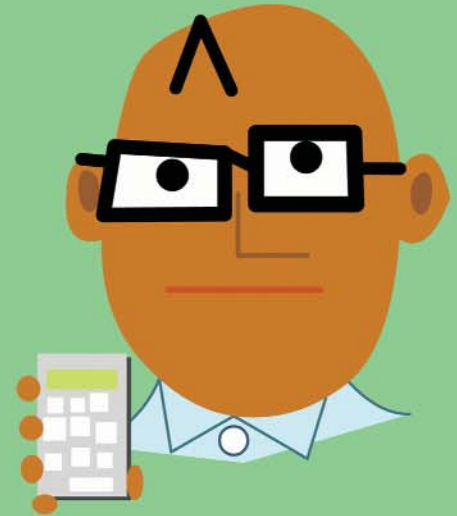


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**T**his issue of *Tennessee's Business* highlights the challenges and opportunities for developing a robust workforce for Tennessee's future. This is a highly significant subject for our future well-being because, in no small way, we are locked into fierce competition with our sister southern states for quality jobs and workers.

Among Tennessee's best kept secrets for both labor and management are the state's 14 career centers, which provide needed resources for employers and job seekers to keep us competitive in the 21st century. The following description of the centers is reprinted from the Tennessee Economic Development Guide (2002-2003):

*When Nissan came to Middle Tennessee, they wanted to move fast and hire a large number of workers for their manufacturing operations. Nissan had the assessment tools—the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development had the resources and logistical support with the One-Stop Career Center system.*

*Interviewers in the Middle Tennessee Career Center at Rutherford County and the Mid-South Career Center in Tullahoma plowed through thousands of applications and separated out the candidates who met the minimum qualifications. Each of those candidates was made part of the Nissan applicant database. The Middle Tennessee Career Center at Rutherford County forwarded completed applications to Nissan for review and further action by Nissan representatives. This procedure has proved successful with subsequent staffing needs at both the Smyrna and Dechard plants.*

*Nissan told the Tennessee Career Centers what they wanted ... the Career Centers made it happen. And the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has performed the same service for Saturn, Dell, FedEx Corp., and many others.*

*"With the focus on improved customer service and a streamlined approach toward meeting the needs of employers and job seekers, Tennessee designed a system that incorporates local, state, and federal workforce development services into a single location," said former Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill. "Tennessee's One-Stop Career Center System is a critical component of the economic stability and growth of Tennessee, demonstrating a new path for communities and government to work in a seamless delivery of services that is effective, productive, and results-driven."*

*Tennessee has 14 Comprehensive Career Centers and numerous affiliate sites across the state where employers can go to find the workers they need and job seekers receive tangible assistance and career information. Driven by the private sector and a partnership between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Human Services, and community-based organizations, the Career Centers provide effective and increased services to all participants in Tennessee's workforce.*

*"The Tennessee Career Center System has been an important part of the Nissan employment process. During that time, they have assisted in hiring thousands of hourly positions," says Gina Baio, section manager of employment/employee relations for Nissan.*

*The Tennessee Career Center system worked for Nissan and many other Tennessee companies; it can work for your business, too.*

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