

Empowered

A monthly online publication published by Thompson Management Consulting, LLC for small business owners and entrepreneurs – FEBRUARY 2016

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Economic Analysis: A Promising Outlook for 2016

By Austin E. Thompson, Jr.

The U.S. economy continues to grow and demonstrate robust upswing. According to data reported by the U.S. Labor Department and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 292,000 jobs added in December, and if you consider a strong finish in the final quarter of 2015, which included a total of 842,000 jobs created between October and December, an average of 281,000 jobs created in the final three months, economists were optimistic going into 2016. In addition, strong job creation was considered in the final quarter of 2015 due to seasonal employment for the holidays. Overall, there were 2.6 million jobs created in 2015, averaging 215,500 jobs created monthly. The unemployment rate had been on the decline since February 2015, closing out 2015 at 5%. Although job creation has been strong, and the unemployment rate has declined, lower wages continue to be a concern for Americans, which may diminish discretionary income or stagnate consumer spending. Nevertheless, consumer spending did grow 2.2%, giving hope to continued spending increases, and if job creation persists, wages are expected to increase, which will drive a stronger economy. Job creation was highest in the professional and business sectors with a 3.7% increase over a 12 month period from December 2014.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a major economic barometer, which measures the nation's total output of goods and services, expanded only 0.7% at the end of 2015 (for Q4). Manufacturing continues to struggle below pre-recession levels, and according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI), manufacturing in the U.S. has to reach and exceed 3.4% annual growth in order to reach those levels prior to December 2007, when the U.S. economy bottomed out. Furthermore, small manufacturers are requesting for additional financial support to grow and sustain operations and circumvent layoffs, as larger outfits struggle to keep operations in the U.S. and ignore attractive incentives to move their businesses offshore. Low gas prices, attributed by the decrease in the cost of oil per barrel, which is now at \$33.62 per barrel as of market closure on Friday 1/29/2016, has been a relief for Americans who rely on lower costs at the pump to keep as much discretionary income in their pockets as possible. Businesses which relies on deliveries and pickups have realized a significant return of savings to their operational budgets. Savings at the pump, along with an increase in job creation should contribute to stronger spending in 2016, as consumer spending improves predicated on strong confidence in the market.

The state of Georgia continues to be the #1 state in which to do business, and has seen its unemployment rate reduced to 5.5% by December 2015, with 4,502,600 Georgians employed. Information Technology, engineering (electronics and security), construction, and healthcare companies are the top leading employers in the state. Looking at small business development, Georgia started 2016 with 865,649 registered companies (up 21% from January 2015), with 287,850 (up 2.2% from January 2015) of those businesses providing employment, according to reporting from the Georgia Department of Economic Development. In addition to its #1 ranking for the third consecutive year, Georgia is #1 for the third consecutive year in the U.S. for the fastest growth in women-owned businesses, and has the #1 economic development agency. Atlanta ranks #1 in the U.S. for jobs in engineering and #2 as the best city in the U.S. for millennials. Metro Atlanta ranks #1 for the number of black-owned businesses, #1 for minority run firms, and #2 for job growth. Alpharetta ranks #1 in the U.S. as the best city for women entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, small business growth is increasing in Georgia, which is listed as the fourth fastest growing state in the U.S. with a growth of over 1.8 million residents between 2000 and 2013 (***Georgia Power Community and Economic Development***). Georgia's population is expected to grow 8.5% between 2015 and 2020 to about 10.9 million residents, and with this growth, entrepreneurship will increase. To sustain the successful growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development, access to credit and finance programs continues to be the #1 concern for entrepreneurs. When the banks deny loans, and opportunities for approved SBA programs are negated by poor credit scores and other disqualifying factors, small business owners have to find alternative means for funding their operations. Recognizing that small businesses create 66% of all net jobs in America, we have to find ways to include all small businesses, regardless of revenue potential and size, in the scope of unrestricted development. Regardless if a small business generates \$10M in annual revenues or \$200K in annual revenues, and whether a small business has 499 employees or 3 employees, **ALL** businesses matter, and only when we provide unconditional support to **ALL** businesses, the renaissance of growing the American economy, driving increased job creation, and realizing the American dream will be prominently achieved.



Building Community Relations: Tips for the Businessperson

By Marilyn Pearlman

Building community relations is an ongoing process, crucial to maintaining a positive image and presence in the public eye. By and large, building community relations involves a business giving something to the community for free. The business can give goods, money, time or effort. The community is usually represented by a non-profit organization, charity coalition or a philanthropic lobby of public opinion leaders. Your successful, finance-driven business helping a poor, charity-oriented organization yields news that makes you look good. Positive community relations also gains a favorable reputation for the business, which results in better public acceptance, better employee retention and better recovery in case the business suffers an image blow.

- **Think long term**—Establishing a long-term community relations campaign requires patience and persistence, which often does not have an immediate impact on your business. Thus you should believe in your charity work and enjoy it. You should be able to tell yourself: “I am going to do this even if I don’t get any media coverage at all.”
 - A project for a television station included conducting volunteer participation surveys among the station’s employees, assigning the right organization to each employee. The campaign produced an ongoing supply of volunteers for the charities and lots of painless visibility for the station.
- **Embrace Causes that you Believe In**—There is little sense in collaborating with a non-profit organization that is far from your heart. Sponsor only organizations that are close to your profession, your interests and passions.
 - A television weatherman felt very strongly about helping families with premature babies, due to his personal challenge: He had two premature babies himself. He chose to aid the March of Dimes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of babies by reducing birth defects and infant mortality.

- **Think creatively**—everybody loves to read “good” news about people helping people. Yet, because sometimes there is an influx of these stories, the media might become blasé. The solution? Think creatively.

➤ An expert in letter-press printing wanted more community visibility. I volunteered his services to support “Imagine It!,” the Children’s Museum of Atlanta. Using his 1912 press, he presented the old techniques of letter pressing. His exhibit Intrigued many people, both from the media and the general public; and he gained visibility and positioned the museum as a learning venue for Atlanta’s children and tourists.

At Atlanta Cause Marketing & PR, we have used these guidelines to successfully execute community relations tactics for our clients. Here are some examples of our work:

- **Become a board/committee member**—Becoming a board member is a great opportunity for you. Board members get plenty of coverage in local, and sometimes national, media. Once you are a board member, you can gain ongoing exposure through your work.

➤ The CEO of a mortgage company was a community activist with a passion for the arts. He achieved his goal of becoming a board member of a premier theater company in his area. His appointment was widely publicized in local media, and the partnership has worked well for all parties, providing him with numerous exposure opportunities.
- **Sponsor fundraising for a non-profit**—Helping non-profit organizations does not necessarily mean helping alone. Sometimes, involving other organizations or individuals whom are within your network might be beneficial; it leverages the effort and gets you increased visibility. One example might be donating a percentage of your earnings to a charity organization.

Do you wish to discuss your business plans for 2016? Are you ready to invest in a business and need to discuss what steps to take? Contact the offices of Thompson Management Consulting, LLC and we will be happy to develop an outline for you.



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➤ One restaurant, gained publicity by helping a local hospice. Launching a successful campaign in which \$0.50 of every purchased appetizer and dessert would be donated to the organization resulted in immense media exposure and thousands of dollars raised.

- **Submit Volunteers for a non-profit event**—Aiding an organization does not necessarily require elaborate plans. Sometimes, it is enough to send a team of employees to walk in an awareness walk, or have employees repairing homes, selling raffle tickets or any other one-time help.

➤ The Atlanta Franchise of Copeland's of New Orleans Restaurant partnered with CURE Childhood Cancer. The restaurant prepared and served meals for cancer patients and their families, gave gift certificates for fundraising events and sponsored a donation fountain in front of both of its restaurants. By co-marketing, CURE and Copeland's gained untold exposure and raised funds for the non-profit.

Whatever strategy you choose, be sure to follow through. Your work might be worthless unless you are well prepared for the media. When the media finally wants your story, you should deliver pre-rehearsed key points. Say things the media can use when framing the story: a personal experience, your ethics and beliefs. Be ready for success. Community relations building is a public relations specialty. The results might not be fast to come, but they come with great impact.

Marilyn Pearlman is an expert in cause marketing for business. She is the founder and the president of Atlanta Cause Marketing & PR, an Atlanta-based public relations firm since 1977.



Celebrating the numerous achievements of African American entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, academics, thought leaders, innovators, and all who have contributed to the growth and success of black-owned enterprises in the United States.

A New Leadership at the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

21 January 2016-01-22

Contributed by Saurel Quettan, President

Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

In order to inform you about the different activities of the Haitian citizens living abroad, I attended for you the state of the union of the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta where a new leadership was elected at the head of this organization. Besides the end of the year statement of the organization, the importance of investing in Haiti was the focus of this meeting.

It's 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2016, the room is still sparse (perhaps because of the torrential rain on the city of Atlanta as announced by the weather). Pending the arrival of other guests, Networking is done by exchanging information on our jobs because we are, mostly, men and business women.



Saurel Quettan (foreground), newly elected President of the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. with the Honorable Gandy Thomas, Consul General of the Republic of Haiti (background).

After about one hour of networking, the new president of the organization, Saurel Quettan, having said his words of welcome to the guests, gave the floor to Sandra Jean, outgoing President, to speak briefly about the end of the year statement of the GAHCCI (Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.). In her speech, Sandra focused on the role that the chamber of commerce plays in the Haitian community of Atlanta especially in cultural and economic terms. She noted that the chamber of commerce is an essential tool to enable the Haitian community to stay connected with the members of the community and thereby have the opportunity to work with other communities to have access to different resource types; such as: financial capital.

Now it is the turn of Saurel Quettan, the new president of the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (GAHCCI) to make his presentation. Mr. Quettan, in turn, presented the vision of the organization which is none other than to see the Haitian community become financially strong and it is through their work that they are able to achieve this feat: to give each Haitian business the essential tools to succeed in a competitive environment. We are an effective conduit for foreign investment in Haiti, he added.

During the evening, I could not help but to notice a question I found very important asked by Natalie Moricette, one of the guests. She presented herself first as a person who owns a business in Haiti who struggles to find capital to grow her enterprise. She inquired about the reasons why it is so difficult for her to find a small loan of 50,000 dollars in Haiti via the commercial banks as a Haitian citizen, while it is different for foreign and Haitian people with connections (moun pa). Hence the question: what does it mean "Haiti is open for business"?

To this question, I took advantage of the presence of Mr. Gandy Thomas, the Consul General of Atlanta to find a more or less clear answer in interviewing him. Mr. Thomas, are you satisfied with the performance of your consulate in investment in Haiti and what does it mean for you "Haiti is open for business"? Not wanting to give himself full marks completely, the Consul General informed me that during his post at the Consulate General of Haiti in Atlanta, Georgia, thanks to his efforts, he has facilitated the creation of four companies currently evolving in Haiti. But it could be better. With regard to the second part of the question, "Haiti is open for business" also means that we focus on foreign trade. This is done by inviting Haitian talents living in Haiti, for example, dancers, artisans, designers, etc., to come to perform in Atlanta, Georgia and the money they earn (US dollars), they return home with. This is a huge contribution to economic movement in Haiti, he informed me.

For the accountant, Frantz Bourget who was among the audience members, this meeting is extremely important because the economy must be the basis of any real development in a society. He believes that the Chamber of Commerce is the spearhead that must allow our fellow Haitians to become true entrepreneurs. The economic exchange between businessmen and businessmen, or between individual and individual, will allow the circulation of money in the Haitian community.

Thus, its economic power will help the community to have much more influence on American politics and simultaneously influence what happens in our native land.

As for Sandra Jean, former President of the chamber, she believes she did her best to manage the organization during the four years of its existence. She more or less followed to the letter the objectives they had set. In a small interview with her, I asked her if it was not difficult for her to pass the ball to a new leader. She told me that her only problem was to find someone who is able to follow the vision of the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. So, this problem is solved by Saurel Quettan, the new leader, who took the time to familiarize himself with the vision and mission of the organization.

In conclusion, it was an evening out of the ordinary where we learned many things worthy of our time and attention. The type of collaboration and teamwork demonstrated by the GAHCCI Team is exemplary. Our country leaders should take note. The people of the first negro republic deserve an end to this state of eternal transition.

Dugue Dumond, EMBA

Freelance Journalist for Le Nouvelliste (Oldest Haitian newspaper)

General Manager of Radio Cosmopolite and Cosmo TV

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The Jamaican Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta Holds Its First Meeting of 2016 Under New Leadership

By Austin E. Thompson, Jr.

The Jamaican Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta (JAMCHAM) held its inaugural meeting of 2016, during which the baton was officially passed from outgoing President, Dr. Glenn Laman to newly elected President, Ms. Sylvia McClure. In 2015, JAMCHAM achieved numerous success, most notably its launch and several significant workshops organized by the chamber for its members. The meeting, which was held at Argosy University on Saturday, January 30, 2016, was facilitated by Dr. David Panton, Chairman of the Advisory Board, and was well attended by members and guests.



Dr. David Panton (R), presents Dr. Glenn Laman (L) with an honorarium in appreciation for his service to JAMCHAM

For 2016, JAMCHAM is off and running to accomplish a list of ambitious objectives, which includes, but not limited to increasing sponsorship to \$25,000, increasing the number of events planned and executed, increasing chamber membership, organizing workshops and seminars focused on access to capital, strengthening relations between chamber members and the political establishment for effective lobbying and leverage building, ongoing educational programs and continuous development for entrepreneurs, optimizing the identification of resources members need to grow their businesses, networking and building strategic partnerships with business organizations to leverage intellectual capital and best practices, developing a marketing strategy to strengthen the JAMCHAM brand, and determining the best way forward for advertising the organization's programs and benefits.

JAMCHAM is off to a phenomenal start, and we can expect nothing but the best from this chamber in 2016 under the new leadership of Sylvia McClure as President.

30 Tax Exemptions You're Missing—and How to Get Them

By William Hampton, CEO

Executive Business Consultants

The IRS gives U.S. taxpayers a gift each April: legal tax deductions. The government created a complex tax system, but within that code there are many legal tax deductions that allow you to pay less taxes and keep more money in your pocket.

The IRS clearly explains all of the tax deductions on the [IRS.gov](#) website. It's a solid resource for taxpayers to discover ways to maximize their deductions, and to get up to date on the tax changes for 2015. To get started, you can click through here to see 30 tax deductions for 2015 that the average taxpayer can claim.

1. THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION TAX DEDUCTION

You're allowed to claim one personal exemption for yourself, and one for your spouse if you're married. This exemption holds as long as no one else can claim you as a dependent on their tax return. If another can claim you as a deduction, you can't claim yourself. The 2015 personal exemption is \$4,000 each. If you're single and earn more than \$258,250, the personal exemption tax deduction begins to phase out. It's completely eliminated for singles making more than \$380,750. For married couples filing together, the exemption phase-out range is between \$309,900 and \$432,400.

2. THE STANDARD TAX DEDUCTION

The standard deduction amount is subtracted from your adjusted gross income (AGI), and it reduces your taxable income. You can choose either the standard tax deduction or itemized deductions, but you can't claim both on your tax return. For singles, the standard deduction for 2015 is \$6,300. For couples who are married filing jointly, the standard deduction is \$12,600, double the single tax deduction. To choose the best option, figure out your deductions using both methods, and choose the one that allows you to pay less taxes, according to the IRS.

3. TRAVEL COSTS FOR MILITARY RESERVE EXERCISES

Military reservists can deduct travel costs for training exercises if they must travel more than 100 miles and stay overnight. This includes lodging and half the cost of meals. The amount of qualifying reservist expenses is limited to the regular federal per diem rate (for lodging, meals and incidental expenses) and the standard mileage rate (for car expenses), plus any parking fees, ferry fees and tolls.

4. STUDENT LOAN TAX DEDUCTION

You can deduct up to \$2,500 in interest on a loan for qualifying college costs, as long as your modified adjusted gross income is less than \$65,000 (\$130,000 for joint returns). If you make more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 if filing a joint return), this deduction is not available.

5. ALIMONY TAX DEDUCTION

If you made payments to a former spouse under a divorce or separation instrument, you might be able to take this deduction. The IRS does not consider child support or non-cash property settlements to be alimony. However, there's no limit to the amount of the alimony tax deduction.

6. EDUCATION TUITION AND FEES TAX DEDUCTION

If you, your spouse or a dependent was a student in 2015, you could be eligible for the tuition and fees deduction. This tax deduction includes the cost of qualified tuition, fees, books and supplies. The taxpayer can deduct up to \$2,000 or \$4,000, depending on adjusted gross income.

7. EDUCATOR EXPENSES TAX DEDUCTION

If you are an educator and pay for items needed for your job, you might be eligible for the educator tax benefit. With this deduction, you can deduct up to \$250 in out-of-pocket costs that teachers and other eligible school employees incur to help with classroom lessons.

8. EMPLOYEE MOVING EXPENSES TAX DEDUCTION

If you changed jobs or employers, then you might be able to deduct your moving expenses — with conditions. Your move must coincide with the start of a new job, and your new job must be further than 50 miles from your prior home. If you are an employee, you must work full time for at least 39 weeks for the first year after you move. If you are starting your first-ever full time job and meet the distance requirement, you can deduct the moving costs. There's no limit to the employee moving expenses tax deduction.

9. PET MOVING EXPENSES TAX DEDUCTION

Believe it or not, if Fido is also moving for your new job, those moving costs could also be tax-deductible. For example, if your employment-related move is 50 or more miles away, you might be able to deduct your pet's shipping costs.

10. SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE TAX DEDUCTION

Employees aren't the only ones who can benefit from deductions; the self-employed are also rewarded with many tax deductions. Just make sure to keep accurate records for verification. People who are self-employed, or even have an entrepreneurial side job, can deduct health insurance premiums — as long as they're not eligible to participate in an employer-subsidized health plan.

11. SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAX DEDUCTION

If you're self-employed and earn more than \$400, you must pay self-employment taxes. You're allowed to deduct between 50 and 57 percent of your self-employment tax payments, depending upon your income level. On schedule C, self-employment tax is only levied on your net profit.

12. S CORP TAX DEDUCTION

If you're self-employed and created an S Corporation, the IRS offers great self-employment tax benefits. You're allowed to pay yourself a salary and leave the remaining profits in the corporation, or distribute them to the corporate shareholders. Self-employment tax is only due on the salary portion of the profit.

13. HOME OFFICE TAX DEDUCTION

If you work at home in a designated area, you might be able to claim the home office tax deduction. This tax deduction is accessible to homeowners and renters in a variety of businesses. Review the IRS requirements to claim the deduction. Make sure to keep detailed records to substantiate the home office deduction.

14. JOB SEARCH TAX DEDUCTION

Taxpayers who are looking for a new job in the same line of work might be able to deduct some job-hunting expenses. Unfortunately, you can't deduct expenses incurred while looking for a job in a new occupation, if you're looking for a job for the first time or if there's a substantial time gap between when you were last employed and when you began looking for a job. However, if you're looking for a job in the same occupation, you might be able to deduct travel and mailing costs related to your job search. You might also be able to deduct any employment and outplacement agency fees.

15. TRADITIONAL IRA TAX DEDUCTION

If you or your spouse aren't covered by a retirement plan at work, and are younger than age 70½, you can deduct the full amount of a traditional IRA contribution. You can contribute \$5,500 per year, or \$6,500 if you're age 50 or older, or 100 percent of your compensation — whichever is higher. If your spouse is covered by a workplace retirement plan, your filing status is married filing jointly and your AGI is \$181,000 or less, you can deduct the entire amount of the traditional IRA contribution. Your IRA tax deduction will be limited if your family income is greater than \$181,000 and less than \$191,000. There's no IRA deduction with family income above \$191,000. Those families with AGI less than \$10,000 income might receive a partial deduction.

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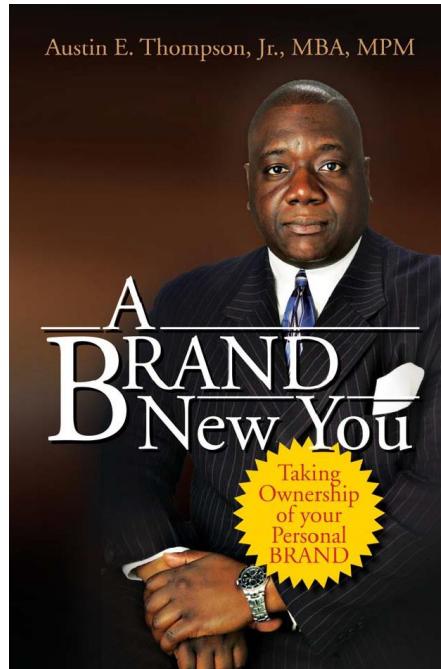
The remaining 15 exemptions will be published in the March 2016 Edition of Empowered.

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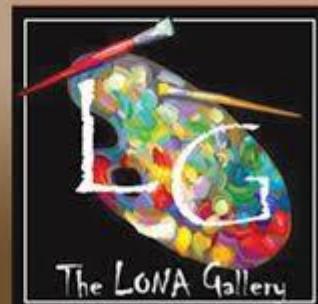
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SMALL BUSINESS FORUM AND EXPO OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT NSBW

FOR MORE FASHION SHOW INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (770) 953-2440

2016



MAY 21, 2016
1:30P.M. - 2:30P.M.

The Conference Center at
Georgia Piedmont Technical College

495 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021

Be Beautiful, Bold and Empowered!!

Thompson Management Consulting, LLC 3rd ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2016

Business 2 Business Expo – Exhibitor Registration

Saturday, May 21, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Conference Center at Georgia Piedmont Technical College
495 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021



- Reach over 300-500 attendees for B2B and B2C contacts
- Direct marketing and promotion of your services and products
- Meet and speak with some of Atlanta's dynamic business leaders
- Hear speeches from successful thought leaders and business owners
 - Network and grow your customer relations contacts

To register as a Business Exhibitor, go directly to www.nsbw2016.com. Complete the online application and view vendor guidelines.

For additional information, kindly contact Austin Thompson at 404-587-3949 or via email at austin@nsbw2016.com

Refreshments by Rapid Gourmet



Please note a change in location for the workshops to our new location, Discovery High School (May 19th and 20th)

National Small Business Week 2016 – AGENDA				
3rd Annual Entrepreneurship and Small Business Summit				
The Clyde L. Strickland Center for Entrepreneurship Discovery High School 1335 Old Norcross Road Lawrenceville, GA 30046				
Thursday, May 19, 2016				
Target Audience	Workshop Title	Facilitator	Classroom #	Time
Pre-Startup and Startup Businesses	Mindset Makeover: Are You Ready for Entrepreneurship	Tina Greer – Greer Business Solutions, LLC	6	9:30am – 10:25am
Pre-Startup and Startup Businesses	Developing An Effective Business Plan	Bob Lamp'l – Business Plans & More, Inc.	6	10:30am – 11:25am
Pre-Startup and Startup Businesses	Legal Steps to Starting and Managing a Successful Business	Abi Oyegun – Oyegun Law Group	6	11:30am – 12:30pm
Lunch Break (12:30p.m. – 1:00p.m.)				
Pre-Startup, Startup, and Established Businesses	The 5 C's of Credit	Small Business Administration (SBA)	6	1:00pm – 1:55pm
Pre-Startup, Startup, and Established Businesses	How To Do Business With The Government	Small Business Administration (SBA)	6	2:00pm – 2:55pm
Pre-Startup, Startup, and Established Businesses	A Winning Marketing Plan and Campaign	Thompson Management Consulting, LLC – Austin E. Thompson, Jr	6	3:00pm – 4:00pm
Friday, May 20, 2016				
Target Audience	Workshop Title	Facilitator	Room #	Time
Established Businesses	Effective Financial Management with Quick Books	Business Plans & More, Inc. – Bob Lamp'l	6	9:30am – 10:25am
Established Businesses	Micro Lending: An Alternative to Bank Loans	Rosemont Capital Solutions – Tom Briggette	6	10:30am – 11:25am
Established Businesses	Retirement Planning for Small Business Owners	Joe Fernandez – Mass Mutual, The Piedmont Group	6	11:30am – 12:30pm
Lunch Break (12:30p.m. – 1:00p.m.)				
Established Businesses	Health and Nutrition Management for Busy Entrepreneurs	Dr. Jennifer Rooke – Morehouse School of Medicine	6	1:00pm – 1:55pm
Established Businesses	LinkedIn for Small Business Branding	Gregg Burkhalter	6	2:00pm – 2:55pm
Established Businesses	Your 30 Second Elevator Speech	Small Business Development Center (SBDC)	6	3:00pm – 4:00pm
<i>Business owners are strongly encouraged to maximize the opportunity of attending ALL scheduled workshops, regardless of target audience. We have identified and confirmed all speakers for the workshops above. PLEASE GO TO WWW.NSBW2016.COM TO REGISTER and for continued updates.</i>				
SMALL BUSINESS FORUM AND EXPO				
The Conference Center at Georgia Piedmont Technical College 495 North Indian Creek Drive Clarkston, GA 30021				
Saturday, May 21, 2016				
Saturday - 5/21/2016	<u>Theme:</u> "Empowering Entrepreneurs – Growing Entrepreneurship"	Speakers, panelists, and exhibitors/vendors are in the process of being identified and confirmed for the Forum ↓	15 & 16	9:00am – 3:00pm Exhibitor setup begins PROMPTLY at 7:00 a.m. Official program begins PROMPTLY at 9:00 a.m.



Entrepreneurship and Small Business Summit 2016

Meet the Workshop Facilitators

May 19 – 20, 2016

www.nsbw2016.com



Tina Greer
Greer Business Solutions,
LLC



Bob Lamp'l
Business Plans and More,
Inc.



Abi Oyegun
The Oyegun Law Group



Austin E. Thompson, Jr.
Thompson Management
Consulting, LLC



Tom Briggette
Rosemont Capital
Solutions



Joe Fernandez
Mass Mutual Financial



Dr. Jennifer Rooke, MD
Morehouse College School of
Medicine



Gregg Burkhalter



Panelists and the Keynote Speaker are in the process of being identified and confirmed for the Small Business Forum and Expo on May 21, 2016. Pictures will be available soon.

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These advertising rates are for solo and micro business models, SOHOs, and small businesses with annual gross receipts of $\leq \$100K$. For major corporate advertisement or for businesses with larger revenue profiles, please call (404) 587-3949 or email us at info@tmconsultingllc.com for rates. No contract required. Pay monthly, quarterly, or annually. Thank you for your support of Empowered Business Newsletter. We support small business success, so let's grow together!

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About Empowered Business Newsletter

Empowered Business Newsletter (EBN) is published by Thompson Management Consulting, LLC as an online vehicle to provide business related information for small business owners, entrepreneurs, micro enterprises, solopreneurs and business professionals who support small business development and growth. The EBN is not produced in hard copy format. Articles in the EBN are written by small business owners, who contribute to the success of each newsletter by providing insightful and informative articles for the small business community. Moreover, the EBN promotes small businesses, spotlights entrepreneurs, reports on business, political and economic activity which affects small business owners, and highlights developments from Thompson Management Consulting, LLC. The EBN has a direct distribution to over 1,500 contacts, who receive the publication via email and share it with their contacts. Copies in PDF format can be retrieved from our website at www.tmconsultingllc.com. We invite small business owners to submit subject matter "Business-related" articles for publishing, along with a head shot and brief bio. All submittals are vetted carefully to qualify for our readers. Finally, we encourage small businesses to advertise with us and support a publication looking out for the concerns of small businesses.

About Thompson Management Consulting, LLC

Thompson Management Consulting, LLC works with small business owners and entrepreneurs who are primarily in the 0 – 5 year range of the business lifecycle, those in the seed and start-up to expansion phases. We assist with business plan writing, marketing, feasibility studies, project management, financial and budget analysis, business event planning, and business training. Thompson Management Consulting, LLC produces an Annual Entrepreneurship and Small Business Summit in celebration of National Small Business Week, and hosts a monthly radio program, The Entrepreneurship and Business Empowerment Hour on WATB 1420AM. We are A+ accredited by the Better Business Bureau, and hold memberships in the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Additional information can be found at www.tmconsultingllc.com/about.html.

