



GEDA



Business & Housing EXPO

Governor Sonny Perdue, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Mike Beatty, Technical College System of Georgia Commissioner Ron Jackson, Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Ken Stewart and Governor’s Office of Customer Service Director Joe Doyle are partnering to host a series of business and housing-related expos. The expos will seek to bring business, homeownership and government resources together to share information about federal-state and private economic development tools and other resources that are available to encourage individuals and businesses to invest and/or continue to invest in Georgia’s economy.

Business and Housing Expo



Tools for Georgia’s Economic Recovery

These EXPOs will be held throughout Georgia on June 12 and 13. There will be three locations in South Georgia on June 12th (Albany, Warner Robins and Hinesville) and three locations in North Georgia on June 13th (Atlanta, Calhoun and Athens.)

For more information, go to the [GEDA website](#) or the [DCA website](#).

DEAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS!

Do you remember the Awards Ceremony at last year’s GEDA Annual Conference? It was Oscar Night at GEDA! We had a very different format from years past and had GREAT feedback from the membership. One of the biggest changes was the addition of a new award. In 2008, the Professional Development and Special Service Awards Committees collaborated to create the First Annual GEDA Deal of the Year Awards.



(2008 Winners in the Metro Division – Macon Economic Development Commission for Kumho Tires)

GEDA will once again award Deal of the Year honors to winners in each of three categories – Rural, Regional and Metro.

To submit your local deal to GEDA, [fill out this form](#) and submit it to [Stan Vangilder](#), Chair of the Special Service Awards Committee.

Send in your applications today!



GEDA



New Program at ABAC

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton has a bachelor’s degree program in Rural Studies.

What is most noteworthy about this program is that it is the only program of its type **IN THE NATION!**

There are three areas of concentration:

- Rural business and economic development
- Rural arts and culture
- Rural community and social affairs

From the program description: “The Rural Studies degree addresses the social, economic, demographic, political, and cultural aspects of rural development in North America and educates students about solving problems and how best to meet the needs of the changing rural landscape.”

In case you’d like more information, the best direct contact at ABAC for this program is [Dr. Niles Reddick](#), the Vice-President of Academic Affairs at ABAC.

SPRING WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Have you ever wanted to have input into the decision about where GEDA will go for Spring Workshop? The Board of Directors will soon vote on the next few venues. If you would like to let us know what you like best and where you’d like to go, place your comments on our [discussion forums!](#)

The Board will consider all comments when making its decisions.

Upcoming Events

There are several exciting events coming in the next few months that you’ll want to make sure are on your calendar. These and all other events are listed on the [GEDA Calendar of Events](#).

JUNE 15 – MONTHLY LUNCHEON Westin Peachtree Plaza

Come and hear a panel of experts speak about the current state (no pun intended) of the electrical industry in Georgia. We’ll hear about where we are, where we’re heading and how we’re going to get there. This is the first of three meetings that will be held at one of Atlanta’s most visible and well known landmarks – the Westin Peachtree Plaza. **[Act fast! The early bird deadline is June 5th!](#)**

AUGUST 10 – MONTHLY LUNCHEON Westin Peachtree Plaza

One of our most popular sessions each year is when we bring a nationally known site selection consultant in to speak about current trends in economic development and in site selection. Well, we figured one consultant just wouldn’t do it this year. We are bringing THREE consultants to address our luncheon in August: Darin Buelow (Deloitte), Buzz Canup (Fluor Corporation) and Don Schjeldahl (The Austin Company). This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and hear from three of the nation’s leading site selection consultants. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS PROGRAM!**

2009 GEDA Annual Conference Hyatt Regency Savannah – Sept 16-18

Ok – so we’re not ready to spill the beans on the conference theme for this year, but rest assured – Bob White (the man who brought you Spring Training in 2008) has a great program coming together for Savannah. Stay tuned! Hotel reservations will be available soon!