



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 8, 2013

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Mobile Area Chamber Fills Two Positions on its Economic Development Team

Christina Stimpson was recently promoted to director of international trade and Jana Stupavsky was named senior project manager in the Mobile Area Chamber's economic development department.

Previously Stimpson served as manager of the division under Tony van Aken, who retired this summer. The Chamber's international division hosts several trade missions annually to strong and emerging economies for Alabama products, helping local businesses break into and expand sales in foreign markets. In addition, the Chamber sponsors various trade promotion workshops.

Stimpson says she wants to "spread the word to more people that when it comes to international trade, the Chamber is here to help. No company is too small to go global."

"Christina's expertise and eagerness to build on the foundation of a program she has been a part of for the last three years will ensure her success in contributing to the bottom line of companies seeking growth in international sales and helping build the local economy," says Troy Wayman, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

Jana Stupavsky has experience in industrial marketing, economic development and the ability to speak six languages. She was as a consultant in Europe, and prior to that was with the Mobile Airport Authority. Stupavsky has worked with the Chamber on several aerospace projects, including Airbus and its bid for the U.S. Air Force tanker project and the 2013 Leaders Exchange to learn how Airbus will impact the region based on its operations in Hamburg, Germany.

Her primary focus at the Chamber will be aerospace and European business development.

“Her experience and familiarity with the airport authority and aerospace industry combined with her language skills and international expertise will be outstanding assets for the Chamber, says Wayman.

Stupavsky says, “I feel privileged to serve the business community in this era when people are so excited about Mobile. And if we serve the business community well, then it serves the entire community.”

Stimpson earned a bachelor’s degree in apparel merchandising, design and production management from Auburn University, a degree she says helped prepare her for her current role based on the curriculum’s heavy logistics and international focus.

Stupavsky earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing and international business and a master’s in business administration from the University of South Alabama. In addition to English, she speaks Czech, Croatian, German, Slovak and Swedish.

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The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is a 2,100-plus member-driven, nonprofit organization that serves as the lead economic developer for the city of Mobile and Mobile County. In addition to new business recruitment, the Chamber focuses on retention and expansions at existing area companies, small business development, international trade and workforce development. The organization is also an advocate for pro-business legislation.