

## Overall

During the November GMEN board meeting, the following areas of focus for GMEN programming in 2006-07 was approved: (1) facilitating more training-led programs outside of metro-Atlanta, (2) facilitating the expansion of the capacity of existing credit-led programs, (3) focused professional development opportunities for members, (4) focused efforts for sectoral marketing, and (5) continuation of existing and some new client support services tools. See the January GMEN Newsletter for more details.

GMEN will be hosting an outcomes tracking training session in February. All NOFA grantees are required to attend. In addition, GMEN has opened up this training to all GMEN members. The cost for non-grantees is \$250.

There are two other events in February:

- February 2nd deadline for applicants to the GMEN marketing competition, with up to \$1,500 in cash prizes and additional pro bono services
- February 15th deadline for applicants to the GMEN micro fair at the AEO conference on May 17th. These participants will also get priority consideration to a July vendor fair.
- February 23rd GMEN marketing competition, which will include marketing workshops for all participants

## Training-led focus

Are you aware of existing organizations that have or can support training-led microenterprise programs in Georgia: Macon, Columbus, middle Georgia (east of Macon and west of Savannah), and southwest Georgia (below Columbus)? If so, please provide contact information on those organizations so that GMEN can make them aware of our services and include them in industry events to [pcwill@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net).

If you are looking at developing a commercial kitchen incubator, see this reference material on how senior citizens centers rent out their commercial kitchen on nights and weekends: [www.scsatl.org/kitchen.asp](http://www.scsatl.org/kitchen.asp) .

Under separate cover you received a notice on an "access to markets" opportunity with ... GMEN members are encouraged to include their clients in these opportunities. Not only will this help your clients to increase their sales, it can also be a marketing tool for your program. For additional opportunities with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, contact Erica Skrine @ 404-656-3740.

New study on home-based and home-linked enterprises by Dr. Richard Kordesh, and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation: [www.acef.org/initiatives/fes/pdf/805\\_casey\\_foundation.pdf](http://www.acef.org/initiatives/fes/pdf/805_casey_foundation.pdf)

Resources:

- American Food Fights [www.americanfoodfights.com](http://www.americanfoodfights.com)
- Atlanta Women in Business [www.atlantawomeninbusiness.com](http://www.atlantawomeninbusiness.com)
- Georgia Center for Non Profits [www.gcn.org](http://www.gcn.org)

- National Association of Women Business Owners [www.nawbo-atlanta.org](http://www.nawbo-atlanta.org)
- Rural Entrepreneurship News [www.ruraleship.org](http://www.ruraleship.org)
- Social Enterprise Alliance [www.se-alliance.org](http://www.se-alliance.org)

Congratulations to AMEN, Inc of Atlanta on their December graduation class of 14.  
 Congratulations to Cobb Micro Enterprise Center on their successful new Child Care Business curriculum ... and their new name ???

### Credit-led focus

Are you interested in working on a committee to coordinate a meeting between micro loan funds and major banks in Georgia? If so please advise by January 30th to [pcwill@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net).

### Resources

- Georgia Lenders Quality Circle [www.glqc.org](http://www.glqc.org)
- Minority Business Development Roundtable [www.georgiambdc.org](http://www.georgiambdc.org)
- Trickle Up [www.trickleup.org](http://www.trickleup.org)

Congratulations to ACCION on their December appearance on ABC's Good Morning America.  
 Congratulations to ACE on their client (Ellie Trinowski) article in industry publication "Homemade Beauty Network News."

### Funding Opportunities

GMEN members are encouraged to make applications to your local city or county for CDBG funds in support of your local program. In addition, you are encouraged to better understand The One Georgia Authority ( [www.onegeorgia.org](http://www.onegeorgia.org) ) and make applications through your local government entity for programming.

### Calendar

#### **January**

17-18 Pastries & Policy: an update on Georgia's non-profit sector [www.gcn.org](http://www.gcn.org)  
 18-20 Georgia Lenders Quality Circle meeting [www.glqc.org/events](http://www.glqc.org/events)  
 20 GMEN regional meeting in Augusta, Georgia  
 23-26 Community Express loan seminars across the state [www.sba.gov/ga](http://www.sba.gov/ga)  
 31 Deadline for AEO MPO scholarship for conference registration  
[www.microenterpriseworks.org](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org)

#### **February**

2 Deadline for marketing competition applications  
 15 Deadline for micro fair applications  
 17 Deadline for AEO Board of Directors application [www.microenterpriseworks.org](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org)

#### **March**

6-7 Georgia's 3rd Entrepreneurial Summit  
 12-17 GDECD mission to Brazil & Chile [shortman@georgia.org](mailto:shortman@georgia.org) 404-962-4116

**May**

16-17 GWEN conference for entrepreneurs @ Cobb Galleria [www.sbdc.uga.edu](http://www.sbdc.uga.edu)

16-19 AEO annual conference in Atlanta [www.microenterpriseworks.org](http://www.microenterpriseworks.org)