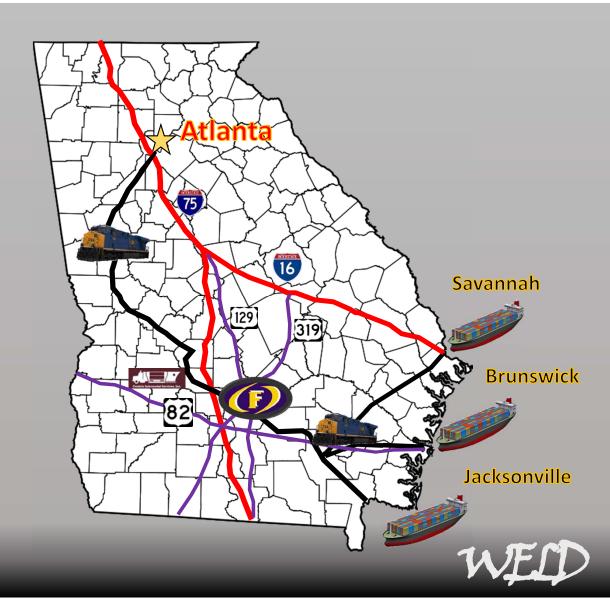


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Who we are and Where we're at.



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## The Industries We Serve





















- What is WELD?
  - Simply put, it is a workforce and community development initiative dependent upon participating partners
- How did WELD come together?
- Collaborative Partners
  - Ben Hill County School System
  - Communities In Schools
  - FBHCDA
  - Local Industry
  - Wiregrass GA Tech
- The meaning behind the name.
  - To unite; to come together to form an effective single unit





- Primary Areas of Focus
  - Wages
  - Driver's License
  - Employability Skills
  - Marketing of local careers
  - CTAE Education

- **Dual Enrollment Opportunities** 
  - Automotive
  - Certified Manufacturing
    Specialist
  - Certified Nursing Assistant
  - Early Childhood Care & Education
  - Railcar Repair (pending)
  - Welding & Joining
  - College Core Classes





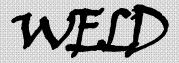
- 1. Strengthen existing workforce with intent of improving overall quality of life for all
- 2. Provide increased opportunity for local workforce
- 3. We will work collaboratively to align local industry with county school system and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
- 4. Implement Great Promise Partnership into the community as part of the existing work based learning program to establish apprenticeships, reduce drop-out rates, mentor youth, and teach employability skills
- 5. Build on and strengthen industry support of CTAE educational programs
- 6. Creation of a WELD website to effectively market career opportunities at existing industry with links to employers, explain the employment process, the skills and requirements needed for employment, and assist local industry in their recruitment process
- 7. Increased business and industry support for Communities In Schools to promote abstinence, further reduce teenage pregnancy rates, and build pride and desire for achievement in our youth
- 8. Determine the most effective way to market and implement a plan to ensure youth are obtaining driver's licenses
- 9. Collaborate with the Ben Hill County School System to address attendance issues and attendance policy
- 10. Celebrate our successes



## The T-Shirt - Create an Identity







## **Direct Impact**:

- Open lines of communication
- Mike Beatty/GPP
- Railcar Repair curriculum at Wiregrass
- Ground swell of community support
- Formal launch at March Education Summit
- CTAE Teachers & Employer Interaction
- PBIS & CTAE
- Choice Wood/Enviro-log/Protein Plus "the participating partner"
- Chance Vafias/Dillion Sumner/Takeila Robinson

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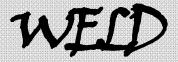




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## **Secrets to Success:**

- 1. Find a partner. Do not do this by yourself!
- 2. Bring in a hometown product
- 3. Start small & build on success
- 4. "Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, magic, and power in it. Begin it now." W.H. Murray

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