



E-Newsletter

February 2008

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This monthly e-mail is one of your many benefits as a member of the statewide microenterprise industry association.

Training & Technical Assistance

The EDGE Connection receives award from Hewlett Packard! Congratulations to the EDGE Connection! They recently received a Leadership Award from Hewlett Packard for the **HP 2008 Technology for Entrepreneurship Education** program. The EDGE was approved for a grant valued at nearly \$100,000.



Announcing WEOP's 2008 annual conference for women! "From A Woman's Perspective" **Women's Employment Opportunity Project** and **Mother's Voices Georgia** team up to present an event for women leading and shaping the future. To be held at the Atlanta Technical College on **March 14**. For registration information go to <http://www.weop.org/conference.html>

East Athens Development Corporation is in the news! Congratulations for the recent news article "Course Helps Entrepreneurs Be Successful" [click here](#) to view EADC's big media hit!

Executive Director Corner

First, I want to thank the following GMEN members for their active support of HB 1114 for Self-Employment Assistance: Patricia Harris, Grace Fricks, Vanessa Rush, Daryl Blount, Mohammad Saleem, and Gwen Fisher. They attended legislative hearings, provided testimony, sent support letters to legislators, and made telephone calls. We have been working a long time on getting this legislation before the Georgia legislature to allow 5% of those who qualify for unemployment benefits to focus on starting a business as their avenue to re-employment. We

AEO's first Rural Summit! "Planting Seeds: Harvesting Change" There is new hope in Rural America, thanks to a variety of innovative efforts that are creating new opportunities for business owners and communities! Whether you are working in microenterprise development, Buy Local efforts, Main Street revitalization projects, rural economic development, green business initiatives, cultural and heritage initiatives, sustainable tourism or agriculture, **AEO's Rural Summit** is the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas, be inspired, and expand your network. The Summit will feature keynote speakers, plenary sessions, discussion work groups, and knowledge-building sessions. Scholarships may be available. May 20 in Anaheim, precedes the annual conference. Contact Natalie Woodroofe at nwoodroofe@assoceo.org for details.

DECA Events Need Judges

There is an exciting opportunity to serve as professional judges for

could not have gotten this far without the support of Rep. Virgil Fludd who has sponsored the legislation and fought for study committee hearings last summer. This legislation is now before the Georgia House of Representatives "Employment Security & Unemployment Insurance" subcommittee for a vote to move it to the "Industrial Relations" committee, after which it could be voted on by the full legislature. We need all GMEN members to follow-up on the February 22nd GMEN alert on this matter.

Secondly, I want to thank the following GMEN members for their efforts in support of the "Microenterprise Standards & Accreditation Program (MSAP)" pilot: Center for Black Women's Wellness, East Athens Development Corporation, EDGE Connection, Latinos for Education and Justice Organization, and Partners for Community Action. There will be a feedback session on April 23rd at the Federal Reserve in Atlanta. All GMEN members are invited to attend. The purpose of this session will be to provide recommendations for addressing four key standards' items and set the stage for ongoing support of GMEN members in achieving certification. This process is critical for achieving scale and developing larger funding sources for microenterprise support.

I also want to thank Goodwill of North Georgia for stepping up to support a trial of the EITC-Schedule C vita site effort. There is a national movement encouraging microenterprise organizations to expand their service offerings by coordinating vita sites that help microentrepreneurs in completing their annual tax return with a focus on ensuring they complete schedule C and the potential positive impacts on earned income tax credit benefits. We are going to also have feedback from them on this effort at the April 23rd event.

I would be remiss if I did not insure you knew who really keeps

DECA students: the International DECA Competition at the Georgia World Congress Center (April 28). To sign up to judge go to www.deca.org/judging.html.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Needs You!

Two opportunities to participate in the upcoming [FBLA 2008 National Leadership Conference](#) in Atlanta (June 22-23 and 27-28). They need 550 judges and 50 workshop presenters:

Judge: Help determine the best of the best by volunteering as a judge - download the [Judge Request Form](#) and the [Competitive Event Description](#) (deadline May 15)

Presenter: Present in one of the workshops during the conference - download the [Workshop Presenter Form](#) (deadline April 4)

Marketing opportunity for your clients: (If you have a current or former TANF client that would like to participate in one of these events, a portion of any fees & expenses may be reimbursable by GMEN, contact pcwill@bellsouth.net)

- April 1-4 **Governor's Mission to China.** Georgia businesses of any size and industries are welcome. Contact Alicja Drolet at adrolet@georgia.org
- April 6-9 **UK Food and Drink Expo.** Registration deadline March 16. More details contact Maggie Adamack at madamack@agr.state.ga.us
- April 28 - May 2 **US Food Exports Showcases in Chicago, New Orleans & Atlanta.** Chili Supermarket chain, Jumbo. Contact David Bryant at dbryant@agr.state.ga.us
- May 14-16 **Join the Southern US Trade Association in Shanghai China.** To register visit www.susta.org by March 21. Contact Beth Miller bmiller@agr.state.ga.us or 404-656-3740.
- May 20-21 **Taipei Reverse Trade Mission** in Atlanta. Contact Brooke Sorci at brooke@susta.org. Deadline to apply March 31
- June 10-12 **Global Petroleum Show in Calgary Canada.** Register by March 31. Contact Alicja Drolet at adrolet@georgia.org
- June 29 - July 1 **2008 Summer Fancy Food Show in New York.** Exhibit at the Georgia Pavilion this year. To find out whether you qualify, and how to apply contact Beth Miller bmiller@agr.state.ga.us
- Oct 19-23 **SIALParis Trade Show.** For more details visit

things running!!! When you see Deborah Barnett, give her a hug ... she keeps the wheels churning by providing all GMEN communications and publications, as well as annual conference support. Every email, mailer, brochure, newsletter, etc. that you receive was developed by Deborah ... and I am grateful for her support and leadership. Don't forget to hug Pat Moore too ... she manages the monthly outcomes tracking on our major grant, implements all exhibits, and supports programs' implementation including the annual conference ... I am grateful for her support and leadership.

Lastly, I want to encourage GMEN members to provide success stories about your clients with pictures ASAP. Funders and supporters appreciate the very important work that you are doing ... but, they want to see the end-product ... your clients ... as validation for their support. The GMEN fundraising committee is working very hard to secure funding focused in four areas: regranting to you, standards & accreditation for you, store/e-commerce to market your clients' products, and outreach to tell your story.

Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in the start-up and growth of micro businesses in Georgia!!!

P.C.

Entrepreneur Corner



www.susta.org Register by September 26

GDEcD's **International Trade Opportunities Alert** is one of several resources available to help Georgia companies sell their products internationally. To receive the latest list contact Valerie Gannon at vgannon@georgia.org

GDEcD's **calendar of business events** is another helpful resource. [Click here](#)

Made In Georgia Export Directories

Georgia exporters and potential exporters are encouraged to contact [GDEcD](#) to assure that contact information is correctly listed in the business export directories.

Access to Capital

The Summit: Steps to Building Financial Literacy and Independence. On **April 3rd**, the *Center for Financial Independence and Innovation* and *The Georgia Consortium for Personal Financial Literacy* present a one of a kind event to hear experts in the area of Banking, Budgeting, Credit and Asset Development for all Georgians including those with disabilities, their family members and caregivers. The **Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta** is hosting the event at the Red Bud/Magnolia Room, 1000 Peachtree St in Atlanta from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. For more information go to www.thecfii.org and www.georgiaconsortium.org.

The Center for Financial Certifications advances the professionalism and effectiveness of education and counseling within the field of financial literacy. The Center provides professional development, training, and certification for those in the financial counseling, education and related fields.

The **Certified Personal Finance Counselor™** was designed to provide professional development and training to those who work with clients in a one-on-one setting to assist them in establishing a personal budget, evaluate their debt load, set financial goals, and develop a plan of action. For more information on these two training sites visit www.fincert.org

LAUNCHfn shares information about an exciting new blog, dedicated to entrepreneurs.

This blog contains insights on Growth Strategies and Capital Formation tips for early stage companies. The target audiences are entrepreneurs and businesses seeking to grow with proven strategies and by gaining access to capital. Check it out

Nada Bunnell: Gentle Presence Photography

I have always seen the world in pictures, color, and composition. More than anything else, I have always wanted to help others see that way too and thought of my camera as a memory-maker.

But for twenty years, photography was only a passionate hobby -- until I was laid off at 60 years old. I knew I had little chance of finding employment. But with the help of **Appalachian Community Enterprises**, I have made the change from sitting behind a desk in someone else's business to standing behind a camera in my own. I have been able to follow my dream.

By providing me with a loan and assisting me with every facet of starting and running a business, I now have the confidence to carry out and excel at each type of new project that comes along. ACE's continuing support and interest drive me to become the very best photographer and business owner that I can be.

When I began a few years ago, I had one client, a catalog mail order company that used four of my product photos. This same company published 130 of my product images in their current issue and I am scheduled for a cover shot soon. I have also delved into design and have created brochures, business cards, greeting cards and realty flyers. My most recent product is portraiture and the sale of fine art prints. A photography book may be in my future! When I stopped letting the fear of "what if" rule my life and began believing anything is

<http://entrepreneurblogspace.com/>

Want to know how to receive 50% reimbursement on your international marketing expenses? Let the Office of International Trade's staff assist you on how to take advantage of SUSTA's many wonderful programs for southern exporters. Any companies interested in speaking with their staff can sign up to have them visit your company. For scheduling company visits, contact Maggie Adamack at madamack@agr.state.ga.us

SBA provides Export Finance Source

SBA has a representative in the Atlanta Export Center who serves as an information source to various lender guaranty programs that can help obtain financing for any business purpose that can help start, strengthen or grow export sales. For more details go to www.buyusa.gov/georgia/

Assets for Independence Project Grants

Deadline: March 25 - The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), will accept applications for grants to establish and administer Assets for Independence (AFI) projects. For more information on the grant project, visit <http://www07.grants.gov/search/basic.do> and search for Funding Opportunity Number: **HHS-2008-ACF-OCS-EI-0053**

CDFA Call for Entries: Best Revolving Loan Fund Program

The 2008 Practitioner's Showcase will recognize outstanding development finance programs and success stories from the **revolving loan fund industry**. Deadline for entries in the competition is March 21. For further details [click here](#)

Events of Interest

... 2008...

- March 18-19 **Atlanta Fundraising Summit** at the Georgia World Congress Center. Register at www.cfnps.org/atlanta2008.aspx
- March 27 **The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance:** Construction Business Management Institute at the Atlanta Metropolitan College.

possible with the wonder of what happens when you allow it, life became infinitely more bright and beautiful. And I just know in my heart that I can do anything I want! Life is good.

Spread the News!

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.

GMEN Website

www.georgiamicroenterprise.org

P. C. Williams
Executive Director

P: 678-296-1059
F: 404-349-3877
pcwill@bellsouth.net

March 27

Oglethorpe University Microfinance Lecture Seminars: Microfinance and Microenterprise in the US featuring GMEN members. - 4:30 pm in the Lupton Auditorium [Click here](#) for more details. Immediately following the panel, WAM Atlanta will host a reception at the Oglethorpe Museum, located on the 3rd floor of the Philip Weltner Library (at rear of campus).

Mar 31 - Apr 12

Ghana - Microenterprise and Development Institute: Tools of the Trade for Development Practitioners. Registration and more information available at <http://www.mdi-sa.org/>

April 3

The Summit: Steps to Building Financial Literacy and Independence hosted by the **Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta** at the Red Bud/Magnolia Room, 1000 Peachtree St (8:30am-5:00pm)

April 8-10

[Export Compliance](#) presented by Bureau of Industry and Security at the Georgia Tech Conference Center in Atlanta

April 23

GMEN MSAP Pilot feedback session at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

April 28-29

[Southeast Private Equity Conference](#) in Atlanta

April 29 - May 1

[CDFA's 2008 Annual Development Finance Summit](#) in St. Louis, Missouri

May 4-7

[National Business Incubation Association's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation](#) in San Antonio, TX

May 5-6

[Georgia Nonprofit Summit 2008](#) at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

May 8-9

[Results Count 2008](#) - International conference hosted by the **Atlanta Women in Business** at the Ashford Club in Atlanta

May 13-16

[Council for Community and Economic Research \(C₂ER\)](#) - 48th Annual Conference at Atlanta's Westin Buckhead Hotel.

May 20

AEO's first Rural Summit! Event to be held before the annual conference in Anaheim. Agenda & registration details to follow.

May 20-23

[2008 AEO Annual Conference](#) - National Summit on Entrepreneurship in Anaheim, CA

- June 16-19 [Annual FAA National Small Business Procurement Training Conference and Trade Show](#) in Las Vegas
- June 19-29 [Future Business Leaders of America 2008 National Leadership Conference](#) at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta
- June 22-27 **Georgia Center for Nonprofits** is offering the **Executive Leadership Program for Nonprofit Organizations** at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. Application deadline is April 1. [More info can be found here.](#)
- Sept 11-13 CFED announces the [2008 Assets Learning Conference](#) - **Advancing America's Assets Agenda: Expanding Opportunity, Promoting Prosperity and Mobilizing Communities** will be in Washington DC.
- October 6 [The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance](#): How to Develop a Bid
- October 9-10 GMEN Annual Conference
- November 1 **The EDGE Connection's** 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Marriott Marquis Atlanta
- Nov 17-23 **EntrepreneurWeek USA** focus is on global entrepreneurship www.unleashingideas.org

Success Story!

Do you have a microentrepreneur "Success Story"? Share it with us and it may be featured as our ***Entrepreneur Highlight***. Email it with the subject line "Success Story" pcwill@bellsouth.net

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to barnettd@aol.com, by georgiamicroenterprise@yahoo.com
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