

2025 EDAA WINTER CONFERENCE

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, January 27, 2025

- 10:00 - 1:00** Exhibit Setup
MPAC Atrium
- 11:00 - 5:00** Registration
MPAC Atrium
- 1:30 - 1:45** Welcome
MPAC
- 1:45 - 2:30** A Conversation with Ellen McNair and Ed Castile
Ellen McNair, Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce
Ed Castile, Deputy Secretary, Workforce Development Division, Director of AIDT
Sponsored by: TVA
- 2:30 - 3:00** A Conversation with Kenneth Boswell, Director, ADECA
Moderator: Jim Searcy, Executive Director EDAA
- 3:00 - 3:25** Break
MPAC Atrium
- 3:30 - 3:50** AIDT Update
Ed Castile, Deputy Secretary, Workforce, Alabama Department of Commerce
- 3:50 - 4:30** Legislative Update
Taylor Williams, Govt. Affairs & Economic Development Manager, PowerSouth
- 4:30 - 5:00** EDPA UPDATE
- 5:30 - 6:30** Opening Rection
Sponsors: Agracel
Bradley
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
- 6:30 -** Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

- 7:00 - 8:00** Breakfast
- 8:00 - 4:45** Exhibit
MPAC Atrium
- 8:15 - 9:15** Keynote Speaker
Chris Stricklin
Survivor's Obligation
- 9:15 – 10:00** Retail Trends & Expansion (TBD)
- 10:00 – 10:20** Break
MPAC Atrium
- 10:20 – 10:50** Regional Planning Commission Best Practices (TBD)
- 11:00 – 1:00** Governor's Luncheon
Governor Kay Ivey, State of Alabama
Sponsor: AMEA
Dave Echols Award
- 1:20 – 2:00** Economic Development Communication (TBD)
- 2:00 – 2:45** Case Study
Two Rivers Lumber Expansion:
Denise Walls – Lake Martin Area Economic Development Alliance
Jay McElroy, Two Rivers Lumber
Veronica Crock, ALDOC
Al Jones, AL Forestry Commission
Moderator: Joel Watts, APC
- 2:45 – 3:05** Break
MPAC Atrium
- 3:15 – 4:45** Site Selection
Annie Baxter CBRE
- 5:00 – 6:00** Reception
- 6:00 -** Dinner on Your Own

Wednesday, January 29

7:15 – 8:00 Breakfast
Alabama A

8:00 – 11:00 Exhibits

8:00 – 8:45 Panel of Veteran Economic Developers
Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

8:45 – 9:30 Community College Panel:
Moderator: Melody Whitten
John Sweatman, Director of Economic Development, City of Opelika
Todd Shackett, President of Southern Union State Community College
David Rodgers, Vice President of Economic Development, Mobile Chamber of
Commerce
Dr. Olivier Charles, President of Bishop State Community College

9:30 – 10:00 TBD

10:00 – 10:30 EDAA Business Session and Board Elections

10:30 – 10:45 Closing Remarks & Adjourn

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Agracel
Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
Bradley
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
Maynard Nesen

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EXHIBITORS

Alabama Technology Network
ATLAS Technical Consultants
Fite Building Company
Insyteful, LLC
JLL
Lathan Associates Architects, P. C.
Sain Associates, Inc.
SS&L Architects
The Westmoreland Company, Inc.

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Lake Martin Area Economic Development
Alliance
Lawrence County IDB
Limestone County EDA
Ozark - Dale County Economic Development Corporation
Scottsboro Industrial Development Board