



The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Accomplishments and Presents Awards at the 157th Annual Meeting

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The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the Macon Economic Development Commission hosted their 157th Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 7th at Middle Georgia State University. With this year's theme being "The Big Picture", attendees were presented a recap of the successes of the Chamber and the Macon Economic Development Commission. In addition, both individuals and businesses were recognized for their dedication and hard work over the past year.

During the meeting, the following business and community leaders were presented with awards in recognition of their extraordinary service during 2017

Citizen of the Year: Blake Sullivan
Robert F. Hatcher Award: Pearlie Toliver
Chamber Chairman's Award: Rob Betzel
Ambassador of the Year: Patty Burns
President's Award: George Greer
MEDC Lifetime Achievement Award: Pat Topping

Before concluding the meeting, George Greer, 2017 Board Chair, passed the gavel to incoming 2018 Board Chair, Ron Shipman.

The 157th Annual Meeting was presented by Cox Communications. Other sponsors for the event included Gold Sponsors: Armstrong, Fickling and Company, GEICO and Georgia Power; Celebration Sponsors: Jones Cork, LLP and McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC, Certified Public Accountants; Silver Sponsors: BB&T Insurance Services, B&D Industrial, James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP, Kumho Tire, L.E. Schwartz & Son, Macon-Bibb County, Navicent Health and YKK.

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About the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1861, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is the area's largest business services organization and primary advocate for the Macon business community. The Chamber supports the growth and development of business by offering networking and marketing opportunities, providing valuable benefits to its members, advocating for legislative issues that will promote a healthy business climate, and participating in the economic development efforts for Macon-Bibb. www.maconchamber.com

The Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC)

The **Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC)** is a public-private partnership funded by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority. MEDC works with Talent Recruitment/Retention; Addressing current and future skills gaps with our existing companies; Growth and Retention plans with our existing companies and Entrepreneurship/Small Business growth in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia. www.maconworks.com