



House Rural Development Council

*The Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation
Jasper, Georgia*

August 20, 2019

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



Team



Scott Blount
Assoc. Dir.



Bridgett Mobley
Logistics & Ops



Janet Cochran
Project Mgr – N. Ga



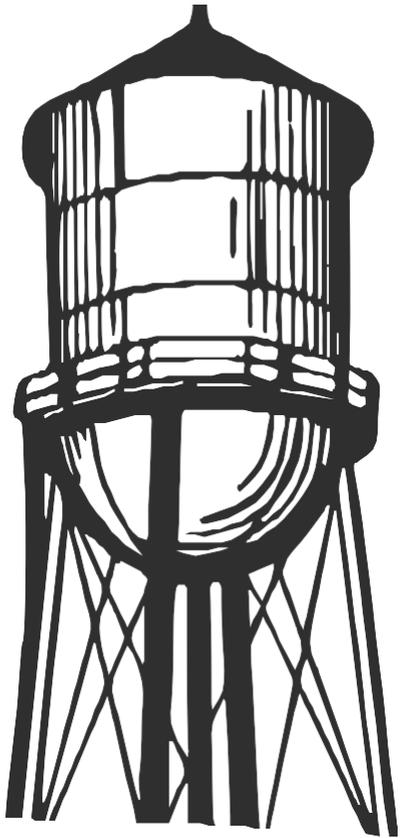
Jessica Akins
Communications



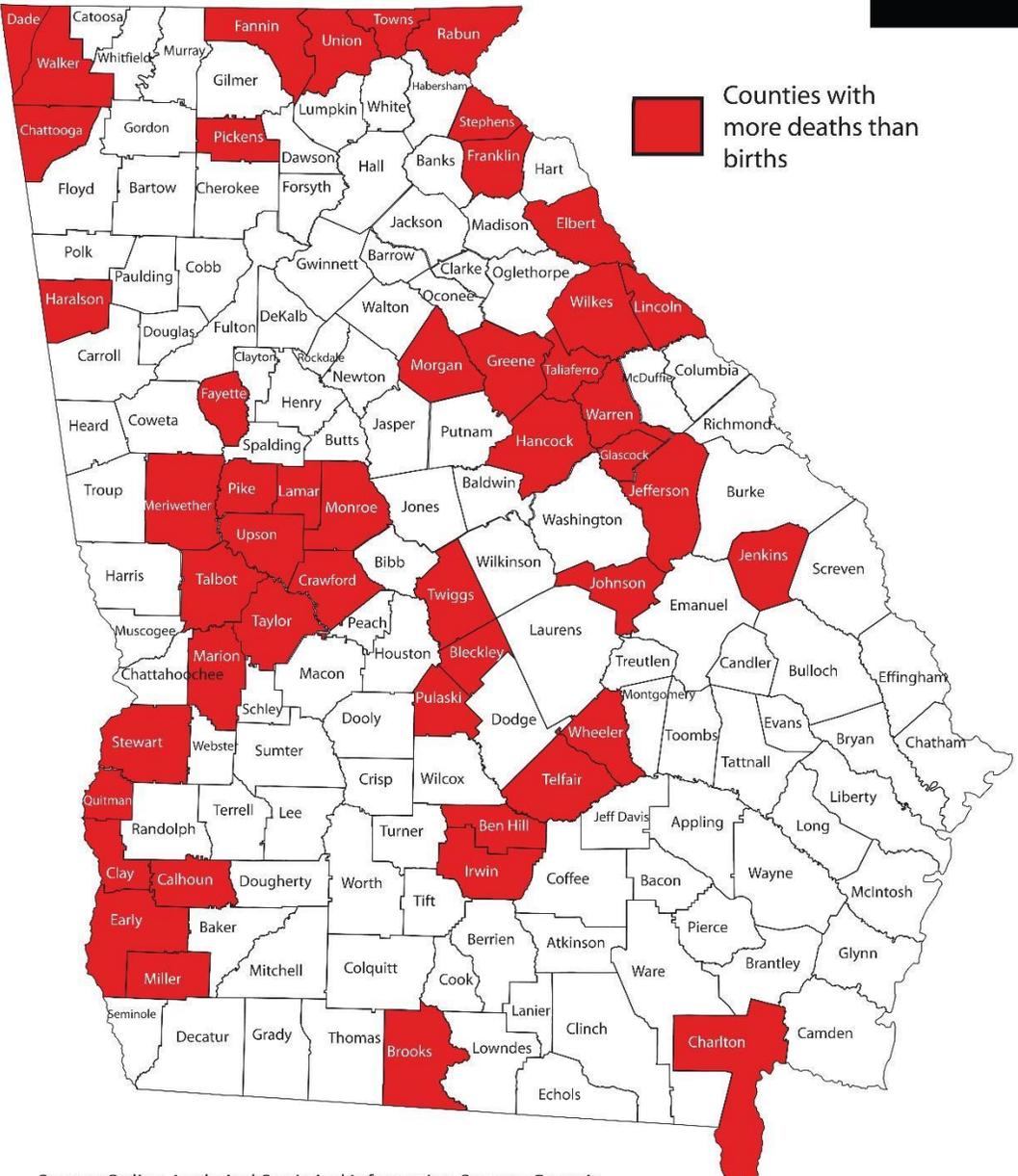
Mary Catherine Gaston
Communications

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



Finding a path to prosperity!



Is Rural Georgia Dying? Literally?

by Charles Hayslett on August 17, 2015

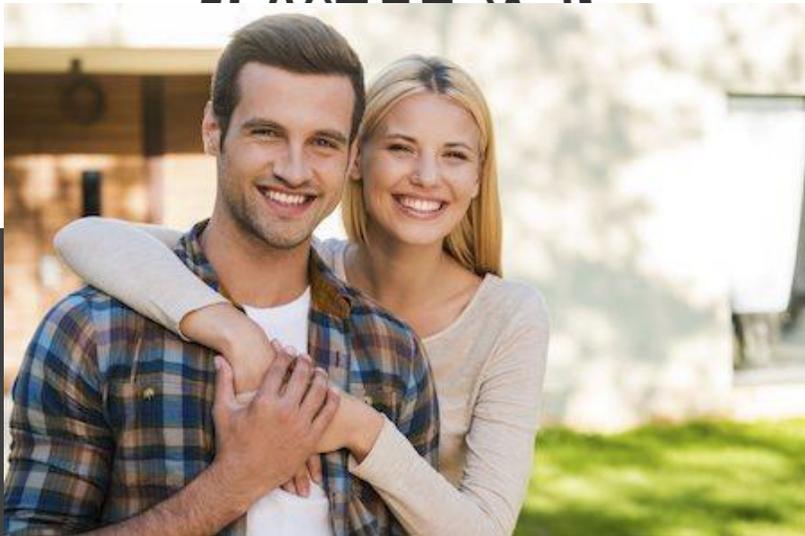
Why?

- Birthrate,
- Death rate,
- High export,
 - ✓ HS grads leave
- Low import,
 - ✓ Young singles and families don't move in!

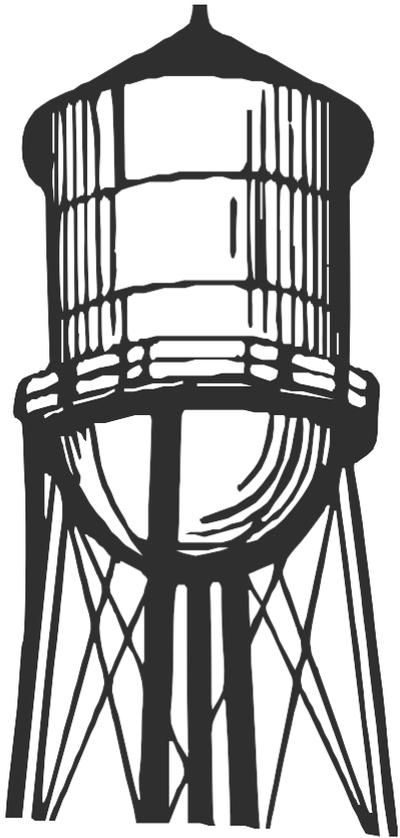
Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health.



- Concerns about quality of education for their family, and
- Lack of access to basic healthcare needs, and
- Perceived lack of business, job, or financial opportunity,



Three reasons!



Foci for today!



The work of the Center and its staff will be guided by a view that we must,

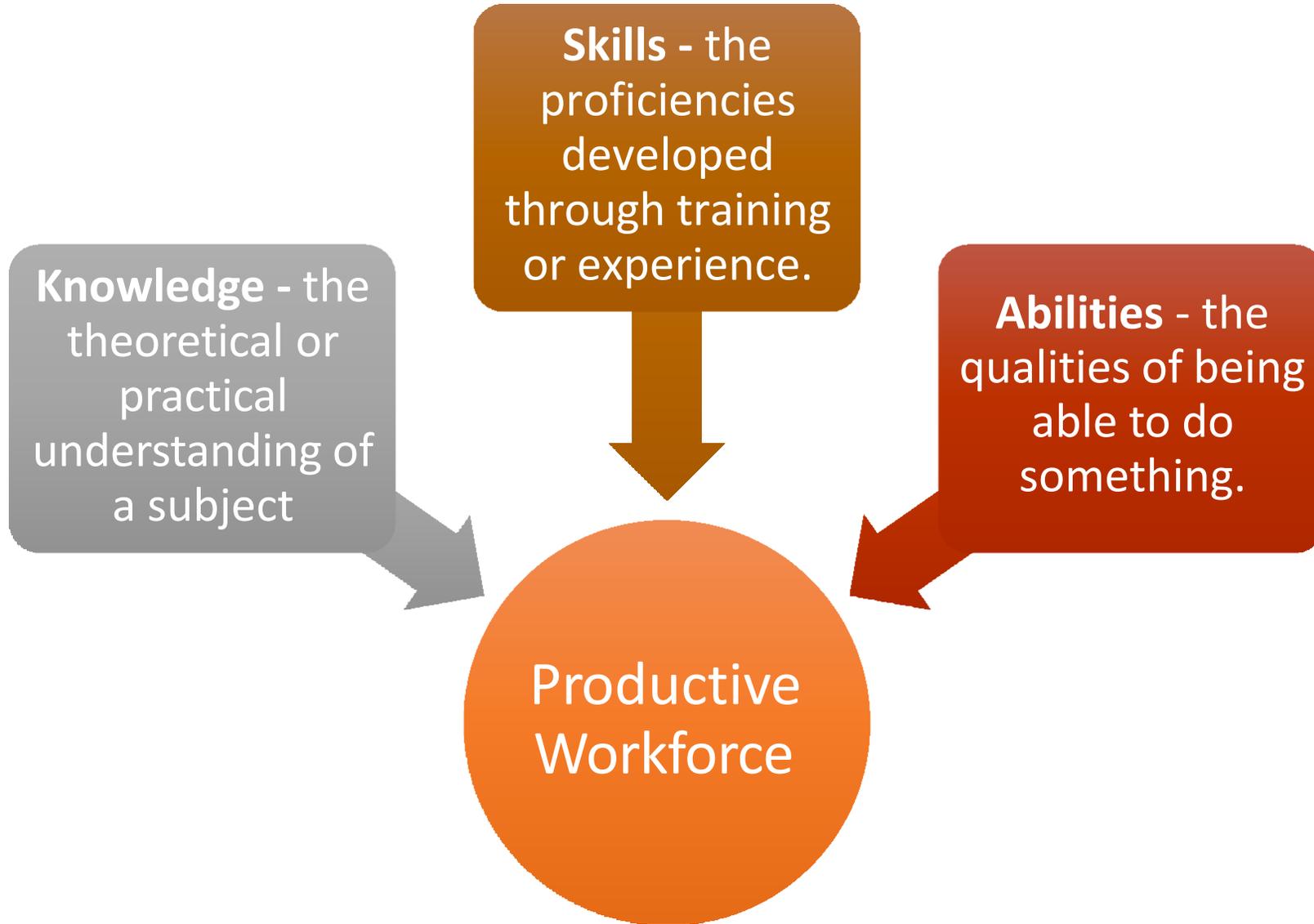
- **Remind** all Georgians of the vital role that rural people and places play in statewide success and that,
- When we find ideas that are working in rural Georgia, we should **recreate** them in other communities throughout the state and that,
- An essential step in **rediscovering, reconnecting, and recreating** rural Georgia is to **reinvest in people by infusing inspired, educated, and energetic human capital in small towns and rural communities.**

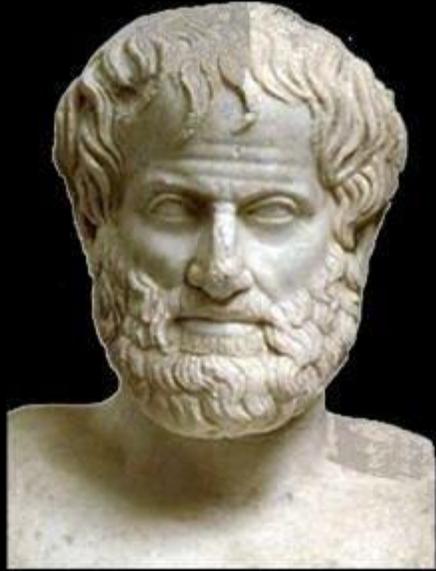
Essence = values and vision

People-Focused Projects

- 
1. General education...
 - A. Mentoring,
 - B. Coaching, and
 - C. Introducing by experience.
 2. Health education
 - A. Winning in Healthcare by Succeeding in Math
 - B. USDA RUS-DLT - taking nursing education to nurses!
 - C. Miller County Hospital
 - D. Regional Health Technology Center

An essential step in **rediscovering, reconnecting, and recreating** rural Georgia is to **reinvest in people by infusing inspired, educated, and energetic human capital in small towns and rural communities.**





ARISTOTLE, THE NICOMACHEAN ETHICS

Aristotle believed that education was central – the fulfilled person was an educated person.

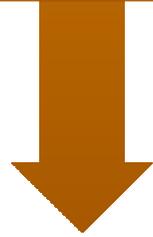
He believed in both education through reason and education through habit.

By the latter he meant **learning** by doing – “Anything that we have to **learn** to do we **learn** by the actual doing of it...”

- ✓ Discipline focused
- ✓ Labs
- ✓ Coaching
- ✓ Hand-on
- ✓ Internships
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Practice



Skills - the proficiencies developed through training or experience.



Knowledge - the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject



Abilities - the qualities of being able to do something.



Productive Workforce

- ✓ Core curriculum
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Discipline oriented course

- ✓ Coaching
- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Life experience
- ✓ Internships
- ✓ Critical thinking
- ✓ Problem solving

We believe in internships...







Just this summer:
243 Students in internships
210 Paid internships (86%)



Goals...

- Systematically connect student interns with prospective internship hosts.
- Connect graduates with potential employers.
- Shine the light on well prepared students – workforce ready!
- Develop a longitudinal database on opportunity, need, and placement in rural communities.
- Introduce college students to opportunities in rural communities.
- Increase importation of well-educated and inspired young people into rural communities.

A Proof of Concept Project



First year successes:

- More than 7,000 student and alumni records loaded
- Nearly 500 active student profiles
- A massive amount of new data is loading based on summer internships.
- As of last week there are 27 new internships posted and 48 full-time permanent jobs.
- 267 ABAC specific employers are registered.
- More than 1,100 employers pay for access to records available through the technology provider.

Math = Better Healthcare!

- Three-year pilot with Colquitt Regional Medical Center,
- Very successful,
- Question - can it be replicated?

Next steps...

- Replicate it with Miller County and Archbold?
- If replication is successful
 - Brand it,
 - Copyright it, and
 - Take it statewide.

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



Taking it to the nurses!

Essence of the system...

- High-speed internet,
- Polycom-based bisynchronous telecommunications technology,
- 11 hospitals in rural South Georgia

What does it mean?

- Can deliver the RN to BSN credential step with the added benefit of real communication between educator, nurses, clinical instructors, and CNOs.
- Provides the essential technology to support telemedicine.



Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



Regional Health Technology Center

- Educators need technology,
- Clinical providers need technology,
- Costly,
- Short life cycle/rapid obsolescence, and
- Opportunity for efficiency and profit!

Our project...

- Determine need,
- Determine feasibility,
- Coerce team play,
- Win!

GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College





Go to ruralga.org