

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



# E-Newsletter

October 2009

## In This Issue

Executive Director Corner

Entrepreneur Corner

Business Development  
Training & Technical  
Assistance

Micro Finance

Standards & Accreditation  
Support

Events of Interest

## GMEN 2009 Annual Summit on Entrepreneurship



was a **HUGE** success!!



## Business Development Training & Technical Assistance

LEJO's Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony ...  
Congratulations!



## Executive Director's Corner

We once again had a successful annual summit and annual membership meeting. During the membership meeting the revised GMEN bylaws were approved and the 2009 membership survey was distributed. The link to the

**Congratulations to the Center for Black Women's Wellness** on their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Celebration, a tribute to their 21 years of service in the area of women's health and wellness.

### 2010 Walmart Better Living Business Plan Challenge

Challenges college students to invent sustainable products or develop sustainable business solutions and present them to a panel of Walmart executives, suppliers, and environmental organizations. The winning team will receive **\$20,000** to invest in

survey has been provided to members who did not attend the meeting. Deborah Barnett, Pat Moore, and Claire Harleston provided logistical support for the events ... many thanks for their support.

### Plenary sessions

The opening session was very well attended, almost a full house. Russ Lipari (pictured above center), GMEN's Vice Chair, did a great job of facilitating this session. We started on time and even had some networking time before the first workshops, which folks really liked.

The luncheon session was almost standing room only. Lynette Bell (pictured above left), GMEN's Chair, did a great job of facilitating this session. We had some extra time and added an entrepreneur speaker ... folks were much impressed. As all three entrepreneurs were in the healthcare field, the audience was not only entertained but well informed!!!

We tried something a little different this year and served a plated lunch with ticket access to the ballroom ... it was well received. And, we added a new closing format ... a "what next" session for each track. This ended up consolidating into one room, but still provided good discussion and feedback ... almost had to run them off!!!

I also want to thank Goodwill Industries and Cornerstone Association for providing the five door prizes from their clients. These were raffled off during the plenary session. SunTrust also raffled off a \$100 gift card from entries provided at their exhibit table. We did not have the expected number of programs with exhibit tables. This will be a requirement for grantees at future summits.

their business or product. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Certification program for incubator management**

Are you interested in receiving a professional credential demonstrating your knowledge of incubator management? [NBIA's 19th Fall Training Institute](#) (Nov 16-18 in Phoenix) presents the perfect opportunity to complete two of the requirements for the Incubator Management Certificate Program. For more information about the certificate program, visit [www.nbia.org/certificate](http://www.nbia.org/certificate).

### **Flavor of Georgia 2010**

The Flavor of Georgia food product contest is an annual celebration of all the flavors Georgia has to offer. Market-ready prototypes or commercially available food products are judged and critiqued by a panel of food experts.

Save \$10 by registering online beginning December 1, 2009. Deadline for entries is Friday, January 22, 2010. Final judging will be held March 15 and 16, 2010 at the Freight Depot in Atlanta. Gov. Sonny Perdue will announce winners at the Governor's Ag Day on March 16.

For more information about the contest, visit [www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu](http://www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu).

### **SUSTA Outreach Visits: Dec 7-9, 2009**

#### **SUSTA MAP Branded Reimbursement Seminar: Dec 8, 2009**

Interested in learning more about how to work with SUSTA? Now is the time to act! SUSTA staff will be coming to Georgia for 3 days to meet with companies interested in exporting! They will even come to your client's office for their convenience!

Or are you interested in the MAP Branded Program with SUSTA? Want to find out more about the program. Registration Deadline: December 1, 2009. Location & Time: GA Dept. of Agriculture (Atlanta) - Room 300 at 1 pm. Participation Fee: FREE!! For more information or to register contact Shehzin Jafar at 404-656-3740 or [Shehzin.Jafar@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Shehzin.Jafar@agr.georgia.gov)

**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 [pc\\_gmen@comcast.net](mailto:pc_gmen@comcast.net))

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Jan 23-29    | <b>2010 IPM (horticulture) Essem, Germany.</b> Registration deadline Dec 10. Go to the events page at <a href="http://www.susta.org">www.susta.org</a>                 |
| Jan 30-Feb 3 | <b>2010 Horticulture Outbound Trade Mission, Germany.</b> Registration deadline Dec 10. Go to the events page at <a href="http://www.susta.org">www.susta.org</a>      |
| Feb 21 - 24  | <b>2010 Gulfood, Dubai, UAE.</b> Registration deadline: Nov 20. Contact Corry De Wit at <a href="mailto:georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be">georgiasagcdewit@arcadis.be</a> . |
| Mar 2-5      | <b>2010 Foodex, Tokyo, Japan.</b> Registration   |

## Workshops

We had 100% coverage on speakers!!! The out-of-town folks were quite pleased this year at the Ritz Carlton ... one of our guests stated he could not turn around without someone from the Ritz asking him if he needed anything!!!

Initial feedback on the workshops has been very positive. All three rooms were full to capacity ... all the way down to the after lunch session. This made the speakers ... and the staff ... feel good about their efforts.

We added the monitor position this year (which was comprised of grantees) to help the facilitator. In the past, facilitators have been stressed with having to leave the room for A/V issues or questions; this year we had the monitor to do that running around. We also had the continued support of our members for A/V needs: Goodwill of North Georgia, Cornerstone Association, and Pat Moore. Special thanks to everyone's efforts in keeping the workshops running smoothly.

## Awards reception

We had a good turnout for the Thursday night reception. Julia Menefield once again did a great job as emcee of the event. We recognized King & Spalding, Small Business Assistance Center, EDGE Connection, and Bernadette Frazier (pictured above right) with the annual awards, as well as 30 "builders" for their support of GMEN during 2009. Congratulations to all the awardees.

## Follow-up

The Kennesaw State University radio station staff covered the summit and provided a recap of the event during their program on

deadline Nov 13. Go to the events page at [www.susta.org](http://www.susta.org)

Apr 27 - 29 **European Seafood Exposition, Brussels, Belgium.** Registration deadline: Dec 28. Go to the events page at [www.susta.org](http://www.susta.org).

May 24-27 **2010 Food Arabia & Mission, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.** Registration deadline: Feb 28. Go to the events page at [www.susta.org](http://www.susta.org).

Go to [www.susta.org](http://www.susta.org) to search a directory of all export marketing events funded by the Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA)

### **Georgia's AG Presence Increases in China**

The Department of Agriculture's International Trade division will now have a permanent presence in China with trade specialist Matt Anderson in Shanghai to help promote Georgia products within the Asian market. Anderson will assist in food shows featuring Georgia agricultural products. Contact Matt Anderson at [manders@agr.state.ga.us](mailto:manders@agr.state.ga.us)

### **The Virtual Trade Show**

The Virtual Trade Show is part of the SUSTA website and acts as a showcase of southern products. An index page directs visitors to available company pages, or "booths." Each company page is solely devoted to that company's products and information. Participation in the tradeshow can develop a web presence for your clients, or drive traffic to their existing website. This is an excellent low-cost form of internet advertising, reaching customers across the country and around the world. For more information go to [www.susta.org/tradeshow](http://www.susta.org/tradeshow).

### **Export Finance & Trade Leads**

The Small Business Administration has a representative in the AtlantaExportCenter who serves as a source of information, referrals, and financial assistance for exporters in the five state areas of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The primary focus is to provide access to the various lender guaranty programs that can help your client's obtain financing for any business purpose that can help start, strengthen, or grow their export sales. For more information, please view the following link: <http://www.buyusa.gov/georgia/>

Export trade leads can be found at [www.susta.org/foreignbuyers/trade\\_leads.html](http://www.susta.org/foreignbuyers/trade_leads.html)

**International trade opportunities** from the GDEcD. To get current leads or to take advantage of other programs offered by the GDEcD, call 404-962-4127. Check out their [website](#).

### **Georgia Made Georgia Grown Products Marketing Website**

Take a look at the web site for arts-centric businesses [www.gamadegagrownproducts.org](http://www.gamadegagrownproducts.org). This website has more than 780 businesses currently registered and fully expects it to have thousands of Georgia-based businesses that create and sell

October 31st. We appreciate their coverage of the event.

Thanks to all who attended and helped make this year's Summit a huge success!

PC

---

## Entrepreneur Corner



### Dhana Blissett Blissful Living, LLC

Dhana Blissett, a recent graduate of the Women's Economic Self Sufficiency Program, hosted by the Center for Black Women's Wellness, Inc, and founder of Blissful Living is congratulated by friends, family and clients at her open house this summer.

Blissful Living is a service-based business dedicated to providing nutritional and lifestyle counseling to enhance the health and well being of individuals. Dhana's qualifications include a Registered and Licensed Dietitian as well as Exercise Physiologist. She has over 20 years experience working with individuals and groups.

Additionally, she has written an outstanding business plan that WESSP now uses as a teaching tool; and she has returned to the WESSP as a wellness speaker.

Blissful Living is located at 165

authentic local products or produce productions that represent the essence of Georgia.

If you know artists, entertainers, museums, gallery owners and others that could benefit from this **FREE** marketing tool, encourage them to sign up. One can register by clicking on "register/log in" at the top of the homepage. This is economic development in its purest form - a tool that facilitates business to business relationships between Georgia's creative industries and the universe of consumers.

**Georgia Made Georgia Grown.** Check out an independent [website](#) also for marketing your client's "Georgia Made Georgia Grown" business and products. Note this site is not affiliated with the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

## Micro Finance

### Congratulations to Small Business Assistance Corporation (SBAC) clients...

Since 1989 the SBAC has been assisting small businesses located within southeast Georgia and the low country of South Carolina with their funding needs. Below are just a few examples of the SBAC's & Savannah's best!

#### *CreativeCoastAlliance Award*

*Innovative Achievement in Sustainability*  
**Structured Green, LLC**

#### *Savannah Magazine's 2009 "BEST OF" Awards*

*Best Italian & Kid Friendly Dining*  
**Bella's Italian Cafe**

*Best Sushi*  
**Sushi-Zen**

*Best New Restaurant*  
**Sol**

*Best Take-Out*  
**Zunzi's Take Out**

*Best Barbecue*  
**Blowin' Smoke BBQ**

*Best Furniture/Home Decor*  
**24e**

*Best Fashion Value*  
**Red Clover**

*Best Men's Clothing*  
**J. Parker Limited**

*Best Bar Food/Cocktails/First Date/Girls' Night Out/Meeting Singles*

Dekalb Industrial Way,  
Decatur, Georgia 30030.  
Office number is 404-273-  
5704 .

Source: WESSP/CBWW

---

### **Spread the News!**

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

[pc\\_gmen@comcast.net](mailto:pc_gmen@comcast.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](http://www.georgiamicroenterprise.org)

---

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

P: 678-296-1059  
F: 404-349-3877  
[pc\\_gmen@comcast.net](mailto:pc_gmen@comcast.net)

### **Jazz'd Tapas Bar**

*Best Nightlife Trivia/Game Night*  
**Locos Grill and Pub**

*Best Late-Night Spot*  
**Saya Lounge**

### **WAM Atlanta Fall 2009 Microfinance Speaker Series**

This Microfinance Speaker Series will explore why and how microfinance operations have grown to provide financial services to poor and low-income communities on a sustainable basis. This series is only being made available to students and friends of WAM at three Atlanta area universities: Oglethorpe, Emory, and Georgia Tech. The list of guest speakers includes some of today's top leaders in microfinance. Lectures will be held on Mondays from October 26th to December 7th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Contact [womenadvancingmicrofinanceatl@gmail.com](mailto:womenadvancingmicrofinanceatl@gmail.com) for locations and more information

### **Georgia Financial Funding**

Unique funding solution to grow your client's business.  
<http://gafinancialgroup.net/>

### **Your client could have access to Millions for their business!**

LAUNCHfn's Entrepreneur Club Online seeks to help those entrepreneurs that don't yet have their working capital to hire experts but can't waste time in attracting their start up financing. They need to gain the knowledge - fast; and they need to get access to it affordably. [EntrepreneurClubOnline.com](http://EntrepreneurClubOnline.com) empowers entrepreneurs with important information and tele-classes that could make a huge difference in their business and their future whether they need \$20,000 or \$2 Million.

## **Standards & Accreditation Support**

### **CFED Celebrates 30 Years of Expanding Economic Opportunity**

Recently, the [Corporation for Enterprise Development](http://www.cfed.org) (CFED) celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC with 450 friends, partners and allies in attendance. It was a night not only to celebrate three decades of expanding economic and social justice in this country and around the world, but also to look forward at the next 30 years and the future of economic opportunity. The evening was hosted by Gloria Steinem and included remarks by CFED President, Andrea Levere and CFED Founder Bob Friedman, a performance by the Ifetayo Cultural Arts Program of Brooklyn, NY, and the reading of "The Threshold of Opportunity" a poem by Bob Friedman, read by the Friedman Family.

### **Kauffman Foundation Spearheads First-Ever Entrepreneurs' Movement**

The Kauffman Foundation officially launched "Build a Stronger

America," a movement to unite entrepreneurs and help give them a stronger voice in the public discussion about the country's economic future. The Movement went "live" before 1,200 of America's most prolific entrepreneurs at the Inc. 500 conference in Washington. Through the Movement's Web site ([www.BuildaStrongerAmerica.com](http://www.BuildaStrongerAmerica.com)), entrepreneurs and business owners will, for the first time, have a central hub to share their stories, hear about issues affecting them and create a unified voice.

### **Kauffman Foundation Grant to Grow and Expand University of Miami's Breakthrough Entrepreneurship Career Model**

The Kauffman Foundation announced today that it has awarded a grant to the University of Miami to help sustain and grow **The Launch Pad**, a unique career center program that helps students explore and launch new firms while they are still in school, before they have other commitments such as mortgages and full-time jobs. For more information, visit [www.thelaunchpad.org](http://www.thelaunchpad.org)

### **Nominations Invited for 2010 Tech Awards**

Awards of \$50,000 will be awarded to individuals, organizations, and companies from around the world that are utilizing innovative technology solutions to address issues pertaining to health, education, the environment, economic development, and equality. Visit the [Tech Awards](#) Web site for complete program information. Nominations deadline is March 31, 2010

*GMEN does not endorse any products and/or services we include in our newsletters ... just making our members aware of them.*

## **Events of Interest**

**... 2009 ...**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Nov 14      | Spelman College hosts an information session provided by USDOT's Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Time: 9am to noon. Place: Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center, room 134. <a href="#">Register here.</a> |
| Nov 16 - 20 | <a href="#">Global Entrepreneurship Week</a>  |
| Nov 16      | <a href="#">GEDA Luncheon</a> at Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta  |
| Nov 16-18   | <a href="#">NBIA Fall Training Institute</a> at the Ritz Carlton in Phoenix   |
| Dec 9       | <a href="#">SEA's First Virtual Conference</a>  |

**... 2010 ...**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Feb 21-24 | <a href="#">Southeastern Small Business Lenders Conference 2010</a> at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, |
|-----------|--|

Reynolds Plantation @ Lake Oconee, Greensboro GA

Mar 2-3 **2010 Entrepreneur Summit** sponsored by GA  
ESB Network - Save The Date

Apr 28-30 [3<sup>rd</sup> Social Enterprise World Forum](#) in San  
Francisco

May 16-19 [NBIA International Conference on Business  
Incubation](#) at the Buena Vista Palace in Orlando

Nov 2-5 [2010 Opportunity Finance Network Conference](#)  
at the Hyatt San Francisco at Embarcadero.  
Save The Date.

---

### ***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"  
[pc\\_gmen@comcast.net](mailto:pc_gmen@comcast.net)

#### **Forward email**

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to barnettd@aol.com by [georgiamicroenterprise@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiamicroenterprise@yahoo.com).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



GMEN | 3695-F Cascade Road | PMB 215 | Atlanta | GA | 30331