

9-24-2010

Bryan County's Interstate Centre Park awarded GRAD status by state

The Interstate Centre, a 1074 acre business park located in Bryan County at the intersection of US Highway 280 and Interstate 16, was recently awarded a highly coveted Certificate of Recognition for complying with the requirements set forth by the Georgia Allies for the GRAD (Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development) Program. The site has been validated as meeting standards showing it is at an advance state of readiness for development and use by prospects. The Interstate Centre was one of 4 sites in the state of Georgia that were presented GRAD Certificates by Heidi Green, Commissioner of Georgia Department of Economic Development. These 4 sites join 4 others previously certified bringing the total number in the state to 8. The presentation was made at the Georgia Economic Developers Association conference held in Savannah last week. F.J. Fenn, Executive Director for the Development Authority of Bryan County, accepted the certificate on behalf of the Interstate Centre. Thomas and Hutton, the engineering firm used by the Development Authority, were instrumental in preparation and coordination of the extensive application required.

The **GRAD Sites Program** is a proactive effort by Georgia's economic development community to develop a pool of available sites ready for industrial development. The GRAD designation for an industrial site means that the site has been pre-reviewed and pre-qualified by an experienced professional site selection consultant. Elements reviewed include such items as zoning, environmental studies, and infrastructure including roads and utilities. Prospective new industries often decline to consider sites that are not know to be well prepared for development and the state will bring potential projects to these sites before those that are not certified.



L to R: Jason Chambless, Project Manager, Thomas & Hutton; F.J. Fenn, Executive Director, Dev Authority; Heidi Green, Commissioner, GDEcD; Chance Raehn, Industrial Group Leader, Thomas & Hutton; Ted Akins, Chairman, Dev Authority; Gwen Strickland, Project Manager, Dev Authority.