

NEGRC PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the NEGRC's Council and its Awards Committee, presents two awards: the "**Local Government Administrator of the Year**" and the "**Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian**" awards. In addition to these two, annual awards, a "**Recognition Award**" was also presented at the May 20, 2021 Council meeting.

These awards recipients were selected by an appointed NEGRC Awards Committee, with **John Daniell** serving as its Chairman. This year's recipient of the "Local Government Administrator of the Year" is **Mayor Dodd Ferrelle** of the City of Winterville.

Mayor Ferrelle over the year has taken on the administration of numerous projects and community activities. While many of these functions are traditionally left to city staff or a city manager, Winterville, as a small town, is without this position. Mayor Ferrelle administered new projects and ideas from Candler Park, to designation as a "Tree City of the World", to the "Front Porch Bookstore", Winterville Auditorium renovation, library renovation and constructing the Firefly Trail in Winterville. In these, he also embraced others and new partners and shared the community's success with other elected officials and community members. The award was presented to Mayor Ferrelle, on behalf of the NEGRC Council, by **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director. In his remarks, Mayor Ferrelle accepted the award and also in the memory of George Chandler, a long-time Winterville resident whom volunteered to numerous civic causes during his life.



Mayor Dodd Ferrelle (center) pictured at the dedication of Chandler Park in Winterville

The second award was presented by Chairman John Daniell and included introductory remarks from **Nancy Stangle**, daughter of Robert and Betty Williford. In her remarks Ms. Stangle described the legacy of her parents and the spirit of the award for "Visionary Leadership, Faithful Persistence, and Unwavering Commitment."

This year's recipient of the "Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian" is **Steve Wrigley**, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. In presenting the award, Chairman Daniell noted that Dr. Wrigley has devoted his career to the highest

levels of state government and in education. Dr. Wrigley currently oversees 26 public colleges and universities with 48,000 faculty and staff and more than 330,000 students. He previously served as chief-of-staff to former Governor Zell Miller, working on a number of key issues including the creation of the state lottery and HOPE Scholarship.



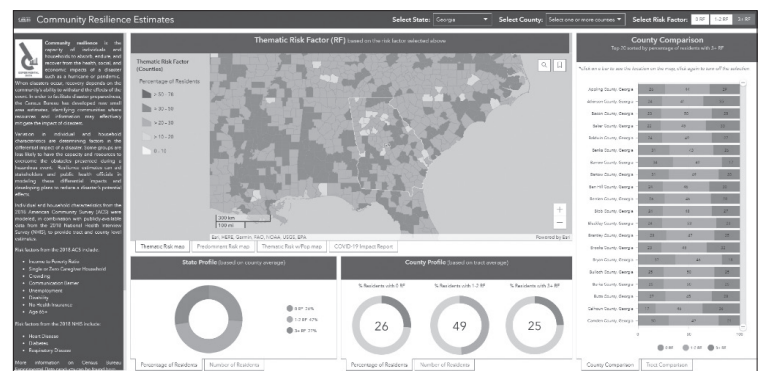
Steve Wrigley, Chancellor
of the University System of Georgia

Chairman Daniell also presented a "Recognition Award" given for outstanding service of a NEGRG Councilmember. This year's recipient is **Dr. Howard Ledford** whom is the current Chairman of the NEGRG's Audit & Finance Committee and has served on the NEGRG's Council and Workforce Board for over 20 years. Dr. Ledford, Jackson County Dean for Lanier Technical College, will retire at the end of this month. Chairman Daniell, on behalf of the NEGRG Awards Committee and Council, expressed his appreciation to Dr. Ledford and wished him the best in retirement.

Congratulations to all this this year's recipients!

risk factors), the County Business Patterns Program (provides annual data for employer businesses, with statistics on the number of establishments, employments, and payrolls), and the Household Pulse Survey Program (provides weekly data on how people's lives have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including information on employment status, food security, housing, health, and other pandemic impacts). The Hub also hosts the Small Business Pulse Survey Program results, providing weekly data updates from employer small businesses, including information on business operations and finances, requests and receipt of assistance, and expectations for recovery (available here: <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/small-business-pulse-survey.html>).

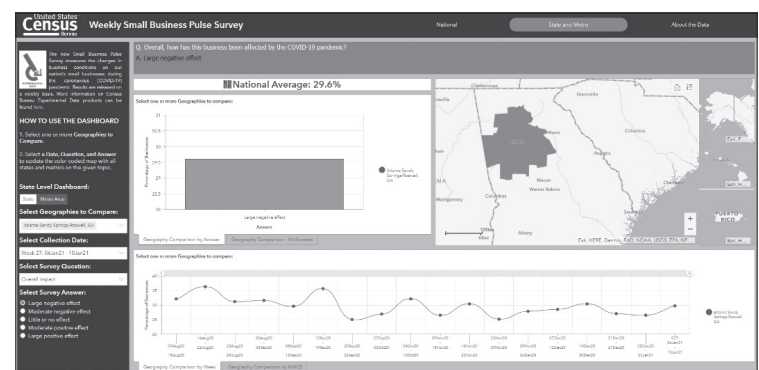
Local governments, business owners, and non-profit organizations can utilize these new tools when crafting policies and directing planning efforts in these unprecedented times. For Census data questions, contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRG GIS Specialist, jmcbbrayer@negrg.org.



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU COVID-19 DATA & RESOURCE HUB

In late 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau released the COVID-19 Demographic Data and Economic Resource Hub (available here: <https://covid19.census.gov/>). The Hub serves as an excellent tool for local governments, business owners, and non-profit organizations for planning and analysis work. Through extensive partnerships, the Census Bureau is now able to offer unprecedented experimental datasets, utilizing figures from public and private enterprise, covering business and economics, individual and households, and government services. These sets cover a wide range of geographical regions, from nationwide data, down to census blocks.

Highlights from the COVID-19 hub include the Community Resilience Estimates Program (provides estimates on a community's resilience based upon 11 pandemic-related



COUNTY MANAGERS LEARN ABOUT TOOLS TO ASSESS TAX BASE SUSTAINABILITY

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) hosted its quarterly County Managers, Roundtable on May 5th, 2021 at the Springfield Suites in downtown Athens, joined by Joe Minicozzi of Urban3 (based in Asheville). During his presentation, Minicozzi explained how local governments (using GIS mapping software) can perform an “Economic MRI” on their community to determine if their tax base is sustainable and fiscally sound. The presentation explored case studies from around the country and how to improve local-tax revenue. Minicozzi also illustrated how Urban3’s mapping work across the country has shown that historic downtowns create the best deal for taxpayers while the big box stores, fulfillment centers, and large single-family subdivisions often consume more public resources than they pay in taxes. He encouraged local governments to “do the math” by analyzing the tax value by acre in downtowns compared to the tax value by acre in big box stores.

A recording of the presentation is available now on the NEGRC_PGS YouTube Channel (<https://youtu.be/QTLgAL6BZ2Y>). For GIS mapping questions, contact **Jon McBrayer**, NEGRC GIS Specialist, at jmcbrayer@negrc.org; for questions about the quarterly County Managers, Roundtables, contact **Stephen Jaques**, NEGRC Project Specialist, at sjaques@negrc.org.

“RETURNING TO IN-PERSON”

Georgia has reopened its doors, and WorkSource Northeast Georgia is ready! After months of sheltering-in-place, wearing masks, practicing social distancing and working remotely, Olivia Wintz, NEGRC Business Services Representative, was thrilled to participate in her first in-person Community Career Fair since the pandemic. In Olivia’s words, “Unpacking my job fair trunk was exhilarating, it prepared me for the joy of being able to assist job seekers and employers alike. The WorkSource Northeast Georgia table was bursting with resources and information.”

Goodwill of North Georgia collaborated with The Classic Center in Athens to host a well planned Community Career Fair. There were 70+ Employers, Partner agencies, and a COVID-19 Vaccination Station awaiting the job seekers in the convention center. Job Seekers were greeted by a team of Goodwill staff who checked temperatures and escorted everyone thru the lines in an orderly manner. Wintz summarized the day by saying, “The highlight of my day came when I recognized a WIOA recipient who had successfully completed the CNA program earlier this year. She passed the National Certification, and is a Licensed Certified Nursing Assistant. Anya was volunteering with the

school she graduated from. The day was a huge success, and I look forward to a summer filled with Job Fairs, Resource Fairs, Back to School Rally’s, Technical College Career fairs and other community events, where WorkSource Northeast Georgia can connect talent with opportunity!”



Anya Brightwell (left) with Dr. Cshanyse Allen, the owner of Innovative Health Care Institute



Olivia Wintz, NEGRC Business Services Representative



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REGIONAL MEETINGS
JUNE

17th Noon NEGRC Council Meeting Trump's Catering