

DDAA BOARD CONVENES IN HUNTSVILLE

Last month on December 4-6, 2023, the Development District Association of Appalachia's (DDAA) board members met in Huntsville, Alabama at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. This winter board meeting included state delegates from the thirteen (13) ARC states that comprise the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) area. During the meeting, members learned from ARC's Washington, DC staff **Brandon McBride**, ARC Executive Director, and **Karen Fabiano** about the current status of ARC programs, projects, and trainings. The group also received an opening presentation from **Mrs. Gayle Manchin**, ARC's Federal Co-Chair on the impact ARC is having on Appalachian communities. The meeting was hosted by the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG), and its Executive Director **Michelle Gilliam Jordan**, and the DDAA Board itself discussed topics affecting the DDAA and Appalachian region related to training and conferences, advocacy, and support to local communities.



DDAA Board members in Huntsville with Mrs. Manchin (center, front) at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Georgia was represented by Burke Walker, NEGRC Executive Director, and Heather Feldman, who currently serves as the DDAA's President. For more information about ARC and DDAA, visit: www.arc.gov and www.appalachiandevelopment.org.

NEGRC RECEIVES NADO AWARD

The NEGRC's Workforce Division received a 2023 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Foothills Regional High School's Welding Program.

The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations (i.e., Regional Commissions) and their partners for improving our nation's regions and local communities' economic and community competitiveness. This year, the NEGRC was one of 71 organizations nationally to receive an award and among 28 states.

The award is named in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck, who served as NADO's first executive director for 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities. NADO is a Washington,



DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies.

WorkSource Northeast Georgia is based at the NEGRC and provides a range of Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs that offer workforce training, support, and job placement throughout Northeast Georgia.

The project results from a collaborative effort between the NEGA Workforce Development Board, Foothills Regional High School, and funding from a U.S. Department of Labor Appalachian Regional Commission Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities grant. The project utilizes an eight-bay welding mobile occupational training trailer to deliver a 10-week welding certification program to rural communities. It offers participants the chance to earn nationally recognized welding certifications in their local community.

Aligned to foster skills development and bring workforce training opportunities directly to rural communities, the program provides an accessible training solution that might otherwise be out of reach due to distance or cost for many students. The comprehensive curriculum, offered by an eligible training provider, prepares students for the workforce with an American Welding Society certification and additional qualifications in OSHA-10, Forklift/Lift Truck, CPR/AED, and Lean Six Sigma.

By providing students with these marketable skills, the Welding Project not only satisfies the region's demand for trained and certified welders but also boosts opportunity and employability for students upon graduating from high school.

For more information on the NADO award, visit www.nado.org/2023-impact-award-recipient.

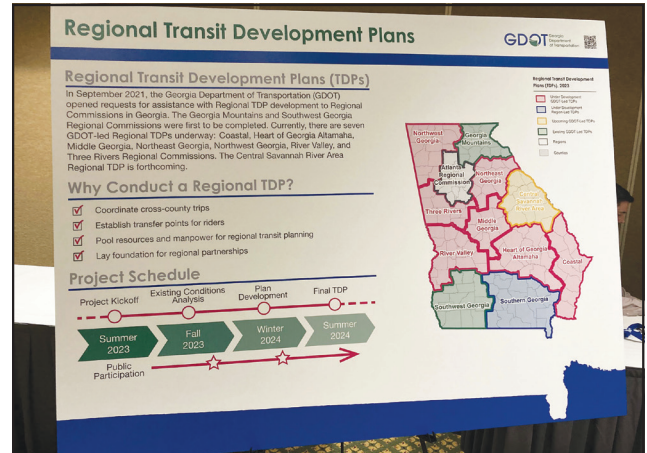
ANNUAL GEORGIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

On December 6th, the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff Adi'a Smith and Joyce Okoth attended the Annual Georgia Transit Association Conference, which was held in Athens, Georgia. The Georgia Transit Association (GTA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public transportation in Georgia. The Annual GTA conference offers three-day breakout sessions for attendees to learn and better understand planning and funding for transit needs within our communities. The conference also provides opportunities for professional development, networking, and exchanging information, ideas, and experiences.

Knowledge gained at this conference will contribute to the work NEGRC is doing with the Georgia Department of Transportation and Blue Cypress Consulting to perform a regional transit development plan. This effort seeks to identify solutions for deploying public transit in all twelve Northeast Georgia counties. A formal plan is expected to be completed in August 2024. For more information, contact **Joyce Okoth**, Program Assistant, at pgrassist@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.



Georgia Transit Association Conference kick-off



Georgia Department of Transportation's Open House

COLLEGE PREPARATION WINTER 2023 WORKSHOP

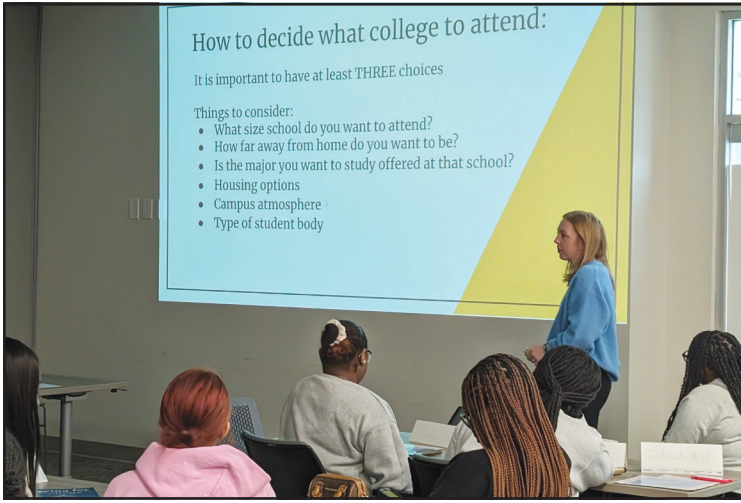
Students from the WIOA/ACTION, Inc. High School Youth program attended a Winter Workshop in December, which focused on developing post-graduation plans. Valuable information was presented regarding the college application process, financial aid, scholarship applications, and online resources. Graduates from the High School Youth program, now attending Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Valdosta State University, and North Carolina Wesleyan University, presented information about their college experiences and how to better prepare for college. Forty students from Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Jasper, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties attended the Saturday workshop.



Cary Best, ACTION, Inc. presents on planning



Elbert County students that attended



Riley, UGA Intern, shares college application



Graduates share information to prepare for college

For further information on this program, please contact **Rima Sullivan**, WIOA/WorkSource Northeast Georgia Youth Coordinator at **(706) 369-5703**.

GEORGIA EPD AIR BRANCH PLANNING AND SUPPORT UNIT

On December 4th, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission hosted the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Air Branch Planning and Support Unit for a stakeholder meeting regarding Georgia's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. Georgia's EPD is preparing the state's first Climate Action Plan as part of the CPRG program with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across this state. Over twenty representatives from local government, nonprofits, and community

advocacy groups attended this meeting. They shared with Georgia EPD priorities they believe should be included in their plan and how the plan can align with climate action plans in Northeast Georgia. Grant funding for greenhouse gas emission reduction will be available after GA EPD has completed the plan.

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provided \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other harmful air pollution. This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants (\$3M to each lead agency to develop a Climate Pollution Reduction Plan) and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.



Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program stakeholder meeting at the NEGRC

GEORGIA FUND FOR CHILDREN & ELDERLY

The Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services co-administers the Georgia Fund for Children & Elderly with the Department of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Program Division. The Division of Aging Services receives 50% of the fund's donations each year, and those donations are distributed among Georgia's 12 Area Agencies on Aging for home-delivered meals and senior transportation. The remaining 50% is allotted to the Department of Public Health to provide grants for programs that serve children and youth with special needs.

Taxpayers can donate one dollar or more to any or all of the eight funds listed on State Income Tax Form 500 and 500EZ. To make donations, the taxpayer must write an amount on the line next to an organization and make it count by subtracting the donation amount from their refund or adding the amount to their payment. The contributions are disbursed to the selected groups by the Georgia Department of Revenue annually. All donations are tax-deductible on the following year's return.

FIND US ON YOUR 500 EZ TAX FORM!

Georgia Form 500EZ
 2023-2024
 Individual Income Tax Return
 Georgia Department of Revenue
 YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
 3 00040 40066
 Page 4
 21. Estimated tax for 2015 and Form IT-500 21
 22. Total prepayment credits (Add Lines 19, 20 and 21) 22
 23. If Line 18 exceeds Line 22 enter BALANCE DUE STATE 23
 24. If Line 22 exceeds Line 18 enter OVERPAYMENT amount 24
 25. Amount to be credited to 2016 ESTIMATED TAX 25
 26. Georgia Fund for Children and Elderly (No gift of less than \$1.00) 26
 27. Georgia Fund for Children and Elderly (No gift of less than \$1.00) 27
 28. Georgia Conservation Program (No gift of less than \$1.00) 28
 29. Georgia Land Conservation Program (No gift of less than \$1.00) 29
 30. Georgia National Guard Foundation (No gift of less than \$1.00) 30
 31. Dog & Cat Sterilization Fund (No gift of less than \$1.00) 31
 32. Saving the Cure Fund (No gift of less than \$1.00) 32
 33. Rooking Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Program (No gift of less than \$1.00) 33
 34. Form 500 UET (Estimated tax penalty) 34
 35. If you owe Add Lines 22, 28 thru 34 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. THIS IS YOUR REFUND. 35
 36. If you are a refund Subtract the sum of Lines 25 thru 34 from Line 24. THIS IS YOUR REFUND. 36

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS JANUARY

1 st	All Day	Closed for New Year's Holiday	
9 th	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	NEGRC Atrium
15 th	All Day	Closed for Martin Luther King Day	
17 th	1:30 p.m.	Aging Services Advisory Council Meeting	NEGRC Conference Room
18 th	Noon	NEGRC Council	Trumps Catering
22 nd	4:00 p.m.	RIR Resource Management Plan	NEGRC Atrium
24 th	9:00 a.m.	UOBWA	NEGRC Atrium

