

GMEN Member Update --- May, 2005

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This is the third of what will be monthly e-newsletters to GMEN members. The quarterly paper newsletter will continue with its focus on specific programs defined by funders. If you have information to share with other GMEN members, please forward by the 25th of each month to pcwill@bellsouth.net

Annual Membership Meeting/ Board Elections June 9th at 6pm

Have you paid your membership dues???

There are four board open slots. In addition to the board election, there will be an overview of the planning for the 2006 AEO conference in Atlanta in May 2006.

State Conference: GMEN annual statewide microenterprise industry conference on June 9-10 in Atlanta

Have you registered??? It's not too late, got to www.georgiamicroenterprise.org and pull up the registration form. Members may still register at the early bird rate of \$75.

Several events will take place during the conference:

- **The annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9th at 6pm.** During this membership meeting there will be election of new board members, and an update on planning for the 2006 AEO conference in Atlanta.
- The annual awards reception will be held on Thursday, June 9th at 7pm. **Make sure to respond to earlier emails asking for nominations for the rural award, innovation award, and entrepreneur of the year award.**
- The conference itself is held on Friday, June 10th at 8:30 am. Microenterprise organizations are encouraged to review the latest "microenterprise employment statistics (MEES)" at www.microenterpriseworks.org
- In addition, the second annual business plan competition will take place on Friday, June 10th at 9am. They will receive up to a \$1500 equity infusion into their businesses. Sponsoring organizations should look at www.micromentor.org as another tool to support your entrepreneurs.

Access to Markets

GMEN will be holding its first marketing competition for microentrepreneurs in **September (note date change)**. This competition will focus on helping microentrepreneurs improve their marketing efforts to increase the sales of their products and services. The prizes will include free marketing services. Watch for more details.

GMEN's competition will be focused on the five industry areas resulting from last year's survey of all microenterprise organizations across the state. We found that a majority of your clients are

providing products or services in five major industries: child care, construction, food services, retail, and tourism.

Also as supporters of entrepreneurship, make sure and look at the work of the Commission for a New Georgia (www.new-georgia.org). They have identified five strategic industry clusters for Georgia:

| Strategic Industry Clusters | Supporting Industry clusters | Supporting initiatives |
|---|---|---|
| Aerospace Agribusiness Energy & Environmental Healthcare & Eldercare (lifesciences) Logistics & Transportation | Advanced Telecommunications Business & Financial Services Homeland Security Multimedia Software Development | Entrepreneurship!!! Homeland Security Nanotechnology Software |

Fundraising tips

As you saw in the last GMEN Newsletter, Miller has an "Urban Entrepreneur Series & Business Plan competition" at www.millerbrewing.com/inthecommunity/urban or call 1-877-493-4400 for official rules and application for up to \$20,000 in business grants for your entrepreneurs.

The Kaufman Institute has a new resource on angel investors for your entrepreneurs at www.angelcapital.org.

The Get-Ahead Association is providing access to GMEN entrepreneurial clients for banking services through credit unions through out the state. For more information go to www.gettingaheadassoc.org

Each year, the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship awards five full scholarships to individuals working in the field who wish to enter the one-year full-time MBA program. Each scholarship covers all fees for the course, as well as providing an allowance for living expenses and travel. Social entrepreneurship is a strong component, go forward, for funding non-profit organizations. For more information go to www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/html/faculty_skoll_scholarships.asp

Need to do a search for potential funders, consider joining www.fundraisinginfo.com

Member News

Congratulations to Goodwill Industries of North Georgia on the grand opening of their new Career Center on Buford Highway in Atlanta Georgia.

Remember to access the ABC Pro Bono project from the Georgia Bar Association for pro bono legal services to your microenterprise organization. Also go to www.microenterpriseworks.org for the Legal Guide to Microenterprise Development.

Do you have a technology based entrepreneur? Go to www.ssti.org for information on the October 19-21, 2005 conference entitled "Investing in a brighter future: building tech-based economies." GMEN will sponsor the registration fee for one tech based, micro business. Your email request to be considered must be emailed by July 1st to pcwill@bellsouth.net.

If you have news about events or other activities at your microenterprise organization, please forward to pcwill@bellsouth.net by the 25th of each month for inclusion in the e-newsletter.