



Government & Economic Development Institute
Auburn University

Moderated by Jeremy L. Arthur, Director, GEDI

Monday, September 8th

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| 7:30 – 8:00 | Grab and Go Breakfast and Coffee - Sponsored by Spire | |
| 8:00 – 8:30 | Welcome and Introductions | |
| 8:30 – 9:30 | The History of Economic Development in Alabama Steve Murray Director, Alabama Department of Archives & History | |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Break - Sponsored by Spire | |
| 9:45 – 10:45 | Alabama Government and Economic Development Joe A. Sumners, Ph.D. Executive Director Emeritus, GEDI Owner and Manager, Wicked Solutions, LLC | |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Break | |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Placemaking as Economic Development Nathan R. Norris, J.D. Founding Principal, CityBuilding Partnership | |
| 12:00 – 1:15 | Lunch (On Your Own) | |
| 1:15 – 2:30 | Alabama Workforce Development: Programs and Planning Ed Castile Deputy Secretary of Commerce Executive Director, AIDT | Greg Reed Secretary Alabama Department of Workforce |
| 2:30 – 3:00 | Class Photo and Break - Sponsored by Spire | |
| 3:00 – 3:50 | PK-12 Education and Alabama Economic Development Eric G. Mackey, Ph.D. Superintendent of Education, State of Alabama | |
| 3:50 – 4:00 | Break | |
| 4:00 – 5:15 | Placemaking / Community Resources – Moderated Panel Gina Clifford – DesignAlabama Mary Jackson Pollard – Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) Matt Leavell – Your Town Alabama Mary Helmer Wirth – Main Street Alabama | |
| 5:15 – 6:30 | Welcome Reception (Terrace Room) Sponsored by ATN, Alabama Power, and CSX | |

Tuesday, September 9th

- 7:30 – 8:00** **Grab and Go Breakfast and Coffee** - Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association
- 8:00 – 9:00** **Tourism as an Economic Development Strategy**
Tami Reist
President & CEO, Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association
- 9:00 – 9:15 Break – Sponsored by Stifel
- 9:15 – 10:30** **The Role of Local Elected Officials in Economic Development – Moderated Panel**
Jim Byard – Founder, Byard Associates; Former Mayor of Prattville
Hollie C. Cost, Ph.D. – Assistant VP, AU Outreach; Former Mayor of Montevallo
Miles Robinson – County Commissioner, Macon County; President, ACCA
James D. Stewart – Mayor, City of Irondale
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:45** **Alabama Department of Commerce Overview and Alabama Growth Alliance**
Ellen G. McNair, CEcD
Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:00 – 1:45** **Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**
Kenneth Boswell
Director, ADECA
- 1:45 – 2:15** **Know Your Community**
Jeremy L. Arthur, Director, GEDI
- 2:15 – 3:00** **Ice Cream Networking Social**
Sponsored by Lathan-McKee and Terracon
- 3:00 – 3:45** **Economic Development Partnership of Alabama**
Miller Girvin
President, EDPA
- 3:45 – 4:00 Break
- 4:00 – 5:00** **Alabama Rural Development Resources**
Brenda Tuck
Rural Development Manager
Alabama Department of Commerce

Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh
State Director of Alabama
USDA Rural Development

Wednesday, September 10th

- 7:30 – 8:00** **Grab and Go Breakfast and Coffee** - Sponsored by Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
- 8:00 – 8:45** **Broadband: Essential Economic Development Infrastructure**
Tom Stackhouse
President and CEO, Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
- 8:45 – 9:00 Break
- 9:00 – 9:45** **Alabama's Infrastructure Report Card and Its Importance to Economic Development**
Lawren Pratt, P.E.
Civil Engineering Manager, Barge Design Solutions

9:45 – 10:00 Break - Sponsored by Sponsored by PowerSouth

10:00 – 11:15 The Role of Utilities in Alabama Economic Development – Moderated Panel

Monica Garsed - Director, Economic Development Southeast, Spire

Blair King - Director of Business Development, Alabama Power Company

Penny Townson - Economic Development Regional Specialist, Tennessee Valley Authority

Thomas Tyson - Economic Development Representative, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

11:15 – 12:30 Lunch (On Your Own)

12:30 – 1:30 Regional Cooperation

Melody Lee - Executive Director, Grow Southeast Alabama

Kelley Pearce – Executive Director, ONE East Alabama

Tom Wisemiller - President and CEO, Northwest Alabama EDA

1:30 – 1:45 Break - Sponsored by Sain Associates

1:45 – 3:00 Resources to Support Local Business and Industry

Whitney H. Barlow, J.D. - Supplier Development Manager, Alabama Technology Network

Tawanna Robinson - Region 2 & 4 Project Manager, Alabama Office of Apprenticeship

Eric Sewell - Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Development, Southern Union State CC

Christina Stimpson - Director, Office of International Trade; Alabama Department of Commerce

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 Retail as an Economic Development Tool

Elliott Cook

Director of Real Estate for the Retail Academy, Retail Strategies

5:30 – 8:00 Graduation Reception and Dinner

5:30 – 6:30

Reception - Sponsored by Brasfield & Gorie and Southeast Gas

6:30 – 8:00

Graduation Dinner - Sponsored by Spire

Thursday, September 11th

7:30 – 8:30 Wrap Up Breakfast and Your Turn Open Forum (Terrace Room)

Sponsored by Energy Southeast

8:30 – 9:30 Innovate Alabama and SEEK AL

Cynthia Crutchfield

CEO

Innovate Alabama

T.C. McLemore

Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Programs

Innovate Alabama

9:30 – 9:45 Break - Sponsored by Spire

9:45 – 10:45 The Role of Public Policy in Economic Development – Moderated Panel

Martha Roby - Senior Advisor for Government Affairs & Economic Development, Bradley

Casey Rogers - Deputy Director of External Affairs, Alabama National Guard

Sharon Rose - Executive VP, External & Governmental Affairs, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce

10:45 – 11:15 Course Wrap Up and Certificate Distribution