



# E-Newsletter

May 2008

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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 May celebration at a fundraising Donor Party hosted by the Atlanta Urban League Young Professionals and skirt! Magazine. CBWW also celebrated a class graduation in early June.

**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))



## Executive Director's Corner

You will soon be receiving your 2008 GMEN annual conference registration brochure for our October 9-10 event. The early bird deadline for registration is August 15th. **Make sure to get your registration in early!!!** You are also encouraged to invite your board members and community partners to attend this event.

In preparation for the conference, GMEN members will be asked to volunteer in support of the marketing competition, micro fair, and

June 23-30 **Korean Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.** Deadline for registration is June 1. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

June 26 **Central America Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.** Deadline for registration is June 2. Participation fee - \$50. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

June 26 **Japan Reverse Trade Mission in Atlanta.** Register ASAP. Participation fee: \$50. Contact Beth Miller [bmiller@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:bmiller@agr.state.ga.us)

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](mailto:bmiller@agr.state.ga.us)

Aug 22-31 **India Trade Mission** Registration deadline June 27. Participation fee: \$500. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiausagcdewit@arcadis.be)

Sept 3-10 **Southern Central China Trade Mission** Registration deadline July 9. Participation fee: TBD. Contact Matt Anderson at [manders@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:manders@agr.state.ga.us)

Sept 22-26 **Brazil Reverse Trade Mission** will bring buyers to Atlanta for one-on-one meetings. Participation fee: \$50. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

the annual awards reception. Watch your email for a mid-June notice on how you can participate. This new committee structure is an outgrowth of the GMEN Board's activity in preparation for the GMEN 2010-2012 strategic plan. That process will formally begin in late 2008 and will be finalized before the 2009 annual conference. The Board is focused on making GMEN an effective organization in meeting the needs of you, the practitioner. In that regard, we are working very hard to find funding for the Access to Markets feasibility study. This will provide a significant opportunity for you, the practitioner to find new ways to support your client and fund your programming.

Another annual capacity building event is our national conference with the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO). GMEN was well represented with almost 30 Georgians from 13 organizations present in Anaheim in late May:

- Albany Community Together
- Appalachian Community Enterprises
- Atlanta Micro Fund
- Center for Black Women's Wellness
- Dekalb Microenterprise Institute
- DEBCO
- East Athens Development Corporation
- EDGE Connection
- Partnership for Community Action
- Shasta Corporation
- Small Business Assistance Corporation
- Women's Employment Opportunity Project
- GMEN staff

GMEN members were also elected for three-year terms to the AEO board: **P.C.**

**Williams** and **Patricia Harris**. We join **Marvin Bryant** and **Grace Fricks** on this board.

- Sept 24-26 **IFEAmericas Show in Miami.** Contact David Bryant at [dbryant@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:dbryant@agr.state.ga.us)
- Oct 19-23 **SIALParis 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 [georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be)
- Nov 5-8 **GIDA Trade Show, Istanbul, Turkey.** Registration deadline October 15. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be)
- Nov 10-13 **HACE Trade Show, Cairo, Egypt.** Registration deadline July 15. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be)
- Dec 2-4 **IFEIndia, New Delhi.** Registration deadline November 10. Contact Corry de Wit at [georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be](mailto:georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be)
- Dec 4-6 **Shanghai China.** SUSTA invites southern US Companies to exhibit products at Food and Hotel China at New International Center in Shanghai. Contact Maggie Adamack at [madamack@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:madamack@agr.state.ga.us)

## Micro Finance

### Financial Services Champion

**Thelma Adams Johnson, President/CEO of Albany Community Together, Inc., Albany, GA,** is the recent recipient of the SBA Financial Services Champion award. Johnson's award recognizes her efforts to assist small businesses by supporting additional financial services for start-ups and existing small companies in the Albany area.



Albany Community Together (ACT) is a non-profit agency that was created by a partnership between the City of Albany and the local banking community. It manages the City of Albany Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund and has an outstanding loan portfolio of \$1.4 million. These loans have helped create over 120 jobs recently in a 14-county area around Albany.

ACT participates in the SBA's Micro-Loan Program, which provides loans of up to \$35,000 for working capital, equipment, such as computers for home-based businesses, and inventory. Her organization is also a Technical Assistance Provider for SBA Community Express Loans. These loans range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and feature reduced paperwork and a fast turn-around time. They can be used for start-up costs,

GMEN is well represented on the local, state, and national level in the microenterprise development industry.

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expansions, working capital and equipment purchases.

Johnson has a BS Degree in Accounting from AlbanyStateUniversity and a graduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is a 2000 Graduate of Leadership Albany and a member of the Albany Chamber's Small Business and Economic Development Committees.

## Entrepreneur Corner



### **Craft Across The Cultures: Multicultural Beading Class**

A group of ladies in a local church known as River Church International started a beading class, teaching each other how to make beautiful jewelry. One of the teachers of this beading class was instrumental in bringing together people that she knew through affiliation with her new organization known as Communities United N Action (CUNA).

**Karen Dublin, director of GRACE**, a program in Rome, and one of her students, Teresa Roberson attended one of the beading classes. Upon talking with Willie Jean Holliday, another student, it was discovered she was making jewelry at home and selling to some of her daughter's co-workers. Willie Jean was invited to the class receiving instructions to perfect her craft. From this initiative, Willie Jean started her own business known as *Faith Accessories and More*.

In the midst of this initiative, GRACE has met Michelle Van Graan, the pastor's wife at River Church International who is also a designer of business cards, brochures, invitations, etc. Michelle has been recruited to assist the present Core Four students with their marketing

### **Power of Angel Investing Workshop - June 18 - Callaway Gardens**

This seminar features local experts in high growth ventures and early stage investing opportunities, including seasoned angel investors with diverse investment experience, tax and legal experts, and angel-financed entrepreneurs. Registration fee is \$150 and is limited to 25 individuals. Contact Don Betts at [betts@gatech.edu](mailto:betts@gatech.edu) for more information.

### **Proposed Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Changes**

U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill (**H.R. 5819**) to reauthorize and modernize the SBIR program, which directs federal research funds to small firms. The legislation proposes some big change, including increasing the maximum size of awards and making some venture-capital-backed companies eligible for SBIR grants. The bill also includes an amendment that specifically directs federal agencies to partner with incubators with a goal of encouraging incubator clients to apply for SBIR funds. The bill awaits Senate action.

You can read the entire text of H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2008, at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

### **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).

## **Standards & Accreditation Support**

### **New Blog Discusses Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth**

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation recently announced the launch of a new blog called [growthology.org](http://growthology.org). Dedicated to the full range of topics surrounding entrepreneurship, this blog will serve as a platform to share thoughts and ideas to enhance

needs. Students have received pertinent information to help them in designing their marketing tools for their business.

Through this beading class, the idea for **Craft Across the Cultures** was born. This venue is bringing together homemakers, small business owners, non-profits, church groups, etc., affording them the opportunity to share their gifts and talents to raise money for their mission, business, youth groups, etc.

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### ***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](mailto:pcwill@bellsouth.net) by the last calendar day of each month.

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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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**Executive Director**

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faster economic growth, greater individual opportunity, smart government policy, and the expansion of human welfare. Authored by two economists at the Kauffman Foundation, the blog will focus on the linkages between economics and entrepreneurship from a policy point of view. Visit the [website](#) to read the press release.

### **Youth Entrepreneurship Survey and Website Design**

CFED is launching a new Youth Entrepreneurship Capacity Building Program. The program will include an initial survey of the youth entrepreneurship field to gather data about the types of programs that exist and their successes and challenges in serving youth. The survey will be used to build a youth entrepreneurship website and technical assistance program designed to help programs in their efforts to serve youth entrepreneurs. They will also feature some effective practice models on the website, including programs and partner programs. A section for youth entrepreneurs to describe their businesses and network with their peers will also be part of the website. Contact [Kim Pate](#) for more information on this program proposed to be launched sometime in June.

### **2008 Excellence in Financial Literacy Education Awards**

Don't miss your chance to submit a nomination to be presented at the 2008 Annual Conference on Financial Education, Sept 10-12. The EIFLE Award was created by the Institute to acknowledge the innovation, dedication, and commitment of those that support financial literacy education. Submission deadline: July 1. For more info go to [www.financiallit.org](http://www.financiallit.org)

### **2007 Farm Bill Passed - Creating New Rural Micro Program Grants**

With the recent passing of [The Farm Bill](#), a new rural micro program was created, the [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance program](#) (Sec. 6022). This competitive grant program provides loans and grants to support microentrepreneurs in rural areas; providing mandatory funding of \$4 million for the first three years and \$3 million for 2012.

## **Events of Interest**

**... 2008...**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| June 16-18 | <a href="#">eBay Developers Conference</a> - Chicago  |
| June 16-19 | <a href="#">Annual FAA National Small Business Procurement Training Conference and Trade Show</a> in Las Vegas            |
| June 19-29 | <a href="#">Future Business Leaders of America 2008 National Leadership Conference</a> at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta |
| June 22-27 | <a href="#">CPSI 2008 Polarity Management: Managing the Unsolvable</a> . CallawayGardens                                  |

- July 22-23 [National Institute of Health & Small Business Innovation Research present its 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference](#) at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta.
- 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 - presented by the Institute for Financial Literacy
- 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.
- 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 **EntrepreneurshipWeek 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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