

Business & Economic Development Division

Bill Nijem, Vice Chairman

2016 Business Plans

SEEDS Business Resource Center

Mission:

To foster and assist entrepreneur development in Lowndes County, and to create the most pro-business environment in Georgia for new and existing businesses.

2016 Goals:

- Provide service to 500 clients
- Assist 10 entrepreneurs successfully start a new business
- Host or co-host 12 Business University events with average attendance of 15 at each
- Update SEEDS Business Resource Center Web site and attract 250 monthly visitors
- Create a consistent and measurable marketing plan and implementation strategy for the programs of the SEEDS Center (e.g., billboards, television ad, radio PSAs etc.)
- Complete an incubator feasibility study and proceed to next steps as recommended

Valdosta Network Professionals

2016 Goal:

- VNP meets weekly on Tuesday, averages 20 participating members and 20 leads exchanged monthly

The Link

2016 Goal:

- The Link meets weekly on Thursday for networking opportunities, averaging 25 participating members.

Southwest Georgia Bank Business Plan Competition

2016 Goals:

- Recruit 10 qualified Business Plan Competition contestants and retain 5 qualified finalists
- Secure 15 Angel Prize Pack Sponsors increase Angel Sponsor recognition

Business Outlook Breakfast

2016 Goal:

- Coordinate 2016 Business Outlook Breakfast (Feb. 11, 2016) with 175 attendees

Annual Economic Summit

2016 Goal:

- Coordinate 2016 Chamber Annual Economic Summit with 130 attendees

Incubation Task Force

2016 Goal:

- Complete Georgia Tech Community Readiness Assessment and determine next steps

DRUGS DON'T WORK in South Georgia

Mission:

To promote business and community development by encouraging area companies to become and to remain certified drug free workplaces, thereby increasing productivity and safety in the workplace and reducing the companies' Workers Compensation insurance premiums by 7.5%.

2016 Goals:

- Establish and maintain 240 drug-free workplaces throughout the 11 county network
- Provide training in excess of state requirements to members
- Provide technical assistance to DDW members