

GMEN Member Update --- August, 2005
=====

Correction: The last regional meeting this year will be held on Friday, September 23rd at The Lodge in Unicoi. If you need directions contact pcwill@bellsouth.net

This is the sixth in a series of e-newsletters to GMEN members only.

Training & Technical Assistance

You should have already received your set of GMEN success cards, phase 2. These were 24 of our member organizations' clients telling their story. We have just closed out phase 3, and are now working on phase 4 (final) of this project to get 100 stories. Make sure that at least one of your clients is included in the 100 Georgia microentrepreneur success stories!!!

The eBay Foundation Technology Program is an initiative that will provide funds to microentrepreneurs for the purchase of technology equipment and to microenterprise organizations for operating the project and providing technology training to their clients. Go to www.microenterpriseworks.org for more information. The better use of technology is one of the top 8 future directions for the microenterprise industry as defined by the Aspen Institute's recent report: www.fieldus.org/li/sof.htm

Do you have clients that grow or manufacture food products? Learn more about the South Africa Culinary Demonstration on September 29 - October 3 by calling Erica Skrine at the Georgia Department of Agriculture 404-656-3730 or email her at eskrine@agr.state.ga.us. Food sectors was on of the top five industries that you identified for your clients in the GMEN access to markets survey.

Are you interested in collaborating on a kitchen incubator in metro Atlanta? Contact allene_edwards@kennesaw.edu

Do you have clients in the construction industry that needs more customers??? Help them learn more about making bids on government projects and/or subcontracting on government projects at the Construction Business Management Institute (CBMI) next class on September 13 - October 6. These are evening classes. For more information go to www.alliance4u.org or call 404-827-9677. Construction sectors was on of the top five industries that you identified for your clients in the GMEN access to markets survey.

CAMEO (the California SMA) is holding teleworkshops for staff development. To learn more go to www.microbiz.org

Access to Capital

Congratulations to ACCION on the publication of their 2004 Annual Report.

The SBA is holding workshops across the state on their Community Express Loan program. To find the next workshop on your area contact james.hightower@sba.gov

Learn more about Georgia's new small business loan guarantee program at www.onegeorgia.org. Right now only banks are included in the program, but micro loan funds should inquire about their potential as loan guarantee sites.

Do you have clients ready for next level financing? If so, some resources are info@financialroundtableforum.org ; georgiambdc@edi.gatech.edu , www.georgiabusinesslinc.org , and info@launchfin.com . Micro loan funds are encouraged to understand how to partner with these organizations to move our entrepreneurs to the next level.

Funding Opportunities

Tourism Cares for Tomorrow is accepting applications from organizations involved in the protection, restoration, and conservation; increasing public awareness of and involvement in conservation, and promoting conservation education. For more information go to www.tourismcaresfortomorrow.org/tourismcares/programs/grants

Microsoft is accepting applications for donations of in-kind computer software. www.microsoft.com/mscorp/citizenship/giving/apply

2005 Statewide Conference

Watch your mail for GMEN's conference newsletter ... the event was a blast, and this document will help you share the moments with your clients and funders.

AEO Annual Conference May 16-19, 2006 in Atlanta

The **tour committee** includes: Yvonne Days-Cuffie, Andrew Hines, and Charles Jones. Three tours are planned:

- 5/16 Neighborhood Revitalization (rural) in Athens, Georgia
- 5/17 Neighborhood Revitalization (urban) in Old Fourth Ward, near downtown Atlanta
- 5/18 Entrepreneurial Partnerships in Georgia

Work will now focus on marketing these tours for maximum participation by conference attendees and GMEN members, and finding sponsors to underwrite the cost of the tours.

The **micro fair** committee includes: Thelma Adams-Johnson, Ursulla Brown, Rachel Davis, Melanie Partain, Vanessa Rush, and Debra Simmons. The event is planned for:

- 5/17 Micro Fair & Reception

Work is now focused on getting out the registration material for vendors to participate in this event. **Watch your mail for an October mailing. If in-state vendors do not fill the slots by the end of January, the slots will be opened to other AEO organizations' members.**

The **fun night** committee includes: Art Druckenmiller, Jeannette Foreman, Hazel Marshall, and Rod Wallace. Events planned are:

- 5/18 AEO night at "The Loft" in Underground Atlanta
- ??? Event also pending in Dekalb county

Work will now focus on marketing this event for maximum participation by conference attendees and GMEN members, and finding sponsors to underwrite the cost of the event.

The **conciierge desk** committee includes: Alvin Albert, Marvin Bryant, Robert Cooke, Cozell Harris, Rosann Kent, and Abra Lattany-Reed. The desk will be manned for 12-hours per day:

- 5/16-19 AEO registration area

Work is now focused on developing a resource guide of all GMEN members for distribution at the conference. **Watch your mail in October for the form to insure inclusion of your program in this guide.**

The **fundraising** committee includes: Winston Heard, Tony O'Reilly, Daryl Blount, Patricia Harris, and Marvin Bryant. Solicitations have been made to all current GMEN funders, and a list of 100 top corporate prospects has been developed for solicitation in September. GMEN must raise \$100,000 to fund its part of the national conference.

If you know of potential sponsors, that would not be in conflict with your local fundraising, contact us at pcwill@bellsouth.net with that information. State sponsorship packages are at the following levels: \$1,000; \$2,500, and \$5,000.

Upcoming Events

- September 14-15 Georgia Governor's Conference on Tourism
Valdosta, Georgia www.georgia.org/tourism
- September 15 The Look for Success
Cobb Microenterprise Center & Professional Women's Information Network
5pm - 7 pm
To enroll call 770-499-3228 or email pdiaztor@kennesaw.edu
- October 27-28 Appalachian Entrepreneurship Policy Summit, two GA scholarships available
www.microenterpriseworks.org/projects/appalachian
- November Georgia Entrepreneur Summit postponed until 1Q06
GMEN Marketing Competition postponed until 1Q06**
- November 25 GMEN regional meeting for North Georgia @ The Lodge in Unicoi

Under separate cover, GMEN has forwarded to all members an AEO job posting.