

# Southern Growth Policies Board

## Statement of Regional Objectives

### VISION

All citizens of the South will experience an exemplary quality of life made possible by a dynamic, diversified, growing, sustainable, and competitive Southern economy.

### GOAL 1

Create a culture of learning throughout the South, in which the acquisition, creation, and application of knowledge is viewed as central to our health, happiness and prosperity.

- ◆ Objective 1.1—Make P-12 education efficient and effective in educating our children.
- ◆ Objective 2.1—Make post-secondary education effective in continually raising the level of education achievement in the South.
- ◆ Objective 1.3—Elevate the value placed on education and significantly increase the percentage of Southerners actively engaged in the process of lifelong learning.
- ◆ Objective 1.4—Overcome the skill shortages in the following fields: science, engineering, information technology (IT) and math.
- ◆ Objective 1.5—Educate those left behind in the knowledge economy, targeting minorities, immigrants and their children.
- ◆ Objective 1.6—Ensure basic competency in the tools of the Information Age.

### GOAL 2

Encourage and support innovation and entrepreneurship.

- ◆ Objective 2.1—Infuse an entrepreneurial culture throughout the South
- ◆ Objective 2.2—Increase significantly public and private R&D in the South
- ◆ Objective 2.3—Ensure access to capital and technical and management assistance at all stages of business development, paying particular attention to underserved groups.
- ◆ Objective 2.4—Take advantage of the growing commercial and intellectual potential in the global community.

### GOAL 3

Create and sustain a quality of life that is attractive to globally competitive businesses and employees.

- ◆ Objective 3.1—Use Wise Growth principles to ensure that a high quality of life accompanies economic progress.
- ◆ Objective 3.2—Build on the potential strengths inherent in our cultural diversity by overcoming our historic racial and cultural divisions.
- ◆ Objective 3.3—Increase the South's levels of civic engagement.

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### GOAL 4

Create the talent pool needed to meet the ongoing market needs and opportunities of the emerging, knowledge-based economy.

- ◆ Objective 4.1—Create seamless workforce systems that maximize client control over the outcomes.
- ◆ Objective 4.2—Identify and develop underutilized sources of workers and talent.
- ◆ Objective 4.3—Create a self-directed workforce with the attitudes, learning habits and decision tools necessary for making wise career choices throughout life.

### GOAL 5

Build the civic capacity of southern communities to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges with new models of leadership, engagement, and social capital.

- ◆ Objective 5.1— Build a broader base of people willing and prepared to assume leadership roles in southern communities, including those from traditionally underrepresented populations.
- ◆ Objective 5.2— Develop courageous, accountable leaders who are guided by ethics, informed by knowledge of economic and cultural change, and insistent upon inclusive approaches to community action.