

THE NEWS

*A publication of the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
for small business members*



THE
Chamber

AUGUSTA METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Comments? Questions?
Contact Terra Carroll at

Dear Mandi,

"The B.I.G. News" is a small business newsletter developed to provide you and other small businesses with information about resources and tools that can help improve business practices & operations and make your lives easier. We invite you to share with us topics you would like to hear more about. Contact Terra Carroll at 706-821-1318 or email [Terra](#).

WHO WILL BE THE AUGUSTA METRO CHAMBER'S 2009 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR?



The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the **2009 Small Business of the Year Award**.

Nominations must be submitted by September 11, 2009.

The Small Business of the Year program spotlights the many contributions small businesses make to the community. The award will be presented on November 13th at the Member Economic Luncheon sponsored by **Georgia Bank & Trust**.



Last year, R. W. Allen won top honors receiving the 2008 Small Business of the Year Award. Previous winners include Universal Plumbing, International Uniform, and Advanced Services.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award please download form [here](#) or contact Terra Carroll at tcarroll@augustagausa.com.

CSRA COMMUNITY EXPO

The CSRA Alliance has partnered with the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce and others to present the CSRA Community Expo. Come learn about Augusta and the Fort Gordon community.

Open to all civilians, military and their families.

CSRA Community Expo

Putting "u"
In Aug_sta



706.821-1318 or
TCarroll@augustagausa.com



Word-of-Mouth Made Easy!
To find out more, click [here](#).

September 10, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m
The Gordon Club

Free Papa John's Pizza and Coca Cola beverages!

Door prizes to include a free Augusta Aviation romantic sunset tour, gift baskets, gift certificates, canal boat ride, savings bonds, and many more.

You don't have to be present to win.

Exhibit Booths available - Contact Thom Tuckey at
TTuckey@augustagausa.com or (706) 821-1312.

Need a Sounding Board? Want to Exchange Ideas? Facing a New Situation?



The Chamber's **Roundtable Program** gives company leaders the opportunity to draw upon the expertise and experience of other members to help find solutions to their business issues. Each Roundtable is a confidential forum of executives from non-competing businesses that regularly meet to share and gain practical knowledge and counsel on the challenges and opportunities facing today's businesses. For more information or to join a Roundtable contact Terra Carroll at tcarroll@augustagausa.com.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sales and Use Tax Seminar (FREE)

Wednesday, September 9

8:00 am until 5:00 pm

This one day workshop presented by the Georgia Department of Revenue covers an overview of the Georgia Sales & Uses Tax: form completion, applicability issues and filing requirements.



8(a) Certification Step-By-Step (FREE)

Monday, September 14

6:30 pm until 9:00 pm

This free workshop is available to those businesses that are eligible for 8(a) designation and seeking government contracts. If you are an established business of two years or more, then this workshop is for you.

Small Business Success Strategies for Tough Times (FREE)

Saturday, September 19

9:30 am until 11:30 am

In today's uncertain economy, small business owners are challenged with not only how to maintain revenues, but also how to meet the ever-changing needs of their customers, vendors, and employees. This seminar provides small business owners with recommendations for surviving an economic downturn, while also providing guidance on how to plan and implement such changes.

For more information or to register, call (706) 721-4545.

The Chamber Welcomes Area Director of the Small Business Development Center



Susan Caldwell

Area Director

The University of Georgia Small Business Development Center - Augusta Office



In her tenure at the SBDC, Susan has worked in over twenty of the state's urban and rural counties providing services to Georgia's entrepreneurs. Ms. Caldwell's work has been in both the private and public sectors and across several industries. Her experience includes the textile, aluminum and polystyrene industries, healthcare, retail and travel and tourism. She is certified by the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership to facilitate FastTrac® programs and was a member of the SBDC team that received statewide recognition in 2009 for Outstanding Project of the Year and CE Program of the Year for 2008. Susan's specialties include marketing, business planning, operations, loan packaging and human resource management.

Ms. Caldwell holds a B.S. degree from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from the University of Georgia. **Please join us in welcoming Susan to the CSRA.**

Small Business Development Center

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ENTREPRENEUR FRIENDLY NEWS



NBC Universal (NBCU) and American Express recently launched "**Shine A Light,**" a program calling for people across the U.S. to nominate and vote for the small business story that most inspires them.

Now more than ever, people cherish the small businesses in their neighborhood, and through this program, they can spotlight small business owners and the role they play in driving economic recovery.

"**Shine A Light,**" which marks the largest ever cross property campaign at NBCU, will award the winning small business with \$100,000 in grant and marketing support from American Express, and the people who nominate the three small business finalists will each receive a \$3,000 American Express Gift Card. [Learn More.](#)



business innovation group
Where Small Business Doesn't Mean Thinking Small

