



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FULTON COUNTY LEADERS GRADUATE FROM THE  
GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**December 4, 2014**

The Board of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development announces Fulton County graduates from the 2014 Region 3 Multi-Day Training Program. 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 10 counties in Metro Atlanta. 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.

**Fulton County graduates at the December 4<sup>th</sup> ceremony include: Hans Appen, Alpharetta Chamber of Commerce; Jason Binder, Acolyte Advisors; Beckie Hawkins, Roswell Inc.; Deana Holiday Ingraham, East Point City Council; Charles Knudsen, Georgia Power Company; Donald Mitchell; Alpharetta City Council; Al Nash, Progress Partners of North Fulton Atlanta and Doreen Scascitelli, Roswell Inc.**

Created in 1993, 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 represent 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.”

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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, planning, 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 may receive certification training credits through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association for completion of this program.

The next Region 3 Georgia Academy for Economic Development will begin in August 2015. For more information on this, please contact Corinne Thornton at 706-340-6461 or by email at [corinne.thornton@dca.ga.gov](mailto:corinne.thornton@dca.ga.gov).

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GEORGIA ACADEMY  
Doreen Scascitelli  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GEORGIA ACADEMY  
Donald Mitchell  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GEORGIA ACADEMY  
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GEORGIA ACADEMY  
Beckie Hawkins  
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Hans Appen  
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