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INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

This event is recognized by the International Economic Development Council as a professional development event that counts toward the recertification of Certified Economic Developers (CEd).



## AGENDA

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Welcome to the 2022 Georgia Economic Developers Association Annual Conference, and as our theme reflects,  
**Welcome to the Future.**

From small businesses to big – the industries that drive Georgia’s economy are constantly evolving. Through e-commerce a small business can tap technology to sell their products throughout the world. Georgia manufacturers are looking more and more to robotics automation which means a more technologically advanced workforce and the electric vehicle revolution is going to have a significant impact on all Georgians.

The 2022 GEDA Annual Conference is designed to give you a glimpse of what is here now, what the future looks like and the tools to help you implement strategies and tactics now to pay off years down the road.

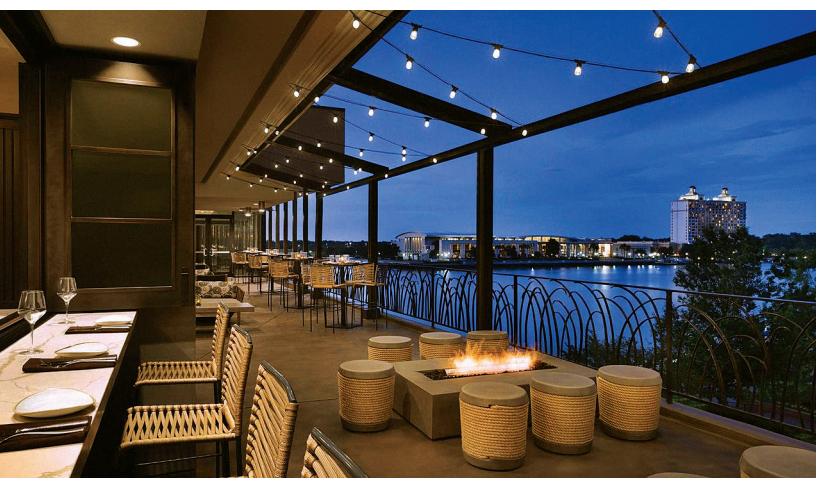
One thing that remains consistent throughout time is the power of people. I would like to thank the sponsorship committee, workshop planning committee, the moderators, panelists and speakers for giving their time and developing a fantastic program. Thank you also to the GEDA staff for their efforts in planning and execution. Your efforts are much appreciated.

*Get ready to take a trip to the future!*



**Trip Tollison**  
GEDA 2022 Annual Conference Chair  
Savannah Economic Development Authority, President & CEO

**TWEET. LIKE. SHARE. #IAMGEDA**



## WEDNESDAY

September 14, 2022

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10 AM-5 PM        | <b>Registration Open (Registration Desk)</b>   |
| 11-11:45 AM       | <b>New Member Orientation (Scarborough 4/5)</b>  |
| 11:45 AM-12:45 PM | <b>New Member Luncheon (Invitation Only – Scarborough 4/5)</b>   |
| 1-1:10 PM         | <b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks – Trip Tollison (Regency Ballroom)</b>  |
| 1:10-1:20 PM      | <b>Welcome – Georgia Governor Brian Kemp</b>   |
| 1:20-2 PM         | <b>The Future of the Georgia Ports Authority: Ed McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer (Regency Ballroom)</b>  |
| 2-2:45 PM         | <b>The Future is Automated: Automation &amp; Robotics (Regency Ballroom)</b>   |
| <b>Speakers:</b>  | <b>Rob Lanham</b> , Owner & General Manager, Silver Lake Automation<br><b>Bart Gobeil</b> , Executive Director, Savannah Logistics Innovation Center<br><b>Jan Moore</b> , Vice President for Economic Development, Ogeechee Technical College                                   |
| <b>Moderator:</b> | <b>Jessica Hood</b> , Vice President, Effingham County Industrial Authority  |
| 2:45-3:15 PM      | <b>Break with Sponsors (Verelst/Percival/Vernon)</b>   |
| 3:15-3:25 PM      | <b>Door Prizes</b>   |
| 3:25-4:25 PM      | <b>The Future is Evolving: RFI Support &amp; Facilitation (Regency Ballroom)</b>   |
| <b>Speakers:</b>  | <b>Robert Boehringer</b> , Managing Director, KPMG<br><b>Ashley Varnum</b> , Business Recruitment Director, Georgia Power<br><b>Justin Farquhar</b> , Vice President, Development Authority of Bryan County<br><b>Jason Chambless</b> , Principal/Civil Manager, Thomas & Hutton |
| <b>Moderator:</b> | <b>Ron Bertasi</b> , CEO, GIS WebTech  |
| 4-5 PM            | <b>Development Authority Executives Meeting (Scarborough 4/5)</b>  |
| 5:30-7 PM         | <b>Opening Reception &amp; Hors d’oeuvres, (Harborside Ballroom)</b>   |
|                   | <b>Dinner on Your Own</b>  |

## THURSDAY

September 15, 2022

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 7 AM-12 PM        | <b>Registration Open (Registration Desk)</b>  |
| 7-8 AM            | <b>Breakfast Sponsored by Parrish Construction Group (Verelst/Percival/Vernon)</b>  |
| 8-8:15 AM         | <b>Door Prizes, Housekeeping (Regency Ballroom)</b>   |
| 8:15-9 AM         | <b>The Future is Innovative: How Georgia Attracts Innovation (Regency Ballroom)</b>   |
| <b>Speakers:</b>  | <b>Chris Tomasulo</b> , Executive Managing Director, Logistics & Industrial Services Group, JLL<br><b>Brian Johnson</b> , City Manager, Peachtree Corners<br><b>Allie Kelly</b> , Executive Director, The Ray<br><b>Greg King</b> , Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology  |
| <b>Moderator:</b> | <b>Greg King</b> , Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology   |
| 9-9:45 AM         | <b>The Future is Strategic: Making a Plan to Move Forward (Regency Ballroom)</b>  |
| <b>Speakers:</b>  | <b>Rod Garvin</b> , US Economic Development Advisory Services Manager, EY<br><b>Meghan Richardson</b> , Senior Director, Economic Development, Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce<br><b>Suzanne Kirk</b> , President and Executive HR Consultant, Employee Development Strategies, Inc.<br><b>Pat Merritt</b> , Vice President, Community & Economic Development, Georgia EMC |
| <b>Moderator:</b> | <b>Pat Merritt</b> , Vice President, Community & Economic Development, Georgia EMC  |
| 9:45-10 AM        | <b>Break Sponsored by Jackson EMC (Verelst/Percival/Vernon)</b>   |
| 10-10:30 AM       | <b>Chris Womack, Chairman, President &amp; CEO, Georgia Power</b>   |
| 10:30-11:30 AM    | <b>The Future is Data: What the Numbers Say about our Workforce and Economy (Regency Ballroom)</b>  |
| <b>Speaker:</b>   | <b>Chris Chmura, Ph.D.</b> , Founder & CEO, Chmura Economics & Analytics  |
| 11:30 AM-12:15 PM | <b>Light Up Your Community Through Storytelling (Regency Ballroom)</b>  |
| <b>Speakers:</b>  | <b>Vanessa Wagner</b> , Marketing Program Manager, Georgia Power<br><b>Heather Worthan</b> , Senior Content Producer, Georgia Power   |
| 12:15 PM          | <b>Door Prizes &amp; Adjourn for Activities</b>   |
| <b>ACTIVITIES</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tour of GPA</b></li> <li>• <b>Tennis &amp; Golf at the Club at Savannah Harbor</b></li> <li>• <b>Sporting Clays at Forest City Gun Club</b></li> <li>• <b>Foodie Tour</b></li> </ul>  |
| 6-7 PM            | <b>Cocktails &amp; Conversation (Scarborough Ballroom)</b>  |
|                   | <b>Dinner on Your Own</b>   |

## FRIDAY

September 16, 2022

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 7-10 AM        | <b>Registration Open (Registration Desk)</b>   |
| 8-9 AM         | <b>Breakfast (Verelst/Percival/Vernon)</b>   |
| 9-9:10 AM      | <b>Door Prizes, Activity Awards by Lindsay Martin, Director of Entrepreneur &amp; Small Business, GDECD (Regency Ballroom)</b>                     |
| 9:10-10 AM     | <b>GEDA Annual Business Meeting, Update by Pat Wilson, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Economic Development, GRAD Sites (Regency Ballroom)</b> |
| 10-10:30 AM    | <b>CTAE EDP &amp; Special Recognition: Barbara M. Wall, Ed. D, Deputy Superintendent, CTAE (Regency Ballroom)</b>                                  |
| 10:30-10:45 AM | <b>Grand Prize Drawings &amp; Final Announcements</b>  |
| 10:45 AM       | <b>Adjourn</b>   |

