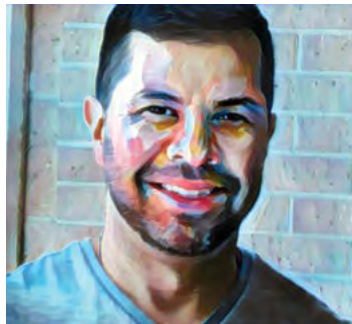


2020/2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

For the **GREATER GOOD**



FROM OUR COVER



Pictured Left to Right

Alex Habersham

*Middle Georgia Black Pages Publisher
2020 Citizen of the Year*

Matt McKenna *SCORE Middle Georgia
Virtual Small Business Series Leader*

Julia Magda *Magda Law
2020 Greater Macon Chamber Chair*

Koryn Young *Bike Walk Macon
Leadership Macon Thought Leader*

Philip Scroggin *Hargray Fiber
Macon Matters Presenting Sponsor*

Robert Riechert *2020 Mayor Macon-Bibb
State of the Community Keynote Speaker*

Judge Verda M. Colvin *Georgia Court of Appeals
OneMacon! Co-Chair*

John Kennedy *Georgia Senator
Macon Matters Keynote Speaker*

Jim Manley, *Synovus
2020 Chamber Vice Chair
of Economic Development*

Ernesto Aguirre *El Sombrero Restaurant Owner
Leadership Macon Food Drive Donor*



OVER

10,000

video screenings were viewed
on Greater Macon Chamber's
Facebook page.



305 Coliseum Drive | Macon, GA 31217

478-621-2000 maconchamber.com

LETTERS

FROM OUR LEADERS



ROB BETZEL, 2021 Chairman
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce

I believe that we are in a year of amazing opportunity. As a small business owner, I consider it an honor to be invited to help guide this storied organization. I hope my leadership role with the Greater Macon Chamber will inspire members of all sizes to raise their hands and become more engaged with this landmark institution, which celebrates 160 years of community service in 2021.

I can honestly say that my Chamber membership has significantly impacted my business and personally benefited me as well. You do not have to face business challenges alone. Take advantage of the current professional resources available to Chamber members. Thoughtfully curated programs and initiatives have been inspired by the requests of our members.

The Greater Macon Chamber's vision to connect, advocate, educate and accelerate has been endorsed by our Board of Directors and community partners. We remain greater together and are committed to make Macon-Bibb the best place for small and big businesses.



YVONNE WILLIAMS, President & CEO
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce
For the Greater Good

This has been a challenging year, but the Greater Macon Chamber is resilient and ready to serve our members and our community. We are streamlining our policies, processes and priorities to help the Greater Good. I would like to commend 2020 Chair Julia Magda for her visionary leadership during this unprecedented time. We are grateful for our partners and supporters, who have responded confidently with commitment to lead through the crisis.

The Greater Macon Chamber embraced technology and learned new skills, careful to maintain our personal connections with members and partners, while communicating virtually. The Chamber advocated on behalf of our residents, hosting local and federal leaders, who kept us educated and informed through public Zoom Town Halls. GMC hosted a dedicated COVID-19 online resource page, Small Business Workshops and electronic updates.

Macon Works successfully launched an innovative talent platform to help close workforce gaps by linking recruitment, skill building and career navigation into one collaborative system, deployed both online and as a mobile app used by employers and job seekers. The Macon Works platform is fully integrated with Bibb County Schools, providing critical access to career pathways. We encourage all business and industry executives to go online, set up profiles and post new employment opportunities.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we hope that it is from a train heading to one of our distribution centers. We will continue to shine the light on critical issues and advocate for the Greater Good.

2020 CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

The Greater Macon Chamber presented a free virtual celebration honoring community leaders and heroes who triumphed over adversity in a challenging year. Members viewed the virtual celebration, recorded at the historic Capricorn Sound Studios. It was presented with support from generous sponsors, and featured deserving winners and surprise musical guests, including Chris Hicks and Marcus James from the Marshall Tucker Band.

CEO Yvonne Williams welcomed guests saying, "Thank you for standing with us as we continue to navigate uncharted territory. We hope you will raise your glasses and that your spirits will be lifted as

we salute the Community Heroes who are being honored for their exemplary service in advocacy, medicine, business, education, and resilience."

The virtual celebration blended entertainment, education and exemplary community service into a new event platform where sponsors, presenters, winners, musicians and hosts recorded their remarks using COVID-19 safety protocols in one of Macon's iconic venues. The show was designed as a love letter to the community, spotlighting local heroes, recognizing area businesses and highlighting non-profits that collaborated to provide essential services and innovative programming for Macon-Bibb.

*The 2020 Chamber Awards
may be accessed on the
Greater Macon Chamber
social channels and at
maconchamber.com.*



2020 Citizen of the Year

Winner: Alex Habersham,
Macon-Middle Georgia
Black Pages, Publisher

**2020 Workforce Development Champion**

Winner: Cassandra Washington, CEO
W.S. Hutchings College
and Career Academy

**2020 Healthcare Champion**

Winner: Navicent Health:
Starr Purdue,
Atrium Health Navicent Board Chair

**2020 COVID-19 Challenge Champion**

Winner: Leonard Bevill, CEO
Macon Occupational Medicine

**2020 Healthcare Champion**

Winner: Coliseum Health System:
Steve Daugherty, CEO

**2020 Ambassador of the Year**

Winner: Cristen Carter,
Clayton Carter LLC, CPA

**2020 Visionary & Community Impact**

Winner: United Way
of Central Georgia:
George McCanless,
President and CEO

**2020 Robert F. Hatcher Distinguished Leadership Macon Alumni**

Winner: Mike Kaplan,
Founder, Merrie Christmas Project

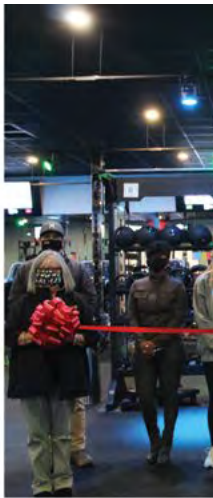
**2020 Visionary & Community Impact**

Winner: Community Foundation
of Central Georgia:
Kathryn Dennis, President

**2020 Outstanding Young Business Leader**

Winner: Susannah Maddux,
Macon Magazine, Publisher





2020 Macon Matters Legislative Social / Greater Macon Works Launch

Senator John Kennedy Keynote / Taste of Macon with COVID-19 Safety Protocols



LIVE EVENTS WITH CREATIVE EXECUTION

The Greater Macon Chamber embraced creativity and used COVID-19 precautions to produce virtual and in-person events during the pandemic. Members responded with enthusiasm and understanding as we navigated the new normal together. Mayor Robert Reichert gave his farewell address during the State of the Community hosted at the Macon Centreplex. When community businesses altered working environments, the Chamber continued to advocate with virtual Town Halls, welcoming Senator David Perdue, Senator Kelly Loeffler, Congressman Sanford Bishop, Senator David Collins, Congressman Austin Scott, local community partners and healthcare industry leaders. The Chamber partnered with SCORE to present a free Small Business Workshop Series, and Leadership Macon alumni created testimonial videos. Local community partners created and endorsed the Macon It Safe campaign, which was marketed to locals. A virtual Mayoral Forum was hosted with the candidates by the Greater Macon Chamber and moderated by Frank Malloy of 13WMAZ. A special 2020 Chamber Awards virtual ceremony was filmed and recorded at the historic Capricorn Studios, where exceptional individuals and organizations were recognized for excellence.

2020 State of
the Community

Virtual Town Halls

SCORE Small
Business Workshops

Leadership Macon
Thoughtful Thursdays

Ribbon Cuttings
with COVID-19 Safety

Virtual Mayoral
Forum

Macon Matters
Legislative Social

Legacy Golf Classic

2020 Chamber Awards



OVER
1,431+

members attended
virtual events hosted
by the Greater Macon
Chamber.

2021 CHAMBER STRATEGIC PLAN

CONNECT MEMBERS WITH THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

- Continue as the premier resource for businesses to connect with the community
- Keep members positively engaged through social media, monthly newsletter and website updates
- Provide a variety of networking opportunities
- Offer valuable marketing efforts
- Provide numerous volunteer opportunities
- Engage members with virtual events and programs
- Showcase new businesses to the community with ribbon-cutting ceremonies
- Connect the stakeholders and Board of Directors with the Chamber membership
- Connect minority businesses to educational programs and business growth opportunities

ADVOCATE AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL.

- Increase the awareness of the Chamber's advocacy efforts and success
- Develop an inclusive local, state and federal agenda with broad input from stakeholders
- Connect business and community leaders to local, state and federal officials through webinars and signature legislative events
- Advance grassroots advocacy among Chamber investors and membership
- Strengthen coalitions with regional business organizations
- Maintain an active role in supporting those involved in the military
- Serve as a conduit between businesses, residents and community leaders
- Advocate for the development of "business-friendly" codes, zoning, permitting and licensing procedures
- Promote countywide quality of life initiatives



160 years,
1,000 members,
50,000 employees,
1 collective vision



2021 CHAMBER

STRATEGIC PLAN

EDUCATE WITH IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.

- Develop our region's next generation of business leaders and community stakeholders
- Increase the diversity and inclusivity of our programs
- Provide relevant curriculum and resources for leadership development
- Expand leadership development programming and value post-Leadership Macon
- Educate new business owners and entrepreneurs through our partnership with SCORE Middle Georgia and SBDC Macon
- Engage the new and emerging talent in Macon through our Young Professionals Network
- Provide an extensive resource guide to help our business community stay engaged and business economy growing
- Increase startup success in the region

ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TALENT RETENTION.

MACON WORKS MISSION:

Macon Works envisions a future in which local employers know that students educated in Bibb County are work-ready and job seekers, and students in Bibb County know how to connect with internships, apprenticeships and job opportunities in Macon-Bibb.

- Sustain and grow our workforce pipeline and talent retention
- Provide increased opportunities for all residents
- Improve the quality of life for residents
- Support and retain businesses and entrepreneurs





OUR VISION IS
TO CREATE THE
BEST LOCATION
FOR BUSINESS.

FORWARD MACON

CABINET MEMBERS

Co-Chair | Robbo Hatcher, *H2 Capital*
 Co-Chair | Deon Tucker, *Georgia Power*
 Rob Betzel, *Grit Consulting*
 Kenny Burgamy, *Georgia Farm Bureau Federation*
 Danny Gibson, *MetroPower, Inc*
 Alex Habersham, *Habersham Enterprises*
 Corrie Hall, *James-Bates-Groover, LLP*
 Eric Hefner, *Hefner Holdings*
 Steven Kruger, *L.E. Schwartz & Son, Inc.*
 Bruce Leicht, *Cadence Bank*
 Julia Magda, *Magda Law, LLC*
 Jim Manley, *Synovus*
 Jonathan Martin, *Contangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP*
 Walt Miller, *GIGA, Inc.*
 Andy Nations, *B&D Industrial*
 Charles Olson, *Macon Mayhem*
 Matt Greer, *Truist Financial*
 Dan Slagle, *Cox Communications*
 David Thompson, *Piedmont Construction Group*

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP- HONORARY

Virgil Adams, *Adams, Jordan & Herrington, P.C.*
 Dr. Ivan Allen, *Central Georgia Technical College*
 Dr. Christopher Blake, *Middle Georgia State University*
 Malcolm Burgess, *Burgess Pigment Company*
 Kathryn Dennis, *Community Foundation
of Central Georgia*
 Dr. Vivia Fowler, *Wesleyan College*
 Kirby Godsey
 Sam Hart, *Macon-Bibb Water Authority*
 Bob Hatcher Sr., *Georgia Pine Level Foundation*
 Dr. Curtis Jones, *Bibb County School District*
 The Honorable John Kennedy, *Georgia Senate*
 Melvin Kruger, *L.E. Schwartz & Son, Inc.*
 Karen Lambert, *Peyton Anderson Foundation*
 The Honorable David Lucas, *Georgia Senate*
 Gary McKenzie, *GEICO*
 Mayor Lester Miller, *Macon-Bibb County*
 Billy Pitts, *The Mutual Financial Group*
 Brian Solheim, *Irving Tissue Co.*
 William Underwood, *Mercer University*

In 1975, the Chamber established the Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC), a charitable organization affiliated with the Chamber focused on economic development recruitment. In alignment with OneMacon, MEDC developed a new mission focused on workforce development and community leadership and transitioned to become Macon Works in 2020.

The department is staffed by Lynn Farmer, Director of Workforce Development and Talent Recruitment, and Lauren Beaty, Macon Works Project Coordinator.

Macon Works will develop home-grown talent and retain the best and brightest from our community. Under the leadership of Vice Chair Dr. Ivan Allen, the team will focus on enhancing the Macon Works talent and retention program. The interactive workforce development platform links recruitment, skill building and career navigation into one comprehensive system. Macon Works' new initiative was developed to close the workforce gaps by informing, educating and developing students and job seekers, while directly connecting them to employers, career pathways and local jobs.

Macon Works will host Community Job Fairs, coordinate the Young Professionals Network and continue to direct the Leadership Macon program.



SPONSORS

Central Georgia COVID Relief

Peyton Anderson Foundation

Knight Foundation

Macon-Bibb WorkSource Georgia

Mercer Engineering Research Center

Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority

Central Georgia Technical College

Bibb County School District



CGTC President Dr. Ivan Allen leads Macon Works in 2021

Four Ways to Support Macon Works

- 1 CREATE A BUSINESS PROFILE.
- 2 POST JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.
- 3 PARTICIPATE IN THE READY TO WORK VIRTUAL JOB FAIR.
- 4 REGISTER FOR BUSINESS PARTNER FOR A DAY.



In the past **40 years**, over **1,200** students have participated in the Leadership Macon program.



Jim and Jean McClendon

MACON WORKS CONNECTIONS

Macon Works Director Lynn Farmer welcomed guests at Leadership Macon's 40th anniversary gathering at the Society Garden. A series of testimonial "Follow the Leader" videos featuring alumni were produced and shared across social media platforms to enhance awareness of the Greater Macon Chamber's flagship program and highlight the achievements of graduates.



LM Food Drive for Kids through Mentor's Project

2021 CHAMBER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivan Allen, *Central Georgia Technical College*
Ember Bishop Bentley, *Middle Georgia State University*
Rob Betzel, *Grit Consulting, LLC*
Cyndey Busbee, *Navicent Health*
Stephen Daugherty, *Coliseum Health System*
Delvecchio Finley, *Navicent Health*
Andrew Eck, *Georgia Artisan Furnishings*
Robby Fountain, *Macon-Bibb Co. Industrial Authority*
Vivia Fowler, *Wesleyan College*
Patrick Goff, *Jones Cork, LLP*
Travis Griffith, *Argus Eyed Partners, LLC*
Ivey Hall, *Macon Area Habitat for Humanity*
Sam Hart, *Macon Water Authority*
Robbo Hatcher, *H2 Capital*
Susan Headley, *OrthoGeorgia*
Curtis L. Jones Jr., *Bibb Co. Board of Education*
Christy Kovac, *Sheridan Construction*
Bill Lindsey, *OrthoGeorgia*
Allen London, *Mercer University*
Julia Magda, *Magda Law, LLC*
Laura Mathis, *Middle Georgia Regional Commission (RC)*
Lester Miller, *Macon-Bibb County*
Andi Mitchell, *Mercer Engineering Research Center*
Brian Moore, *Robins Air Force Base, 78th Air Base Wing*
Stacy Moore, *Cherry Blossom Festival*
Jack Nichols, *James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP*
Charles Olson, *1842 Inn, LLC*
Ariane Parham, *HamTECH Solutions, LLC*
Starr Purdue, *Hutchings Funeral Home, Inc.*
Amy Rauls, *John-Wesley Villas, Inc.*
Josh Rogers, *NewTown Macon*
Tony Rojas, *Macon Water Authority*
Scott Seigel, *Truist Bank*
Chris Sheridan, *Sheridan Construction*
Paula Sims, *Community Development System, Inc.*
Dan Slagle, *Cox Communications*
Walter Stafford, *Stafford Builders and Consultants, Inc.*
Asbury Stembridge, *The Stembridge Agency*
Deon Tucker, *Georgia Power Company*
William Underwood, *Mercer University*
Gary Wheat, *Visit Macon*
Yvonne Williams, *Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce*
W. Wright Woodall, *Piedmont Construction Group, Inc.*

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



YVONNE WILLIAMS
 Chamber President & CEO, Greater
 Macon Chamber of Commerce



ROB BETZEL
 Chairman
 Grit Consulting, LLC



IVAN ALLEN
 Chair Elect -
 2022/Vice Chair MaconWork
 Central Georgia Technical College



JULIA MAGDA
 Past Chair
 Magda Law, LLC



ANDREW ECK
 Membership
 Georgia Artisan Furnishings



PATRICK GOFF
 General Counsel
 Jones Cork, LLP



ROBBO HATCHER
 Chair/Forward Macon Foundation,
 H2 Capital



SCOTT SEIGEL
 Treasurer
 Truist Bank



ANDI MITCHELL
 Government & Military Affairs,
 Mercer Engineering Research Center



IVEY HALL
 Programming
 Macon Habitat for Humanity

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB MEMBERS

CORNERSTONE LEVEL



Georgia Power



Navicent Health
Everything about us, is all about you.

PLATINUM LEVEL

Mauldin & Jenkins

Truist

GOLD LEVEL

Bearings & Drives Industrial

Georgia Farm Bureau
Magda Law

Renasant Bank
Synovus

SILVER LEVEL

13 WMAZ – TV
All Care Home Health, LLC
Atlanta Gas Light Company
AT&T
Cadence Bank
Capital City Bank
Community Development Systems, Inc.
Fickling & Company, Inc.
GEICO

Grit Consulting, LLC
Hargray Fiber
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP
Jones Cork, LLP
Legends Fitness
L. E. Schwartz & Son, Inc.
Macon Occupational Medicine, LLC
McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC
NewTown Macon

North Macon Plaza, LLC
Northwestern Benefit Corp
OrthoGeorgia
Primary Pediatrics, P.C.
Progressive Communications, Inc.
Robins Financial Credit Union
Sierra Development Group
Waites & Foshee Insurance Group
YKK USA

BRONZE LEVEL

Advanced Disposal Services
Argus Eyed Partners, LLC
Bashinski Fine Gems & Jewelry, Inc.
Beverage South of Macon
Blue Bird Corporation
Classy Destination
Community Foundation of Central Georgia
Cox Communications
Dunwody/Beeland Architects, Inc.
ESG Operations, Inc.
Fincher's Barbecue and Catering, Inc.

Freudenberg Performance
General Steel Co. /Triple S. Steel of Ga.
Georgia Artisan Furnishings
Geotechnical & Environmental
Consultants, Inc.
Hargray Managed IT Services
Habersham Enterprises
Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.
Macon Coca-Cola
McDonald's – Bass Road
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

MeTV – Marquee Broadcasting Georgia
Pellicano Construction
Pro Construction of GA, LLC
S & S Cafeterias
Samet Consulting
SCANA Energy
Sheridan Construction
Stafford Builders and Consultants, Inc.
U.S. Postal Service Macon
Your Corner Drug Store

CHAMBER STAFF



LAUREN BEATY
Macon Works
Project Coordinator



JENNIFER BRONNER
VP Finance



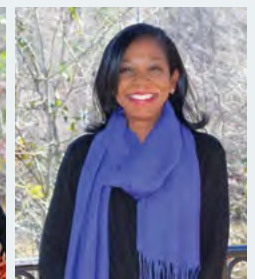
LYNN FARMER
Macon Works Director



HEATHER HAYDEN
Marketing Coordinator



O'CLAUDIA JOHNSON
Membership Specialist



RENITA PATTERSON
Executive Assistant

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Edward Lowe, VP Lowe Aviation Leadership Macon Alumni: 2016

Edward Lowe decided to donate his personal time, professional talent and even his private airplane to deliver COVID-19 tests from local hospitals on Angel Flights when the pandemic struck Central Georgia last spring. He didn't know the risks, but still knew he wanted to help.

Throughout the challenging year, Greater Macon Chamber members and partners have stepped up to lead in times of crisis. Thank you all for going above and beyond to support our community. Join the conversation and the Greater Macon Chamber. We can reach greater heights together.

[Learn more at maconchamber.com](https://maconchamber.com).



Lowe Aviation: Est 1946
Chamber Member: Since 1974

