

Workforce Development Initiative

MISSION: *Create a Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Task Force to collaborate with area employers, educators and leaders for talent development.*

- Promote the QuEST (Quality Education Strategy Team) program and serve as a connection between employers and work-based learning programs, such as Junior Achievement, Job Shadowing and Youth Apprenticeships, at area high schools.
- Support specialized programs such as the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy and the Governor's High Demand Career Initiative.
- Partner schools with Human Resource professionals to participate in school mock interviews and other soft skill and employability workshops.
- Coordinate regular visits with existing industries and Human Resource professionals to determine workforce development needs and open communication channels.
- Provide local compensation reports to school counselors for their use with student planning.
- Serve as a community representative with state organizations to express area needs and funnel resources back to employers.
- Continue Youth Leadership Hall, a competitive high school junior and senior program, and monthly community programs, including tours of local industry and business.
- Work with the Georgia Department of Labor to offer Job Fairs for hiring employers to interact with hundreds of potential employees at one event.
- Maintain open relationships with local Career Centers such as the Georgia Department of Labor, Goodwill Center, and multiple staffing agencies to offer programs and services to both employers and potential employees.
- Provide understanding of the state's HOPE scholarship and grant programs for employees to increase skill level and maintain employment.
- Maintain the Partners in Education program, where currently 350 employers partner with local schools, to create students who are better qualified to enter the workplace.
- Coordinate business meetings at Lanier Technical College, Lanier Charter Career Academy and other education facilities to provide a valuable connection between business and educational resources.
- Connect continuing education availability between existing industries and Lanier Technical College and promote awareness.
- Celebrate employers that exceed expectations in workforce development at the Industry Appreciation Program, Partners In Education Celebration, and other events.
- Promote the Georgia's Quick Start Training Program to provide high quality training services at no cost to qualifying new or expanding businesses.
- Collaborate with the University of North Georgia, Brenau University, Hall County Schools and Gainesville City Schools as well as local private schools such as Lakeview Academy, Riverside Military Academy and North Georgia Christian School.
- Facilitate the Education Consortium for the heads of education to assist in the pervasiveness of best practices through each system.
- Continue VISION 2030 programs to define and build on the diversity of our current and future workforce.
- Focus on small business workforce development needs and offer programs through the Small Business Council.
- Partner at a local level with the Georgia Tech Economic Development Enterprise and the University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center for business assistance.

