



Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

2016 Report to the Community

We're
All
in this
Together!



POWERING OUR COMMUNITIES



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Daniel Jackson

President & CEO



Dear Chamber Members:

The best part of my job is telling the Carroll County story. Here it is in a nutshell: coming together, dreaming a dream, creating a vision, designing a plan, building a team, securing the resources, working the plan, measuring and reporting outcomes, and celebrating victories!

Speaking of celebrating victories, I want to thank our 2015 leadership under the guidance of Chairman Ben Butler for an outstanding year. Ben

utilized his theme, Legacy of Leadership, to pause and take a look at the many individuals who built this Carroll County Chamber since its beginning in 1955. And 2016 Chair Gary Hewitt reminds us that strength is in numbers and “We’re All in This Together!”

During 2015, we took leadership development to the next level with several new initiatives. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the J. W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development invited just 10 counties/regions to participate in GeorgiaLEADS, an initiative to ensure a continuum of leadership development opportunities at the youth, adult and regional levels throughout the state. As a result of this involvement, we began a Junior Chamber of Commerce and

have alumni events and training planned for our adult Leadership Academy graduates.

Workforce Education and Development remains a priority as we partner with our award-winning educational institutions throughout Carroll County from K-16, public and private. Our industry partners continue to play a strong role in this endeavor to build a highly qualified workforce. You can contribute to this effort as we build a Speakers Bureau to address career pathways with our youth.

The mission of our Chamber is simple: Growing Business in our Community. But the execution is complex. That is where you play a part as a business leader and involved Chamber member. Thank you for saying “yes” when you have the opportunity to make a difference in Carroll County.

As always, it is my honor and privilege to represent the great people of Carroll County. Thank you for supporting the Chamber through your membership and sponsorships, your participation and your presence.

Daniel Jackson
President/CEO

Gary Hewitt

Chairman



Dear friends of Carroll County and the Chamber of Commerce:

I want to thank you for your support of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Your support and hard work, coupled with a stellar staff and devoted board, is what has made this Chamber the success we see today as we pursue our mission of “Growing Business in our Community.” I am honored to serve as the Chair for 2016.

The Chamber legacy began in 1955 when community leaders saw the need and opportunity to work together so that all could benefit from a coordinated effort of economic and community development. Without the Chamber in our community, our community would look a whole lot different. Over the last 60 years, Carroll County has changed dramatically and the Chamber has been right there leading the way.

As we have grown and changed, it has become even more important to work together and plan together with common



goals and united leadership. To that point, we recognize and appreciate those who have shared the vision, created the goals, led the efforts and generated the success Carroll County currently enjoys. It is with the legacy of cooperative leadership and service that we have chosen the theme for 2016, “We’re All in This Together.”

To borrow a quote from **Creative Followership** author Jimmy Collins, retired President of Chick-fil-A, “The unifying purpose joins leader and follower together.” This year I will act as Chairman of the board for the Carroll County Chamber and its governing body and consider it an honor to be a “follower” walking in the steps of those who have traveled before me and who have been instrumental in making Carroll County a great place to live, work and play. Join us and help to make 2016 a great year.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your concerns and suggestions as I welcome your input. My email is gary@southlandinsagency.com.

Gary Hewitt
2016 Chairman



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Silver

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2016 Chamber Executive Committee & Board of Directors

Chairman: Gary Hewitt, *Southland Insurance Agency*
Chairman-Elect: Amy Brown, *State Farm Insurance / Amy Brown*
Vice Chairman: Kenneth Blizzard, *Regions Bank*
Treasurer: Matt Windom, *Carroll County Water Authority*
Past Chairman: Ben Butler, *Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic*

Kristy Allison	<i>Community & Southern Bank</i>
Todd Anduze	<i>Small Business Development Center</i>
Kirby Butler	<i>United Community Bank</i>
Jim Chaffin	<i>City of Bowdon</i>
Cindy Clanton	<i>Carroll County School System</i>
Steve Daniel	<i>West Georgia Technical College</i>
Jill Duncan	<i>State Farm Insurance/Jill Duncan</i>
Theresa Fisher	<i>Sugar Foods Corporation</i>
Deadra Gamble	<i>CharterBank</i>
Lucy Gamble	<i>City of Whitesburg</i>
Jay Gill	<i>Carroll EMC</i>
Paula Gillispie	<i>Oak Mountain Academy</i>
Steve Gradick	<i>Gradick Communications</i>
Jim Griffith	<i>Tanner Medical Center</i>
Tim Grizzard	<i>City of Carrollton</i>
Galen Hobbs	<i>Independent</i>
Janet Hyde	<i>City of Villa Rica</i>
Brian Jackson	<i>Cottage Landing Senior Living</i>
John Jackson	<i>Law Office of John B. Jackson & Associates</i>
Kevin Lepard	<i>City of Mt. Zion</i>
Kyle Marrero	<i>University of West Georgia</i>
Trent North	<i>Carroll County Commissioners</i>
Bill Osborne	<i>City of Temple</i>
Will Ozier	<i>Ozier Products, Inc.</i>
Tim Porter	<i>Wentz Financial Group</i>
David Price	<i>Community & Southern Bank</i>
Bill Stone	<i>Systems & Methods, Inc.</i>
Kinney Taylor	<i>Edward Jones Investments / Kinney Taylor</i>
Anne Tolbert	<i>Flowers Baking Company</i>
Keith West	<i>Auto Supply Company</i>

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2015 Award Winners



The Carroll County Chamber hosted the 2015 STAR Student/Teacher Achievement Recognition honoring students and teachers from the Carroll County School System, Carrollton City School System and Oak Mountain Academy.



Jerry and Sherrie Culver of Little Vine Vineyards accepted the Agribusiness Award from Paula Burke (right), UGA Cooperative Extension Coordinator, at the annual Harvest Dinner.



Lee Campbell was honored with the Special Award during the annual Carroll County Chamber's Harvest Dinner, presented by Carmen Prather of Gas South.



David Huddleston of Carroll EMC presented the Business Award to Sharon Wallace Notch of Wallace Farm and Pet Supply. The annual Harvest Dinner awards presentation is part of the 2015 Farm City Week Celebration.



Paula Gillispie (center), Head of School for Oak Mountain Academy, was named the Women's Business Alliance 2015 Woman of the Year. She is congratulated by (l-r) Ben Butler, 2015 Chamber Chair, Jill Duncan, WBA chair, Alicia Michael, 2014 winner, and Daniel Jackson, President/CEO of the Chamber and Carroll Tomorrow.



The team from the Carroll County Water Authority won first place at the annual golf tournament.

More Award Winners



Catherine Gordon, retired director of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church's Community Outreach, was honored as the Citizen of the Year.



Wayne Johnson, ESW Investment Company, was presented the Horizon Award for volunteerism.



Wayne Payne (center), founder of OmniCall, accepts the Small Business Person of the Year award from Amy Brown, chair of the Chamber's Business Development Committee, and Ben Butler, 2015 Chamber chair.



Scott Cowart (right), superintendent of Carroll County Schools, is congratulated by Tom Upchurch for his selection as recipient of the Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award.



Tom Wysoczynski, founder of Die-Tech Industries, was named Entrepreneur of the Year.



Gary Hewitt (left), Southland Insurance Agency, accepts the gavel from outgoing chair Ben Butler as he became the 2016 Chairman of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Legacy of Leadership

A series of awards were presented throughout 2015 in recognition of outstanding leadership to the community and the Chamber during the past 60 years.



Wood Cole (center), grandson of the late Woodfin Cole, accepted the first Legacy of Leadership Award on behalf of his grandfather who served as the first chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in 1955. 2015 Chamber Chair Ben Butler (second from left) celebrated with Cole family members (l-r) Eddie Cole, Wood and his wife Kelly, and Woody Cole.



Loy Howard (left), President and CEO of Tanner Health System, was recognized for his leadership especially in the health care industry and to Carroll Tomorrow.



Mary Covington was recognized for her long-standing community service in education, healthcare, banking, economic development, and civic volunteerism throughout Carroll County.



Dr. John Burson (right) was honored for his decades of service to the local community, health care industry, education and the military.

Silver Beautification Awards

The Silver Beautification Awards for 2015 were presented to the Southwire Energy Center in Villa Rica, the College and Career Academy, and the City of Carrollton for the Courthouse Park.



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CARROLLTON CLUB

Sandra Morris
Executive Director

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Chamber Happenings - Good Times!!!





Chamber Happenings - Good Times!!!



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2016 Program of Work

“We’re All in This Together!”

MISSION

Growing Business in Our Community

VISION

Building a Stronger Business Community by Engaging Progressive Leadership and Diverse Resources

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Innovative, Resourceful, Member Driven, Honest, Inclusive

Business Development Committee

Goal: To maximize growth of local business, new ventures and entrepreneurship

Actions:

- Select the “Small Business Person of the Year” award
- Select the Silver Awards
- Host 6 Business Success Luncheons (2 at the Burson Center, 2 at the Chamber, Villa Rica & Bowdon)
- Expand the “Shop Carroll First” to a year round marketing campaign
- Broaden the minority representation and county wide representation on committee
- Conduct “Business of the Month”
- Continue to promote the Burson Center
- Promote & support tourism opportunities in Carroll County

Agribusiness Committee

Goal: To promote the continued growth of agricultural enterprises and agri-tourism

Actions:

- Plan the Farm City Harvest Dinner
- Provide educational materials to local schools promoting career pathways in agribusiness
- Encourage Chamber membership for new / existing agribusiness
- Support efforts for growing, selling, processing, distributing, and marketing locally grown food products

Government Affairs Committee

Goal: To represent the business interests of Carroll County to local, regional, state and federal policymakers

Actions:

- Discuss / support the Georgia Chamber Legislative agenda

- Advise Chamber Board / membership on legislative issues and determine official positions when appropriate
- Coordinate the Carroll County Day at the State Capitol
- Coordinate the Membership Legislative Breakfast
- Represent the Chamber at legislative functions
- Coordinate the legislative reception following the session
- Sponsor the legislative trip to Washington, D.C.
- Seek opportunities for training, forums, briefings, etc. for legislative issues
- Encourage good leaders to run for elected positions and provide a community orientation program for those interested in public service
- Conduct a Carroll County Academy for all elected and appointed officials in Carroll County

Ambassador Committee

Goal: To support member interests of the Chamber, promote Chamber sponsored activities and encourage member involvement

Actions:

- Act as host for Chamber events
- Seek feedback from membership on programs / services
- Assist staff with member recruitment / retention
- Sponsor Lunch on the Chamber
- Partner with the Business Development Committee to conduct “Business of the Month”

Leadership Academy

Goal: To develop new, talented leadership for the Chamber and community

Actions:

- Coordinate annual Leadership Academy
- Promote the Academy to a broader audience beyond the Chamber membership
- Update collateral pieces for adult Academy
- Engage Academy members and graduates for ideas

- on additions and enhancements to the program
- Add a new session to the adult Academy on understanding the role of the Chamber
- Adjust curriculum with more focus on skills component
- Provide session summaries and updates to employers/sponsors
- Recommend applicants for Leadership Georgia and Georgia Academy for Economic Development
- Create focus group to develop strategies to identify and engage additional minority talent in Chamber leadership

Youth Entrepreneur & Leadership Development

Goal: To improve students' opportunities and chances for success in their academic and career futures

Actions:

- Continue to develop and enhance the annual Junior Chamber and encourage participation from all public and private high schools
- Continue to offer youth entrepreneur development assistance via The Burson Center

Women's Business Alliance Committee

Goal: To promote the balanced interests and lifestyles of the community's professional women

Actions:

- Sponsor up to 3 events
- Sponsor monthly networking "Coffee Break"

- Plan one event annually to invite men
- Secure sponsorships for events
- Select a "Woman of the Year"

Workforce Education Task Force

Goal: To encourage life-long learning and support the development of a highly trained and educated workforce

Actions:

- Support all efforts related to the workforce education task force goals
- Support and generate teacher and student recognition / appreciation programs events such as Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) and STAR Student / Teacher Program
- Create a speakers bureau of business professionals within the K-16 system
- In cooperation with CCEC, develop personal skills, community service involvement and career development opportunities through a variety of K-16 programs
- Create an award winning workforce education quarterly publication

Special Projects

- Golf Tournament
- Facilities Taskforce



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What does the Chamber do for you? Take a look!



Manufacturing Tour



Business of The Month



Golf Tournament

- Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony
- WBA Coffee Break
- New Board Orientation
- Business of the Month
- Networking After Hours

- Business Success Seminar
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Networking After Hours
- 8th Grade Career Expo

- Golf Tournament
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Leadership Alumni Engagement Event
- Networking After Hours

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

- Chamber Board Meeting
- STAR Student/Teacher Membership Breakfast
- Business Success Seminar
- Business of the Month
- Chamber 101
- WBA Coffee Break
- Carroll County Day at State Capitol
- Networking After Hours
- Leadership Academy Kick-Off

- Chamber Board Meeting
- Legislative Reception
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Business Success Seminar

- Chamber Board Meeting
- Chamber 101
- Lunch on the Chamber
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break



Government Affairs



Leadership Training



On The Chamber



Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Membership BBQ



STAR students/teachers



Networking

- Business of the Month

- Membership BBQ
- Networking After Hours
- Business Success Seminar
- Business of the Month
- Washington Fly-In
- Junior Chamber Kick-Off
- WBA Coffee Break

- Harvest Dinner
- Legislative Membership Breakfast
- WBA Award Luncheon
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Chamber Board Meeting
- Business of the Month
- WBA Coffee Break
- Membership Breakfast
- Business Success Seminar

- Chamber Board Retreat
- Business of the Month
- Business Success Seminar
- Manufacturing Day Industry Tour
- WBA Coffee Break

- Chamber Board Meeting
- Forward Carroll Appreciation Breakfast
- Networking After Hours
- WBA Coffee Break
- Business of the Month



Membership Breakfasts



Women's Business Alliance



Business Seminars

2015 Major Programs & Events

Annual Dinner Meeting
Membership Breakfasts
Networking After Hours
Morning Coffee Breaks
Business Success Seminars
Leadership Academy
STAR Student/Teacher Breakfast
Chamber 101
Business of the Month Recognition
Golf Tournament
Women's Business Alliance Symposiums
Membership BBQ
Lunch on the Chamber
Economic Forecast Breakfast
Farm-City Harvest Dinner
Forward Carroll Breakfast
GeorgiaLEADS
Junior Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Reception & Breakfast
Carroll County Day at the State Capital
Manufacturing Day Tour

Our committees are led by hardworking volunteers seeking to address those issues that are of most benefit to our membership. Through participation, members have an opportunity to have input in initiatives that are of interest to them and their businesses.



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Committees and Chairs

Business Development - *Kelly Meigs*
Agribusiness - *Natalie Howard*
Government Affairs - *John Jackson*
Ambassador - *LeAnne Reese*
Leadership Academy - *Kenneth Blizzard*
Junior Chamber Board - *Tom Hall*
Women's Business Alliance - *Jill Duncan*
Workforce Education Task Force:
Cindy Clanton and Theresa Fisher

Fundraiser/Event Committees

2017 Annual Meeting - *Amy Brown*
Golf Tournament - *Matt Windom*



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Groundbreakings





Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Membership Benefits

Created in 1955, your Chamber is the only local organization that focuses 100 percent of its time and efforts on improving the quality of life for all citizens of Carroll County. The Chamber's mission is: **Growing Business in Our Community!**

Administrative phone number to reach all staff: 770-832-2446.

Anytime you need assistance, feel free to call upon our friendly, efficient staff.

Advertising and Marketing

Each year the Chamber offers opportunities for its membership to sponsor various events such as Networking After Hours, Wake Up Calls, Lunch on the Chamber, etc. This may be one of the biggest opportunities to receive a "Return on Your Investment" as a Chamber member as they provide opportunities for personal marketing.

- *Annual Dinner
- *Networking After Hours
- *Wake Up Calls
- *Forward Carroll
- *Leadership Academy
- *Women's Business Alliance
- *Lunch on the Chamber
- *Manufacturing Day Industry Tour



Advocacy - Chamber members have the opportunity to become active in the Government Affairs Committee to provide input on policies affecting business operation.

Ambassadors – Chamber member volunteers serve as "goodwill" ambassadors to the community on behalf of the Chamber in addition to serving as the official welcoming crew for new members.

Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony – An elegant evening gathering held each year for all members. The event is highlighted by the presentation of the following awards: Citizen of the Year, Horizon, Entrepreneur of the Year, and the Thomas S. Upchurch Workforce Education Award.

Chamber 101 – Meetings are held regularly to orient new members to Chamber programs and activities. Each orientation will feature staff members presenting useful information concerning the benefits of membership.

Chamber Lobby – With our central location and great visibility from the intersection of Highway 61 and the 166 Bypass, we receive numerous walk-in visits each day. The Chamber serves as a welcome center to tourists as well as prospective residents and business owners. All members are encouraged to display their brochures or business cards, at no additional cost, in the Chamber's lobby.

Committee Participation

The Chamber has several committees that help develop programs, create policies, and assist with activities and events in all areas of the Chamber's program of work.

- *Business Development
- *Agribusiness
- *Golf Tournament
- *Government Affairs
- *Ambassador
- *Women's Business Alliance
- *Leadership Academy
- *Junior Chamber of Commerce
- *Workforce Education Task Force
- *GeorgiaLEADS

Community Magazine – The magazine is widely utilized by the Chamber and others in the community to promote Carroll County as a great place to live and work. Published every other year, it serves as a core document for our community information packet. Magazine advertisements are available at a variety of sizes and prices, and are sold by an outside contractor on behalf of the Chamber.

Directory/website: www.carroll-ga.org - Our member companies represent businesses of all types and sizes and our membership directory serves as business catalog for Carroll County's best products and services. One of the many values of membership is a listing and link on our website. Visitors can find your business listing three ways- alphabetically, by category or by using key words. Members can showcase their business even more by adding multiple listings, events, job openings and hot deals directly to our website—at no charge. Visitors can visit member websites as well as their social media sites such as Facebook with just one click. In addition, a pdf version of our complete directory is available online for download.

The Carroll Chamber website is a wealth of information with direct links to resources to meet all your business needs and also includes information about the area for individuals interested in relocating. As an added benefit and a service



to the community, our website hosts a “community calendar” that provides visitors and local residents with information and dates on festivals and special events in our area.

Drugs Don't Work – The Chamber offers a drug-free workplace program, “Drugs Don't Work.” Receive a 7.5 percent discount on workman's compensation insurance when completing the certification process to become a “Drugs Don't Work” site.

Eblasts – 1200 copies distributed each week. Send your 55 words or less submission by 5 pm on Wednesday with your member updates or event. Member updates are on a first come, first served basis and are limited to the first five member submissions. Don't let this opportunity to advertise your upcoming event pass you by!

Economic/Industrial Development – The Chamber collaborates with Carroll Tomorrow to recruit new businesses, industry and tourists to our area and provides expansion support for existing industry.

Leadership Academy – The Academy is a 15-week program designed to enhance personal leadership skills, establish professional relationships, and prepare individuals to become actively involved in shaping the future of Carroll County.

Membership Labels – A complete set of membership labels is available to all members for a nominal fee.

Networking After Hours and Wake Up Calls – These events are designed to encourage Chamber member networking within a social setting and are sponsored by the hosting Chamber members.

Newsletter – This publication is a monthly e-newsletter sent to our membership in an HTML format highlighting informative happenings and upcoming events. This format offers full color advertising for your business at affordable prices. The Chamber News is published the first business day of each month.

Business Card 2x3 - \$20

¼ Page 4x5 - \$30

½ Page 5x8 - \$40

Full Page - \$50

Notary and Certificate of Origin – Utilize the free notary service and Certificate of Origin service through the Chamber.

Professional Development – Business and Professional Development Seminars are held throughout the year in our Chamber Conference Room and at The Burson Center. In addition, members are encouraged to utilize free one-on-one consultation with the Chamber staff, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute to learn ways to improve your business and discover additional resources in the community.

Referrals – Our staff responds to phone, fax, mail, and miscellaneous inquiries for information. When requested by the customer, staff members serve as referral agents for area businesses using rotating lists of Chamber members.

Relocation Packet Program – Callers who request relocation information are immediately mailed a package from the Chamber. Chamber members can, for a nominal fee, include company information in this packet.

Ribbon Cuttings – All new businesses are invited to host a ribbon cutting. The Chamber will perform ribbon cuttings for grand openings, ground breakings, new locations, etc. Ribbon cutting pictures are printed in the Chamber newsletter and are provided to the business for their use.

Shop Carroll First – A year-round shop at home campaign promotes Carroll County businesses.

Social Media – Facebook Our pages are your pages. Share your stories and events on our pages and gain exclusive access to unique Chamber benefits.



Businesses of the Month



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Networking After Hours and Wake-Up Call

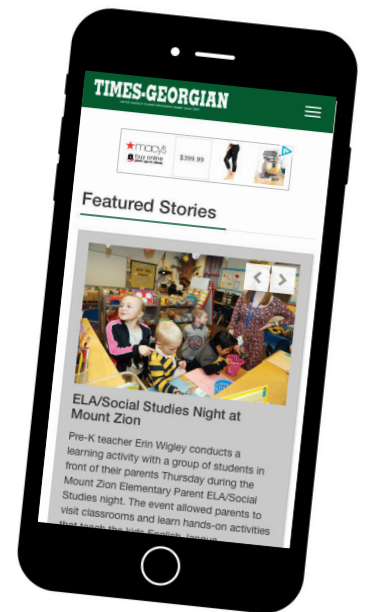
Chamber members can spotlight their business by hosting an after-hours networking event at their place of business. 2015 hosts were Milestone Investment Management, Times-Georgian, UWG College of Social Sciences, Cottage Landing Senior Living, and Tisinger Vance.





Congratulations and Thank You!

Congratulations to the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, committees, staff and members on a successful 2015. Hats off to all 2015 award winners. A heartfelt "thank you" for leading the way in making Carroll County the great community it is. Best wishes for an even greater 2016 from the staff of the Newspapers of West Georgia.



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Women's Business Alliance

The WBA is a unique and highly successful organization that promotes the balanced interests and lifestyles of the community's professional women. Activities include monthly networking events, social opportunities and an annual seminar where the "Woman of the Year" award is presented.



Leadership Development

The Carroll County Chamber strives to identify leadership talent and provide training opportunities for students, young professionals, and adults.

The Leadership Academy is a 15-week program that prepares, challenges, and engages emerging and existing leaders to strengthen the community. Participants are exposed to the larger community, exploring the public/city government sector, private business sectors, and not-for-profit organizations that play a role in building a strong community.

The Carroll County Chamber was one of only 10 communities/regions to participate in GeorgiaLEADS, an inaugural program led by the Georgia Chamber and the J.W. Fanning Institute to initiate and expand community leadership programming. A volunteer committee spent six months evaluating needs in the county and chose to focus on a youth leadership program and an expanded adult leadership program.



The Carroll County Junior Chamber of Commerce kicked off with 21 students selected to participate in an eight-month leadership program teaching personal leadership skills, team building and community asset development.



Volunteers in the GeorgiaLEADS initiative made plans for engagement activities for Leadership Academy alumni.



The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy Class of 2015.



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*To my friends and colleagues in Carroll County,
thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.
- Randall Redding*

Workforce Education

The Carroll County Chamber encourages life-long learning and supports the development of a highly trained and educated workforce. Chamber members participate in activities such as the Manufacturing Day Tour, 8th Grade Career Expo, Mentoring Village, Speakers Bureau and the Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative.



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Government Affairs

Chamber members have the opportunity to interact with local, regional, state and federal policymakers to express the business interests of Carroll County. The Government Affairs Committee hosts the Legislative Reception and moderates the Legislative Breakfast forum. Members are encouraged to attend the annual Washington Fly-In and participate in the 2016 Carroll County Day at the State Capitol.



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