

College of Business News

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Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern and City of Hinesville to build business incubator, funded by \$1.5 million in grants

September 12, 2018

Designing and launching a new business can be difficult. Georgia Southern University will soon 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.



The Hinesville Development Authority is providing an additional \$750,000 grant, bringing the total to \$1.5 million in support for the business incubator, which will support overall growth to the area.

"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 facility will house approximately 5,000 square feet to accommodate 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.

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