



GEORGIA CHAMBER REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS SERIES
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 | ALBANY
#newGAeconomy

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- 8:00 – 8:04 AM **Welcome**
Justin Strickland, President, Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission
- 8:04 – 8:05 AM **Sponsor Remarks**
Albany State University
- 8:05 – 8:15 AM **Opening Remarks**
Chris Clark, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- 8:15 – 8:25 AM **Small Business Resources & Services**
By delivering a wide range of products, resources, and tools across four key areas of need – growth, knowledge, capital, and community – Wells Fargo is helping businesses take steps to reach their goals.
Ashley Steele-Hawthorne, Vice President & West Georgia District Manager, Wells Fargo
- 8:25 – 8:45 AM **Your Small Business Resource for Every Stage of Your Business Life Cycle**
The SBA has the mission to power the American dream. The SBA team may assist small business owners with access to capital, small business counseling, government contracting assistance, and disaster recovery.
Ashley Bell, Regional Administrator, Small Business Administration
- 8:45 – 8:55 AM **Overcoming Obstacles**
After being paralyzed in an automobile accident in 2009, Southern Regional Technical College student Ben Huntzinger shares his journey of trial and error building rugged outdoor wheelchairs designed to make an active outdoor lifestyle more accessible for users.
Benjamin Huntzinger, Founder, Spartan Wheel Chariots
- 8:55 – 9:14 AM **Enhancing Your Online Presence**
Investing in your business's digital presence can be the difference between surviving and thriving. Learn how the power of social media marketing can improve your company image, boost credibility, enhance customer service, and increase brand visibility.
Jennifer Abshire, Founder & CEO, Abshire Public Relations
- 9:14 – 9:15 AM **Sponsor Remarks**
Metro Power
- 9:15 – 9:40 AM **Finding Funding for Your Business**
For many small business owners, having access to capital means the difference between stocking shelves or hanging for sale signs, creating jobs or contributing to layoffs, exploring new technologies or stunting growth and potential. This panel will dive into the financial issues facing small business owners and entrepreneurs while discussing how to access innovative tools and programs to ensure your business gets the funding it deserves.
Moderator: Lara Hodgson, Founder & CEO, NOW Account
Johnny Hamilton, Vice President of Business Lending, Albany Community Together, Inc.
Heath Fountain, President & CEO, Colony Bank

- 9:40 – 10:00 AM **Digital Defense Strategies**
News reports of cyberattacks and security breaches are becoming increasingly frequent. From large corporations like Target and Home Depot to fast food restaurants, organizations from all industries have fallen victim to hackers – but cyberattacks don't just happen to big companies. Learn the basics for protecting your small business from a potential attack and get the tools you need to take extra precaution with payments, educate your employees, and more.
Rob Collins, Founder & CEO, NEOS
- 10:00 – 10:20 AM **Talent, Teams, and Tomorrow: How to Build an Exceptional Workplace**
The best places to work also often have the best employee productivity, customer retention, and financial performance. Hear from a panel of experts on leading strategies to create the ideal work environment and the many benefits that follow suit.
Moderator: Matt Reed, President, Georgia CEO
Brewer Turley, Director of Communications, Southern Point Staffing
Will Peterson, Vice President of Operations, Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc.
Robert Sands, Shareholder, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart
- 10:20 – 10:40 AM **Transforming Your Business & Community**
goBeyondProfit encourages business leaders and owners across the state to find and invest in creative ways to give back that align with their unique business models. Learn about the positive impact giving back to your community can have on your employees and overall company perception.
Megan McCamey, Executive Director, goBeyondProfit
- 10:40 – 11:00 AM **Startup Success Stories**
Successful locally-owned businesses have a positive economic influence on communities and are the backbone of America. Hear the inspirational stories from people just like you who pursued their passion, risked it all, and ultimately came out on top.
Moderator: Bárbara Rivera Holmes, President & CEO, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Blake Cook, Owner, Director, & Writer, The Levee Studios
Tracy Goode, Owner & Director, The Levee Studios
Katie Gatewood, Broker & Co-Owner, Hughey & Neuman, Inc.
Callie Walker, Broker, Hughey & Neuman, Inc.
- 11:00 – 11:02 AM **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Anthony Parker, President, Albany Technical College