

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 37

WHEREAS, Alabama households are enjoying stronger income growth than those in many states, with a 4.4% growth in median household income over the last two years;

WHEREAS, despite these gains, the state's poverty rate remains higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, high paying, high quality jobs such as those recently created in Alabama have contributed to lower unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has public-private partnerships that have been the key to success in economic development; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong correlation between a state's wealth and its education levels; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's undereducated adult population is an impediment to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the report issued by the Alabama Commerce Commission endorsed the creation of a scholarship program to provide free tuition for targeted vocational and technical programs; and

WHEREAS, "Focus: Hope" located in Detroit, Michigan, serves as a shining example and model for state-led workforce development.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Don Siegelman, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Alabama, and for other good and valid reasons, which relate thereto, do hereby establish "Focus Hope: Alabama" within the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute (AIDT) and the "Focus Hope: Alabama Technical Scholarship Program" to be developed by AIDT and the Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs (ADECA).

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the following Focus Hope: Alabama Board of Directors is established and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

- The Director of AIDT who shall serve as Chairman;
- The Director of ADECA and/or his designee;
- One representative of the Alabama Legislature;
- One representative of the Governor's Office;
- One member representing two-year schools;
- One member representing K-12 vocational education;
- One member representing 4-year schools;
- One member representing adult education; and
- Five members representing the business community.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that at least \$1 million annually be dedicated from the Department of Education to AIDT for the purpose of providing funding for the Focus Hope: Alabama Technical Scholarship Program. In addition, \$3 million from ADECA shall be allocated for this program annually.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that AIDT, ADECA and the Focus Hope: Alabama Board are directed to establish a scholarship program that allows the first scholarship to be provided on or before January 2, 2001. AIDT will promulgate rules and regulations regarding the technical scholarship program.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the technical scholarship program must provide training for those targeted training programs that are necessary for the state's economic growth. AIDT will be responsible for determining the targeted areas. Targeted areas must include, but should not be limited to: technology, automotive manufacturing, aerospace and information technology.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that technical scholarships will be first distributed for programs approved by AIDT, ADECA and the Focus Hope: Alabama Board, modeled after the highly successful First Step and Fast Track, which are patterned after two effective programs developed by Focus: Hope in Detroit.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that during implementation of First Step and Fast Track, AIDT, ADECA and the Board will work to establish the Information Technologies Center, the Machinist Training Institute and the Center for Advanced Technologies.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall become effective immediately upon signing and shall remain in effect until amended or modified by the Governor.

DONE AND ORDERED this 4<sup>TH</sup> day of October, 2000.



  
Don Siegelman  
Governor

Attested:

  
Jim Bennett  
Secretary of State