism Announce Record-Breaking Economic Impact Numbers
Tourism Revenues in Obion County Up 5.3%

NASHVILLE, Tenn.- Governor Bill Haslam and Commissioner Kevin Triple , Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, today announced during a special event at the Ryman Auditorium that tourism's direct and international travel expenditures reached $17.7 billion in 2014, up 6.3 percent, and an all-time high for the state. Tourism-generated jobs for Tennesseans reached 152,900, an increase of 2.8 percent. State and local sales tax revenue for the industry topped $1.5 billion, up 7 percent over 2013, and the ninth consecutive year tourism topped $1 billion, according to the latest statistics from the 2014 Economic Impact of Travel on Tennessee as reported by U.S. Travel Association.

For the first time in history, travel to Tennessee topped 100 million, achieving 101.3 million person stays, a 5.1 percent increase over 2013. International travel increased 8.4 percent, reaching $576.5 million in economic impact. All 95 counties in Tennessee had more than $1 million in direct travel expenditures, 19 counties saw more than $100 million, and three counties, Davidson, Shelby and Sevier, had more than $1 billion in economic impact. Knox and Hamilton Counties round out the Top 5 with nearly $1 billion in economic impact. Tennessee is ranked in the Top 10 destinations in the U.S. for total travel.

Tourists spent a total of $53.19 million in Obion County in 2014, an increase of 5.3% compared to 2013, generating a total of $3.04 million in state and $1.59 million in local tax revenues, increases of 6.3% and 5.4%, respectively. A total of 383 Obion County residents are employed in tourism-related fields.

"This increase in tourism across the board is a result of the strategic work of Tourist Development, the Tourism Committee, and the entire tourism and hospitality industry," Haslam said. "We want Tennessee to be a place people from all over the world want to visit. The data shows that's happening, and more jobs and $1.5 billion in sales tax revenue is good news for every Tennessean."

Tennessee's customer satisfaction landed at an impressive 8.5 out of 10. The satisfaction scores are greater than those of the average U.S. destination.

"Tourists are drawn to Tennessee for our world-renown music, outstanding views, stunning scenic beauty," Triple said. "But, at the end of the day, people keep coming to Tennessee for our authenticity and exceptional Southern hospitality. That is the 'made in Tennessee' brand delivered to our visitors every day by our communities and partners."

The Tennessee Tourism Committee, appointed in 2011 by Gov. Bill Haslam, is made up of tourism leaders in both the public and private sectors. TTC is chaired by Colin Reed, Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc., and co-chaired by Jack Soden, Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. and Sande Weiss, president of Music Road Resort.
A & A Backhoe
A & J Salvage, LLC
A Place Called Home
AAA RV Park
Abernathy's Motorcycle Sales, Inc.
Ace Design Group, LLC
Advanced Gastroenterology
Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Med.
Alexander Au & A & J Salvage, LLC
Alexander Thompson Arnold (ATA)
Align Chiropractic
Alloha Pools & Spas
AmeriClear Rx
Ameriprise Financial
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
AT & T Tennesee
Atlan Pools & Spas
ATMOS Energy
B R Supply, Inc.
Baker Donelson, orney Lodie Biggs
Bapt Memorial Hospital
Barker Building Rentals
Barkley Construction Company
BB's Furniture & Mattress Gallery
Beard & Sisco Investment Center
Bethe University
Bever Business Bureau
Blue Bank Resort & Marina
Blue Rooster Coffee Co.
Blue Steel
Boys and Girls Club of Northwest TN
Brown's Meat Company
Brundige & Moore Insurance
Buck's Party Mart
Buddy's Wrecker Service
Buy Sell & Trade
C & B Sales
C.W. Sanderson's
Cain's Pool & Spa
CAM Electric
CareAll Home Care
Carey Counseling Center, Inc.
Carpenter Real Estate
Center Point Business Solution Center Stage School of Dance
Century 21 Golden Service Realty
Chancellor Mike Maloan
Charles A. Maness, orney Charter Business
City of Rives
City of Samburg
City of South Fulton
City of Troy
City of Woodland Mills
Classic Interiors
Clay Woods
Clover Creek Ranch and Lodge
Collision Specialty, Inc.
Commercial Bank
Conley Campbell
Cornest, INC
Country Hearth Inn
County of Obion County
Cowboy Signs & Graphics
Cox Oil Co., Inc.
Cree Catering
Danny Larcom Heating & Air Conditioning
Darling Industries
Davis Wealth Services
Dental Center
Discovery Park of America District
Dixie Gun Works
Doctor's Clinic
Don Sol Mexican Grill
Douglas Tax Service
Dr. Cecil Sewell
Dr. Jere W. Crenshaw
Dr. Steve Harpole
Dunn's Body Shop, Inc.
Dyersburg State Community College
Eagle Nest Resort
Edmaiston Mosley Funeral Home
Edward Jones Investments
Elam, Glasgow, & Chism
Everett -Stewart Airport
Family Check Advance
Farm Credit Services
Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic
Federal Materials Co.
Felicia Bella
Final Flight Outfitters
First Choice Farm & Lawn Inc.
First Citizens National Bank
Five Seasons Men's Shop
Forcum Lannom Contractors
Ford Construc
Foxy Zazz
Friends of Reelfoot Lake State Park
Fuller Partners Real Estate, INC
Fulton Decora
Fulton Plaza Mortor Inn
G & H Tool & Die Inc.
Gibson Electric Membership Corp
Golden Living Center
Goodwill Industries of Middle TN
Green Acres Mobile Homes
Green Products, LLC
H & M ICE
H & O Tool & Die, Inc.
H & R Agri-Power
H & R Block
Hale's Commercial Cleaning LLC
Hanafee Brothers Sawmill Co., Inc.
Health Quest
Heritage Bank
Herman Jenkins Motors
High Note Transport LLC
Higher Ground Co ee Company
Hill's Hardware & Supply Goods
Hilliard Lyons
Hops and Barley
Hornsby's Garage
Hospitality House
HTS Mixing
Inco Ag Irriga
Integrity Oncology
J'Ches Of Union City
Jaycees of Union City
J D Distributors
Jernigan Surgery Clinic
Jury Ward Autoplex
J y & Steamer Company
Job World, Inc.
John Miles, orney
Johnson Heating & Air, Inc.
Jordan & Bondurant Eyecare
Journeys Unlimited
Judge William B. Acree, Jr.
Judy Barker, orney-at-Law
Junior Auxiliary of Obion County
Ken-Tenn Wireless
Kenton Chevrolet
Kenton, City
Kirkland Found n
Kiwanis Club of Union City
Kizer Pharmacy, LLC
Kmac Enterprises - Taco Bell
Kohler Company
Krietman's Towing
KTYN-WQAK
Lakeview Dining Room
Lanzer's onsite Supply
Lashlee-Rich, Inc.
Leaders Credit Union
Lighthouse
Loden Vision Center
Los Portales
Lowe's Home Improvements
Lowrance Sound Company, Inc.
Luke Parker Photography
Magic Moments
Magical Mink's Entertainment
Magnolia Place
Mahindra of Ken Tenn
Main Street Union City
Manpower
Mathis Battery Company
McDonald’s Restaurant
McKinnis Lawn Service
MIA Supply
Mobile Nnn
Moustsos Pasta & Grill
MVP Brands
NFIB
Nix-A-Mite Exterminating Co.
Northwest Tennessee Tourism
Northwest TN Cardiology Clinic
Northwest TN Workforce Board
NWTN Development District
O’Neal’s Country Store
Obion County Farm Bureau
OC Farm Bureau-Hadley Malone
Obion County Public Library
Obion, Town
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Parker Lawn Care
Pathways
Pediatric Place of Union City
Phillips Engineering Inc.
PIP Prin
Pockets Shell Sta #10
Polk Glover
Poplar Meadows Country Club
Premier Primary Care
Quality Inn
Radio Shack
RC Mechanical
Re/Max United
Red River Waste Solutions
Reelfoot Animal Hospital
Reelfoot Bank
Reelfoot Bearing & Supply Inc.
Reelfoot Family Walk-In Clinic
Reelfoot Lake Tourism Council
Reelfoot Metal Building Supply
Reelfoot Regional Assn of Realtors
Reelfoot Shopping Center
Reelfoot Warehousing, LLC
Regal Pediatrics
Regions Bank
Republic Services
Revell Construction Company, Inc.
Reynolds Brothers Oil Company
Riley’s Graphics
Rotary Club of Union City
RPG Physical Test Lab
Sassafras Restaurant
Scarle Rain, LLC
Second Baptist Church
Security Finance
Servall Guaranty Company
Servall Pest Control, LLC
Shea Riley Appraisers
Shelter Insurance
Sherwin-Williams
Shoe Shack
Sign Depot
Simmons Bank
Simmons Bank Mortgage Company
Simple Weddings & Photography
Small World Child Care, Inc.
Snappy Tomato Pizza
Sodexo
Soleil Garden Center
Sonshine Flowers & Gifts
Southern Concrete Products
Southern Machinery Repair, Inc.
Southeast Manor Apartments
Sports Orthopedics & Spine
Star Physical Therapy
State Farm Agent Chris Williams
State of Tennessee ECD
Steve’s Custom Jewelers
Sugar & Spice
Sullivan Family Dentistry
Sweetwater Farms Development
Synergy Therapy & Aquatics
Tennessee ECD
Tennessee National Guard
Tennessee Technology Center
Tennessee Tourist Development
Tennessee Tractor
Tennessee Valley Authority
The Andersons
The Bridge of West Tennessee
The Chocolate Bunny
The Color Shop
The Etheridge House & The Arbors
The Gallery Showroom Union City
The Hamilton-Ryker Company
The Southern Suite Salon
The Standard Burger Company
Thompson & McConnell PLLC CPAs
Thunderbolt Broadcast
Top of the World Distributors
Touching Hearts at Home
Town and Country Dry Cleaners
Town of Hornbeak
Treasurers-Then & Now
Tri-State Internal Pharmacy
Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce
Twin Oaks Technology, LLC
Twin Oaks Technology, LLC
Two Doors Down Boutique
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Union City Carpet Center
Union City Coca-Cola
Union City Daily Messenger
Union City Electric System
Union City Eye Care
Union City Ford-Lincoln-Mercury
Union City Ford, Inc.
Union City Housing Authority
Union City Insurance Agency, Inc.
Union City Nursing & Rehab
Union City Parts Company
Union City School System
Union City Urgent Care
Union City, City of
United Way of Obion County
Universal Contractors, LLC
University of TN at Ma
USDA, Rural Development
UT Center for Industrial Services
UT Mar REED Center/TSBDC
Vaughn Electric Company
Vernon Promotions & Ad Pro Designs
VF Outlet
Volunteer Lenders
Vowell & Sons Lumber Company
Wade Acres LLC
WalMart Supercenter
Ware Park Apartments
Warner Law Firm
Wauford & Company Engineers
Waym Inc.
WBBJ-TV
Wendy’s Restaurant
WENK/KF99
West KY Rural Telephone Co-Op
West Tennessee Industrial Association
West TN Regional Blood Center
Weststate Corrections Network
WestStar Leadership
Whitby’s Flower, Gift & Greenhouse
White & Associates Insurance
White Mahon Funeral Home
White Ranson Funeral Home, Inc.
White Squirrel Winery
Williams Sausage Company
Wise Loading Group
WLJT-TV
Woman’s Clinic of Union City
Wood Communications
World Finance Corporation
WPSD-TV, Channel 6
WUWT-TV
WynRidge Golf Club
Zaxby’s
“It’s our home, we make it better.”