

GMEN Member Update --- January, 2006
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Overall

All GMEN member programs are encouraged to attend the Georgia Entrepreneurs Summit in Douglas, Georgia on March 6-7, 2006. This is "the" event in Georgia for providers of small business development services. For more information go to www.ugatiftonconference.org .

Save the date May 16-17, 2006 Georgia Women Entrepreneurs Network, annual conference in Atlanta. You are encourage to have your women entrepreneurs register to attend the conference. The early registration deadline is April 1. www.GWENconference.org.

The W.W. Kellogg Foundation announces rural grants focused on economic development, education, philanthropy, volunteerism, and health. This initiative is designed to strengthen grantee organization's capacity to improve policy development skills. www.ruralhome.org/manager/uiuploads/KellogRuralinitiative.pdf or call Anna Walker at KF 269-969-2678. The deadline for applications is

CFED released development report card on January 26th. This document provides decisionmakers a comparative assessment of each state's business climate. See Georgia's at www.cfed.org/go/DRC .

Watch for more details on SBA Small Business Week, April 10th

AEO will be developing an on-line resource for capacity building of microenterprise programs, named MicroPro. MicroPro will expand AEO's on-demand access to comprehensive capacity building resources such as a searchable library of electronic documents, a consultant database, and on-line chat rooms for discussion of specific topics.

There are still two slots left in GMEN's February 22nd Outcomes Tracking Project. If you would like to attend complete the registration form forwarded earlier (fax to 404-349-3877) and call to let us know you will be attending: P.C. Williams 678-296-1059.

Training-led Focus

FIELD publications - Toolbox for microenterprise organizations: an action planing kit for practitioners. www.fieldus.org/publications/index .

Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance - Connecting to Create Opportunities, The Construction Business Management Institute. Deadline for registration, February 28, 2006 www.alliance4u.org Or call 404-827-9677 . This is a great resource for you clients in the construction industry.

On Tuesday, February 23rd at 1:00 EST, CAMEO will host a 90-minute web based teleworkshop on "developing your fundraising strategy" for microenterprise organizations. CAMEO is the California SMA. The workshop will include how to analyze your current funding profile and how to create an ideal portfolio of dedicated funders and funding sources. To obtain more details or to register go to www.microbiz.org/htm/training .

The Social Enterprise Alliance will be holding its annual conference in Atlanta on March 7-10, 2006. This organization advocates for non-profits to create for-profit organizations whose profits fund the non-profit organizations. For more information go to www.se-alliance.org .

If you have not heard, there has been a name change at The Cobb Microenterprise Center. Their new name is "The EDGE Connection." A marketing announcement will be released soon. Their services include fee-based workshops open to the public. An upcoming workshop February 16th is "Jump Start Your Taxes," focused on personal and business tax strategies. The cost is \$20 for clients and \$50 for non-EDGE clients, and runs from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. To register call 770-499-3228.

The Women's Economic Development Agency (WEDA) will be hosting their first annual small business event "Minding Your Business" on February 23rd from 8:45am to 5:00pm at the Mart. For more information call 678-904-2201. This event will educate women entrepreneurs, connect them with means to advance their business growth, and introduce them to public and private sector procurement professionals.

FastTrac Planning at GSU/SBDC starts February 17, 2006. This training is the Kaufman FastTrac entrepreneurship training. For more information contact Bernie Meinke, SBDC Director 404-651-3550.

Credit-led Organizations

Save the date ... the CFED conference on IDAs September 19-21, 2006. Georgia state legislation is expected this year to expand housing IDAs, and we are hoping to include business development IDAs. Whether your loan fund currently coordinates a business development IDA or not, you are encouraged to attend to learn more about adding this service to your portfolio. In conjunction with this event, the Community Affairs Office of the Federal Reserve System is inviting papers for a policy research forum entitled "Closing the wealth gap: building assets among low-income households." If you are interested in submitting a paper go to www.frbsf.org/community/resources/callforpapers.pdf.

EDSF 2006 "Structuring Small Business deals & essential loan documents will be held on April 20-21, 2006 in Philadelphia. For more information go to www.NADO.org.

MBDC Roundtable resumes on February 15th at Georgia Tech. The February Roundtable will be focused on real estate strategies for growing businesses. For more information call 404-894-2096. For long range planning, note that March will focus on Joint Ventures/Strategic Partners and April will focus on Mergers & Acquisitions.

Next E-newsletter

If you would like information about your program's activity included in this e-newsletter, forward that to me at pcwill@bellsouth.net March 3rd.

Also watch your mail for the next GMEN News with a focus on the recent regional meeting in Augusta. The March regional meeting has been changed from Albany to Douglas, to encourage participation in the statewide entrepreneurial summit.