



# JACKSONVILLE ONSLOW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **\*\*Investor Insight\*\***

**\*\*Investor Insight\*\*** is a communication designed solely for Investor Members of Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development.

September 29, 2017

### **NCDOC Grant application underway**

JOED has delivered a Building Reuse grant application to North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, on behalf of Armstrong Marine, Inc. If approved, the grant will aid in renovations and security upgrades to meet requirements of a contract they have bid. As part of the program, Armstrong Marine, Inc. must hire 15 new full-time employees within the next 12 months. The salaries of these positions will be above the average wage for the county, and the company must keep the positions for a minimum of six months.

The Building Reuse Program provides 50% of the funding required for a project, and must be matched at 45% by the business and 5% by a local government entity. These funds will be withdrawn from the county's economic development fund and no tax dollars will be used.

This is a tremendous milestone for Onslow County because it is the first state grant application for an existing industry in the county. JOED and its Board of Directors are excited to work with the County on this and future performance-based grant programs through the state.

The NCDOC Team made their site visit last week to view the facility and meet Armstrong management.



*L to R: Tracy Gable (Armstrong Marine), Abby Gac, Melody Adams, Nicole Gross, and Hazel Edmond (NCDOC) Sheila Knight (JOED), and Sharon Russell (Onslow County Deputy Mgr.)*

*Back row: Fernando Sabino (Armstrong Marine)*



**STEMEAST**  
SCIENCE > TECHNOLOGY > ENGINEERING > MATH

### **Making connections with Onslow County industry**

At JOED's September Board of Directors meeting, Bruce Middleton, Executive Director of STEM East, presented information on the STEM East initiative. Located in Greenville, STEM East is a NC based non-profit under the guidance of the NC East Alliance. This initiative will establish STEM Centers in middle schools across six eastern North Carolina counties – Carteret, Craven, Greene, Lenoir, Onslow and Wilson. It also will help the program expand to high schools in five additional counties – Beaufort, Duplin, Jones, Pitt and Wayne.

Mr. Middleton explained, "STEM East is developing networks with industries, organizations and educational institutions to improve student-learning pathways that will lead to employment. Through the collaboration of businesses, school districts, economic development organizations, municipalities, foundations, state government departments, and many others, STEM Center students will engage in real-world learning modules that directly align with career opportunities in Eastern North Carolina."

"Virtual" tours of local industries allow employers to demonstrate real life applications of science, technology, engineering and math. This convenient educational opportunity helps students recognize the specific training and skills needed for a growing variety of occupations. Students can also learn about local industries and discover that there are many opportunities for good paying jobs right here in Onslow County. By bringing students and businesses together, we are bridging "the skills gap" and strengthening our future workforce. For more information visit [www.stemeast.org](http://www.stemeast.org).

### **JOED travels to Chicago to market Onslow County and**



Last week JOED participated in a marketing trip to Chicago as part of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) Co-operative Marketing Program. Sheila Knight, Executive Director, joined seven other local developers and four EDPNC developers to form two teams to call on a dozen site location consulting firms in pre-scheduled appts. "The teams were able to share the benefits of bringing their clients to North Carolina. Local developers were able to showcase their own communities to the consultants that help companies make their site decisions", Knight said.

The EDPNC annually offers a co-operative marketing program to local and regional economic development organizations. This program allows JOED to have access to trade shows, consultants and marketing pieces that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

