

**NEWS YOU CAN USE!****LET'S NETWORK!!**

Though the weather outside was cold and windy, the inside of the Augusta Marriott Hotel Estes Ballroom was warm and friendly as over 50 persons attended the Getting Down to Business Let's Network event sponsored by the CSRA Business League and the Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites. The event, a collaboration between Ellis Albright and Rosetta Ephraim, was the first of what will become a quarterly event sponsored by the CSRA Business League and Marriott Hotel Sales Office, brought together business owners, vendors and decision makers in an atmosphere conducive for networking and business expansive.

Participants had the opportunity to network with decision makers from Georgia Power, the Utilities and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises department's of Augusta Richmond County, the MCG procurement department and the Business Membership department of the Sam's club. Also available were vendors from various businesses throughout the CSRA, including Mark Kay, and Muscle Therapy Reflex, both of whom donated door prizes along with the Marriott Hotel and Georgia Power.

The great tasting food and drinks provided the backdrop for good conversation and introductions. Understanding the need for events of this type in the area, Rosetta and I have begun plans for the next event, which we have tentatively scheduled for the month of March.

Business owners can expand their business by building relationships and partnerships which will open the door to new business. Please make plans to join us either as a vendor or participant at our next announced event.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Plan for putting Americans Back to Work calls on the federal government to fund direct job creation by offering financial support to cities and states to hire workers to provide critical services in communities across the nation to the tune of \$150 billion to create three million jobs. Expand and Expedite the Small

Business Administration's Community Express Loan Program, Create Green Empowerment Zones, Expand the Hiring of Housing Counselors, Expand the Youth Summer Jobs Program for 2010, Create 100 Urban Jobs Academies to Implement an Expansion of the Urban Youth Empowerment Program (UYEP) to employ and train the chronically unemployed. Read the entire report at <http://nul.org/content/national-urban-league-plan-putting-americans-back-work>

OUR NEWEST PARTNER

On Tuesday, 8 December 2009 the League met with Ms. Donna Ennis, Project Director of the Minority Business Enterprise Center at Georgia Tech's Enterprise



Innovative Institute to work out details on how a League and MBEC collaboration will allow the League to expand services and better serve its targeted population. Over the next few months, discussions will continue in regards to how we can best utilize the services of both offices to assist business owners in their quest for success, not just in local markets, but also statewide and globally. To learn more about the Minority Business Enterprise Center at Georgia Tech visit their website at www.georgiambec.org

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ECONOMIC FORUM

On December 3, 2009, the White House hosted a Jobs and Economic Growth Forum, allowing the President and the economic team to hear from some of the leading CEOs, small business owners, labor leaders, nonprofit heads and thinkers about ideas for continuing to grow the economy and put Americans back to work. On December 8th, the President gave an address at the Brookings Institution. The Presidents address can be accessed at the following link. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobsforum>.

Keeping you Informed

MBDA News

The Minority Business program of the U. S. Government is administered by the Commerce Department, under the direction of St. Louis, MO native David Hinson. The website for the agency is <http://www.mbda.gov>.



The Georgia Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center under the direction of Ms. Donna Ennis is operated by Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute. the website can be found at <http://www.georgiambec.org/>.

The GMBEC is committed to working with all Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) needing assistance in start-up, expansion, and sustainability. The center performs Business Assessment to analyze financial and operational health. Access to Capital and Finance Management through business advisors who offer extensive experience in: Commercial lending and banking, Financial, credit and risk analysis, SBA and conventional loans qualification and evaluation, Loan and grant identification and packaging and General finance counseling. The Office also will assist you in Increasing market share through the identification of new markets or increasing your customer base in an existing market, Strategic Business Consulting and Business Process Improvement,

SBA News

SBA Administrator Karen Mills will speak at a National Press Club luncheon, Monday, Dec. 14. Mills' speech, "Building Businesses, Creating Jobs, and Strengthening our Economy," will highlight the Obama administration's efforts to ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to continue to drive economic growth and create jobs.

Visit the Small Business Administration website to find valuable information in regards minority, women and veteran owned businesses at www.sba.gov and the SBA Georgia District office website at <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ga/index.html>

The Emerging 200 initiative of the SBA is a program used to identify and support inner-city small businesses that have substantial potential for growth and provides them with executive level MBA-like training, networking, and other resources necessary for success. The initiative's goal is to identify high potential, established inner-city businesses and provide them with the network and resources to develop long-term growth strategies to achieve size and scale. The intensive and comprehensive curriculum focuses on developing winning, local strategies and attracting capital to fuel growth. The e200 participants work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with banks and the private equity community, if you think your business qualifies please visit the www.sba.gov for additional info.

UGA SBDC Office of Minority Business Development

Please take a moment to participate in a short survey conducted by the Minority Business Development Office of the University of Georgia Small Business Development Office to better serve the needs of Small Business Owners. You can access the survey at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2nih594g2yxi095/a0116g322lsk1/questions>

Upcoming UGA SBDC Events in Augusta

Starting A Business * Dec 15 - 6:00 PM* 3hrs ** \$69.00
 Starting A Business * Jan 26 - 6:00 PM* 3hrs ** \$69.00
 Writing an Effective Business Plan * Feb 9 * 6:00 PM* 2.5hrs ** \$69.00*
 Introduction to QuickBooks * Feb 19 * 9:00 AM * 7hrs * \$149.00*

Thank You

*Augusta Marriott Hotel, Vendors
and Attendees*

of the

Getting Down to Business!

Let's Network Event

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES; SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009, REAUTHORIZES FOR 8 YEARS THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) AND THE SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAMS. THE ACT ALSO PERMITS THE LIMITED INVOLVEMENT OF MAJORITY OWNED VENTURE CAPITAL COMPANIES IN THE SBIR PROGRAM. THE ENHANCING SMALL BUSINESS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACT OF 2009 WILL EXTEND FOR TWO YEARS A PROVISION WHICH WILL ALLOW SMALL BUSINESSES WITH INVESTMENTS FROM VENTURE CAPITALIST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SBIR/STTR PROGRAMS PROVIDED THEY MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

THE IRS HAS UNVEILED NEW YOUTUBE VIDEOS, RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA'S), FLYERS AND POSTERS IN MANY LANGUAGES PROVIDING BASIC INFORMATION FOR TAXPAYERS IN REGARDS TO THE TAX BENEFITS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RECOVERY ACT. THE INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS ABOUT RECOVERY ACT TAX CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/IRSVIDEOS, PODCASTS ON ITUNES, AND LINKS ON THE IRS WEBSITE AT WWW.IRS.GOV/RECOVERY. VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND THE PSA'S ARE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH IN 30 AND 60 SECOND FORMATS, WHILE THE FLYERS AND POSTERS ARE AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, CHINESE, KOREAN, RUSSIAN, AND VIETNAMESE.

ARE YOU A VETERAN, SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED, SPOUSE OF A VETERAN, ACTIVE DUTY ABOUT TO TRANSITION, RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER, OR WIDOWED SPOUSE OF ANY OF THE ABOVE? THE SBA HAS ANNOUNCED THE FUNDING OF A LOAN PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMUNITY CALLED PATRIOT EXPRESS LOANS, DESIGNED FOR THOSE LOOKING TO EXPAND OR START A SMALL BUSINESS. PLEASE VISIT WWW.SBA.GOV/PATRIOTEXPRESS/INDEX.HTML FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

THE SBA HAS AN ASSESSMENT TOOL ENTITLED ARE YOU READY FOR BUSINESS ON ITS WEBSITE LOCATED AT [HTTP://WWW.SBA.GOV/ASSESSMENTTOOL/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.SBA.GOV/ASSESSMENTTOOL/INDEX.HTML) TO ASSIST YOU IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING YOUR READINESS FOR STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS. IT IS SIMPLE TO USE AND WILL TAKE LESS THAN 5 MINUTES TO COMPLETE. THE TOOL WILL PROMPT YOU WITH QUESTIONS AND ASSIST YOU IN EVALUATING SKILLS, CHARACTERISTICS AND EXPERIENCE * AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR PREPAREDNESS FOR STARTING A BUSINESS. YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE SCORED AUTOMATICALLY AND AN ASSESSMENT PROFILE PROVIDED, WHEN YOU CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE, BASED ON YOUR SCORE, A STATEMENT OF SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Other Related News & Events

TAX PREPARATION HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IS THE TOPIC OF THE NEXT SBA WEB SERIES, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2009, [FROM 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. AT HTTPS://EWEB1.SBA.GOV/LIVEMEETING/DEC09](https://eweb1.sba.gov/livemeeting/Dec09). AICPA VICE PRESIDENT OF TAXATION THOMAS P. OCHSENSCHLAGER WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR ONE HOUR.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A PROFESSIONAL LOOKING OFFICE OR CONFERENCE ROOM TO MEET WITH YOUR CLIENTS? CONTACT THE LEAGUE AND LEASE OUR TIMESHARE OFFICE, EQUIPPED WITH A COMPUTER, PHONE, PRINTER, WIRELESS AND WIRED INTERNET ACCESS AND CONFERENCE ROOM WITH SEATING FOR 12, ALSO EQUIPPED WITH A PHONE, WIRED AND WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS. EACH LEASE BY THE HOUR. WE ALSO HAVE OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE, WE OFFER FLEXIBLE TERMS AND RATES THAT ARE AFFORDABLE. CALL US AT 706 722 - 0994 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.



*Quote of the Month **** You can either stand up and be counted or lie down and be counted out."*
Maggie L. Walker

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The CSRA Business League, Inc. has been “Serving our Community with Pride” since its founding in 1970. Our mission is to support and assist small, minority and disadvantaged businesses in their efforts to become successful and prosperous. Our goal is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral source, in addition to providing networking opportunities and technology training for small, disadvantaged and minority owned businesses.

As a 501© 3 not for profit organization, we are dedicated to providing those we serve with modern strategies and services that gives the business owner the tools to maintain a thriving and successful small business.

Membership Corner

The Renewal of the CSRA Business League, Inc. is in full effect and you can assist us by purchasing a League membership. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership and take a moment to visit our revamped website at * * www.business-league.org.

Our Newest Member Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites

MEMBERSHIP FEES

STUDENT	\$25.00	NON-PROFIT	\$50.00
INDIVIDUAL/LLC	\$100.00	CORPORATE	\$150.00

SERVICES

Application Assistance
 Business Plan Development Assistance
 Business Incorporation
 Business Networking Meetings and Seminars
 Computer Lab
 Computer Training for Business Owners
 Copying, Fax and Mail Services
 Partnership Facilitation
 Educational Business Seminars
 Grant Research and Recommendations
 Marketing & Advertising Assistance
 Small Business Incubator Office Space
 Technology Assistance and Resources

*Happy Holidays
 From the
 CSRA
 Business League
 Board of Directors
 &
 Staff*

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT
 CLUB PURE WITH CHER BEST
 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
 NETWORKING EVENT

**SINCE 1970
 THE BUSINESS LEAGUE
 HAS SERVED AS A BRIDGE
 TO SMALL BUSINESS
 SUCCESS IN THE CSRA**

