GEDA

# Who is GEDA?

February 26, 2025

Georgia® Economic Developers Association

# GEDA

- Founded in 1963
- Nonprofit 501 (c) 6
- 837 Members

Georgia® Economic Developers Association

# GEDA

## Mission

Our mission is to serve as *the* leading resource in professional development and public policy for the economic development community in Georgia.

## Vision

The nation's premier economic development association dedicated to driving Georgia's prosperity.

Georgia® Economic Developers Association

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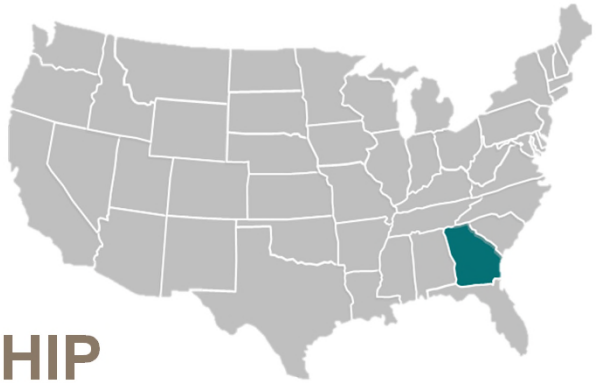

## 2025 LEADERSHIP

**Cal Wray**
Augusta ED Auth
*Chair*

**Stacy Watson**
Georgia Ports Auth
*1st Vice-Chair*

**Charlie Moseley**
Georgia Power
*2nd Vice-Chair*

**Serra Hall**
Covington-Newton County ED Auth
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Trip Tollison**
Savannah ED Auth
*Immed. Past Chair*

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Carl Campbell**
Dalton Whitfield Co DA

**Randall Toussaint**
Gwinnett County, GA

**Robbie Bennett**
Savannah River Site

**Shaun Dodson**
GA EMC

**Justin Farquhar**
RISE Savannah

**Ashley Varnum**
GA Power

**Kristi Brigman**
Metro Atlanta Chamber

**Matt Colvin**
UGA Office of ED

**Stephen Adams**
Macon-Bibb Co IDA

**Heath Tippins**
Cherokee County ED

**Jason Dunn**
Fitzgerald Ben Hill Co DA

**Jessica Hood**
Dev.Auth of Effingham Co

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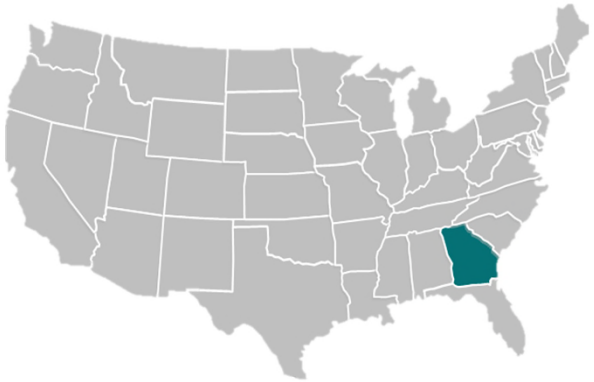


**Being the nation's premier economic development (ED) association…**

Valuable Services

Respected Partner

National Presence

Champion & Advocate

Credible Voice

# Core Functions

CONNECT

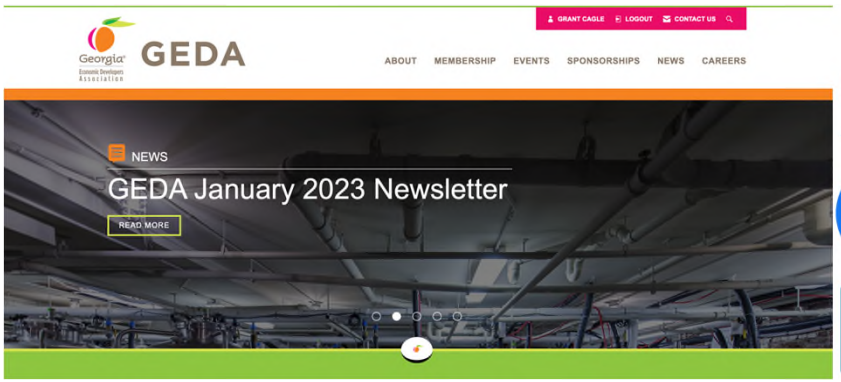
EDUCATE

ADVOCATE

GEDA leads in
NETWORKING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, & PUBLIC POLICY
for the Economic Development community.

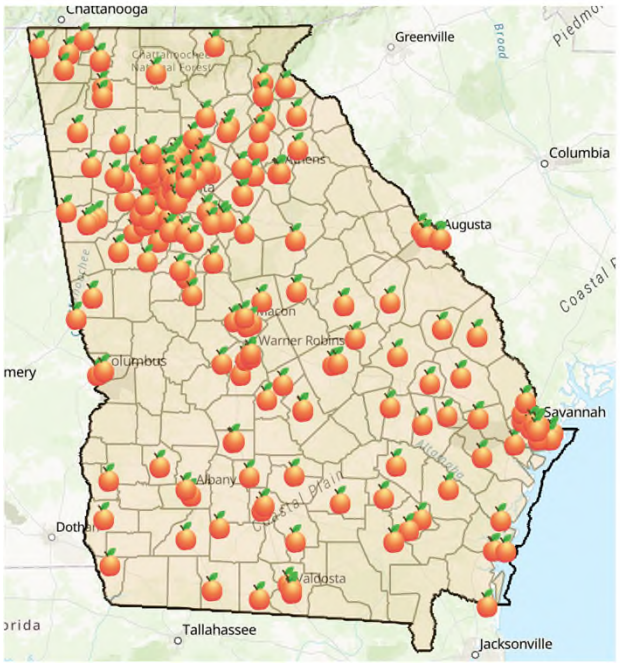
# Connect

- Spring Workshop & Annual Conference
- Member luncheons/monthly
- Social media
- Website & Member Directory
- E-mails & e-newsletter



# 2023 Annual Conference

Georgia Economic Developers Association GEDA



# 2023 Annual Conference

Georgia Economic Developers Association GEDA

*"Are you an economic developer - or are you an economic development leader?"*

**Michael Thurmond**

**Dekalb County CEO**

# Educate

- Scholarship opportunities >>>
- Economic Development courses & webinars
- Conference education
- Professional development: committees & SIGs
- Awards program

*Scholarship opportunities:*

- GEDA Spring Workshop & Annual Conference
- UGA Economic Development Certification Courses
- IEDC Events (Training courses, Annual Conference, CEcD Exam)
- OU Economic Development Institute
- Georgia Tech Basic Economic Development Course

# Advocate

- Monitor legislation that affects economic development
- Develop strong relationships with key legislators
- Host Legislative Reception
- Support: Cornerstone Government Affairs
- Frequent legislative overviews & updates
- GEDA Day at the Capitol

Prepared in Conjunction with our Partners at: CORNERSTONE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 | Issue #3**

**The Week at a Glance**

Last week, Senator Max Burns (R-Sylvania), the chair of the Senate Study Committee on Development Authorities last year, has introduced SB171 based on four recommendations in that study committees final report. The GEDA

# Advocate

- SB 12 - Open Records
- HB 559 - Data Center
- HB 365 - SIDE Tax Credit
- Tort Reform

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GEDA's Top Legislative Priorities for 2025

1. Maintain local control and flexibility for Development Authorities

2. Continued funding support for economic development programs and state agencies

3. Maintain competitive statutory and discretionary incentives

4. Additional areas of interest include:

   - Increase funding mechanisms for economic development projects and related infrastructure
   - Support for rural Georgia initiatives, such as broadband, tax credits, and housing initiatives.
   - Ensure Georgia keeps its competitive set of film and tourism development incentives.

# ED Overview

Georgia® Economic Developers Association

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## Certifications

### Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)

- Gives the opportunity to develop core competencies across the breadth of topics necessary to be  well-rounded and successful.

### Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP)

- A four-course training series covering business credit, financial analysis, loan packaging, negotiating and deal structuring.

### The Georgia Certified Economic Developer Program (GCED)

- Training on practical topics in Georgia that can be immediately applied within your community to achieve economic success.

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Georgia® USA

Georgia® Department of Community Affairs

QUICKSTART®

TCSG Technical College System of Georgia

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

## Accolades for Georgia

- Top State for Doing Business!
- Overall Cost of Doing Business
- Business Incentives Programs
- Competitive Labor Environment
- Workforce Development Programs
- Energy Availability & Costs
- Logistics & Infrastructure
- Available Real Estate
- Cooperative & Responsive State Government

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## Notable ED Partners

Georgia Power

GEORGIA PORTS

THOMAS & HUTTON

PATTILLO INDUSTRIAL REAL ESTATE

Georgia EMC
Representing Georgia's Electric Cooperatives

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

W&A Engineering

Evans General Contractors

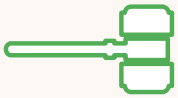
ECG
electric cities of georgia

CSX

HUSSEY GAY BELL
Established 1958

CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION

# Qualities of an Economic Developer

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Personal Integrity | | Teammate |
| | High Work Ethic | | Results Oriented |
| | Effective Communicator | | Strategic; Big Picture |
| | Deal Closer | | Good at Conflict Resolution |
| | Customer Focused |  | Decision Maker |
| | Knowledgeable on many topics | | Trusted Leader |

# Thank you

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GEDA.org

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