



News Release

P.O. Box 1798
www.nwgrc.org

Phone 706.295.6485 Fax 706.295.6665

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Contact: Deana Perry
Community & Economic Development Coordinator
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
706.295.6485 | dperry@nwgrc.org

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ASPEN INSTITUTE ANNOUNCE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL 'COMMUNITIES THAT WORK PARTNERSHIP'

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will pursue job-driven talent development strategies as part of the 'Communities that Work Partnership'

Rome, Georgia, July 16, 2015 – Seven regional site teams across the United States have been selected to participate in the **Communities that Work Partnership**, a new joint project of the **Workforce Strategies Initiative** (AspenWSI) of the Aspen Institute and the **Economic Development Administration** of the **US Department of Commerce**. The Communities that Work Partnership (CTW Partnership) is an effort to strengthen regional economies by equipping American workers with the skills needed for 21st century jobs and accelerating industry-led workforce development and training efforts.

Northwest Georgia Region Commission was selected through a nationally competitive review process as one of the seven participating organizations. The regional site team, led by Deana Perry will include, Technical College System of Georgia, J+J Flooring Group, and Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce (Northwest Georgia) represented by Kathryn Hornsby, Louis Fordham, Barbara Ward respectively. The selected regional team will lead job-driven talent development strategies in Northwest Georgia.

The seven regional site teams, or regional partnerships, will begin a 15-month intensive accelerated learning exchange designed around each region's pursuit of job-driven talent development strategies to promote economic growth. AspenWSI and FutureWorks Consulting, will facilitate the in-person and virtual learning exchanges and provide customized technical assistance by engaging national experts in economic, workforce, and talent development.

The CTW Partnership will culminate in a number of publications outlining systems-change progress and lessons learned among the seven regional site teams, which will be disseminated nationally in the fall of 2016. They will describe how networks of local leaders can work in new ways across traditional silos to build more effective regional workforce initiatives, and begin to influence and guide similar strategies in other communities across America.

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The CTW Partnership was launched in April 2015 at an event at the Aspen Institute that featured Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson in a dialogue over the need to learn from successful regional job-driven workforce development efforts to inform practices in other communities around the United States.

The other six regional site teams selected to participate in the Communities that Work Partnership, by Lead Agency, are:

- Arizona Commerce Authority, Arizona Technology Council, Cox Communications, Western Alliance Bank (Greater Phoenix area)
- Bay Area Video Coalition, City and County of San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, CBS Corporation, Work2Future/Silicon Valley/San Jose Workforce Investment Board (San Francisco area)
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Erie County Executive Office, National Grid (Buffalo-Niagara Falls area)
- Greater Houston Partnership, San Jacinto College, United Way of Greater Houston, Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions (Greater Houston area)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Anacostia River Initiative/Federal City Council Anacostia Waterfront Trust (Greater Washington, DC, area)
- National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Employment Law Project, Hand in Hand (New York City)

Further Online Information

More information about the Communities that Work Partnership may be found at AspenWSI's website. Visit: <http://www.aspenwsi.org/communities-that-work/overview/>.

The Communities that Work Partnership is made possible by the generous support of the Economic Development Administration of the US Department of Commerce and by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) is a multi-county organization consisting of 15 Northwest Georgia counties and 49 municipalities. Major responsibilities of NWGRC include: (1) implementation of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; (2) administration of the Area Agency on Aging; (3) administration of the Workforce Investment Act; and (4) providing planning and development assistance to member governments in areas they could not otherwise afford.

The US Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the US Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for US workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

The **Workforce Strategies Initiative (AspenWSI)** is one of three ongoing initiatives in the Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) at the Aspen Institute, along with Skills for America's Future and FIELD. AspenWSI works to identify, evaluate, and promote promising and successful practices and policies that improve access to quality training and employment for low-income adults.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.