



**PEOPLE FOCUSED**

The Office of Economic Development and Business Partnerships is responsible for guiding the County's economic development efforts in coordination with the private sector and community stakeholders. As the County Commission's top priority, economic development drives the everyday responsibilities of this Office which oversees the MWSBE, Tourism, Grants, Special Projects and Intergovernmental Affairs Divisions.

From attracting visitors to enhance the local tourism economy to procuring contracts for small and minority businesses, the Office of Economic Development and Business Partnerships serves as the County's liaison with many community stakeholders including the Tallahassee/Leon County Economic Development Council, both chambers of commerce, WORKFORCE plus, Innovation Park, BigBendWorks.com, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the Tourism Development Council.

Director Ken Morris has been employed by Leon County since 2004 and holds a master's degree from FSU's Askew School of Public Administration. Prior to joining the County, Mr. Morris worked for several offices of the Florida Legislature on an array of research and policy issues.



**Ken Morris**

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**PERFORMANCE DRIVEN**

**ADVOCATING FOR LEON COUNTY'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

- In response to the state layoffs, Leon County partnered with BigBendWorks.com to promote County programs that offer emergency assistance, foreclosure prevention assistance, health care for the uninsured, employment and volunteer opportunities in recognition of the substantial hardships incurred by local families due to the recent state budget cuts and the national economy.
- The Board approved tax incentives to six companies this year that strive to diversify the local economy.

**1. Bing Energy**

- » Conducts research, development and manufacturing of hydrogen fuel cells for automotive use.
- » Will add 110 new jobs over a three-year period and up to 244 over five years with an average annual salary of \$41,633.

**2. Event Photography Group, Inc.**

- » Consolidation of a local and national photography company that located its corporate headquarters to Tallahassee in a 27,000 square foot facility.
- » Will create 35 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$42,676.

**3. ACS State and Local Solutions**

- » Fortune 500 Company and one of Leon County's largest employers with more than 800 employees that provides information technology and business process outsourcing solutions.

- » Expanding to include a new technology center in Leon County.
- » The center will initially consist of 50 employees but plans to grow to 250 employees over a five-year period by transitioning workloads from existing technology centers throughout the United States at a combined average annual wage of \$64,331.

**4. SunnyLand Solar LLC & SolarSink LLC**

- » SunnyLand Solar LLC and SolarSink LLC are linked projects that involve the design and manufacturing of innovative solar technologies that will advance the effectiveness of solar power generation.
- » SunnyLand Solar is expected to create 35 new jobs over a three-year period with an average annual salary of \$42,000 (121% of the average local wage).
- » SolarSink is expected to create 30 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$42,000.

**5. Red Hills Surgery Center**

- » Will create 43 new jobs over a three-year period with an average income of \$42,760, includes a capital investment of \$9,452,890 and utilizes local businesses for 25% of its supplies.
- The County conducted a survey to gauge local business leaders to determine how the County can enhance the local marketplace and employment opportunities. In turn, these findings were deliberated by the Board at its workshop on September 13, 2011 and provided 36 recommendations for staff implementation.