



Community Endowment

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Free Community Network Will Connect People, Information and Ideas

\$169,005 grant awarded from the Knight Foundation



The Community Foundation of South Alabama has received a three-year, \$169,005 grant from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to create a community network to store knowledge and information for an eight-county region in Southwest Alabama.

"The Connect Southwest Alabama website will be a free community network that will help connect people, information, and ideas so we can better meet the needs of our residents," said Ronald B. Melton, Chairman of The Community Foundation of South Alabama.

"At Knight Foundation, we firmly believe that you cannot effectively manage the affairs of a community in a democracy without the free flow of information. That's why we believe that information is a core community need, as critical as any to a healthy community," said Alberto Ibarguen, Knight Foundation president and CEO.

To create the network, partners from education, government and nonprofit organizations will help collect studies and research that impact the lives of everyone in our region. The goal is to bring members of the community and organizations closer together so the region's problems can be solved.

The Connect Southwest Alabama network will provide citizens with a tool that will allow them to create and share information. The new website will feature reports, organization profiles and news that can be searched. Email groups and volunteer matching will encourage discussion

- Feasibility Report**
- The Connect
 - Southwest Alabama
 - Feasibility report is ready for download.
 - The report covers information gathered at community meetings held in Brewton, Mobile and Thomasville during October.
 - Visit our website and select Community Economic Development. You will find the report posted in the right column.

and action to bring about positive change.

Community meetings held in October showed promising support for a network that would enable the free exchange of ideas and information. The grant award from Knight Foundation has made it possible to begin construction of the community network.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation



The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation invests in journalism excellence worldwide and in the vitality of U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

The Community Foundation of South Alabama (CFSA) is a nonprofit foundation that plays a key role in meeting the needs of Southwest Alabama through leadership and grants. In 2008, more than \$3 million was awarded by the CFSA to nonprofit organizations to support programs that make life better in our community. The CFSA builds lasting endowments to ensure grants are available to support the community forever. For more info call 251-438-5591. www.communityendowment.com

