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THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Media Advisory

## **BBA to host Engineering and Technology Talent Recruitment Project**

**WHAT:** Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) Talent Recruitment Project Engineering and Technology Event

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, April 21, 2017

**WHERE:** Barber Motorsports Park, in the Class Room (please note this is a separate building from the Museum) and media will need to have press access to the park; media can interview students and company representatives from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.

**BACKGROUND:** The Birmingham Business Alliance's Talent Recruitment Project is convening local employers and top tech talent to discuss and combat issues facing the Birmingham community through its Engineering and Technology Recruitment event. Juniors and seniors from colleges and universities throughout Alabama had four weeks to create presentations focused on solutions to regional issues including blight, food deserts and underrepresented talent in tech jobs. The student groups will present their findings and solutions during the event.

Following each group's presentation and Q&A with employers, recruiters will have the opportunity to network with juniors and seniors pursuing STEM-related degrees; evaluate students for intern and full-time job opportunities; and enjoy the experience of the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama.

"My attendance at the BBA talent recruitment event played a big part in helping me land my job with Honda," said Kyle Littles, an Alabama A&M alumnus and a former Talent Recruitment Project participant. "Allowing students the opportunity to have that interaction helps them feel as if the sky is truly the limit when it comes to the careers they choose to take, and helps build confidence to put ourselves out there to obtain the career goals we desire."

The students will also take part in Honda's Gear Up Your Career recruiting event at Barber Motorsports Park. Honda and some of its suppliers will be on hand to share information about technical careers available locally, as well as offer career development advice to the students.

Participating companies and universities include Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, Altec Industries, Shipt, Regions Bank, Southern Research, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Tuskegee University and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

"Altec is proud to be a part of such an important recruiting initiative in the Birmingham area," said Stacia Gaines, talent manager at Altec Industries. "As the demand for a skilled technical workforce grows in the region, it is imperative for Altec and manufacturing partners in the state to demonstrate opportunities that will keep the talent in Alabama."

The BBA started the Talent Recruitment Project in 2013 and since then approximately 200 top-tier college students have had the opportunity to interview with more than 30 Birmingham-based companies that are hiring. Many of those students have received second-stage interviews and several have been offered employment opportunities in Birmingham.

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