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## Newsroom

Georgia Southern University

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# Grant to Help Rural Business Owners

JULY 15, 2013

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Georgia Southern University's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) has been awarded a \$295,927 grant by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) to expand Georgia's Enterprise Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GENIE) project. GENIE will extend services of the Georgia Southern City Campus and assist entrepreneurs and small business owners in the rural counties of Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Lincoln, Telfair and Wilkes, all of which are defined as the Designated Eligible Areas (DEAs) for Georgia.

NADBank's U.S. Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) was created in connection with the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to assist new or expanding businesses in communities with significant job losses due to changes in trade patterns. The five designated counties will receive the guidance and support they need to create new businesses, grow existing businesses and create a climate that leads to more jobs for area residents.

"We are building the City Campus to become a vital part of the state's entrepreneurial economy," said Dominique Halaby, D.P.A., BBRED director. "Through GENIE, we will be able to provide much needed planning assistance and guidance to some of the most economically challenged communities."

GENIE will assist area businesses through mentoring, connecting and training. In addition, at least three community capacity building projects will be coordinated with the area's regional commissions or development authorities. For many small business owners in these communities, accessing these services is only possible by taking several hours out of their business day to travel to a workshop or to receive counseling from support service organizations located in larger population centers. GENIE provides a new solution for participating in business programming.

Business owners will be able to access timely economic information and receive technical assistance from a skilled business advisor who will work to establish financial goals and performance benchmarks based on the clients' business needs and training interests. GENIE capitalizes on the University's central position and provides physical meeting space for clients to hold meetings and events.

Learn more about the BBRED and the City Campus by visiting [www.gsucitycampus.com](http://www.gsucitycampus.com). Interested business owners can contact Halaby at (912) 478-2733 or [dhalaby@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dhalaby@georgiasouthern.edu).

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

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The North American Development Bank (NADB) and its sister institution, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), were created under the auspices of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to address environmental issues in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The two institutions initiated operations under the November 1993 agreement between the government of the United States of America and the government of Mexico concerning the establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank (the "Charter"). NADB was established in San Antonio, Texas, and began operations on November 10, 1994, with the initial capital subscriptions of the U.S. and Mexican governments.

The Georgia Southern University City Campus is a collaboration between the City of Statesboro, the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority and Georgia Southern. The facility is managed by the Georgia Southern College of Business Administration and houses the BBRED. The City Campus is committed to creating jobs and helping area businesses grow through its economic research, policy analysis, mentorship programs and course offerings. More information can be found at [www.gsucitycampus.com](http://www.gsucitycampus.com).

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### Tweets by @GeorgiaSouthern



Congratulations to #GeorgiaSouthern @GSCOSM alumnus Nick Wiley ('83) who was recently named the chief conservation officer of @DucksUnlimited ! [ow.ly/BhVW30hkDJR](https://ow.ly/BhVW30hkDJR)

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## Event Calendar



## Newsroom

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern and UGA partner to help farmers

JULY 15, 2013

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Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia have finalized the topics to be addressed as the two institutions host the inaugural International Agribusiness Conference and Expo (IACE) on September 25-26 at the International Trade and Convention Center in Savannah, Ga.

This two day event will address the growing demand for job creation in the region and the need to reposition Georgia agriculture as a technologically advanced industry. It also aims to emphasize the economic opportunities available through international trade and the importance of integrating extensive importing and exporting practices into existing business plans.

The IACE will cover topics such as:

- Finding Markets and Buyers for Your Products
- Delivering Your Product to Your International Buyer
- Export Controls and Selling to Sanctioned Countries
- Making Sure You Get Paid: International Payment Options

The event will also feature a panel discussion with expert food exporters, a keynote address from Gretchin Corbin, deputy commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the International Reception with representatives from the global community and an expo featuring the latest in agricultural technology and best practices. The IACE will host other guests including Gary Black, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Susan Kinitar, director of the Export/Import Bank of the U.S., Rick Martin, director of the International Trade Center and Gary Stiltz, vice president of BB&T International Services.

A pre-conference farm tour and post-conference ports tour will also be offered . Deadline for the \$170 early registration is July 30.

The 2013 grand conference sponsors include the Georgia Farm Bureau, Vidalia Onion Committee, Blueberry Growers Commission, Center of Innovation for Agribusiness, Georgia Ports Authority, Center of Innovation Logistics and the Herty Foundation. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available.

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