



## RURAL PROSPERITY NORTH GEORGIA FORUM AGENDA

July 23, 2019 | University of North Georgia

- 8:30 – 8:32 am **CALL TO ORDER**  
*Sonny Deriso*, Chairman & Director, Atlantic Capital Bank, and 2019 Chairman, Georgia Chamber
- 8:32 – 8:35 am **WELCOME REMARKS**  
*Dennis Chastain*, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural Prosperity Council Chairman, Georgia Chamber
- 8:35 – 8:38 am **PRESENTING SPONSOR REMARKS**  
*J Berkshire*, President Georgia Field Operations, Kinetic Business by Windstream
- 8:38 – 8:48 am **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA RURAL IMPACT**  
*Dr. Chaudron Gille*, Interim Provost, University of North Georgia  
**Introduced by:** *J Berkshire*, President Georgia Field Operations, Kinetic Business by Windstream
- 8:48 – 8:50 am **GOLD SPONSOR REMARKS**  
*Matt Forshee*, Community & Economic Development Manager, Georgia Power Company
- 8:50 – 9:20 am **CULTIVATING YOUR WORKFORCE PIPELINE**  
*Merrill Wilcox*, Strategic Partnership Coordinator, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education  
**Introduced by:** *Matt Forshee*, Community & Economic Development Manager, Georgia Power Company
- 9:20 – 9:52 am **SUCCESS STORIES IN RAISING CAPITAL FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**  
*Sean Mikula*, CEO, POWER 10  
*Amity Farrar*, Executive Vice President, POWER 10  
*Tim Lee*, Executive Director of Economic Development, Habersham Partnership for Growth/EDC  
**Introduced by:** *Dennis Chastain*, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural Prosperity Council Chairman, Georgia Chamber
- 9:52 – 10:03 am **BREAK**
- 10:03 – 10:05 am **SILVER SPONSOR REMARKS**  
*Brandon Ashley*, Business Development Manager, Jackson EMC

- 10:05 – 10:35 am **NORTH GEORGIA OPIOID EPIDEMIC RESOURCES**  
*Katie Byrd*, Communications Director, Office of the Attorney General, Chris Carr  
*Brittany Pittman*, State Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission,  
Department of Community Affairs  
**Introduced by:** *Brandon Ashley*, Business Development Manager, Jackson EMC
- 10:35 – 10:38 am **PRESENTING SPONSOR REMARKS**  
*Cyle Reissig*, Director of New Market Tax Credits, Georgia Rural Investment Fund L.L.C.
- 10:38 – 11:08 am **RURAL RENAISSANCE**  
*Chuck Reece*, Editor in Chief, The Bitter Southerner  
**Introduced by:** *Cyle Reissig*, Director of New Market Tax Credits, Georgia Rural  
Investment Fund L.L.C.
- 11:08 – 11:40 am **INNOVATIONS IN RURAL TECHNOLOGY**  
*Robert Elliott*, Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, Switch  
*Stephen Fortmann*, Owner, Paladin Wireless  
*Charles Ansley*, COO, ACG Solutions  
*Mark Lupo*, Business Education, Resilience Specialist, University of Georgia Small  
Business Development Center  
**Introduced by:** *Dennis Chastain*, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural  
Prosperity Council Chairman, Georgia Chamber
- 11:40 – 11:42 am **LUNCH SPONSOR REMARKS**  
*Bryan Ginn*, Chief Campus Officer, PCOM
- 11:42 – 12:15 pm **LUNCH BREAK**
- 12:15 – 12:18 pm **KINETIC BUSINESS BY WINDSTREAM VIDEO & GIVEAWAY**
- 12:18 – 12:48 pm **A LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK ON RURAL REVITALIZATION**  
**Moderator:** *Dennis Chastain*, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural Prosperity  
Council Chairman, Georgia Chamber  
*Senator Steve Gooch*, Senate District 15  
*Representative Rick Jasperse*, House District 11  
**Introduced by:** *Michael Foor*, Vice President of State Government Affairs, Kinetic  
Business by Windstream
- 12:48 – 1:20 pm **ADDRESSING THE NORTH GEORGIA HOUSING CRUNCH**  
*Katherine Moore*, Vice President of Programs, Director, Sustainable Growth Georgia  
Conservancy  
*Dwayne Dye*, Director of Economic Development, Hart County IDA  
*Dr. Jermaine Durham*, Assistant Professor of Housing and Community Development, &  
Director of Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, University of Georgia  
*Will Johnston*, Executive Director, MicroLife Institute  
**Introduced by:** *Dennis Chastain*, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural  
Prosperity Council Chairman, Georgia Chamber

1:20 – 1:53 pm

**ATTRACTING TALENT TO NORTH GEORGIA**

Dobbin Buck, Co-Owner, GetUWired

**Introduced by:** *Jeff Ledford*, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs, Georgia Realtors

1:53 – 2:00 pm

**ADJOURNMENT REMARKS**

Dennis Chastain, President & CEO, Georgia EMC, and 2019 Rural Prosperity Council  
Chairman, Georgia Chamber