

We are
**GREATER
TOGETHER**

2019/2020 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



LETTERS

from our Leaders



YVONNE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce

Your Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is proudly gearing up to engage, connect and cultivate community and economic development prosperity initiatives in partnership with community based One Macon platforms.

In 2020 and beyond, we are committed to continuous collaboration with community and regional partners through establishment and management of partnerships for workforce and talent development.

Access to local quality universities, new technology partnerships and technical educational institutions allows us to innovate and grow local businesses through a continuous working process cultivating a technological based talent pool and fostering business innovation

Building on our past success in leading pro-business advocacy as the voice of business, your Chamber envisions leading the future and building our community and membership forward in success.

As a strong and proactive organization of committed membership, we are united together leading Macon Matters!

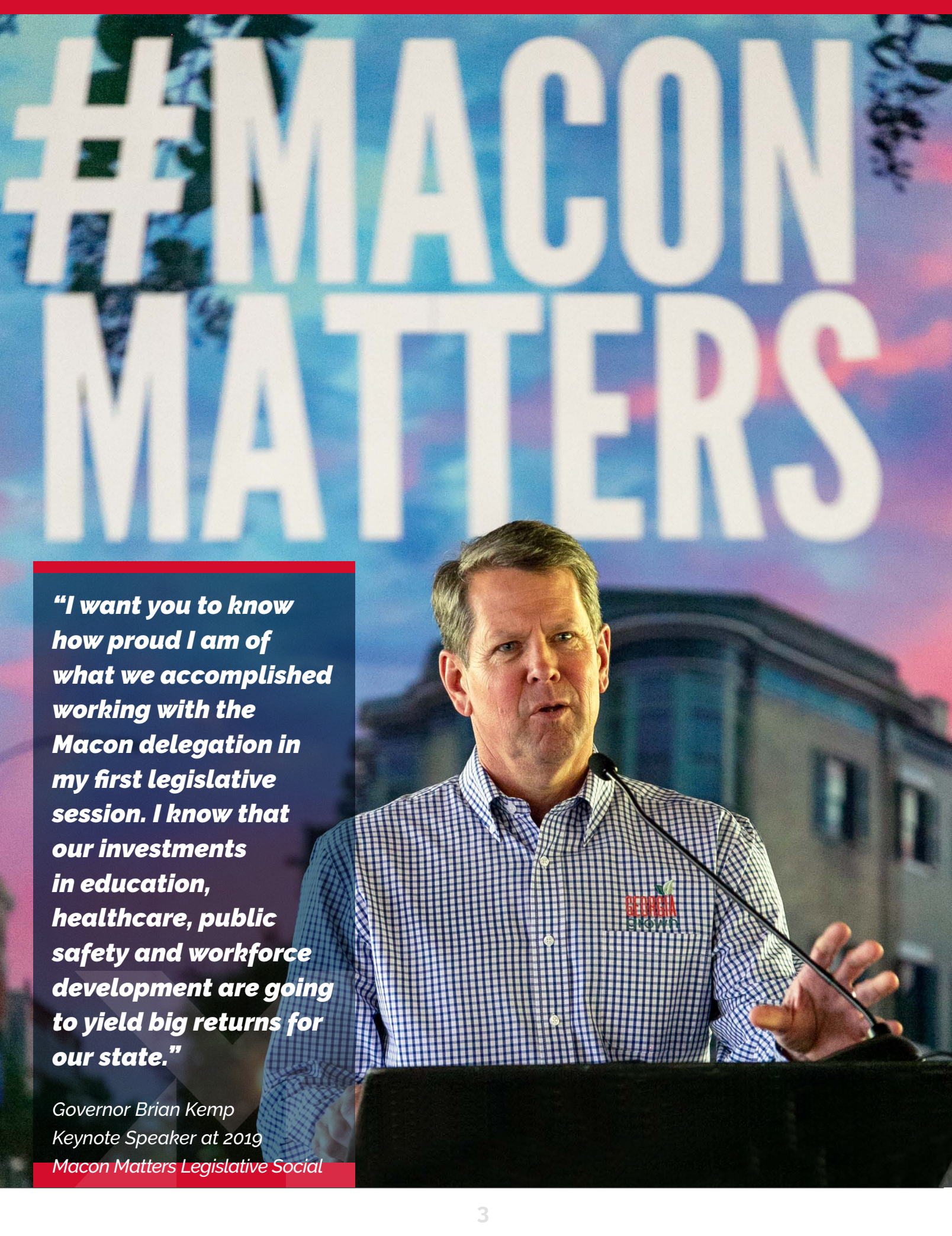
JULIA MAGDA, 2020 BOARD CHAIR
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the opportunity to lead the Chamber at this time in its storied history. It is an honor to work with your dedicated volunteer leaders and staff as we identify new ways to make Macon the best place to do business. We are poised to respond to the community's call for the Chamber to lead in talent and workforce development, retention, and recruitment in Macon-Bibb County, and we are simultaneously evaluating how we can bring more value to our members so they continue to invest in our mission as we support business and economic prosperity.

This activity, however, does not occur in a vacuum. Our members and their employees face increasing competition for time, money, and expertise, and significant external threats – whether they are health-related, economic-driven, or both – can instantly cause priorities to change. The Chamber stands on its promise to support businesses, large and small. Let 2020 be a year we recall as reigniting our community spirit and evidence of how we are better together.



About the Cover: Host Brother Stewart, Chamber President Yvonne Williams and Governor Brian Kemp talk about issues and share ideas at Macon Matters Legislative Event.



#MACON MATTERS

"I want you to know how proud I am of what we accomplished working with the Macon delegation in my first legislative session. I know that our investments in education, healthcare, public safety and workforce development are going to yield big returns for our state."

Governor Brian Kemp
Keynote Speaker at 2019
Macon Matters Legislative Social

Advocacy + Action

Local leaders advocated on behalf of our community in Washington, DC for the successful designation of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park which is estimated to generate \$233 million in annual economic impact over the next 15 years, supporting 3171 jobs.



Local leaders attend Congressional Luncheon

NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION



Chamber welcomes national leaders to Ocmulgee press conference

Better business CLIMATE

MACON MATTERS



Governor Kemp talks with President Underwood at Macon Matters

Hundreds of Chamber members welcomed Governor Brian Kemp, legislators, and special guests to a new local advocacy event hosted at Walnut Creek Shooting Preserve. The rustic setting prompted relaxed conversation about critical issues with members and the Macon Delegation.



RAF's **General Kubinec** and Chamber VC **Allen Freeman** at State of the Community Luncheon



National Superintendent of the Year
Dr. Curtis Jones and **Dr. Kirby Godsey** celebrate

EDUCATION PARTNERS

The Greater Macon Chamber advocated for the successful passage of the Macon-Bibb ESPLOST funding continued improvements in the Bibb County School District in the areas of technology, security and infrastructure that will impact every student.

HOSTING LEADERS

By hosting local and state leaders at major events, the Chamber's role as a convener provided forums for important conversations with the RAFB Brigadier General John C. Kubinec, Macon-Bibb Mayor Robert Riechert, GDOT Chairman Tim Golden, and Georgia Agricultural Commissioner Gary Black.



Mayor Riechert and **Susannah Maddux**
at State of the Community Luncheon



Chamber CEO
Yvonne Williams

BUSINESS TAX TESTIMONY

Chamber President Yvonne Williams testified at a public hearing to officially oppose the Bibb Commission proposed tax increase for businesses with more than 250 employees.

Engagement + Access



Connecting over Coffee



Cadence Bank Team poses at TRC kickoff luncheon

The Greater Macon Chamber is engaged. We believe that each member brings value, with unique insights and perspectives.

A carefully curated series of events provides professional engagement for entrepreneurs, small businesses, corporations and government. Young professionals Network at Nite. CEOs and salesmen conduct business after hours. Members Connect over Coffee and Chamber Ambassadors welcome new enterprises with signature ribbon cuttings and personal contact.

The Chamber provides greater access and awareness for members with an enhanced website, active social media channels and special events.



Ribbon cutting at Fickling & Company's 80th Anniversary



Chamber Annual Golf Tournament



In **2019**, the Chamber held
112 networking events
*connecting businesses, with **4,963** attendees.*

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Business After Hours
 Connecting over Coffee
 Young Professionals Network
 Good Morning Macon
 Leadership Macon

Annual Signature Events
 State of the Community Luncheon
 Macon Matters Legislative Social
 Engage! Workforce Summit
 Salute to Business Awards Luncheon
 Annual Golf Tournament
 Annual Meeting & Celebration



Engagement + Access

Macon-Bibb Tourism supports
3,800 jobs and generates
\$101.45 million in payroll.

\$2.9 billion in direct investment in Georgia film industry in 2019, including Macon-Bibb projects.



Visit Macon's **Aaron Buzza** and **Gary Wheat** champion Macon-Bibb tourism efforts and support Georgia's booming film industry.



Chamber volunteers celebrate at TRC Victory party at Wesleyan

GET ENGAGED WITH GREATER ACCESS

- Networking Events such as Business After Hours & Connecting Over Coffee
- Professional Development Classes and Webinars
- Special Discount Programs like the Anthem/ Chamber Healthcare Plan
- Active Social Media updates to Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram
- A Dynamic Website loaded with important information
- Weekly electronic messages to all members

2,650 Facebook followers and
26,672 new web users engaged with
Greater Macon Chamber in 2019



Chamber business connections



Salute to Business Luncheon & Awards



Leaders celebrate a great year



Chamber Ambassadors surprise members with gifts on Party Patrol

Economics + Education

Workforce and TALENT Objectives

- Align existing workforce pathways and foster new collaborative opportunities to close talent gaps with employers, workforce partners and K-12/post-secondary education.
- Broaden awareness of, and access to high quality career pathways offered by K-12 and post-secondary education.
- Develop programs that assist in creating a qualified workforce to meet the current and future needs of Middle Georgia businesses.
- Work with the Bibb County School System and Central Georgia Technical College to increase participation in the dual enrollment program and in career pathways.
- Connect teachers into the targeted workforce councils to increase industry relevance in the academic curriculum related to these expanding career fields.
- Create an extern program to enable teachers and counselors to spend time with local employers to assist them in having a better understanding of our workforce needs and the workplace environment.
- Increase opportunities for students by working directly with employers to develop and strengthen apprenticeships, internships, job shadowing and other work-based learning experiences to build industry awareness and showcase career paths.

Executive Chef **Stuart Hardy** of W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy serves an appetizer to CEO **Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington** and Greater Macon Chamber Director **Lynn Farmer** at the upscale Rose Café which is located onsite.





Chamber welcomes new medical residents to Macon

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

The Chamber and local partners welcomed new medical residents to Macon at a reception showcasing attractions, arts and quality of life.

The Engage! Workforce Summit brought stakeholders together. Workforce Development Director Jamie Jordan from the Technical College System of Georgia crunched the numbers and delivered an impactful message.

The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce made significant advances with a new talent development strategy, bringing education, business, technology and government partners together. By creating an optimal environment for education, engagement and employment, Macon-Bibb will successfully attract and retain talent.



LM Class visits Newberry Dairy Farm to learn about Agriculture Career Pathway

CAREER PATHWAYS

The Chamber and Georgia Power partnered with the Bibb County Schools to develop a career guide which will be distributed to every 9th and 10th grader in digital and printed formats. The new resource will introduce students and parents to prospective employment opportunities and present a clear curriculum to prepare for future education and employment in preferred fields of interest.

Economics + Education

LEADERSHIP MACON

The 2019 Leadership Macon Class project supported the Ocmulgee Mounds preserving a historic structure and adding a STEM program to engage and educate students visiting the important cultural resource

About Leadership Macon

Each year Leadership Macon brings outstanding individuals with unique perspectives together through a series of monthly immersive experiences, carefully curated to spark a frank and candid exchange of ideas. During the year, several community speakers and facilitators discuss challenging changes, complex situations and various viewpoints. Graduates of Leadership Macon enrich our community through active involvement in shaping Macon-Bibb's future.

1600
graduates of
Leadership
Macon program
since **1979**



2019 Leadership Macon project leaders visit Ocmulgee Mounds Historical National Park.

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY AWARDS

During the Salute to Business, the Chamber honored outstanding businesses, industries and young leaders for exceptional community contributions at the annual Business & Industry Award luncheon featuring keynote Aynn Collins from Mailchimp.

Startup of the Year

Macon Bacon



Business of the Year

Scott's Pharmacy



Outstanding Young Business Leader

Kaitlynn Kressin



"We all have a common goal to see our fair city continue to grow in prosperity and quality of life while enjoying financial stability."

– Demetris and Kameo Hill of Sparclean



Small Business of the Year
SparClean Premier Cleaning Solutions

200 young professionals engaged with YPN program in **2019.**





2020 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ember Bishop Bentley

Middle Georgia State University

Steven Brewer *Steven Brewer, CPA*

Kenny Burgamy *Georgia Farm Bureau*

Cyndey Busbee *Navicent Health*

Robby Fountain *Fountain Enterprises, LLC*

Dr. Vivia Fowler *Wesleyan College*

Travis Griffith *SPP Investments, LLC*

Alex Habersham *Habersham Enterprises*

Ivey Hall *Habitat for Humanity*

Sam Hart *Macon Water Authority*

Robbo Hatcher *H2 Capital Inc.*

Dr. Renee Haynes *North Central Health District*

Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. *Bibb County Board of Education*

Christy Kovac *Sheridan Construction*

Bill Lindsey *OrthoGeorgia*

Allen London *Mercer University*

Sissy Macfie *Regions Bank*

Laura Mathis *Middle GA Regional Commission*

Matthew Michael *M&R Marketing*

Lester Miller *Lester Miller, Attorney at Law*

Colonel Brian Moore

Robins Air Force Base, 78th Air Base Wing

Stacy Moore *Cherry Blossom Festival*

Starr Purdue *Hutchings Funeral Home*

Amy Rauls *John Wesley Villas*

Mayor Robert Reichert

Macon-Bibb County Government

Josh Rogers *NewTown Macon*

Tony Rojas *Macon Water Authority*

Dr. Ninfa Saunders *Navicent Health*

Scott Seigel *BB & T Bank*

Chris Sheridan *Sheridan Construction*

Ron Shipman *Georgia Power Company*

Paula Sims *Community Development Systems, Inc.*

Dan Slagle *Cox Communications*

William Underwood *Mercer University*

Gary Wheat *Visit Macon*

W. Wright Woodall *Piedmont Construction Group, Inc.*

2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



JULIA MAGDA
2020 Chairman
Magda Law



ROB BETZEL
Chair Elect 2021
Hargray Fiber



JIM MANLEY
Vice Chair of Economic
Development/Past Chair
Synovus Bank



GREG CAPLES
Vice Chair, Health
& Wellness
Coliseum Northside
Hospital



DAVID DANZIE
Vice Chair of Viability
& Excellence
Cadence Bank



ANDREW ECK
Vice Chair of Small &
Existing Business
Artisan Furnishings



MIGUEL GARCIA
Vice Chair of
Military Affairs
Greene Machine &
Manufacturing



PATRICK GOFF
General Counsel
Jones Cork, LLP



SUSAN HEADLEY
Vice Chair of
Leadership Macon &
Young Professionals
Network (YPN)



SUSANNAH MADDUX
Vice Chair of Member
Engagement
Macon Magazine



MELANIE MARSHALL
Treasurer
Renasant Bank



ANDI MITCHELL
Vice Chair of Regional &
Government Partnerships
Mercer Engineering
Research Center



**SPENCER
STRICKLAND**
Chair Elect 2022
Cadence Bank



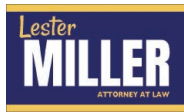
YVONNE WILLIAMS
Chamber President &
CEO Greater Macon
Chamber of Commerce

Chairman's Club Members

Cornerstone Level



Gold Level



Silver Level

13 WMAZ – TV
All Care Home Health, LLC
Atlanta Gas Light Company
Cadence Bank
Capital City Bank
Fickling & Company, Inc.
GasSouth
GEICO
Hargray Fiber
Imperial Resource Group
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP
Jones Cork, LLP
L. E. Schwartz & Son, Inc.
Macon Occupational Medicine, LLC
Mauldin & Jenkins, CPAs, LLC

McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC
NewTown Macon
North Macon Plaza, LLC
Northwestern Benefit Corp
OrthoGeorgia
Primary Pediatrics, P.C.
Pro Construction of GA, LLC
Progressive Communications, Inc.
Robins Financial Credit Union
Sierra Development Group
SunTrust Bank Mid GA
Synovus Bank
Waites & Foshee Insurance Group
YKK USA

Bronze Level

Advanced Disposal Services
Ambassador Personnel, Inc.
ASP Franchising, Inc.
Bashinski Fine Gems & Jewelry, Inc.
Beverage South of Macon
Blue Bird Corporation
Bolingreen Health & Rehab
Canvas The World Concierge
Classy Destination
Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC
Coliseum Health System
Commercial Furnishings
Community Foundation of Central Georgia
Cor Studio: Pilates, Yoga, Dance, Barre
Cox Communications
Dunwoody/Beeland Architects, Inc.
ESG Operations, Inc.
Fincher's Barbecue and Catering, Inc.
Freudenberg Performance
Materials Macon
General Steel Co. /Triple S. Steel of Ga.

Georgia Artisan Furnishings
Georgia Farm Bureau
Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Infinity Network Solutions, Inc.
Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.
Macon Coca-Cola
McDonald's – Bass Road
McIntyre Fencing Company, Inc.
Merrill Lynch
Middle Georgia Heart
Oasis Paycheck Company
Pellicano Construction
S & S Cafeterias
Samet Consulting
SCANA Energy
Shell – Hartley Bridge Road
Stafford Builders and Consultants, Inc.
Tommy's Express Car Wash
U.S. Postal Service Macon
Your Corner Drug Store

2019 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:
DR. IVAN ALLEN



ROBERT F. HATCHER AWARD:
JAIME KAPLAN



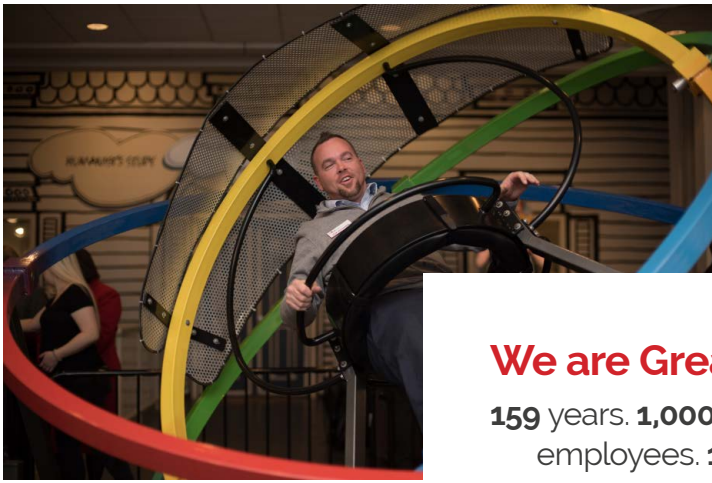
CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:
ANDREW ECK



AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:
HOLLY BEARD



MEDC CHAMPION AWARD:
VISIT MACON



We are Greater Together

159 years. **1,000** members. **50,000** employees. **1** unified vision.

When you do the math, It all adds up. The sum is greater than the parts when community stakeholders collaborate. The only thing missing is you.

**Join the Chamber
and the conversation.**



305 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217
478.621-2000

WWW.MACONCHAMBER.COM

