

Untitled

From: Krystyna Colantoni [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:45 AM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Recommendation for satellite office in Huntsville, Alabama

I recommend Huntsville, Alabama as a location for an additional satellite office.

With the relocation of many defense contractors and government defense agencies to Huntsville, Alabama, there is a concentration of qualified candidates. Both the actual relocatees and their spouses and family members could provide qualified patent examiners and support personnel.

Several years ago my spouse, an engineer with an MBA, was offered a relocation package to Huntsville. We turned it down because the prospects of employment for me, a biophysicist with a JD, were not advantageous. So, while he had intellectually satisfying work, I did not. In addition, neither of us felt there were enough alternative employers concentrated in Huntsville to justify the relocation. That is, the risks of unemployment were too great to make the move.

Placing a satellite office in Huntsville would further both defense agency initiatives and the USPTO initiatives by pairing alternative employers for those relocating to Huntsville, Alabama. This would aid retention for both agencies, as both spouses would have employment that fulfills their intellectual capabilities. And, given how difficult relocation is for both the employer and the employee, it would aid in the accumulation of qualified candidates, as there are alternative employers (back-up or "plan B" employers) to mitigate the risks of relocation. Lastly, the accumulation of degreed individuals in Huntsville provides a "self-feeding" source of employees since children of degreed individuals are able to return home after college and seek employment at the array of Federal agencies and support firms.

In summary, Huntsville, Alabama has the potential to grow and retain a stable concentration of qualified employees by pairing Federal agencies with similar employee degree requirements.

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