

# HERE'S FORMULA FOR AREA TO GAIN JOBS

EXPERTS SAY 1 DEVELOP WORKER SKILLS 2 IMPROVE GATEWAYS 3 RETAIN EXISTING FIRMS



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

Gretchen Corbin, state Department of Economic Development deputy commissioner, speaks to community leaders Thursday.

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

Glynn County will need to continue developing a strong work force and consider a few non-traditional ideas to attract new jobs during the next industrial expansion, economic development experts told a group of community leaders Thursday.

Leveraging human resources will make Glynn County more attractive to people like Will Hearn and Dean Barber, site selection consultants who spoke Thursday at an economic forum organized by the Brunswick and Glynn County Devel-

opment Authority at College of Coastal Georgia.

Hearn, director of site selection for the Atlanta-based consulting firm CH2M Hill, said he believes manufacturing in the United States will soon experience a resurgence as European economies continue to decline and business in places like China becomes more difficult to conduct.

"It should be your goal in Glynn County to find out how to capture that," Hearn said.

Barber, president and chief executive officer of Texas-based Barber Business Advisors, said manufacturing should be

the backbone of the American economy. In the past decade, though, the U.S. has lost more than 5.5 million jobs. At one point, it was losing as many as 15 manufacturing plants a day to other nations, Barber said.

Glynn County must do what it can to make sure prospective industries are aware of the work force development and educational infrastructure improvements it has made the past several years, Barber said during a roundtable discussion at the forum.

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## Jobs: Development tax is idea

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Assets like the Golden Isles Career Academy and Altamaha Technical College are recent additions that will pay off in the future, he added.

"If I need 40 or 50 precision machinists, I would not come here," Barber said. "But you are growing your own. You have to convince young people they do not need a four-year degree to make good money in manufacturing."

Lorette Hoover, president of

Altamaha Technical College, said that is what the college and the career academy are addressing.

Barber said improving appearances of transportation gateways to the community also will help. "You can tell when a community has pride in itself," he said.

Barber and Hearn both said attracting new businesses is good, but retaining existing industries and helping them grow is equally important. That means creating a business friendly environment.

Keynote speaker Gretchen

Corbin, deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, said special sales taxes dedicated to economic development have helped cities like Dublin attract several new industries recently.

A similar sales tax could be a boon for a community like Glynn County, she added.

"When we see something that works well for one community we want everyone else to know about it," Corbin said.