

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

First & Second Quarters 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (NAIDC), thank you for your continued support of economic development in Jonesboro and Craighead County. As we conclude the first six months of 2018, you will see in the report below that economic development activity is robust and strong. The NAIDC, and our economic development partners, are purposefully taking action to implement a plan for economic growth in our region.

We are excited and strengthened by the energy, innovation, and growth we see happening in our community. It is my distinct honor to serve as Chairman as we partner to bring high-paying jobs and enrich our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Al M. Heringer III

This report reflects economic development activity in Jonesboro, Arkansas that is supported by the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission and all of our economic development partners.

The purpose of the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (NAIDC) is to coordinate the expenditures of monies as appropriated by the city and county for economic development services. NAIDC provides funding to entities that will ensure Jonesboro is competitive in economic development activities.

COMMISSIONERS

Al M. Heringer III

Murray Benton

Steve Cox

Brent Stidman

Robert Jones

Wallace W. Fowler

John Freeman

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & EXPANSION



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

A June groundbreaking celebrated the start of construction for the Risever Machinery Company, which will be located in the Craighead Technology Park. Risever plans to build a 125,000 square foot manufacturing facility and employ 130 people.



Manufacturing, Supply Chain and Transportation Equipment & Systems Show

925 Exhibitors • 140 Countries Represented • 283,025 SF Show Space • 30,944 Registrants

January - June Activity:

20
BR&E

14
Prospect
Visits

20
Inquiries

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



A summer manufacturing camp for 8th graders was held in June. Campers learned about manufacturing and careers available in this industry sector, with hands-on experience and activities.



The next Jr. Leadership class has been selected. This program is offered to 11th graders from area schools and offers sessions from August through February. There are 26 participants in the upcoming class.



Student Recognition Awards

Awards were presented to area elementary students who have overcome challenges throughout the school year.



Jonesboro Area Industry Wage & Benefits Survey

The Jonesboro Area Industry Wage & Benefit Survey results were distributed to participants. This annual survey provides accurate, local wage and benefit data to our area industries.

Arkansas Scholars Reception

Arkansas Scholar certification is awarded to area high school students for meeting a set of criteria that prepares them for both the workplace and secondary education after high school.

Teacher Externship Program

Plans are underway to partner teachers from area schools with manufacturers for a 3-day program that highlights manufacturing and the skills required for careers in this sector. In the classroom, teachers will then be able to relate skills needed and opportunities available to students.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

East Arkansas Good Roads (EAGR) participated in the Arkansas Department of Transportation's Future I-57 unveiling ceremony in Searcy. Future I-57 has been designated from U.S. 67 in North Little Rock to Walnut Ridge. Linking the current I-57 in southeast Missouri to Arkansas will spur economic development in Northeast Arkansas.



Coordinated a meeting with plant managers, whose companies are rail users, to review the Rail Master Plan recently commissioned by the City of Jonesboro.

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

- Consultant trip to Atlanta and Greenville, South Carolina - met with 16 consultants
- Chris Schastok, Site Location Consultant, visited Jonesboro for two days to learn more about our region
- Participate in the Northeast Arkansas Economic Development Coalition, a regional economic development organization. The organization commissioned and completed a Strengthening Economic Together (SET) study in the first six months of 2018.
- Met with Ean Johnson, BNSF Economic Development, regarding Certified Site Program
- Economic development breakfast with Governor Hutchinson

Targeted Industry Brochures



409



Newlsetter sent to leading site location consultants

Highlighting Awareness



22

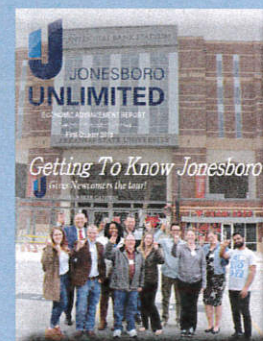
Market Research
requests from
January - June

Community Leadership

Visit to the



MyJonesboroJobs website refreshed

Quarterly
JU Economic
Report

ECONOMIC HEALTH

AREA DEVELOPMENT
SITE AND FACILITY PLANNING

Among Small Southern MSAs

#2 Overall Rank

#4 in Five-Year Growth

#6 in Year-to-Year Growth

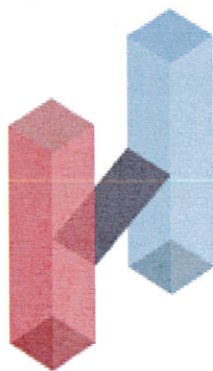
#6 Prime Workforce

Among All Southern MSAs

#1 in Economic Strength

#9 Overall Rank

#12 Small Metro Nationally in
Economic Strength



HEADLIGHT DATA

#1 in Job Growth among small
Arkansas Metros

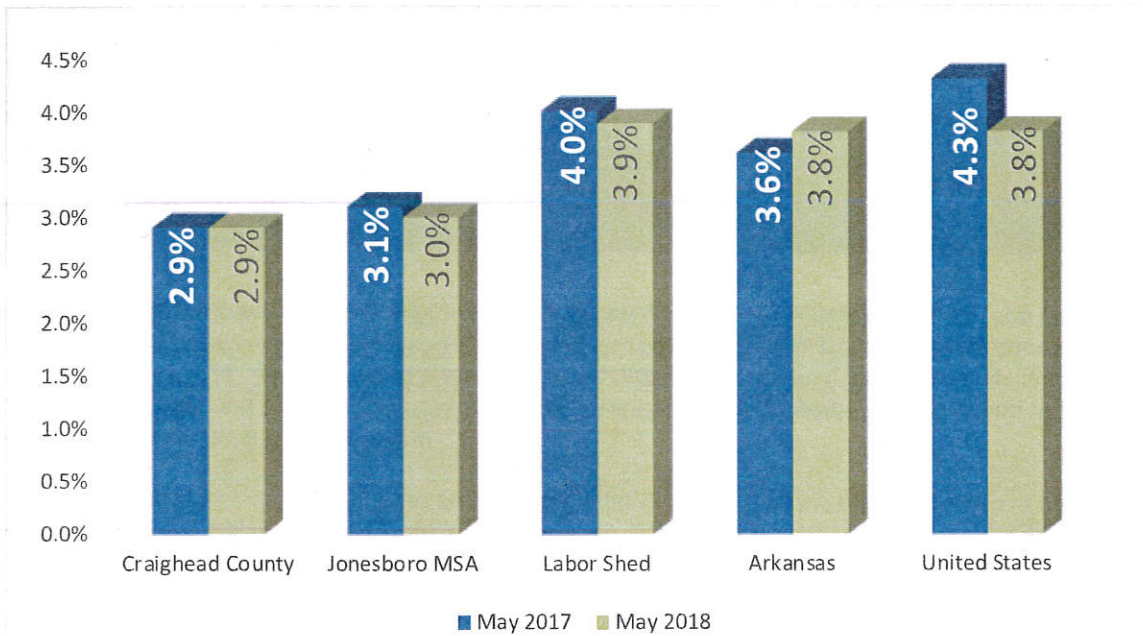
#24 of 277 Small Metros
Nationwide in Job Growth

91st Percentile nationally in Job
Growth among small metros

2.8% Job Growth from 2016-2017

ECONOMIC HEALTH

Unemployment Rate



#8

Lowest Cost of Living

