

SEDC's Young Professionals Forum

In coordination with Janus Forum

Rabun County, Georgia
August 30 – September 1, 2010

The Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) has established a "Young Professionals" (YP's) shared interest group to allow individuals under the age of 35 to network and identify professional development issues unique to this group. To continue the initiatives for this group, they have been invited to join the 2010 Janus Economics Forum. The SEDC YP Forum will run simultaneously with the Janus Forum with most sessions being held separately.

The theme of the 2010 Janus Economics Forum is *"Tomorrow's Best Practices: The Economic Development Profession, Communities and Change."*

The Janus Forum was created in 2009 by the consulting firm of Janus Economics. Its primary purpose was to bring together a small group of leading economic development practitioners from around the US to examine the state of the economic development profession, explore trends, and examine issues related to its future. Working to insure the seamless transition of the profession from older practitioners to YPs and New Millennium oriented professionals is a key component of this initiative. The success of the initial Forum has led to the decision to make this an annual event and to partner with SEDC to add an additional Young Professional component.

Who can attend?

Ten slots have been made available to SEDC members meeting the age eligibility requirement. A separate application from the SEDC Educational Foundation must be completed and submitted by June 11, 2010. The foundation board will announce winners shortly after the deadline.

Spouses are also invited. There will be special activities for them during the Forum sessions, and they are welcome to attend the social functions with the meeting participants. While no formal activities are planned after noon Wednesday, everyone is welcome to stay longer and enjoy more of what Rabun County and the Northeast Georgia/ Western North Carolina mountains have to offer.

Why should I apply?

Attendees to SEDC's Young Professionals Forum will take a step forward in their professional development and help set the direction for future of the profession. Some of the obvious benefits of participation are:

- Expand their YP peer network
- Examine issues facing YP's and help determine programs to meet those needs
- Network with veteran economic development professionals
- Determine the direction of SEDC's overall YP program

What is the cost to attend?

Forum fees for all ten attendees will be paid by SEDC's Educational Foundation. This will include any instructional costs and Forum related meals. Participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging and recreation arrangements and costs. Most of the Forum participants will be staying at the Tallulah Lodge (www.thelodgeattallulahfalls.com). Rabun County also boasts many inns and B&Bs.

Where will the forum be held?

The Forum will be held at the home of Robert Pittman, Principal, Janus Economics. The location is in Rabun County, located in the north Georgia mountains. Driving directions will be provided.

Agenda and Activities:

Sunday, Aug. 29

Afternoon Arrival - open house and dinner at Pittman's; recreational activities

Monday, Aug.30

Morning - Session 1 (*outline of morning activities below*)

- First hour and a half—meet with regular Forum participants and alumni; orientation; review of last year's Forum results; cover history of ED profession; present results of advance survey which will help identify differences if any in YP and OP attitudes/beliefs.
- Remainder of first working portion of day to be spent in separate session. Purpose of first segment: to identify and prioritize issues that YPs see as critical to their future and to the profession. Will include a look at the different types of ED careers, the type skills needed in each and the expectations of boards/bosses for employees in those type positions as well as examples of potential compensation available in each. (To be presented by selected Alumni.)
- Finish this work activity by prioritizing the top 5 biggest issues that the participants believe will have the greatest effect on their ability to stay and grow in the profession.
- Have presentation on changes in the profession which have taken place over the last 40 years.

Afternoon - Session ends at 2:00 pm; networking and recreation afterwards
 Evening - Refreshments, relaxation by the lake and dinner at historic Lake Rabun Hotel

Tuesday, Aug. 31

Morning - Session (*outline of morning activities below*)

- First, review Monday's results; Then, take a futuristic approach and try to identify where the profession will be in 10 years, what organizations will look like, and what individual skills (some of which may not exist today, like GIS skills 40 years ago) will be most needed by economic development professionals to succeed in future organizations .
- Final Tuesday activity: Move the session toward an SEDC focus: What strengths and weaknesses do they see in the organization now? What are the 5 most beneficial things they receive now; what are the 5 things they wish they were receiving and what new services will be needed to be added for the organization to remain relevant? Do any of these conflict with the 5 issues identified on Monday? If so, how do we reconcile?
- Determine who will present each of the segment results on Wednesday.

Afternoon - Recreation (golf, boating, hiking, shopping, other activities)

Evening- Dinner at the Pittman's

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Morning - Session 3:

Joint sessions. Forum and YP Forum participants present results of each other's sessions. Results of survey shown, comparing YP and OP answers in the aggregate.

Wrap-up and summary of ideas and findings

Adjourn at 11:30 am

Box lunch to go

Afternoon Travel home or stay and enjoy Rabun County, GA

To be considered for SEDC's Young Professionals Forum you must complete the accompanying application and e-mail back to Gene Stinson (gene@sedc.org) by June 11, 2010.

**2010 SOUTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS/APPLICATION
For
Young Professionals Forum
August 29-31, 2010**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 11, 2010

There will be a total of 10 Young Professionals attending this special forum and this scholarship application will serve as the application for attendance. Only the 10 applicants approved for scholarships will attend the forum.

Name: _____ e-mail _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____ No. of employees: _____

Business address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Business phone: (____) _____ Business fax: (____) _____

I have been a member of SEDC since: _____

I. EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION: (attach resume)
Number of years in economic development: _____

II. BACKGROUND:
Have you applied for any other scholarships this year? (EDI, CDI Institute, etc.)

Brief statement of professional background:

Brief statement on desire for attending the Young Professionals Forum:

What is your organization's total budget? _____

Amount dedicated to professional development: _____

III. MERIT

List the activities that you have been involved in that would indicate initiative and outstanding performance in the economic development profession as well as in your organization, community, and SEDC. (attach additional pages if necessary):

Please list any participation you may have had with SEDC's current Young Professionals Initiative-

IV. CAREER OBJECTIVES:

Do you plan to pursue economic development work as a career? Yes _____ No _____
Summarize your career objectives and how you feel about continuing your education in the economic development profession:

Please attach a letter from your supervisor or board in support of this application.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

(Please type your name here) _____

Signature of employer _____ Date _____

(Please type your name here) _____

