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Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship Announces Grand Opening

Vidalia, Georgia, November 13, 2024— The Greater Vidalia® Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the long-anticipated ribbon cutting of The Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, a milestone for economic development encouragement of small business in the area. Not just a new facility, this project represents a symbol of hope and advancement for rural communities, aiming to drive economic growth through entrepreneurship and resource availability.

The opening of The Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship symbolizes a shift towards self-reliance and innovation in rural economic strategies. Its presence heightens Vidalia as a leading force in the rural entrepreneurial landscape, anticipated to be a model for similar initiatives elsewhere.

The ceremony gathered an impressive array of state-wide and local leaders, stakeholders, aspiring business owners, and curious residents, all united by a common purpose: to witness the beginning of a transformative chapter for Vidalia and its neighboring communities. Keynote speakers attending included: Tim Truxel, Toombs County Development Authority Chair; Stephanie Williams, Greater Vidalia® Chamber Chair; Wendell Dixon, Toombs County Commissioner; Doug Roper, City of Vidalia; Willis NeSmith, City of Lyons; Leesa Hagan, State House Representative; Steven McComas, CEO, Responsive Technology Partners; Phil Best Jr., Garbutt Construction; Ryan Waldrop, Economic Development Regional Manager, Georgia Power; Dominique Halaby, Georgia Southern Business Innovator Group; Andrea Taylor, Senior Project Manager for Region 11, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Wesley Hayden, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Attendees of the ceremony represented a diverse cross-section of the community, embodying a shared vision of progress and prosperity. As speeches were made and the ribbon cut, the air was charged with optimism. Dignitaries spoke of the profound impact the center is expected to have on the local economy, both by retaining local talent and by attracting new opportunities to Vidalia.



Greater Vidalia Center for Rural Entrepreneurship ribbon cutting ceremony, Tuesday October 29, 2024.

Keynote speaker and CEO Steven McComas, whose Responsive Technology Partners' local team is the first tenant of the Center, spoke passionately about the projects' development and future. "It was truly an honor to officially open the doors to the Greater Vidalia Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Vidalia, Georgia. What an exciting moment for the cities of Vidalia, Lyons, the counties of Toombs and Montgomery, and rural Georgia as a whole. We are standing at the intersection of Innovation and Opportunity, where the community meets growth, and where dreams of rural entrepreneurs can turn into thriving business."

"I believe everyone should have access to receive global opportunities through world-class technology," stated McComas. "Rural communities play a vital role in the success and growth of small businesses in the USA. The Center's vision is to foster, promote, and accelerate existing and new start-up businesses through incubation, coworking, mentorship, funding and strategic support, located in the Greater Vidalia Georgia region. An environment where ideas can be supported with money and mentors. A young, progressive, and modern structure to drive hope and growth to own your own business and empower opportunity for all regardless of income, age, or background. A place where a movement to invest in our community businesses and people by "outside" investors is realized. A place our youth will see "True" opportunities to stay, grow, and raise their families."

Mr. McComas concluded remarks with, "We are proud to play a pivotal role in the formation and continued involvement of the Center as an engaged tenant showcasing world-class technologies you would see in the offices of Apple, Google and other global technology firms in the heart of southeast rural Georgia. My prayer is that this Center is a place where the next

generation of businesses are successfully launched for the next century.” Responsive Technology Partners’ South GA and Tampa FL teams designed the Center’s state-of-the-art security & surveillance technology needs, as well as provides IT support for its users.

As the proceedings came to a close, those present were left with an invigorated sense of purpose of the Center’s promise: to become a vibrant hub where innovation meets opportunity, paving the way for significant contributions to the economy of Toombs County and beyond. other global technology firm in the heart of southeast rural, Georgia.

Mr. McComas, BSBA, MBA, CGMA, CPA received 2024 Gator100 Business recognition by the University of Florida Alumni Association, honoring former students leading with some of the fastest-growing business owners and entrepreneurs in the world for his company, Responsive Technology Partners, Inc.

Headquartered in Georgia, Responsive Technology Partners, Inc. is an industry-leading technology firm operating in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, and Texas. Under Mr. McComas’ leadership as Chief Executive Officer and founding member, Responsive Technology Partners, Inc. was named the 808th fastest growing company in America by Inc. 5000 Magazine in 2023 and has reached the top 40 ranking for IT firms with Inc. 5000 Magazine for a fifth consecutive year in the nine-year history of Responsive Technology Partners. To learn more about company, services, and locations, visit our website: www.responsivetechologypartners.com

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