

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

THE GATES PORTAL

GATES had a GREAT time getting CHOPPED!

The 2012 GATES Annual Meeting was held June 7-8 at the Anderson Conference Center at Goodwill in Macon, Georgia. Sixty-five attendees participated in the conference. The two-day event kicked off with a presentation by John Bentley. Mr. Bentley is founder and President of Power2Transform, a team that focuses on helping leaders transform their organizations into healthy work environments. During the opening session Mr. Bentley challenged attendees to identify and develop their personal skills that will best contribute to the teams they serve at work, at home, and in their community activities.

Thursday afternoon attendees selected between three breakout sessions - the CEO Track - the ARMS Track or the State Use Program Track.

GATES member CEOs and Senior Managers attended the breakout sessions titled "The cost of Not Listening" presented by John Bentley. During this session, Mr. Bentley highlighted the costs to the business when any manager develops the bad habit of not listening. Instead he provided action items to show managers how



In This Issue

CHOPPED

Special Announcements



State Use Council Meeting

Thursday, June 28
10:00 AM
Location: Sloppy Floyd Building

GATES Board Meeting

Friday, July 28
10:00 AM
Location: Woodruff Building (*new GATES office*), Edgewood Ave.,

to identify and value the strengths of their staff.

The ARMS breakout session titled "Building an Employer Designed Curriculum for Soft Skill" was presented by the Staff of New Ventures Inc. and Goodwill Industries of Middle GA/CSRA. This session offered an opportunity for members to review and build a soft skills curriculum based on employer identification of soft skills needed for employment retention.

The "State Use 101" session was presented by Shawn Pursley, Georgia State Use Program Director. This was an introductory session on getting started in the State Use Program. Mr. Pursley provided details and answered questions concerning the State Use Program and the employment opportunities to CRP's participating.



One of the highlights of the meeting was the Thursday night "GATES Gets Chopped" event hosted by Helms College Culinary Institute Director and Executive Chef Jay Stancill and his other culinary instructors.

The event was a competition between eight attendee teams - the Grillin' Gherkins, Hot Tamales, Chili Choppers, Silver Spoons, Cookie Cutters, Dixie Dicers, Sautéing Seven, and the Sizzlin' Skillets. Each team were given an identical basket of unusual ingredients and fifteen minutes to create a dish judged by a distinguished panel of culinary experts (several GATES CEOs and BOARD members). The final completion between the Sautéing Seven and the Chili Choppers, was won by the Chili Choppers team. Team members included....



Crystal Askew, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers

Atlanta

State Use Council Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 27

10:00 AM

Location: TBD

GATES Board Meeting

Friday, Oct. 19

10:00 AM

Location: TBD

THE PORTAL is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to: Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net

*Heather Ferro, Center for the Visually Impaired
Jack Flowers, Goodwill Middle Georgia
Amy Martin, Easter Seals Southern Georgia
Paula Phillips, Rehab Industry of North East Georgia
Coyatitta Usry-Bland, Goodwill Middle Georgia
Sheila Zipf, Bobby Dodd Institute*



In addition to an exciting and fun competition, attendees were treated to jazz music from a local ensemble, an assortment of tapas prepared by the Helms Institute, lots of networking and even some dancing. Anyone not at the GATES gets CHOPPED event missed a great time!!!



On Friday participants attended the GATES Annual Business Meeting in which President Keith Kennedy outlined the accomplishments of the organization over the past year. He highlighted the solid financial condition of



GATES and good working relationship with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department. He outlined the position and activities of the GATES leadership to educate legislators during the discussion on creating a standalone agency for VR. GATES has been at the table throughout the transition and the CRP's should be well positioned with

the new agency moving into the new fiscal year. Kim Cantrell - Goodwill of the Southern Rivers and Ralph Donaldson - Middle Georgia Easter Seals were elected to the Board of Directors.



Friday morning sessions included "Solving the Team Puzzle to Create Greatness", "Overcoming the Barriers of Training and Placing the Ex-Offender", and "Maximizing Revenue Opportunities with State Use".

"Solving the Team Puzzle to Create Greatness" was presented by John Bentley. Bentley taught members the importance of developing a new mindset to unleash every team member's highest contribution toward organizational goals. Participants learned how to enhance and improve collaboration between leaders and followers, to build problem solving skills, and to increase the level of employee engagement. Participants created an action plan to implement upon their return to work.

Carrie Edwards, Joseph Perry, Ivey Webb, and Deborah Slaughter presented "Overcoming the Barriers of Training and Placing the Ex-Offender". This session featured a panel discussion of the best practices for working with the growing population of ex-offenders. Each presenter shared tips in developing employment sites and in skills training of ex-offenders. Panelists discussed engaging employers, removing charges from criminal records, federal bonding, and other tips for success.

The "Maximizing Revenue Opportunities" session was presented by Shawn Pursley. The session began with a panel discussion featuring Tommy Nobis Center, CVI, Bobby Dodd Institute and RING sharing their mentoring program success stories. Mr. Pursley highlighted new products for the State Use Program and explained how they are providing new revenues to several CRP's. This session also featured a discussion on the new \$25,000 "no-bid" limit going into effect July 1st.

The meeting ended with a closing luncheon where Leigh McIntosh was honored for her service on the GATES Board of Directors. Several door



prizes were awarded to members including Atlanta Zoo passes, High Museum passes, Gift Baskets, and much more.

Mr. John Bentley concluded the luncheon with a challenge to the attendees to be the best team member you can to move your organization forward.

GATES would like to thank all of the attendees and presenters at the 2012 Annual Meeting for a very successful event. For those who attended, we ask that you complete the evaluation form and provide feedback on the event. Please visit

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JKHH73J> to complete the survey.

Pictures of the event can be found at

<http://s1259.photobucket.com/albums/ii552/2012GATES>.

Thank you to our Door Prize Donors.

Atlanta Cheesecake Factory
Bobby Dodd Institute, Sheila Zipf
Camille & Co., Lake Oconee
Creative Enterprises Inc., Leigh McIntosh
Deer Run, Lake Oconee
Easter Seats of East Georgia, Sheila Thomas
Georgia Industries for the Blind
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Kim Cantrell
Goodwill of Middle Georgia/CSRA
Goodwill of North Georgia Team
New Ventures, Dave Miller/Andrew Barrett
Panarama, Alice Burkett
Ralph Donaldson
Sandersville Car Sales
Tech Know Gurus
The Wine Cellar

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Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



GATES

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