Global Trade Magazine recognizes efforts of Oconee Economic Alliance

THE JOURNAL STAFF

WALHALLA — Oconee Economic Alliance is front and center among the nation's leading economic development corporations finding innovative ways for attracting business, according to a publication geared toward companies doing business globally.

Global Trade Magazine recognized OEA along with 17 other economic development corporations in its latest publication this month.

"These EDCs aren't necessarily from the biggest cities — indeed they're not always cities, but sometimes states or independent organizations," the publication said. "But the common thread is that they're using creative and effective means for attracting business, and you should be familiar with the opportunities their efforts present to you."

Global Trade specifically touted OEA's apprenticeship program to invest in future leaders and its promotion of a program that teaches 5,000 eighth-graders about careers in manufacturing.

"Perhaps the OEA's biggest accomplishments to date, however, include securing more than $190 million in new capital investments in 36 months and helping Oconee County become an ACT-certified Work Ready community," the magazine noted.

Global Trade also touted the achievements of organizations in Alabama, North Carolina, New Mexico, Louisiana, Wyoming, Arizona, Missouri and Tennessee, among others.

Glenn Buddin, chairman of the OEA, embraced the honor bestowed by Global Trade.

"It is quite an honor to have our economic development team named one of the best by this publication," Buddin said.

According to Buddin, Oconee County is poised for continued success on the strength of its strategic location on the Interstate 85 corridor, great quality of life, progressive business climate and supportive governing body in county council.

"We don't perceive our economic development pursuits slowing down anytime soon," Buddin said.