

The Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce

416 North Ashley Street P.O. Box 790 Valdosta, GA 31603
229.247.8100 FAX 229.245.0071 ebennett@valdostachamber.com

Contact: Erika Bennett

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For Immediate Release

New Chairman Offers Hope and Encouragement for Business and Community

Valdosta, Ga.—The Valdosta Lowndes-County Chamber of Commerce held its 99th Annual Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the Rainwater Conference Center.

Tom Gooding, 2011 Chairman of the Board addressed the more than 475 Chamber members and guests. Gooding named enhancing a pro-business environment, unifying the community and working to build a well-trained workforce as top goals for 2011.

Gooding introduced the new Community Development Division, designed to unify our community by creating a common vision and focus. This division will monitor the progress of Community Unification for Educational Excellence (CUEE). Gooding expressed the Chamber's support of CUEE, stating that "improving our education systems is so important to the success of our business community."

Gooding added that the Chamber will continue to help build a better workforce by providing programs and workshops to the community designed to address workforce availability and readiness issues for our businesses.

"I'm certainly no economist, but I sense a renewed optimism from many of you concerning our local economy," stated Gooding. Adding that the recovery may be slower than desired but occurring nonetheless. Gooding encouraged everyone to "Keep it up... get involved."

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Photo and cutline below.



Gooding addresses Chamber members and guests at the 2011 Annual Meeting held Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the Rainwater Conference Center.