

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.  
Leading Communities.™



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**For Immediate Release**

### **Councilman Alvin Payton to Speak to Young Professionals**

All young professionals ages 21-40 are invited to hear Councilman Alvin Payton at MetroOne's CEOs Unplugged event, Monday, April 11, 5:30 p.m. at Bas Bleu in Downtown Valdosta.

CEOs Unplugged is a professional development opportunity for young professionals. MetroOne invites seasoned professionals to share advice, tips and lessons learned. The speaker also allows time for attendees to ask questions. Topics previously discussed have been work-life balance, moving up the career ladder and getting noticed by your employer. The event also gives young professionals the chance to make connections with other with like-minded individuals with time before and after the presentation for networking.

"The CEOs Unplugged Series is a unique opportunity for young professionals to learn from seasoned professionals in a casual atmosphere," said MetroOne Co-Chair Bill Simmons, ADM.

The upcoming speaker, Councilman Alvin Payton, is a Valdosta native. Councilman Payton graduated from Valdosta High School and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He later attended Valdosta State University and obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration in 1995. His career experience includes five years in management and administration with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, more than 13 years as the General Manager of Payton Floor Covering, and more than ten years as an adult education instructor for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Councilman Payton currently serves as the Vice-President for Adult Education Services for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

MetroOne is a Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce initiative with the goal of attracting and retaining young professionals to the Metro Valdosta area. Founded in September 2007, the group focuses on three key areas—Networking and Community Engagement, Professional Development and Young Professional Advocacy. For more information visit [www.MetroOneValdosta.com](http://www.MetroOneValdosta.com).

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