



# E-Newsletter

April 2008

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## Executive Director's Corner

You should have received your save the date card for the 2008 GMEN annual conference on October 9-10.

We look forward to your participation in this annual capacity building and networking event for "Empowering Georgia's Communities Through Entrepreneurship." The registration brochure will be mailed in early June.

This year's conference will focus on four areas: (1) improving our understanding of the market for potential

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

## **Business Development Training & Technical Assistance**

**Congratulations** to the [Center for Black Women's Wellness](#) on their recent celebration at a fundraising Donor Party hosted by the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants.

A **congratulations** goes to Elizabeth Gordon on the debut of her book [The Chic Entrepreneur](#) at a recent [Launch Magazine LIVE](#) event which is supported through a sponsorship by [The EDGE Connection](#). Elizabeth Gordon is the president of The Flourishing Business, an advisory firm. She and her very special team and partners form a guiding light to help entrepreneurs find their way to success.

## **Executive Training Pilot Program for Atlanta's Small Businesses**

SBA Emerging 200 information meeting. Join the entrepreneurs shaping the future of Atlanta. **May 21, 6:30 - 7:30pm** at the Auburn Avenue Research Library. GMEN members are encouraged to partner on these types of events. [Click](#) for more details and registration.

## **National Nanotechnology Manufacturing Center presents "Rapid Fielding of Innovation"**

This is a working symposium for drilling down to the precise requirements for driving nanotechnology to our military and commercial marketplaces. Be a part of how nano based products are commercialized. **May 28-30 in Savannah**. [Click](#) for more details and registration.

## **IRS is presenting a National Phone Forum - May 21**

One of the biggest challenges faced by people starting out in business is understanding and meeting their tax compliance requirements. For this reason, IRS is presenting a National Phone Forum so that practitioners and new business owners may tune in to find out the information, resources, products and services available to new business owners filing a Schedule C for the first time. After all, filing taxes should not be harder than starting a business.

The cost is free and can be accessed from the convenience of your office and at a convenient time that works for you. Email questions to [nationalphoneforum@irs.gov](mailto:nationalphoneforum@irs.gov)

clients with a focus on the following groups: formerly incarcerated, rural markets, the unemployed, the disabled, and TANF clients; (2) increasing the scale of program delivery by broadening program offerings with commercial kitchens, retail stores, and facilitation of global commerce; (3) increasing the scale of program delivery by differentiating program offerings with learning's from training and microloan funds outside of Georgia, as well as providing access to health-care options for the self-employed; and (4) improving program effectiveness and efficiency by marketing outcomes.

Each workshop will be supported with information on partnerships and funding sources for your program to implement these initiatives.

We want to thank the conference planning committee for their support: *Vanessa Rush, Yvonne Days-Cuffie, Julia Menefield, Debra Simmons, and Abra Lattany-Reed.*

- Register at: [www.atevent.com](http://www.atevent.com) by **May 18**.
- You will be assigned a Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- If you have never registered with AT&T for a phone forum, you need to "create a profile" first.

**Georgia Department of Corrections Volunteer Training and Certification.** For more information on future certification training dates please contact Jim Powers, Jail and Prison Ministry Coordinator, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta at [jpowers@archatl.com](mailto:jpowers@archatl.com). This is free certification.

#### **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Needs You!**

Georgia will be the host state for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. Students from all over the US will be here showcasing their talents and abilities and it is a great experience for people to see what is going on in the world of high school Business Education. Two opportunities to participate in the [FBLA 2008 National Leadership Conference](#) in Atlanta (June 22-23 and 27-28). They need 550 judges - 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)

**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](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net))

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| May 20-21        | <b>Taipei Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.</b> For further details contact Matt Anderson at <a href="mailto:manders@agr.state.ga.us">manders@agr.state.ga.us</a>   |
| June 23-30       | <b>Korean Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.</b> Deadline for registration is June 1. Contact Maggie Adamack at <a href="mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us">madamack@agr.state.ga.us</a>   |
| June 26          | <b>Central America Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.</b> Deadline for registration is June 2. Participation fee - \$50. Contact Maggie Adamack at <a href="mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us">madamack@agr.state.ga.us</a>              |
| June 26          | <b>Japan Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.</b> Register ASAP. Participation fee: \$50. Contact Beth Miller <a href="mailto:bmiller@agr.state.ga.us">bmiller@agr.state.ga.us</a>   |
| June 29 - July 1 | <b>2008 Summer Fancy Food Show in New York.</b> Exhibit at the Georgia Pavilion this year. To find out whether you qualify, and how to apply contact Beth Miller <a href="mailto:bmiller@agr.state.ga.us">bmiller@agr.state.ga.us</a> |
| Aug 22-31        | <b>India Trade Mission</b> Registration deadline June 27. Participation fee: \$500. Contact Corry de Wit at <a href="mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be">georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be</a>  |
| Sept 3-10        | <b>Southern Central China Trade Mission</b> Registration deadline July 9. Participation fee: TBD. Contact Matt Anderson at <a href="mailto:manders@agr.state.ga.us">manders@agr.state.ga.us</a>                                       |
| Sept 22-26       | <b>Brazil Reverse Trade Mission</b> will bring buyers to  |

## Entrepreneur Corner





**Delores Bryant:  
Dee's Boo-Teke**

Congratulations to **Early County CDC's** client, Delores Bryant who recently opened Dee's Boo-Teke, providing high quality design, brand name clothing for women and men. The shop is located on the corner of Court Square at 595 College Street in Blakely. Dee's carries men and women suits (various sizes-including plus sizes), hats, shirts, shoes, jewelry, and hand bags. Ms. Bryant wants your shopping experience at Dee's to be as pleasant as possible and enjoys hearing the customers say "It's just what I was looking for."

Ms. Bryant received a Fashion Certificate from Mable Bailey School of Fashion in Columbus, Georgia. She also received Kauffman Foundation First Step FastTrac Certification from Early County Community Development Corporation Microenterprise Development Program in Blakely, Georgia.

When asked why she opened a boutique in Blakely, Ms. Bryant responded, "It has been a childhood dream and I recognized a demand for Sunday's best fashion in my home town. It was just natural to do it here." Ms. Bryant is the mother of two children, ages 26 and 20, and she has one grandchild, age 1.

### ***Spread the News!***

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If

Atlanta for one-on-one meetings. Participation fee: \$50. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

Sept 24-26 **IFE Americas Show in Miami.** Contact David Bryant at [dbryant@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:dbryant@agr.state.ga.us)

Oct 19-23 **SIAL Paris Trade Show.** For more details visit [www.susta.org](http://www.susta.org) Register by September 26. **Note:** the State of Georgia will have a display booth of Georgia products. For more details on shipping your product to Paris to be displayed in the US Pavilion contact Corry de Wit at [georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be)

Nov 5-8 **GIDA Trade Show, Istanbul, Turkey.** Registration deadline October 15. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be)

Nov 10-13 **HACE Trade Show, Cairo, Egypt.** Registration deadline July 15. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be)

Dec 2-4 **IFE India, New Delhi.** Registration deadline November 10. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be)

Dec 4-6 **Shanghai China.** SUSTA invites southern US Companies to exhibit products at Food and Hotel China at NewInternationalCenter in Shanghai. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

To be placed on the **GA Dept of Agriculture, Office of International Trade's** Marketing Opportunities Mailing List, contact Matt Anderson at [manders@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:manders@agr.state.ga.us)

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](mailto: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.

### **Micro Finance**

#### **SBA Honors Albany Woman with Statewide Award**

Congratulations to **Thelma Adams Johnson**, president and CEO of [Albany Community Together](#), named SBA "Financial Services Champion" for Georgia recently. She will be honored at the Small

so email [pcwill@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net)  
by the last calendar day of  
each month.

Business Awards Luncheon in Atlanta on May 22 (see next entry  
for more details).

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### **GMEN's Mission**

To create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia.

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### **GMEN Website**

[www.georgiamicroenterprise.org](http://www.georgiamicroenterprise.org)

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**P. C. Williams**  
**Executive Director**

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### **Small Business Awards Luncheon in Atlanta**

Georgia Lenders Quality Circle (GLQC) and SBA present the annual Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon on **May 22nd at Villa Christina** (Atlanta) from 11:30am-1:00pm. **Thelma Adams Johnson**, a member of GMEN's board of directors, is one of the honorees. Register by May 15 for early discount. Go to [www.glqc.org](http://www.glqc.org) for registration information.

### **New Product News: IDA Client Tracking on the Web**

VistaShare is pleased to announce the availability of [Outcome Tracker IDA](#), a new option for nonprofits to manage Individual Development Accounts (IDA) online. Outcome Tracker IDA provides comprehensive tracking of IDA data via the web. The IDA module joins Outcome Tracker's suite of modules, which are used by economic development, community development and social service agencies to manage clients and outcomes.

### **Microenterprise and Development Institute**

The MDI New Hampshire is pleased to offer another highly relevant program for microfinance and community development practitioners. Our two week (**June 8-21, 2008**) program presents nineteen courses in three Knowledge Tracks: Microfinance, ProPoor Enterprise Development and Community Economic Development. Academic credit and Masters degree options are available. Visit [www.mdi-nh.org](http://www.mdi-nh.org) for more information.

### **Microsoft to host New York Venture Summit's Opening Reception**

On June 24th & 25th, [youngStartup Ventures](#) will present **The 2008 New York Venture Summit** in New York City, bringing together more than 500 venture capitalists, private investors, corporate VCs, investment bankers, entrepreneurs and potential strategic partners.

"Early bird" registration discounts of up to \$500 expire **May 20th** - visit [www.vcsummit.com](http://www.vcsummit.com)

### **Financial Research Associates' Presents Microfinance West**

After the amazing success of FRA's first Microfinance in January in New York, they decided to debut the event on the West Coast. On **July 14-15, 2008** key thinkers, savvy investors, microfinance practitioners, and top industry players will meet to discuss and network at the city by the bay. They've partnered with the Silicon Valley Microfinance Network to bring you a conference unlike any other. [Click here for more details.](#)

### **Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity throughout the Americas**

The second annual Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) will be held on **August 17-19, 2008**, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Forum will provide an opportunity for business-to-business and business-to-government discussions yielding practical actions that can be taken to improve competitiveness and economic prosperity in the Americas. The Americas Competitiveness Forum will provide a venue for government ministers from the Western Hemisphere to

come together with leaders from the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations, to explore cutting edge ideas and best practices in several key areas of competitiveness. For more information, and to register, please visit [www.competitivenessforum.com](http://www.competitivenessforum.com).

### **National Microenterprise Loan Fund**

One of the things that we have consistently heard from our members over the years has been the need for increased access to capital. AEO has recently been in some preliminary discussions with Wall Street Without Walls (WSWW) to explore new ways to satisfy this need. WSWW was created by a former Wall Street capital markets banker, who wanted to help prepare community based development organizations to access traditional capital markets for new sources of mission related capital.

One possibility under discussion is to raise money to establish a National Microenterprise Loan Fund. The Fund could be used by microenterprise development organizations for a variety of special purposes, including recovering from natural disasters, expanding services into new areas, taking advantage of opportunities that may arise but require immediate access to additional capital, short term capital needs, etc. Results are forthcoming from a recent AEO survey.

### **Person-To-Person Microlending**

Has anyone heard of this ... [KIVA](#) ... loans that change lives. KIVA lets you lend to a specific entrepreneur in the developing world - empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty.

### **Georgia's SBIR Blog Launched**

SBIRGA (Georgia's Small Business Innovation Research) is designed to help keep "SBIR on your mind" as a potential source of funding for technology research and development. With news, tips, and information, SBIRGA will allow the staff of Georgia's SBIR Assistance Program to relay timely information to Georgia's SBIR/STTR awardees and potential awardees. Check it out! Visit [www.SBIRGA.com](http://www.SBIRGA.com).

### **Export Finance**

The SBA's representative in the Atlanta Export Center serves as a source of information, referrals and financial assistance for exporters in the south. The primary focus is to provide access to the various lender guaranty programs that can help obtain financing for any business purpose that can help start, strengthen or grow export sales. For more information go to the following link: <http://www.buyusa.gov/georgia/92.html>

## **Standards & Accreditation Support**

### **Thinking of adding a youth focused program ...**

Check out this article on youth entrepreneurs - [Youth CEO's making big bucks - 10 are under 18.](#)

Attend the [2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference](#) at the

GeorgeWashingtonUniversity in WashingtonDC on September 15-16.

### **Founder's Dinner and Awards Gala at the AEO National Summit**

As we gather together for the *National Summit on Entrepreneurship in California* next week, we'll have our eyes on the future of microenterprise development, focusing on strategies to move the field forward and empowering America's communities. But for one special evening we'll take a look back to where we started and pay tribute to the founding board members of AEO.

We invite you to join us for the **Founders' Dinner and Awards Gala** on Thursday, **May 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm** in Anaheim, California. Help us celebrate where we came from and where we are going at this special "black tie optional" event.

Reserve your ticket (or table of eight) today! [Click here](#) for more information.

If you are interested in making a special contribution to AEO in honor of the founders, please send your donation to AEO, 1601 N. Kent Street, # 1101, Arlington, VA 22209, Attention: Founders' Gala. Donors will be acknowledged in the gala program.

### **Commission for a New Georgia launched its Freight and Logistics Task Force**

You are encouraged to participate with other key business and industry leaders in a series of statewide discussions on the needs of Georgia's freight and logistics industries, and potential solutions for improving freight movement throughout the State. Your participation in these sessions will also allow the task-force to communicate back with the draft and final recommendations and invite you to participate in a final web-cast to discuss the findings in more detail in late June. **Five listening sessions scheduled for May** ...[Click for information on dates and locations](#)

### **The Community Foundation Postponing Grants**

[The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta](#) is postponing the rest of our 2008 grant cycles to focus internally on the strategies and approaches we use to make an impact in our community. The postponed grant cycle affects the [Common Good Funds](#) (formerly competitive grants program), the Neighborhood Fund, the [Atlanta AIDS Partnership Fund](#), the [Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund's Toolbox Award](#), technical assistance and Extra Wish. [Grants to Green](#), the [Local Funds](#) and the [Arts Fund Loan Fund](#) will continue with funding.

### **Three new resources have been added to the GDEcD website.**

1. Gateway to doing business with the federal government [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov)
2. Atlanta Metro ESB website [www.metroatlantachamber.com/ed\\_entrepreneurs.html](http://www.metroatlantachamber.com/ed_entrepreneurs.html)
3. All about patents [www.wikipatents.com](http://www.wikipatents.com)

### **Free Web service for Nonprofits**

Georgia Center for Nonprofits is excited to announce our partnership with [good2gether](#), the FREE web service that will put nonprofits in front of millions of potential donors, volunteers, and

advocates. Beginning this summer, good2gether will make your organization's events, in-kind donation needs, volunteer opportunities, programs - and more - visible, searchable, and sharable on high-traffic websites like AJC.com. For free!

### **Join GMEN Members at the AEO Conference**

Will you be attending the AEO conference in Anaheim this year? If so let us know, we will have tables for GMEN members at the gala event on Thursday night. Email [pcwill@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net) if you would like to be included at a GMEN table.

## **Events of Interest**

### **... 2008...**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 13-16  | <a href="#">Council for Community and Economic Research (C<sub>2</sub>ER)</a> - 48 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Atlanta's Westin Buckhead Hotel.   |
| May 19-21  | <b>National Community Land Trust Network and Academy</b> will present three days of CLT workshops in Atlanta, GA. Contact <a href="mailto:info@cltnetwork.org">info@cltnetwork.org</a> for more details.                             |
| May 20     | AEO pre-summit forum on <b>entrepreneurship and prisoner re-entry strategies entitled RITES of Passage</b> . Full and discounted scholarships to the first 10 people who <a href="#">register</a> for the forum by <b>May 14th</b> . |
| May 20     | <b>AEO's first Rural Summit!</b> Event to be held before the annual conference in Anaheim. <a href="#">Click here</a> for agenda & registration detail   |
| May 20-23  | <a href="#">2008 AEO Annual Conference</a> - National Summit on Entrepreneurship in Anaheim, CA  |
| May 22     | <b>WAM Atlanta Education Luncheon @ GA Tech College of Management</b> (678-365-4711)   |
| May 22     | <a href="#">GLQC/SBA's Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon</a> in Atlanta  |
| May 22     | <a href="#">National Summit on American Competitiveness</a> - Chicago Fairmont Hotel   |
| May 28-30  | <a href="#">Nanotechnology Manufacturing Symposium</a> in Savannah   |
| June 3-4   | <a href="#">Opportunity Finance Network Midwest Regional Meeting</a> - Chicago   |
| June 8-21  | <a href="#">Microenterprise and Development Institute</a> - Manchester, New Hampshire  |
| June 16-18 | <a href="#">eBay Developers Conference</a> - Chicago   |

- 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. Deadline to register is May 16. [More info can be found here.](#)
- July 22-25 [Georgia Community Action Association's Annual Conference](#) in Savannah
- Aug 17-19 [2008 Americas Competitiveness Forum: Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity](#) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta
- Aug 27-29 [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Georgia Environmental Conference](#) - Hyatt Regency Savannah
- Sept 10-12 [Annual Conference on Financial Education](#) at the Westin Peachtree Plaza
- Sept 11-13 [2008 Assets Learning Conference](#) - Advancing America's Assets Agenda: Expanding Opportunity, Promoting Prosperity and Mobilizing Communities will be in Washington DC.
- Sept 15-16 [2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference](#) at the George Washington University in Washington DC.
- Oct 6 [The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance](#): "How to Develop a Bid" course
- Oct 9-10 **GMEN Annual Conference** at The Loudermilk Center in Atlanta
- Nov 1 [The EDGE Connection's GALA 2008: Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishment](#) at the Marriott Marquis Atlanta
- Nov 17-23 **EntrepreneurWeek USA** focus is on global entrepreneurship [www.unleashingideas.org](http://www.unleashingideas.org)
- Dec 9-12 [Opportunity Finance Network Conference](#) - Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

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### ***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](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net)

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