

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **‘Small Is BIG!’ Conference Knocks Down Barriers to Entrepreneurship**

Dedicated to growing small businesses owned by African-Americans in Georgia.

Atlanta, GA – September 1, 2018 | **Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN) ‘Small Is BIG!’ Conference** is a day of education and resources for entrepreneurs, micro-enterprise development organizations and small businesses. The conference takes place Thursday, September 13, 2018 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta as part of a week of events celebrating the 21st anniversary of GMEN, September 10-16, 2018.

**GMEN18 ‘Small Is BIG!’ Conference** celebrates the power of entrepreneurship and business development to transform communities, create and restore generational wealth and knock down barriers to human achievement. The conference acknowledges the importance of small businesses to job creation and growth, as well as how micro and small businesses have disrupted and changed the world through the many GIG economies and platforms.

**GMEN18 Small Is BIG! Conference** recognizes the legacy of Atlanta in advocating for civil and human rights. During the conference we are looking at ways Atlanta can become the focal point in the United States for economic re-engagement for African-Americans across the southeast.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, **GMEN18 Small Is BIG! Conference** includes interactive sessions, industry experts, case studies, professional one-on-one consulting, funding resources onsite, a luncheon and collaboration opportunities. GMEN18 speakers and advisors include:

- **Sarah Riggs Amico**, *Executive Chairman*, Jack Cooper Holdings Corporation and Candidate, Georgia Lt. Governor
- **Melvin Coleman**, *MBA, Executive Director*, Atlanta Black Chambers
- **Robert B. Cooke**, *Executive Director*, Southwest Georgia United
- **Bonita Doster**, *Small Business Loan Officer*, Ace Loans
- **Maranda Walker-Dowell**, *Director of Business Development*, Joe's Gourmet Fish Fry
- **Thelma Adams Johnson**, *President/CEO*, Albany Community Together
- **Charles B. Jones**, *President/CEO*, The Shasta Corporation (CTK Parish)
- **Karen Leone De Nie**, *Assistant Vice President, Community Affairs Officer*, Community and Economic Development (CED), Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
- **Cheryle R. Moses**, *CEO and Creative Director*, Camrose Creative Services, Inc., WeCodeAcademy and Candidate, Georgia State Senate District 9
- **Erika Smith**, *Marketing Consultant*, Invest Atlanta
- **Representative “Able” Mable Thomas**, Georgia State House of Representatives, District 56
- **Elizabeth Wilson**, *Executive Director*, Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)

**What:** GMEN18 ‘Small Is BIG!’ Conference

**When:** Thursday, September 13, 2018 – 8:00a – 5:00p

**Where:** Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 1000 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

**Information:** <https://www.georgiamicrobiz.org/>

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