



Board of County Commissioners

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Camden Leaders Graduate Georgia Academy for Economic Development

Woodbine, Ga. (November 20, 2013) – The Board of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development recently announced the Camden County graduates from the 2013 Region 1 Multi-Day Training Program. Camden County graduates at the November 7, ceremony included Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Jimmy Starline (District 3), County Administrator, Steve Howard and Administrative Services Director, Adam Kabasakalian.

Class participants represented a number of professional and non-professional economic development fields, including elected officials, public servants, business leaders, educators, and social service providers from twelve counties in Northwest Georgia. The Academy provided each of the graduates an opportunity to gain a unique understanding of the complexities of economic and community development on the local, regional, and state levels.

“Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice”

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

O. BRENT GREEN
County Attorney

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT
Commissioner, District 4

TONY SHEPPARD
Commissioner, District 5

Created in 1993 by then-Governor Zell Miller’s Development Council, the Academy assembles a cross-section of economic development professionals and resources to provide this training in all twelve service delivery regions in Georgia. The Board of Directors of the Academy consists of 22 members representing public and private economic development organizations and agencies from across Georgia. Since its organization the Academy has provided training for thousands of professional and non-professional economic developers around the state, and since 1998 the Academy has been offered annually. Georgia EMC and Georgia Power provide facilitators for the program, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs provides staff support to this important program.

“One of the goals for the multi-day regional Academies is to encourage multi-county cooperation,” says Corinne Thornton, director of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. “Many times the participants discover the issues facing their community are the same as those facing other communities in their region, and can then combine limited resources to address the issue.”

The Academy’s multi-day program, taught one day a month over a four-month period, includes training in the basics of economic and community development, plus specialized segments on business recruitment and retention, tourism product development, downtown development, quality planning, redevelopment and other essentials for community success. In addition, the curriculum features specific leadership skills such as consensus building, ethics in public service, collaborative leadership and other segments needed for effective community leadership in economic development. Local elected officials receive certification training credits through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association for completion of this program, and the program is certified for CEUs through the UGA Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

The next Region 1 Georgia Academy for Economic Development will begin in February 2014. For more information on this, contact Leamon Scott at 706-621-2585 or by email at leamon.scott@dca.ga.gov.



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