

Agenda - October 1

12:45 - 12:57 pm

Call to Order

Dennis Chastain, 2019 Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President & CEO, Georgia EMC

12:57 - 1:00 pm

Lunch Sponsor Remarks

Michael J. Sampson, DO, FAOAS, Chief Academic Officer, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia

1:00 - 1:30 pm

Shaping Rural Georgia in the New Economy

Chris Clark, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Introduced by: **Michael J. Sampson, DO, FAOAS**, Chief Academic Officer, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia

1:30 - 2:02 pm

Why Rural Matters

Alan Richard, Chair, Rural School and Community Trust
Introduced by: **Matt Reed**, 2019 Vice-Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President, Georgia CEO

2:02 - 2:05 pm

Presenting Sponsor Remarks

Rosalyn Merrick, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Georgia Community Foundation Rural Health Fund

2:05 - 2:35 pm

Raising the Bar for Rural Health Care

Moderator: **Congressman Buddy Carter**, Georgia's First Congressional District
Jewell Gooding, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Georgia
Dr. Ann Albright, Director of the Division of Diabetes Transition, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
Douglas Swords, Co-Founder, Azalea Health
Introduced by: **Rosalyn Merrick**, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Georgia Community Foundation Rural Health Fund

2:35 - 2:50 pm

Networking Break

2:50 - 3:22 pm

Defense Industry Economic Impact in Rural Georgia

Moderator: **Larry Hanson**, Executive Director, Georgia Municipal Association
Congressman Austin Scott, Georgia's Eighth Congressional District
Colonel Alphonso Trimble, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany
Chrissy Miner, Executive Director, 21st Century Partnership
Introduced by: **Dennis Chastain**, 2019 Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President & CEO, Georgia EMC

3:22 - 3:54 pm

Addressing Rural Georgia's Opioid Epidemic

Moderator: **Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr**
Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
U.S. Attorney Bobby Christine, Southern District of Georgia
Introduced by: **Chris Clark**, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

3:54 - 3:57 pm

Presenting Sponsor Remarks

Jeff Ledford, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs, Georgia Realtors

3:57 - 4:27 pm

Workforce Solutions

Moderator: **David Tanner**, Associate Director, State Services and Decision Support, CVIOG, University of Georgia
Dan Nixon, Chief Operating Officer, Onshore Outsourcing
Keith Parker, President & CEO, Goodwill of North Georgia
Eric Cochling, Chief Program Officer and General Counsel, Georgia Center for Opportunity
Introduced by: **Jeff Ledford**, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs, Georgia Realtors

4:27 - 4:59 pm

Conserving Rural Georgia

Lindsay Thomas, Former U.S. Congressman of Georgia's First Congressional District
Introduced by: **Chris Clark**, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

4:59 - 5:29 pm

Uncorking, Distilling, and Brewing the South

Moderator: **Jennifer Abshire**, Founder and CEO, Abshire Public Relations
Karin Vonk, Co-Owner and Marketing Manager, Richland Rum
Reneé Moss, Co-Founder, Farmer's Daughter Vineyards
Chris Jones, Director of Business Development, Georgia Beer Company
Introduced by: **Matt Reed**, 2019 Vice-Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President, Georgia CEO

5:29 - 5:32 pm

Day One Closure

Matt Reed, 2019 Vice-Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President, Georgia CEO

5:32 - 5:35 pm

Reception Sponsor Remarks

Mandi Boehringer, Director of Business Development, Georgia Rural Investment Fund

5:45 - 6:45 pm

Authentic Georgia Reception

Agenda - October 2

- 7:00 - 7:45 am** **Breakfast Buffet**
- 7:30 - 7:37 am** **Call to Order**
Dennis Chastain, 2019 Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President & CEO, Georgia EMC
- 7:37 - 7:40 am** **Breakfast Sponsor Remarks**
Jon Dangar, Director, Stonehenge Capital
- 7:40 - 8:25 am** **State of Socioeconomic Need & Community Change in Opportunity Zones**
Kenan Fikri, Research Director, Economic Innovation Group
Introduced by: Jon Dangar, Director, Stonehenge Capital
- 8:25 - 8:28 am** **Breakout Session Introductions**
Doug Shipman, President & CEO, Woodruff Arts Center
Megan McCamey, Founding Director, goBeyondProfit
Robert W. Gaines, II, Ph.D., Director of Communications, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
- 8:28 - 9:00 am** **Breakout Sessions**
- Session #1 - Room 19 A**
Bridging to Prosperity with the Arts
Moderator: Doug Shipman, President & CEO, Woodruff Arts Center
Karen Paty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts
- Session #2 - Main Ballroom**
Manufacturing with a Mission
Moderator: Megan McCamey, Founding Director, goBeyondProfit
Jeremy Wixson, Warehouse Manager, The Raynor Company
Rick Whiddon, Operations Manager, Evoqua Water Technologies
Scott Rainwater, General Manager, Clayton Homes
- Session #3 - Room 19 B**
Accessibility in Rural Education
Moderator: Robert W. Gaines, II, Ph.D., Director of Communications, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
Melissa Busbin, Business and Technology Teacher, Tift County High School
Terrence Wolfork, Assistant Administrator for Communications, Fort Valley State University
Jason Martin, Executive Director, STE(A)M Truck
- All introduced by: Dennis Chastain*, 2019 Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President & CEO, Georgia EMC
- 9:00 - 9:32 am** **Breakout Session Switch**
**Topics and panels remain the same*

9:32 - 10:04 am

Networking Break

**Grilled PB&J sandwiches provided courtesy of Georgia Peanut Commission*

10:04 - 10:36 am

Impact of Non-Profits in Rural Communities

Moderator: Thressea Boyd, Editor, South Georgia Business + Culture Magazine

Zoe Myers, Executive Director, Cook County Family Connection

Lisa Billups, Executive Director, Thomasville Community Resource Center

Dr. Harry Hamm, Director, Lowndes Advocacy Resource Center (LARC)

Introduced by: Tyron Spearman, Executive Director, Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association

10:36 - 11:08 am

Rural Counts

Moderator: Commissioner Christopher Nunn, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Lauren Lewis, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

Dr. Richard Carvajal, President, Valdosta State University

Lori Geary, Co-Executive Director, Every. One. Counts.

Introduced by: Brian Marlowe, President & CEO, Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority

11:08 - 11:40 am

Roads, Rail, and... Cyber Security?

The Hidden Danger to Rural Economic Development

Chris Young, Senior Manager, Public Sector Consulting, Accenture

11:40 - 11:43 am

Adjournment Remarks

Matt Reed, 2019 Vice-Chairman, Rural Prosperity Council, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; President, Georgia CEO