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Leadership Bulloch Introduced to the Entrepreneurial Zone

April 20, 2011

On 19th April <u>Leadership Bulloch</u> had the first sneak preview of the Downtown Entrepreneurial Zone in Georgia Southern University's new City Campus. The event was focused on economic development in Statesboro and Bulloch County and following the event the participants toured key businesses in Statesboro including the Walmart Distribution Center, Vircon and <u>Briggs and Stratton Corp</u>.

Chair of this year's Leadership Bulloch group Jim Grindler of Blount, Burke, Wimberly & Hendricks opened the meeting and introduced the participants to the speakers. Benjy Thompson, the CEO of Statesboro Bulloch Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce, began the discussions and focused on Industrial Development. Lori Durden, VP of Economic Development at Ogeechee Technical College, followed and she talked about the role of workforce development and how this can be used to attract businesses to the locality. Dr. Luke Pittaway, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, talked about Entrepreneurship in Statesboro and discussed the role of the new Entrepreneurial Zone. While Allen Muldrew of the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority and Todd Manack of Manack Realty focused on recent developments, including the Downtown renovation and the Statesboro Crossroads retail development.

Around 50 people were present using the classroom in the Entrepreneurial Zone for the first time and the event was a great success.