

## NEGRC HOSTS MAXGOV WORKSHOPS

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission hosted two MAXGOV workshops intended to maximize technology for local governments at headquarters during the morning and afternoon of August 29<sup>th</sup>. The workshops were presented by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) at UGA at no cost to government employees and elected officials. The MAXGOV initiative is sponsored by the Georgia Technology Authority in partnership with the Georgia Telephone Association, the Georgia Chapter of the Government Management Information Services Association, and CVIOG. The presentation is designed to improve the quality of services, develop informational and promotional community campaigns, increase citizen involvement, and produce more efficient operation, and is being offered at each of the state's regional commissions. The four-hour courses are specifically developed to teach staff and officials about broadband technology, current solutions, and emerging technology. The courses are led by **Marci Campbell** of CVIOG, who also happens to be a member of the City Council in Watkinsville. Approximately 30 persons attended the two sessions at our office.



*Workshop Participants*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: BROADBAND CAPACITY

When it comes to traveling on 'The Information Highway,' many counties feel like they are still on a two-lane, dirt road. The Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia (JDANEG), over the last several months, has considered broadband infrastructure across Northeast Georgia. In this "Spotlight," Oconee County provides its perspective on this topic.

With the advent of high-speed services as fast as one gigabit per second, community leaders in the Northeast Georgia region may explore alternative ways to deliver telecommunication services. One solution other local governments use is the creation of a public/private partnership to create a community-focused fiber network.

While it may sound unusual for a local government to own a telecommunication network, it would not be the first publicly-owned network. Dalton-Whitfield County owns its own fiber network, as does the Cities of Elberton and Monroe. Chattanooga, Tennessee rolled out fiber connections to monitor its electrical grid, with the fringe benefit of offering all its citizens speeds upwards of one gigabyte per second. There is even a regional fiber network called the North Georgia Network, which is a partnership between Habersham EMC and Blue Ridge EMC, which offers high-speed internet service.

"We have had a lot of requests throughout [Oconee County] regarding broadband service," says Oconee County Chairman **Melvin Davis**. "Some citizens have not had the speed and connection that they desire, or in some cases, they've had no connection." Many citizens in the region have complained that legacy providers would not allow new residents to buy service, even though the previous tenants had internet service. Other citizens complain they are paying for service that is much slower than the advertised speeds for which they are paying.



"While the private market is the best way to deliver goods, it only works efficiently when there are multiple competitors offering their best service at the best price," explains Oconee County Administrative Officer **Jeff Benko**. "What we have now is a monopoly or duopoly that has no reason to compete for business or invest in new services. In that case, it makes sense for the government to review its options and discuss a public/private fiber network."

Knowing that other communities have built their own fiber networks, Oconee County representatives met with Corning Optical Communications, a manufacturer of telecommunication networks, to discuss a possible county-owned network. Corning presented several scenarios, including the private financing and operation of an open/deregulated network. In this scenario, private investors would fund the construction of the network and customers would have the option to choose among multiple providers that operate on the network. By avoiding a massive capital investment, Oconee County could focus its resources on maintenance of the network, or simply contract out the maintenance of the network to a third party.

As business and consumer tastes evolve toward faster internet service, it will be important for communities to review operation of their telecommunication infrastructure. For counties that are well-served by multiple providers, there is little they will need to do to compete for new investment. Others, however, may need to explore new solutions to infrastructure development.

For information about the JDANEG and related broadband questions, contact **Burke Walker** at [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.

## NEGA CARE-NET HONORS REGIONAL CAREGIVERS OF THE YEAR

When someone falls ill or is disabled in some manner, that individual may come to rely on the assistance of others in a variety of ways. Those who provide that assistance are called caregivers. There are family caregivers who assume this responsibility out of a sense of love or duty. There are individuals who have made their career in caregiving. Then there are the volunteers who generously give of their time through acts of kindness and support to others in their community.

Each year NEGA CARE-NET receives nominations of individuals in three categories: Family Caregiver, Para-Professional Caregiver and Volunteer Caregiver. We are proud to announce our 2016 regional nominees at this time.

The following nominations were received: **Tony Tyson** nominated by **Connie Cooper** with Legacy Link; **Pepsi Faust** and **Fonda Worthington** nominated by **Deborah Janitor** with Nightingale Home Care, Inc.; **Charlene Bailey** nominated by **Cateia Jones** with ResCare Homecare; and **Angela Irvin** nominated by **Eve Anthony** with Athens Community Council on Aging.

The NEGA CARE-NET is proud to announce the 2016 NEGA Regional Caregivers of the Year winners:

**Family Caregiver: Tony Tyson**  
**Para-Professional Caregiver: Pepsi Faust**  
**Volunteer Caregiver: Angela Irvin**

All local caregiver nominees and winners will be recognized during the **NEGA CARE-NET's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Caregiver Celebration** that will be held in the Harris Room of Athens Community Council on Aging located at 135 Hoyt Street in Athens on **November 9, 2016** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The FREE event will include caregiver resources, an assistive technology lab, and door prizes. Local winners will also be honored during an awards ceremony that will be held just before lunch.

For additional information or to RSVP for the event, please contact **Michele Kelley** with the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging at (706) 369-5650 or by e-mail at [mkelley@negrc.org](mailto:mkelley@negrc.org) by Wednesday, **October 31, 2016**.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS

In last month's newsletter, information was provided as to recently elected officers of the Workforce Development Board. They include **Joe Vogt**, Chairman; **Chris Kubas**, Vice Chairman; and **Reginald Woods**, Secretary/Treasurer. We have entertained requests to include a listing of the full Board membership and affiliations. That list follows:

**Joe Vogt**, Solvay Inc.  
**Carol Williams**, Coldwell Banker  
**Brenda Lazarus**, Reynolds Plantation  
**Keith Johnson**, Jackson EMC  
**Lynward Lindsey**, Georgia Power Co.  
**Michael Smith**, G. Michael Smith and Assoc.  
**Linda Gantt**, Georgia Power Co.  
**Jefferson Riley**, THP Graphics, Inc.  
**Pam Booth**, Deadwood Guitar Co.  
**Mick Crain**, Leggett & Platt  
**Barry Lowe**, Local Union 72  
**David Cagle**, Local Union 72  
**Laurie Rios**, ACTION, Inc.  
**Winston Heard**, East Athens Development Corp.  
**Howard Ledford**, Lanier Technical College  
**Andrea Daniel**, Athens Technical College  
**Reginald Woods**, University of Georgia  
**Bob Hughes**, Morgan County Chamber of Commerce  
**Dixie Morris**, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
**Lori Chafin**, Georgia Department of Labor  
**Jim Dove**, (ExOfficio) Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
**Geraldine Clark**, (ExOfficio), Athens Housing Authority  
**Melvin Davis**, (Chief Local Elected Official) Oconee County



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA HOLDS LUNCHEON FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

The Northeast Georgia Region is fortunate to be home to the state's flagship university and several other institutions of higher learning, both public and private. One of those, the University of North Georgia (UNG), was host to a luncheon meeting for local officials on its Oconee Campus on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was sponsored by AT&T. UNG President **Dr. Bonita C. Jacobs** provided an insightful overview of the University and provided a progress summary. UNG has five campuses – Dahlonega, Gainesville, Cumming, Blue Ridge, and Oconee – and more than 17,000 students. Approximately 1,150 students graduated during spring commencement ceremonies. UNG is one of six federally designated senior military colleges in the United States and "is proud of turning personal potential into success and successful people into leaders for a diverse and global society." Dr. Jacobs indicated that UNG is dedicated to increasing academic opportunities:

**Film and Digital Media** – new four-year film program offers the latest technology and supports the state's growing movie and television industry.

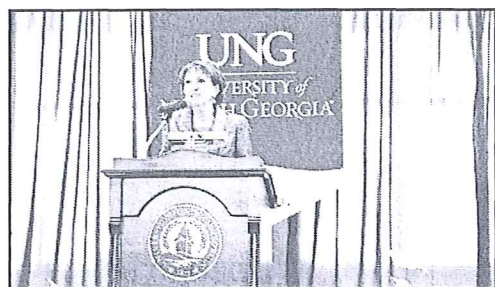
**Nursing** – this spring the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program was expanded, prompted by the projected regional and national shortage of Registered Nurses.

**Summer Dual-Enrollment** – In summer 2016, Georgia high school students interested in studying languages chose from two three-week study abroad programs in Germany or France.

**MBA** – with 80% of companies planning to hire an MBA graduate, UNG expanded its MBA program, offering courses two nights a week.

**Languages** – UNG offers ten languages including Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish and numerous study abroad opportunities.

Those wishing to connect with UNG may do so at [www.ung.edu/news](http://www.ung.edu/news).



Dr. Bonita Jacobs

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be held on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information of the meeting will be forthcoming.

## DR. CRAWFORD W. LONG

The year 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all year, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission is celebrating successful preservation projects in our communities. For the month of October, we would like to highlight the historic sites associated with **Dr. Crawford W. Long**.

Dr. Crawford W. Long gained national recognition as the first doctor to use sulfuric ether as an anesthetic in 1842 at his practice in Jefferson. Dr. Long was born in 1815 in Danielsville, where his childhood home still stands. The Crawford W. Long childhood home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The home is a two-over-two plantation plain style, five bays wide and two bays deep. The house, prior to modification, had an unusual triangular, pedimented porch. Long's father was a planter, merchant, politician, and one of the founders of the City of Danielsville. Their homestead's location played into their position in the community, while maintaining a simplicity that reflected the utility necessary in frontier Madison County. Dr. Long left Madison County at the age of fourteen to attend the University of Georgia, and later medical school in Kentucky and Pennsylvania. In 1841, he returned to Northeast Georgia to begin his medical practice in Jefferson.

The Crawford W. Long Museum is located in the heart of downtown Jefferson, and is dedicated to celebrating the legacy of Dr. Long and anesthesia. The front portion of the museum is the historic Greek Revival Pendergrass Store, built in 1858. Attached to the store is the recreated 1840's doctor's office and apothecary shop. The exhibits in the museum focus on Dr. Long and his discovery, as well as life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We are fortunate to have two historic sites tied to Dr. Long in Northeast Georgia. Visit the Crawford W. Long Museum in Jefferson to learn more about the life and legacy of Dr. Long, [www.crawfordlong.org](http://www.crawfordlong.org).

For further questions on historic preservation projects or the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, please contact Project Specialist, **Jordan Shoemaker** at [jshoemaker@negrc.org](mailto:jshoemaker@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.



Crawford W. Long Museum in downtown Jefferson



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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**OCTOBER**

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11	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
19	1:30 p.m.	Aging Advisory Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
20	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	10:00 a.m.	Senior Centers Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

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*Sincerely & Respectfully,*