

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS RELEASES 2010 TIER STATUS

Oconee County Ranked as Most-Developed County in Georgia

Oconee County, GA – On December 31, 2009, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) published the 2010 Job Tax Credit Tier Rankings for the state of Georgia. According to the press release by DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty, “each year the Department of Community Affairs ranks all 159 counties in Georgia based on certain economic factors and divides them into tiers as required by the Georgia Job Tax Credit Law. The law allows for a statewide job tax credit against Georgia income taxes for any business engaged in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, processing, telecommunications, broadcasting, tourism, or research and development industries that create and maintain sufficient numbers of new full-time jobs.”



10 “Most Developed” Counties in Georgia

Oconee
Columbia
Harris
Forsyth
Fayette
Cherokee
Bryan
Cobb
Effingham
Gwinnett

10 “Least Developed” Counties in Georgia

Hancock
Telfair
Jenkins
Calhoun
Taliaferro
Treutlen
Burke
Johnson
Macon
Wilcox



Oconee County was designated a Tier 4 county as a result of the 2010 revision, a designation that Oconee County has held in recent years. The press release stated, “in Tier 4 counties, the job creation requirement is 25 and the credit is \$750 per job.” However, since Oconee County is a part of a four-county Joint Development Authority with Athens-Clarke, Barrow and Gwinnett counties, that credit can be increased to \$1,250 per job.

Georgia DCA uses three criteria to evaluate counties to determine the Tier Status ranking of all 159 counties in Georgia. These three criteria are the county’s unemployment rate, per capita income, and percentage of residents with income levels below the poverty threshold. These criteria are ultimately aggregated to result in a ranking of all counties in the state.



The Community Leadership Award was presented to former Watkinsville Mayor Jim Luken. In only two terms as Mayor, he successfully led the city to a strong financial position, promoted business within the community, enhanced the city through a two-phase streetscape project, and dedicated countless hours to his community. In 2009, Luken opted not to seek re-election as Mayor, but will undoubtedly continue to serve Watkinsville and Oconee County.