State of Rural Prosperity

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UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center | Tifton, GA
September 30, 2026

10:00 AM **Registration Opens** – Light Breakfast Available

10:30 AM **Welcome Remarks**
Tiffany Holmes, Deputy Director, Georgia Chamber Foundation

State of Rural Prosperity
Chris Clark, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber

Responsible Economic Development: Building Stronger Communities Through Growth
Part 1: **Misti Martin**, Deputy Commissioner of Global Commerce,
Georgia Department of Economic Development
Part 2: **Jason Dunn**, Executive Director, Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Susanne Reynolds, Director, Development Authority of Early County
Shelley Zorn, President & CEO, Thomasville and Thomas County Payroll Development Authority
Moderated by: **Tiffany Holmes**, Deputy Director, Georgia Chamber Foundation

Georgia Agriculture: Protecting a Legacy, Preparing for the Future
Will Bentley, President, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Moderated by: **Katie Duvall**, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Georgia Chamber

Rural Awards Luncheon
Rural Champion Awards
Rural Community of the Year Award

Networking Break

Child Care as Economic Infrastructure
Part 1: **Amy Jacobs**, Commissioner,
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)
Part 2: **Suzanne Harbin**, Director of Early Childhood Initiative,
Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia
Caitlyn Hatcher, President & CEO, Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce
Bivins Miller, Superintendent, Bryan County Schools
Moderated by: **Kristin Bernhard**, Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

2:25 PM **Closing Remarks**