

Leading the Way

The past accomplishments and future goals of Georgia's technical college system were the topics of seminars and workshops at the 2002 Leadership Conference held in Savannah this past October. The conference was a combined meeting of the Technical College Directors Association and the Technical College Foundation Association.

Attendees focused their attention on the challenges of budgeting, fundraising and economic development posed by current economic conditions.

Held at the Trade and Convention Center on the Savannah River, the three-day event featured speeches by several



elected officials, all of whom commended the achievements of the local boards and foundations that help direct operations at the state's technical colleges.

A legislative forum gave conference-

goers a chance to pose questions to a panel of Georgia state legislators.

Also on the agenda were workshops on community advocacy, financial management, and business and industry collaborations. **R**

QUICK START HELPS LAND FIRM IN RURAL COUNTY

French-based Saint-Gobain recently opened a new plant in rural Hancock County, helping a job-needy area recover from textile mill closures. The plant will employ approximately 200 people to decorate the perfume bottles made at Saint-Gobain's glass-blowing plant in Covington.

The company considered locating the decorating plant in Mexico, but ultimately chose to build it in Georgia



because of state initiatives such as workforce training from Quick Start. Another key incentive was construction funds from the OneGeorgia Authority.

Together with Sandersville Technical College, Quick Start provided training in productivity enhancement, manufacturing technology and computer skills, as well as job-specific training on the plant's decorating machines, its frosting operation, and ink mixing and color matching.

Quick Start's efforts in rural Georgia are considerable, with 54 percent of last year's training projects taking place outside metro Atlanta. **R**