

Welcome to SAVANNAH, GEORGIA!

Welcome to the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) 2017 Annual Conference in Savannah – the Hostess City of the South! GEDA is one of the leading economic development organizations dedicated to enhancing Georgia's economic vitality, and our conference goal is to celebrate Georgia's state of momentum! We have panels of experts who will share trends and opportunities to collaborate, easy to replicate talent development strategies and ways to motivate existing industries to participate. We'll also hear about innovations in the automotive sector and end the conference with a keynote speaker who will elevate your expectations of yourself and inspire you to meet every challenge as an opportunity.

From new members to veteran economic developers, from small communities to large, we all face many of the same challenges, and this conference will be beneficial to all. When the sessions are done each day, plan to enjoy networking and learning from each other.



Thank you for joining us!

Pat B. Merritt, CEO, IOM
2017 GEDA Annual Conference Chair
Georgia EMC
Vice President
Community & Economic Development

TWEET. LIKE. SHARE. #IAMGEDA

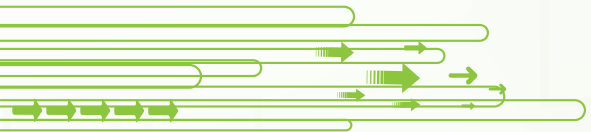


AGENDA | BUILDING ON GEORGIA'S MOMENTUM

WEDNESDAY, September 20, 2017



- 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Registration Open**
LOC: Registration Booth
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: GEDA Board Meeting**
LOC: Scarbrough 1
- 11:00 - 11:45 AM: New Member Orientation**
LOC: Scarbrough 2
- 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM: New Member Lunch**
LOC: Scarbrough 3 & 4
- 1:00 - 1:10 PM: Welcome & Remarks by Pat Merritt, Conference Chair**
LOC: Regency Ballroom
- 1:10 - 2:00 PM: Collaborating Partners in Statewide Economic Development**
 - Pat Wilson, Georgia Department of Economic Development
 - Camila Knowles, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM: Port Update - Griffith "Griff" V. Lynch**, Georgia Ports Authority
- 2:30 - 3:15 PM: Collaborating Transportation Partners, Trends & Innovations**
Moderator: Bart Gobeil, Georgia Ports Authority
 - Aubrey Brown, CSX Transportation
 - Kevin Phillips, Genesse & Wyoming
 - William Tate, Norfolk Southern
- 3:15 - 3:45 PM: Break with Sponsors**
LOC: Verelst / Percival / Vernon
- 3:45 - 4:45 PM: Educating Your Community on Foreign Direct Investment - Trends in Projects & Incentives**
 - Jim Blair, Navigator Consulting LLC
 - Carter Wood, Ernst & Young
- 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Housekeeping Announcements**
- 5:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcome Reception & Cocktail Hour -**
Sponsored by Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA)
(Drink Tickets Given at the Door)
LOC: Scarbrough Ballroom
- 7:00 PM: Dinner on Your Own**



THURSDAY, September 21, 2017



- 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Registration Open** LOC: Registration Booth
- 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Development Authority Executives Breakfast (Invitation Only)** LOC: Scarbrough 1 & 2
- 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Buffet Breakfast**
LOC: Verelst / Percival / Vernon
- 8:30 AM - 8:35 AM: Door Prizes** LOC: Regency Ballroom
- 8:35 AM - 9:00 AM: Update on Georgia 2030 Initiative - Chris Clark**, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Making Your School System a Partner in Economic Development**
Moderator: David Tanner, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
 - Dr. Barbara Wall, Career, Technical, & Agricultural Education, Georgia Department of Education
 - Matthew Gambill, Georgia Association for Career & Technical Education
 - Dr. Mark Scott, Houston County Schools
 - Angie Gheesling, Houston County Development Authority
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Break with Sponsors** - Sponsored by Jackson EMC
LOC: Verelst / Percival / Vernon
- 10:30 AM - 10:40 AM: Door Prizes**
- 10:40 - 11:45 AM: Grow Your Own: Your Role in Talent Development - Replicable Community Innovations**
Moderator: Greg Wilson, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
 - Misti Martin, Cherokee Office of Economic Development
 - Justin Strickland, Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission
 - Matt Trice, Center for Business Solutions
 - Brian Cooksey, Shaw Industries Group, Inc.
 - Michael Fennell, Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- 11:45 AM - 11:55 AM: Door Prizes**
- 11:55 AM - 5:00 PM: Afternoon Activities**
 - Golf Tournament at The Club at Savannah Harbor - 12:30 shotgun start
 - Sporting Clays Tournament at Dorchester Hunting Preserve - begins at 1:00 PM
 - Savannah Slow Ride - departs at 1:15 PM from 420 W. Bryan Street
 - Savannah River & Ports Tour by Boat - departs at 1:30 from River Street Market Place Dock
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: VIP Sponsors Reception (Invitation Only)**
LOC: Presidential Suite, Room 716
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Conversations & Cocktails Reception (Drink Tickets Given at the Door)** LOC: Scarbrough Ballroom
- 7:00 PM: Dinner on Your Own**



SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2017 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAVANNAH | THE STATE OF MOMENTUM



FRIDAY, September 22, 2017



- 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Registration Open** LOC: Registration Booth
- 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Buffet Breakfast with Sponsors**
LOC: Verelst / Percival / Vernon
- 8:00 AM - 8:10 AM: Door Prizes**
LOC: Regency Ballroom
- 8:10 AM - 8:20 AM: Sporting Clays & Golf Winners Announced**
- 8:20 AM - 8:30 AM: GRAD Site Presentation - Mike Grundmann**, GDECD
- 8:30 AM - 8:40 AM: GCED Presentation - Jennifer Nelson**, UGA CVIOG
- 8:40 AM - 9:10 AM: GEDA Annual Business Meeting**
- 9:10 AM - 10:00 AM: Jason Stein**, Automotive News
- 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM: Break with Sponsors**
LOC: Verelst / Percival / Vernon
- 10:20 AM - 10:30 AM: Door Prizes**
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Keynote Speaker - Aimee Copeland**
- 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM: Concluding Remarks by Pat Merritt**
GRAND Door Prizes & Adjournment

