

Business & Economic Development Division

Daryn Russell (Commercial Banking Company), Vice Chairman

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.

2019 Goals:

Client Service

- Provide service to 500 clients (505 clients served in 2018)
- Assist 15 entrepreneurs successfully start a new business (14 assisted in 2018)
- Host or co-host 20 Business University events with an average of 20 at each (Hosted & Co-hosted 20 events with an average of 24 at each in 2018)
- Continue to improve SEEDS Website market to attract 250 monthly visitors working with Anchored Media Marketing to improve both website and social media presence (234 average monthly visitors in 2018)

Youth Entrepreneurship

- Oversee Directors of the second and third year of YEA! Must have minimum of 20 students for the 2019-20 school year. (11 students participated in the second year of YEA!)
- Coordinate the Children Business Fair at the Primetime Business Expo with 11 YEA! students participating (8 children participated in 2018)

Business Outlook Breakfast

- Coordinate 2019 Southeastern Credit Union Business Outlook Breakfast (January 10) with 225 attendees (200 attendees in 2018)

She Creates Business South Georgia

- Coordinate a new 2019 women's summit in partnership with She Creates Business Producers with 80 attendees (May 2)

Small Business Week

- Coordinate Google Workshop during Small Business week (First week in May)

2018 Economic Summit

- Coordinate 2019 Annual Economic Summit at the 3rd quarter Community Council Luncheon (September 24) with 80 attendees

A Passion to Serve

- Coordinate "A Passion to Serve" with partner Bill Drury (October 24) with 60 attendees

Shop Small Saturday

- Coordinate event date for businesses (November 24)
- Distribute marketing materials to local businesses

Incubator Development

- Obtain EDA and other grant funding for the incubator
- Secure \$2.5 million in private investment for the incubator (throughout the year)
- Acquire the selected facility and complete renovation
- Ribbon cutting for small business incubator

Valdosta Networking Professionals

- Oversee the Chamber's weekly leads group

Valdosta Business & University Alliance – Russ Henry, Chairman

- ADVOCATE for VSU/higher education with local and State leaders
- BUILD a "cool community" where students want to come to school, graduate, and find suitable employment; and where top faculty and staff want to live and work
- CONNECT the campus of VSU and Downtown Valdosta, and the faculty/staff/students of VSU to Valdosta and the business community
- PROMOTE the community as a great place to go to university, and great place to start a new career

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%.

- Communicate regularly with Chamber partners (i.e., 10 chambers of commerce in South Georgia) to enhance current relationships
- Recruit one additional new Chamber partner (12 chambers, total)
- Retain 212 drug-free workplaces throughout the 12-county network (212 in 2018)
- Recruit 15 new members within the 12-county network for a goal of 225 members
- Distribute bi-monthly DDW newsletters for employee and supervisor training
- Provide technical assistance to members