



The North Alabama Region: A Globally Competitive Community

Votes on Critical Issues at GC² Summit – October 25, 2005

Votes **Building & Retaining Talent – Education/Workforce Development**

- 8 • Ownership/involvement from business on workforce development/education issues
- 12 • Greater collaboration/awareness on workforce issues
- 7 • Soft skills/hard (technical) skills balance in workforce development programs
- 36 • *K-12 curriculum – international focus – strengthen math, science, career technical and foreign language education*
- 10 • Effective marketing to change the negative mindset regarding career/technical education among students, parents, and educators

Creating & Sustaining Jobs – Business Development

- 32 • *Establish regional vision*
- 6 • Improve/expand trade education & networks
 - Leverage NAITA – work with small businesses across region
 - Work closely with International Services Council
 - Visa access
 - Involve international companies already located in the region
- 5 • Expand sub clusters & grow new clusters
- 1 • Use and market Foreign Trade Zone more
- 7 • Provide industrial incentives for globalization

Community International & Cultural Relations – Civic & Cultural Relationship Development

- 23 • *Create a positive image of North Alabama*
- 1 • Integrate newcomers to be effective participants in the community
- 2 • Link arts organizations and international service organizations regionally for marketing purposes: one day orientation; database
- 3 • Use arts/international festivals to celebrate diversity
- 1 • Education in K-12 to understand and celebrate diversity

Expanding & Strengthening Connections – Infrastructure Development

- 21 • *Highways – east/west connection (Memphis/Atlanta Highway)*
- 11 • Pipeline – petroleum pipeline fuel
- 10 • Planning – long term multi-modal regional planning
- 5 • Waterways – additional river port operations & industrial/manufacturing sites
- 5 • Information Highway – broadband communication capabilities throughout the region