



## **Burgers & Business: Sumter County Development Authority Hosts Networking Event for Manufacturing and Industry Leaders**

Sumter County, GA - April 23, 2025 – The Americus Sumter Payroll Development Authority hosted its fourth annual Burgers & Business event on April 22, 2025, continuing a tradition of celebrating Sumter County’s vibrant manufacturing and industrial sector. The event once again attracted a strong crowd of local business owners and company and community leaders, showcasing the area’s support for everything Sumter.

Executive Director Rusty Warner welcomed guests with opening remarks, expressing appreciation for the continued support of the local businesses. He emphasized how the region’s strong industrial base and unified leadership continue to impress prospective investors and drive Sumter's growth.

“This event is not just about recognizing success—it’s about building on it,” Warner said. “The momentum we’ve created together positions Sumter County to stand out as a hub for industry and innovation. ”

The program featured introductions of business representatives, civic leaders from Sumter County and its cities, state officials, educational partners, and members of the Development Authority. Paul Hall, Chairman of the Development Authority, also delivered heartfelt remarks, underscoring the significance of the gathering. “It’s inspiring to see such a strong cross-section of leadership gathered under one roof,” said Chairman Hall. “This event is a powerful reminder of the strength of our manufacturing community and the people who drive it forward.”

Attendees enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere filled with delicious food, camaraderie, and opportunities for networking. Darrel Hulse, from the Small Business Development Center International Trade Center, introduced the benefits of international trading and was available during dinner for questions. The event also featured a dinner invocation, prize drawings, and product displays from local companies. Winners of the drawings were Jesse Smith, Rick Barnes, and Barry Blount.

Sumter County continues to earn recognition for its thriving industrial ecosystem and the increasing popularity of the Burgers & Business event. Warner noted that the synergy between local employers and their teams is crucial to the area’s continued economic success.

### **About the Americus Sumter Payroll Development Authority**

The Americus Sumter Payroll Development Authority is committed to attracting and retaining business investment while supporting workforce development and infrastructure advancement. With a highly engaged board and strong partnerships across the public and private sectors, the Authority champions innovative strategies that position Sumter County as a premier destination for commerce and industry.

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