



Ten People Who Made a Difference

While we try our best to change up the categories for your reading enjoyment in our annual Ten Top 10s section, we always include the "Ten People Who Made a Difference" category. After all, each year there are hundreds of people that should be recognized for their contributions to successful economic development in the South. Here are a few Southerners who deserve recognition for their contributions in calendar year 2008.

State and Regional

Florence Kingston (Newport News, Va.)



In 2008 Newport News, Va. had a year to remember as over \$1.2 billion was invested there with announced job creation of almost 1,900. That's a great year for any market the size of Newport News, but considering it occurred in one of the worst recessions in memory is unprecedented. Three deals were responsible for most of the action in Newport News last year. They were Continental AG (\$194 million, 318 jobs), Areva NP/Northrop Grumman (\$363.5 million, 540 jobs) and Canon Inc. (\$623.5 million, 1,035 new jobs).

Helping lead Newport News to such great heights is Florence G. Kingston, Director of the Department of Development for the City of Newport News and Secretary/Treasurer of the Newport News EIDA. She has worked in economic development in Newport News for 27 years and we can say with certainty that Newport News couldn't have done what it did in 2008 without her services.