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Economists and Federal Reserve Bank Representative Provide 2011 Business Outlook

The Chamber's Business Outlook Breakfast hosted by Wiregrass Georgia Technical College was Feb. 15 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Dr. Ray Perren, WGTC President, introduced the esteemed panel of economists and Federal Reserve Bank representative who presented the outlook from national, state and local perspectives.

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Vice President and Associate Director of Research, Dr. Thomas Cunningham provided a national and regional business outlook. Dr. Cunningham concluded that we are on the road to recovery, but it could take up to ten years to replace jobs lost in the Great Recession.

The Georgia Economic Outlook was presented by Dr. Jeffrey Humphreys, Director of UGA's Selig Center for Business and Economic Research. Dr. Humphreys's report indicated that the construction industry will continue to see job loss and that manufacturing will add jobs.

Lastly, VSU Langdale College of Business Professor of Economics, Dr. Cynthia Tori shared the greater Valdosta forecast—now is a good time for businesses to take advantage of the wealth of highly-qualified applicants in the job market and expand. Dr. Tori writes and edits the South Georgia Business Outlook discussing and forecasting the expected economic conditions for the 32 counties that comprise South Georgia. To view this publication, visit www.valdosta.edu/lcoba/cber/.

The presentations about Valdosta's local economy offered the audience a wealth of information to consider when making informed business decisions. To view presentations from the event, visit www.ValdostaChamber.com/BusinessOutlook.