

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:30 AM: REGISTRATION

9:00 AM: WELCOME & REMARKS

Tyson Begly

Councilor, Columbus Consolidated Government

Amir Farokhi

Board Chair-Elect, GeorgiaForward

9:15 AM: OPENING DISCUSSION ON CIVILITY

Otis White

Founder, Civic Strategies, Inc.

Kay Love

Managing Director, Georgia City Solutions

9:45 AM BREAK

10:00 AM: GEORGIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Taylor Hafley

Applied Demographer, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

10:45 AM BREAK

11:00 AM: GEORGIA NOW & FOREVER

How does Georgia grow while sustaining the communities we love, the resources that sustain us, and the agriculture and timber economy that drive our state?

• **Geoff Koski**, *KB Advisory Group*

• **Alex Bradford**, *Georgia Farm Bureau*

• **Matt Hestad**, *Georgia Forestry Association*

MODERATOR:

Katherine Moore

President, Georgia Conservancy

11:45 AM LUNCH

12:30 PM: MAYORS' INTERVIEW: YOUNG GAMECHANGERS IMPACT

• **John Howard**, *Monroe Mayor*

• **Jim Thornton**, *Former LaGrange Mayor*

• **David Pennington**, *Dalton Mayor*

MODERATOR:

Carrie Barnes

Community Development Consultant, Georgia EMC

1:00 PM BREAK OUT SESSIONS:

◆ THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Presented by: Georgia Tech Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC)

• **Ben MacMinn**, *StartUp Columbus*

• **Jen Bonnett**, *The Creative Coast*

• **Shakiri Murrain**, *Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurship (RICE)*

MODERATOR:

Ben Andrews

Statewide Program Manager, ATDC

◆ WHY GEORGIA?

• **Katie Comer**, *Meta*

• **Maranie Brown**, *BlackRock*

• **Zach Dietmeier**, *Rivian*

MODERATOR:

Michelle Shaw

Director, Existing Industry & Regional Recruitment at Georgia Department of Economic Development

◆ SUSTAINABILITY

• **Tim Echols**, *Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission*

• **Alex Edquist**, *Founder & CEO, Good Agriculture*

• **Kiarash Ahmadi**, *Engineering Manager, Joulea*

MODERATOR:

Nwanyinma Dike

AI Advanced Manufacturing catalyst, ATDC

1:45 PM BREAK

2:00 PM: INTERACTIVE SESSION

What have we learned so far? What's next?

Carrie Barnes

Community Development Consultant, Georgia EMC

2:45 PM: CLOSING REMARKS

AJ Robinson

Board Chairman, GeorgiaForward

SPEAKER BIOS 
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