

## NEW NEGRC WEBSITE

Last month, the NEGRC's redesigned website was completed and went 'live' to the public. The redesign represented months of work from NEGRC staff in collaboration with their website consultants.



One of the primary needs for the redesign was to make the website's content more readable from portable and mobile devices. The redesign also allowed for a new and updated platform to make updates and additions easier to post internally; resulting in more timely content and information.

Over the upcoming months, the new website's content will expand and include additional information, photographs and map content. One new feature is the color coding by NEGRC Division: Administration is teal; Workforce is orange; PGS is blue; and Aging is purple. This coding is seen in news items and staff listing to easily locate a Division of interest. Please visit the website often and explore its new look and content. For comments on the website, please email: **Julie Ball**, Executive Assistant at [jball@negrc.org](mailto:jball@negrc.org).

## SUMMER 2019 WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) WORK EXPERIENCE

Eighty-eight youths from the WIOA High School Youth Program participated in the Summer Work Experience program. There were a total of 50 worksites in the NEGRC twelve-county area, which included non-profit agencies, local government worksites, and some private sector businesses. There were additional efforts made to develop worksites that would provide exposure to specific career interests of the students, such as Clinical Laboratory Services, The Humane Society of Morgan County, Jasper County Health Department, and the Oglethorpe Children's Academy. The Work Experience activity operated for a five-week period. Participants worked up to 30 hours per week for the five-week period, and were paid \$7.75 per hour. During the school year, these students participated in Job Readiness training workshops, and were able to apply what they learned during the Work Experience program.

During the Summer Work Experience program, the NEGRC's Workforce Division employed three summer youth program associates to assist with the orientations, job placements, check delivery and monitoring of worksites. Khadijah Brown, Ada Allaire and Ashley Hackel, Masters of Social Work students from the University of Georgia, worked as summer youth program associates for the program this year. The program was supervised by Rima Sullivan, WIOA Youth Program Coordinator. Rima started her WIOA career by working as a Summer Youth Work Experience program eligibility associate in 2009.

For further information on the Youth Services offered by the NEGRC Workforce Development Division, please contact **Rima Sullivan**, NEGRC Youth Program Coordinator, at (706) 369-5703.



Martia Brown



Derricka Kelly

## ATHENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE CLARKE COUNTY MANUFACTUREADY GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS to the recent graduates (pictured below with staff from Athens Technical College) of Athens Technical College's ManufactuREADY course, which was held on the Athens-Clarke County Campus. Graduates received certifications in OSHA-10, Lean Six-Sigma White Belt, CPR, First Aid, AED, Basic Forklift Operation and Georgia Best Soft Skills. This five-week course is offered throughout the year in Monroe, Greensboro and Athens. Funding is provided through federal WorkSource Northeast Georgia funding to those who qualify. Contact Athens Tech at (706)369-5763 and ask about the ManufactuREADY program. For information on this training and other training offered under the oversight of the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board, contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at (706)369-5703.



Graduates of the Recent Athens Technical College's ManufactuREADY program: Jacqueline Barnett, James Saunders, Mary Ford, Whitney Wellons, Charlotte McKenzie, and Bobby Sims. Pictured with Athens Technical College Staff (far left McKenzie Bennett and far right Kelsie Lowe)

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn.** Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## GEORGIA DNR OFFERS FUNDING FOR TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a variety of competitive federal and state funding opportunities to build trails, protect habitat and water quality, and achieve other similar conservation-minded goals. Qualified Local Governments may apply for these resources to implement eligible projects. At a recent grants workshop, DNR staff reviewed the long-standing Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the new Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP). Each of these programs provides substantial outside revenues for construction, maintenance, and land acquisition.

Georgia's allocation of federal RTP funding is available in awards of up to \$200,000\* on a biennial basis, with the next cycle of applications open from September 1, 2019 through November 17, 2019. All projects are subject to a requirement of at least 20% matching funds (cash or in-kind) and there is no minimum funding amount. Projects involving non-motorized, motorized, and "diverse" use (both non-motorized and motorized) are eligible for funding for new trail construction, trail restoration, trailhead facilities, lease of heavy equipment, purchase of hand tools, land acquisition for trail purposes, water trail facilities, and safety and educational programs. *(\*Motorized-only projects are not limited to \$200,000, but to the entire allocation of motorized funding for the state in a given funding cycle.)*

The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act of 2018 (and a corresponding public vote in favor) provides for "an annual allocation of 75 percent of the revenue derived from the state sales and use tax with respect to the sale of outdoor recreation equipment to a trust fund to be used for the protection and preservation of conservation land" (HR 238). The application period for the GOSP's first funding cycle is scheduled to open on September 1, 2019 and close on October 31, 2019. Local project sponsors are required to provide at least 25% of total project costs in matching funds or in-kind contributions, and a minimum of \$500,000/maximum of \$3,000,000 in state funding is available for individual projects. As with the RTP, a wide variety of project types are eligible for GOSP funding: land and water trail development and maintenance, acquisition, etc.

Please note for each of these programs:

- **Project guidelines and application requirements are substantial;** it is likely that only sponsors with pre-conceived, existing projects will be able to meet the

2019 deadline with all necessary materials. However, NEGRC staff are able to assist with framing projects for future-years' application windows.

- "Tracks" around ballfields or small pocket parks, sidewalks, and other similar undertakings are ineligible.

Contact **John Devine**, AICP, NEGRC Principal Planner at (706) 369-5650 or email: [jdevine@negrc.org](mailto:jdevine@negrc.org) for more information.

## GEORGIA'S FIRST DESIGNATED BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY

Oglethorpe County has become the first designated Broadband Ready Community in the state of Georgia! Broadband Ready is a voluntary certification program, overseen by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), distinguishing communities that are prepared for expedited broadband deployment. As a Broadband Ready Community, Oglethorpe County is positioned to attract new providers by granting quicker access to public rights-of-way for the deployment of broadband. Broadband Ready designation may open doors to future funding opportunities as well.

Broadband plays an ever-increasing role in enhancing our local economies and quality of life. Bridging the digital divide is an important mission throughout Northeast Georgia, the state, and the nation. For more information on how to become a Broadband Ready Community or about the Achieving Connectivity Everywhere (ACE) Act visit [www.broadband.georgia.gov](http://www.broadband.georgia.gov) or contact **Monica Sagastizado**, NEGRC Project Specialist at (706) 369-5650 or email: [msagastizado@negrc.org](mailto:msagastizado@negrc.org).





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ATHENS, GA  
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*Update*

**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**AUGUST**

|    |            |                                  |                                 |
|----|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 13 | 8:30 a.m.  | NEGA Workforce Development Board | NEGRC Atrium                    |
| 14 | 1:00 p.m.  | Solid Waste Management Authority | E. H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 15 | Noon       | NEGRC Council                    | Athens Holiday Inn              |
| 15 | 3:30 p.m.  | Firefly Trails Advocacy Group    | E. H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 16 | 10:00 a.m. | NEGA Senior Center Directors     | E. H. Culpepper Conference Room |