

Business & Economic Development

Division

Jeff Hanson (IDP Properties), 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.*

2021 Goals:

Client Service

- Provide service to 500 clients (307 clients served 2020)
- Assist 10 entrepreneurs in successfully starting a new business (6 assisted in 2020)

Business University

- Host or co-host 12 Business University events (Hosted & co-hosted 5 in person workshops and a 3-part series Power of Energy Webinar in 2020)

Incubator Development

- Assist in creating and implementing early stage marketing plan
- Assist in preparing bid documents
- Assist in issuing RFP, select contractor
- Assist in updated development cost estimate
- Assist in complete renovation

Business Outlook Breakfast

- Coordinate a virtual 2021 Business Outlook Breakfast Tuesday, February 9, 2021 with 100 virtual attendees (200 in person attended in 2020)

Small Business Week

- Coordinate Google Workshop and offer additional workshops targeted towards small businesses during Small Business week (First week in May)

2020 Economic Summit

- Coordinate Annual Economic Summit sponsored by Georgia Power in the 3rd quarter of 2021

Shop Small Saturday

- Coordinate event date for businesses- Saturday, November 27, 2021
- Distribute marketing materials to local businesses (Delivered marketing material to 15 businesses in 2020)
- Partner with both American Express and Small Business Coalition to promote the event

Valdosta Networking Professionals

- Oversee the Chamber's weekly leads group (The group has 22 members with an average weekly attendance of 10 and 4 shared leads)

Partnership Development

- Small Business Development Center
- South Georgia Employers Committee
- South Georgia Regional Library
- Wiregrass Georgia Tech
- VSU Continuing Ed
- 5 regional Chambers – Adel-Cook County COC, Lakeland-Lanier County COC, Ashburn-Turner County, Quitman-Brooks County COC and Berrien County COC