



3/20/2008

Volume: 2 Issue: 4

- The 5th Annual Community Leaders Lobbying Trip to Washington DC, an annual mission made possible through a Defense Reinvestment Grant from the State of Florida, commenced March 11-13, 2008 with a high degree of information exchanged and progress made. Over the course of three days, 23 delegates were in our nation's Capitol to lobby on behalf of the Space Coast with more than 15 military offices, legislators and agencies including NASA, the U.S Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S Air Force and others. Delegates included EDC Officers, EDC Committee Chairman and members, County Commissioners and Chamber Executives. While there, a small group from the delegation met with Senator McCain and Senator Clinton's key campaign staff to further our outreach to presidential campaigns in an effort to properly educate them on all aspects related to space, the gap, threats to US security and emerging opportunities.

- In partnership with the Florida Manufacturers Extension Partnership (MEP), the EDC hosted a LEAN Manufacturing Simulation Workshop this past week. In total, eight companies were represented at the training and the group of 22 area manufacturing employees partook in four simulations teaching streamlining techniques for manufacturing. The end result was a fully functioning clock assembled by each participant. Past workshops have resulted in the successful implementation of lean practices in several local manufacturing plants.

- The EDC's Space Consultants joined a delegation of leaders from throughout the state of Florida for Space Day 2008 in Tallahassee, March 5-7, 2008. This year marked the largest audience of legislators and key staff members in recent history. Several key items were on the list for this year's briefing including funding for the Brevard Workforce Development Board to increase the organization's ability to study workforce issues, funding to build and maintain launch infrastructure and funding to ensure space contractors are treated much in the same way as defense contracts in terms of the QDC tax relief program.