

IN BRIEF

Commercial Expo

Economic Development representatives from investor cities and Barbara Cutsinger, Marketing Manager for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, are gearing up for the upcoming 2008 Commercial Expo on April 10.

Approximately 1,000 commercial real estate practitioners will convene to discover the newest business tools and trends, and learn about the latest Houston area commercial developments from the show sponsors and exhibitors.

The annual event is hosted by the Houston Association of REALTORS Commercial Gateway and the Houston chapter of the Society of Industrial and Office REALTORS.

Executive on loan

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will benefit from its fifth NASA executive on loan, Stephen C. Nunez.

The NASA program provides the expertise of several executives from the space agency to support business initiatives each year.

Recruitment highlight

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is currently working on 40 potential project leads from industries such as aerospace, biotechnology, specialty chemicals and plastics, information technology, distribution and manufacturing.

Regional health care

The Electronic Health Network telemedicine program at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston has received a national award that recognizes best practices.

The award, presented by a national public sector association of benefits administrators, praised UTMB's program for implementation of a benefits program that has substantially reduced costs, increased member awareness, improved member education, and enhanced member wellness during the last calendar year.

Since 1995, UTMB clinicians and researchers have used telecommunications to improve health care delivery to rural and underserved populations and have been testing, refining, and utilizing telemedicine and telehealth technologies to improve and develop telemedicine.

UTMB's telemedicine program has been recognized as one of the top telemedicine programs in the United States and has been inducted into the Smithsonian Permanent Research Collection for Innovation in Information Technology.

UTMB's services comprise the largest telemedicine operation in the world, with more than 300 locations and more than 60,000 patient encounters annually.

Solutions for small businesses

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered through Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It provides technical assistance to small businesses and is funded by NASA and the State of Texas.

SATOP was contacted by a business that manufactures frozen drink machines and is now assisting by identifying methods that will expedite the freeze time on the liquid drink mix.

For information on SATOP contact Nick Gardner at 281-486-5535.

Grass-roots organization prepares for Washington trip

Citizens for Space Exploration, going to Capitol Hill in support of NASA

The Citizens for Space Exploration will travel to Capitol Hill with a new message this year. America needs to invest in our country's future by increasing spending on NASA and space exploration -- with a goal of investment being one percent of the federal budget.

Currently, NASA's entire annual budget accounts for 0.6 percent of the annual federal budget compared to what was once a budget of five percent.

In order to make an informed decision, most taxpayers will weigh the cost against the benefit. But the real question is, what will we lose if we do not invest in our future?

Commitment needed

"In January 2009, we will have a new President directing the future of NASA and America's space exploration program," said Joe Mayer, chair of CSE. "It is critically important that citizen taxpayers express their support for continued -- indeed, increased -- investment in exploration that creates jobs, makes us more competitive and improves the quality of life here on earth."

2008 marks the 17th annual trip of CSE to Washington, D.C., for meetings with Congress. CSE's bottom-line message is to advocate for no less than one percent of federal funding to support Space Exploration.

The grass-roots organization, administered through the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, is comprised of a diverse group of small and large business represen-

tatives, students and teachers, and county/municipal officials and employees who support America's investment in space exploration.

More than 150 citizen taxpayers -- including 30 students/educators

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-- from 25 states will meet with approximately 300 congressional offices to advocate on behalf of NASA and space exploration. Members and/or staff will be provided with a standard briefing paper that reviews the benefits of space exploration and the importance of funding for NASA, as

well as the CSE newsletter and other background information concerning space exploration and its importance to all Americans. Members and staff also participated in a congressional reception hosted by the CSE.

Big economic impact

Space exploration generates new knowledge and opportunity, which in turn stimulates the economy, making our country more competitive in the global marketplace. The space program employs thousands across the United States and puts large and small suppliers to work, stimulating local economies in the states where these businesses operate. Every state in the nation receives funding, directly from NASA and indirectly through NASA contractors and suppliers.

NASA is important and the benefits deriving from a fully-funded NASA program are striking -- even for those of us on Earth. Cell phones, laptop computers and GPS devices all came from technology originally developed for space travel.

Another reason to stay on the cutting edge of space is the issue of national security and U.S. pre-eminence.

U.S. leadership in space is being challenged by the emerging space-faring nations around the world. At least 50 nations have already embraced the difficult business of space exploration. China has already launched a man into space and has its sights set on a space station and landing a man on the moon.

Space has contributed to our



The 17th annual Washington, D.C., trip Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Citizens for Space Exploration's annual trip to Washington D.C., will take place May 19 - 22, 2008. For more information on the trip contact David Braun 281-486-5535.

health on the planet as well. Every American is touched in some way either personally or through a loved one by NASA-derived technologies that improve the detection and/or treatment of such illnesses as diabetes or heart disease. Digital hearing aids, miniature heart and insulin pumps, cancer detection technology, fire-resistant materials, smoke detectors, LASIK eye surgery, humanitarian mine removal devices, water purification systems and numerous other medical and safety devices trace their origins to space-derived technology.

Explorers, inventors

Exploration to space for reasons of education and inspiration must

be continued. The history books are filled with individuals who were inspired and driven to explore -- Christopher Columbus, Lewis and Clark, the Wright Brothers, and Neil Armstrong -- they were pioneers who made their mark on history. The space program provides unique opportunities to inspire the next generation of explorers from grade school through college.

For those who believe in NASA, the trip to Washington is an investment for the next generation of explorers and scientists. After all, they'll be leading the charge. America owes it to them to be ready for the challenge.



Photos taken by Stanley Curtis, photographer for Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Garcia More than 150 business leaders and elected officials attended the Economic Summit, which was held at the Federal Reserve Bank located in Houston. Top right hand corner is Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., professor of sociology for Rice University. Below Angelos G. Angelou, CEO of Angelou Economics, on left and David Turkel, director of the Harris County Community Services Department.

Act locally, think regionally, compete globally

Economic development becomes team sport in global market

A strategic roadmap that highlights economic strengths and opportunities in every corner of the county, aimed at boosting local economic efforts, was recently unveiled at the Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia's 2008 Economic Summit.

This is the third Economic Summit that Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has co-hosted, along with Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation and Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, since 2003.

"Since our first Economic Summit the goal has been to develop a team out of the distinctly different areas that make Precinct 2 the economic engine that it is for our region," said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia. "From a great base of workers in the service industry to our engineers at NASA and along the Ship Channel and at the Port, bringing everyone together to see how each and every one of us is a piece of the global economy has been part of our challenge. We have come from an initial meeting in 2003 to develop focus groups, to a second summit with defined goals. And now, we have a Strategic Plan which can be applied to the specific goals of Economic Development groups such as BAHEP."

Angelou Economics, an interna-

tionally recognized consulting company based in Austin, was hired to help develop the plan and delivered the keynote address at the summit.

"The key will be to bring the best and the brightest to Harris County through regional thinking and collaboration, and through the use of a well developed strategic plan."

Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

"We needed an honest and tough assessment of where our strengths lie and where we need to address specific challenges," said David Turkel, director of the Harris County Community Services Department. "The plan addresses our economic infrastructure, labor pool, quality of life, recruiting and training younger workers to replace those who are retiring, access to public transportation, air

quality, and the encouragement of local jurisdictions to utilize economic development tools."

The assessment identifies several economic strengths in the county, like the Port of Houston, the extensive network of highways, low land costs and a growing and diverse population. The study also detailed specific challenges, like a shortage of workers in key industries and the promotion of regional infrastructure ahead of growth.

Along with Angelos G. Angelou, local and national speakers William (Bill) Lindemann, Ph.D., chancellor for San Jacinto College District; Nigel Gault, Ph.D., group managing director for Global Insight, Inc.; Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D., professor of Sociology for Rice University.

Lindemann discussed the workforce challenges prevalent in Texas. Specially, there is a shortage of students entering the workforce with a strong background in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Klineberg was able to provide a great historical perspective on sociological changes occurring in Houston as depicted through his Houston area survey, which has been conducted annually for 26 years.

Gault asserted that, while the United States economy is probably in a recession now due to sub-prime lend-



Tietronix joins Partnership

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently welcomed Tietronix Software, Inc., to its investor roster.

"It was important for Tietronix Software to become an investor in the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership because they are as committed to quality and their customers as much as we are," said Victor Tang, president of Tietronix Software, Inc.

Tietronix is a full-service provider of custom software applications and advanced technology solutions. The company specializes in software engineering, business process automation, computer simulation and training.

The company partners with organizations to help them solve complex business problems via technology resulting in increase revenues, productivity and profitability.

Tietronix is recognized for its focus on reliability, on-time delivery and service, and its reputation for quality is perhaps best exemplified by the continuous, successful delivery of complex, mission-critical systems for NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs.

The company was founded in 1999 by Victor W. Tang, Michel E. Izygon, Ph.D., and Stuart S. Engelhardt, each of whom has worked on the development of some of the world's most advanced software-based technology solutions. The company brings extensive experience in the design of software-based solutions to the region.

The company recently received the NASA Minority Contractor of the Year award from the NASA Johnson Space Center at the 2007 Government Procurement Connections Conference.

"Tietronix Software has for years demonstrated its value to NASA-JSC and the region by their award-winning work," said Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "We are thrilled that Victor and his team of professionals have joined with BAHEP to make our region a better place to live, work and play."

Mission statement
The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment.