



Association News

Georgia Economic Outlook 2007: The Georgia Economic Outlook series annually draws several thousand influential business and governmental leaders to luncheons around the state. Directed by the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, this popular program has become the most comprehensive and detailed look at the future economy in Georgia.

The Georgia Economic Outlook Luncheons will be held in Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta, Swainsboro, Jekyll Island, Macon, Columbus, Thomasville, Albany, and Athens. The registration fee includes refreshments, lunch, and publications. For more information on registration, visit the [registration page](#), call (706) 425-3051 or email economicoutlook@terry.uga.edu.

Dates and Places:	January 12	Columbus
	January 17	Swainsboro
	January 19	Jekyll Island
	January 23	Macon
	January 30	Thomasville
	January 31	Albany

Georgia Consortium on Personal Financial Literacy: The members of the Georgia Consortium for Personal Financial Literacy are an excellent resource for GMEN members to partner with in providing financial literacy support to their small business development customers.

The Consortium held its annual meeting on December 8th. The keynote speaker was Dan Lannicola, Jr - Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Financial Education at the Department of the Treasury. He presented a summary of the national strategy for financial literacy and the role of community organizations in implementing this strategy. He made two particularly interesting comments: (1) that most people do not understand that they can be denied employment because of bad credit ... it's not just a purchasing issue; and (2) we have a tremendous supply of financial literacy resources, but we need to invest in increasing the demand for these resources ... by capturing teachable moments in everyday life. The next GMEN members only capacity building conference call on January 23rd will review this national strategy. Watch your email for the notice on the conference call.

The Consortium will be holding educational seminars in Atlanta in 2007, usually from 7:30 am - 9:00 am. **For more information and to RSVP contact Nancy Schwartzmiller at 404-240-0790.**

January 25	Credit Scores: Behind the Scenes
February 22	Budgeting & merging your life & your money
March 29	Georgia economic outlook & minority buying power
April 26	Financial literacy & workplace productivity
July 26	Financial DNA
August 30	Retirement issues

Also presenting at the December event was Carol Wayman from CFED. She presented Georgia's results in the 2005 assets and opportunity scorecard. Georgia did not fare well with an overall rating of C. The asset categories reviewed were financial security, business development, home ownership, health care, and education. The new scorecard will be available in early 2007 and we hope to have it presented at GMEN events in June 2007.

Georgia Department of Economic Development: Attached you will find a current map outlining the GDECD Regional Representatives and their coverage area.

Upcoming Events:

- April 1 – 4** **National Business Incubation Association’s 2007 International Conference** in Seattle, Washington
- March 15 – 16** **Community Planning and Development to Attract the 50 Plus Market** at the Georgia Mountain Center in Gainesville. For further information contact Rick Duke at rick.duke@innovate.gatech.edu
- May 15 – 18** **AEO 2007 Annual Conference** in Kansas City, Missouri
- June 21 – 22** **GMEN 2007 Annual Conference & 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Member News

Appalachia Regional Calendar: The Fannin County Development Authority along with over a dozen Appalachia-based organizations and Renewing the Countryside produced an “Appalachia” Calendar for 2007 that focuses on micro-enterprise. It features the stories of twelve entrepreneurs including Glenn Berns, a local Fannin County entrepreneur. Contact Kristin Gunia at kgunia@fannindevelopment.com for more information.

Congratulations to Habersham Bank’s David Stovall who recently accepted the prestigious **J. Alton Wingate Economic Partnership Award** for his commitment to small and micro-businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities. **Appalachian Community Enterprises** presented the award, named for the late J. Alton Wingate, a brilliant pioneer of financial initiatives whose career conceived and sustained economic betterment for Georgia businesses.

Appalachian Community Enterprises opens its first branch office in Gainesville. The office is located in the heart of Gainesville’s **Midtown** at 1706 Martin Luther King Boulevard. **Nancy Gallegos** is the branch office manager and may be reached at 770-876-3510.

Microenterprise Development Programs focus

NOMINATE YOUR ENTREPRENEUR! AEO 2007 First Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Award Competition AEO is pleased to announce the 1st Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. All nomination applications must be submitted by **February 23**, Learn More! Visit www.microenterpriseworks.org/EntrepreneuroftheYear

Check out the **online business development course** offered by North Carolina REAL, www.ncreal.org. For more information, or to receive a copy of their brochure via email, contact Eleanor Herndon at Eleanor@ncreal.org.

Prosper: New Small Business Loan opportunities through **Ebay:** www.prosper.com

Upcoming Events:

- February 24 – March 3** Celebrate **EntrepreneurshipWeek USA**. [Get involved!](#) [Learn More!](#)
- April 17 – 19** **8th Gathering of the Social Enterprise Alliance** in Long Beach, CA

Fundraising

Free Fundraising Guide [Lewis B. Cullman: How to Succeed in Fundraising by Really Trying](#) Lewis B. Cullman, one of this nation's most generous philanthropists, has written a guide addressing the "Do's" and "Don'ts" of fundraising. *How to Succeed in Fundraising by Really Trying* is a free 18-page guide that offers practical advice to anyone asking for money for a worthy cause. Based on Cullman's years of experience raising money as well as being asked for it, the booklet is a handy and plainspoken guide for anyone soliciting money for a charitable cause. Visit the website listed above to download a free copy of the guide.

Upcoming Events:

- January 24** **Fund Raising Right Now! JAN** – Just-in-Time strategies for year-end fundraising...and planning for the new year.
<http://www.gcn.org/Services/Training/TrainingClasses/FundRaisingRightNow1.aspx>.
- January 25-26** **Direct Marketing Association: 2007 Washington DC Nonprofit Conference** - "Tools for Future Fundraising: Expect the Unexpected"
<http://the-dma.org/conferences/dmanonprofitdc/index.shtml>

Microenterprise Opportunities

February 1 is the deadline for submitting your entry in the **Flavor of Georgia Food Contest**. Spring 2007 at the Capital. Flavor of Georgia is looking for undiscovered food products. For more information go to www.efsonline.uga.edu.

Trade Opportunities Alerts: See **attached** document containing announcements/events for entrepreneurial trade opportunities posted by the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD).

Georgia Dept of Agriculture – Georgia agriculture suppliers are encouraged to trade with Cuba. For more information, see **attached** application to join the Georgia Cuba Trade Association (GCTA).

EXPORT TRADE LEADS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.susta.org/foreignbuyers/trade_leads.html

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If so email pcwill@bellsouth.net by the last calendar day of each month.

GMEN's Mission

To create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia. To learn more about microenterprise or GMEN and the benefits of membership, please visit our website at <http://www.georgiamicroenterprise.org>.