

## **The Haas Center and Escambia County Announce Award Winning Brownfields Application**

**Pensacola, FL - April 30, 2007** – The Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development and the Escambia County Brownfields Program recently released interactive CD's containing links to an internet based mapping application (GIS) and incentives calculator. The GIS application allows users to select parcels and view specific information and detailed data tied to selected parcels. The application interacts with an Incentives Calculator which approximates Brownfields, Enterprise Zone, Community Redevelopment and other incentives for which businesses may be eligible. Only parcels within Escambia County's jurisdiction are represented.

In January 2007, GIS and Information Technology Departments across the United States participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Freeance Applications Awards contest presented by TDC Group, Inc. The Haas Center submitted the Brownfields Application and won the award for Best Economic Development Application.

A brownfield is a piece of real estate that has, or is perceived to have, environmental contamination. Because of the presence, or potential presence, of environmental issues the property is usually abandoned or idle. Brownfields are potentially valuable real estate that may need some environmental cleanup before they can be put back into productive use.

The purposes of the Brownfields Program are to address environmental issues of contaminated real estate, encourage redevelopment through community involvement, conduct site assessments and necessary clean up, and develop reuse options. Community involvement in the program is facilitated through the Brownfields Redevelopment Committee. The committee is composed of citizens who are developers, bankers, health care givers, regulatory personnel, City and County employees, environmental consultants and environmental activists. They provide input on all of the issues from their unique perspectives.

The program started in 1998 and currently receives funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development through Community Development Block Grants. For more information contact: Glenn Griffith, Escambia County Brownfields Coordinator at (850) 595-3538 or [glenn\\_griffith@co.escambia.fl.us](mailto:glenn_griffith@co.escambia.fl.us).