

THE MAX INFORMER

The Metro Atlanta eXchange (MAX) for Workforce Solutions exists to strengthen connections and promote information sharing among workforce development (WFD) stakeholders of Metro Atlanta. MAX's purpose is to be a catalyst to improve the competitiveness of the Metro Atlanta workforce, while sustaining and growing a robust economy throughout the region.

MAX presents at the 2015 Neighborhood Summit

On September 26, MAX participated in the 2015 Neighborhood Summit hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta at the Georgia International Conference Center. This year's theme was Embracing the Power of Education from birth to career and featured: a forum for policy analysis and discussion, high-quality training, peer networking, and resources dissemination for approximately 600 attendees in the metropolitan Atlanta region.



During the Summit, Karen Davis, MAX Program Manager, facilitated a 75-minute interactive workshop, entitled Workforce Solutions for Your Community, featuring Odie A. Donald, WIOA Services Director Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Joel Alexis, Project Manager for the Business Services Unit of the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL). The 45 participants in attendance received: information on MAX, state and regional resources available to the community through the workforce service provider system, an overview of WIOA, and information on how to find training programs and job seeker services using the Employ Georgia DOL site and the MAX Portal.

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Federal Reserve Highlights Opportunity Jobs in Metro Atlanta

The Vice Presidents of Community Affairs Officers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Cleveland, and Philadelphia recently shared a new report, [Identifying Opportunity Occupations in the Nation's Largest Metropolitan Economies](#). While there are many factors influencing the scale and scope of good jobs, especially within specific locations, the goal of this report is to highlight the availability of "good jobs" across the country.

With the exploration of opportunity occupations across the county, the Federal Reserve hopes to spur discussion about what job training is offered in your communities, the types of policies that will support local employment, and how your community tracks information on growing job opportunities that can support the nearly 70 percent of adults without a bachelor's degree. The Federal Reserve also provided relevant workforce development and human capital resources and events from their Federal Reserve System colleagues in their [distribution letter](#).

The WIOA: One Year Later Event

On September 16, 2015, Metro Atlanta eXchange for Workforce Solutions (MAX) hosted the WIOA: One Year Later Event at the Metro Atlanta



Chamber. The event provided a state and national update on strategies and progress by providing an overview of what's happening and how it is changing the landscape of the workforce system here in Georgia and around the country. The event featured state and national expert panelists: **Ben Hames**, Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Division at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, **Brooke DeRenzis**, Senior State Policy Analyst at National Skills Coalition, **Scott Ellsworth**, Director at Business Leaders United, and **Jessie Leslie**, National Field Director at National Skills Coalition. The panelist discussed the challenges of WIOA implementation in Georgia and around the country, the promotion of sector-based strategies, employer leadership, and regional collaboration as well as themes to be emphasized in future federal funding opportunities.

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The State of the South: Building Economic Opportunity in Metro Atlanta

On Tuesday, September 8, 2015, the Atlanta Regional Commission in partnership with The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and the Annie E. Casey Foundation presented the State of the South Event for a conversation around opportunity and economic mobility at the Atlanta Metropolitan State College Conference Center. This event was the third in the series to highlight ways to build opportunity in metro Atlanta.

One highlight of the event was the review of the 2014 Edition of the [State of the South](#) report, published by Durham, NC-based MDC, which painted a clear portrait of the southeastern US and spelled out the critical recommendations for economic and social advancement.

The attendees were able to hear about what is happening in the metro Atlanta area around the issues presented in the report and provided input to inform the development of the [ARC's Region's Plan](#), a comprehensive plan which will guide the growth of metro Atlanta. [David Dobson's presentation](#) on Building Infrastructure for Economic Opportunity provided an overview of the State of the South with great emphasis on the metro Atlanta area.

Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) Initiative

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is inviting letters of intent from organizations interested in participating in their new Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) initiative for youth and young adults. Funded in part by a \$7.5 million grant from the Social Innovation Fund, the five-year initiative aims to increase employment and educational opportunities for young people ages 14-25, particularly those who have been involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Foundation is partnering with three national organizations: Jobs for America's Graduates, Jobs for the Future, and MDRC.

Through LEAP, they will provide grants and technical assistance to up to 12 nonprofits throughout the nation to help young people succeed in school and at work, using two evidence-based models. You can find out more about the initiative and the application process as well as review their request for proposals, at www.aecf.org/leap. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact them at leap@aecf.org.

Upcoming Workforce Showcase Event

MAX and the Metro Atlanta Chamber will be hosting a workforce showcase event on November 4th from 2:30 - 6:00pm. The event will include workforce system panelist from Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Department of Economic Development—Workforce Division, University System of Georgia—Economic Development Office, Georgia Quick Start, and Atlanta Gas Light. Panelist will provide an overview of the Workforce System as a whole and highlight each organization's primary area of focus.

Alongside the panel, the event will also feature 4-5 businesses that have a working partnership with one or more of the entities from the panel to share how the partnership helped them meet their specific workforce needs and grow their companies. This will be a great opportunity for WIBs, WIB providers, non-profits and more to interact with one another and form potential partnerships to help grow and enrich the workforce community.

Upcoming Events & Reminders

- **Steering Committee Meeting:** *October 20, 2015: 9:00am - 11:00am*
- **Workforce Showcase Event:** *November 4, 2015: 2:30pm - 6:00pm*
- **Metro Atlanta Chamber Workforce Council:** *November 30, 2015: 8:00am - 9:30 a.m.*

For more information, visit the *what's happening* section on the MAX Website: www.maxworkforce.org