

RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE
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RSI TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF AG AT GEORGIA CHAMBER SUMMIT

MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA (Oct. 1, 2021) — The Rural Studies Institute (RSI) at Georgia College will participate in a session about the challenges and opportunities in rural agriculture during the Georgia Chamber's fifth annual American Rural Prosperity Summit.

"Typically, these conversations are Georgia-focused," said RSI Executive Director Dr. Veronica Womack. "This year topics are more national in scope. This includes a look at 21st-century agriculture across the nation and what we can do to improve it."

The Oct. 4 through 6 event in Athens, Georgia, is RSI's debut. The summit gathers hundreds of elected officials, policy leaders, business influencers and economic development practitioners to weigh strategies that could help create more "vibrant, robust rural communities throughout the nation."

Agriculture is the economic heartbeat for most rural areas. A primary source of income for farmers and communities members. An agent to help sustain local ecosystems through farms, agritourism and agribusiness.

To address the future of agriculture in Rural America, Womack will join Stacy Funderburke, state director of Georgia and Alabama for The Conservation Fund, and Krisztian Varsa, Working Farms Fund associate also for The Conservation Fund, on Oct. 4 for a panel discussion.



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Other topics the three-day summit will analyze and re-imagine in a post-COVID economy: the future of rural workforce, a new rural economy, rural entrepreneurship, rural health care, rural equality and inclusion, and higher education in rural communities.

"It's a timely discussion that needs attention," said Womack. "RSI looks forward to sharing ideas and experiences from America's Black Belt Region."

Visit gachamber.com/events/rural-prosperity-summit to learn more about 2021's summit and ruralstudiesinstitute.com for the institute's mission to developing sustainable 21st-century communities.

ABOUT RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE (RSI)

The first of its kind, RSI is a national, preeminent institute created to equip and sustain rural communities in an ever-changing tech economy. The institute launched January 2020 at Georgia's designated public liberal arts institution, Georgia College & State University. Also, located in the nation's Black Belt Region, RSI is surrounded by rural influencers and experts to help address the ongoing struggles of Small Town USA and to identify opportunities for success in rural communities. Its mission: establish best practices and solutions that help strengthen rural communities for the future.