



In 2020, Gov. Kay Ivey introduced the Innovation Commission. The goal of the commission was to convene private and public thought leaders around the topic of how to create economic opportunities in the state around innovation.

It was chaired by State Finance Director Bill Poole who, at the time, was serving as a Representative for Tuscaloosa. Senator Greg Reed (R-Jasper) served as the vice-chair.

EDPA was grateful to be a part of the Commission. EDPA President Greg Barker and EDPA Executive Vice President, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Miller Girvin both served on the Commission. Ms. Girvin also led the Commission's Finance and Infrastructure subcommittee.

The Commission met over the course of the year and concluded with a report that summarizes its purpose, goals, and strategies. A copy of the report can be found at [here](#).

Following the recommendation of the Commission this July, Gov. Kay Ivey signed a bill creating the Alabama Innovation Corporation (AIC). AIC is a public corporation led by five public officials and six members of the private sector appointed by the governor.

The mission of the corporation is to “make (Alabama) a hub for technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship by partnering with the private sector, state agencies, and state policymakers to develop and implement programs and policies that will lead to a more robust and inclusive economy for this state.”

Many of the opportunities and recommendations of the Innovation Commission will be administered through the Alabama Innovation Corporation and align with current initiatives of EDPA including supporting the work of innovators and entrepreneurs in Alabama communities and universities, developing initiatives to recruit and retain talent, and assisting in creating targeted industrial clusters.

The creation of the AIC will be valuable in fostering and administering programs that will depend upon collaboration from public officials, research and academic institutions, the private sector, and nonprofits. EDPA looks forward to supporting the goals of AIC through its programs, services, and networks and is proud to have played a role in the state's forward-thinking vision.