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Business Innovation Group (BIG) News

Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern and City of Hinesville to build business incubator, funded with grant money

October 1, 2018

Designing and launching a new business can be difficult. In order to address this difficulty, Georgia Southern University will provide expanded resources for entrepreneurs in Hinesville with the addition of a new business incubator.

On Sept. 7, Georgia Southern and the City of Hinesville Development Authority were co-awarded a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help fund the construction of a business incubator, which will be led by Georgia Southern's Business Innovation Group (BIG). The organization connects start-ups with industry and faculty experts to assist in various stages of business while providing student entrepreneurship interns hands-on experience to see what it takes to start a business.

"I applaud the Hinesville Development Authority and City Manager Kenneth Howard on their steadfast vision and determination for helping Hinesville residents in starting and growing their business," said BIG Director Dominique Halaby. "As such, I am excited to begin working with them to successfully execute that vision and to make this incubator a reality."

The Hinesville incubator will be adjacent to a new public library and within close proximity to Georgia Southern's Liberty Campus. Made possible by the Coastal Regional Commission's regional planning efforts, the new 5,000 square-foot facility will house 12 new business clients.

"We commend the City of Hinesville for creating new opportunities for the community to grow and thrive," said EDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs Dennis Alvord. "This project will help strengthen the local economy by providing a facility where entrepreneurs can develop new businesses."

BIG is committed to developing a vibrant entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem for southeast Georgia. Through innovative and entrepreneurial thinking, BIG assists local communities in achieving their dreams of becoming local entrepreneur hubs. By creating these opportunities, business incubators provide physical and developmental benefits to local entrepreneurs.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville, and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders, and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

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