

FEC NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear FEC Community,

It has been wonderful to connect with our members and guests during my first few months on the job. Everyone has been truly welcoming, and I am humbled to be able to step into this role and continue moving the FEC forward.

It is my goal to continue to build a learning community of members where we build off the unique issues and opportunities family businesses face, while at the same time bringing you valuable resources who can lend expertise through our various events.

We hope this newsletter serves as a resource to update you on the FEC, as well as some other wonderful things we have going on at the Center for Economic Development.

Kind Regards,
 Justin Smith
 Director, UAFS Family Enterprise Center



FEC BREAKFAST

Stephanie Stuckey, CEO

Stephanie Stuckey is CEO of Stuckey's, known for generations as a highway oasis serving up pecan log rolls and kitschy souvenirs.

Founded in 1937 by her grandfather, W.S. Stuckey, Sr. in Eastman, Georgia, Stuckey's grew into over 350 stores nationwide by its peak in the 1970s. The company was sold in 1964 and sadly declined for decades under a series of corporate owners.

Stephanie purchased Stuckey's in November 2019 and assumed the role of CEO. Her efforts to revitalize the brand have been featured in the New York Times Sunday Business Section, the TODAY Show, and The Washington Post.

She's been named one of the Most Admired CEOs of 2022 by the Atlanta Business Chronicle, 100 Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine, and a graduate of Leadership Atlanta.

June 29th, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FEC:

We have over 50 businesses as formal members of the FEC! Our memberships are broken into two categories: Family-Owned Businesses and Associate Members. Our Associate Members are valuable resource providers to our family-owned businesses (accounting firms, banking, legal, bankers/trust, wealth advisors, etc.).

Your membership gets you into six major FEC events throughout the year, as well as entry into a peer group if you choose. Our peer groups are growing, now with seven groups who meet monthly for lunch here at the Bakery District!

If you have been a guest to one of our events, or want to find out more about membership, please contact Justin Smith at justin.smith@uafs.edu or 479-424-5145.

DID YOU KNOW?



The UAFS Family Enterprise Center is the only center in Arkansas set up specifically to assist the unique needs of the family-owned business. There are approximately 50 centers in the U.S., and most are affiliated with a college or university.

WELCOME OUR NEW FEC MEMBERS:

Servpro of Fort Smith

Burger King

Pruitt

First Security Bank

Platinum Distributing, Inc.

Crawson Corporation

Hytrol Conveyor Co., Inc.

Fort Smith Restaurant Supply

BHC Insurance

Kilgore Property Management

Magnaform

Poultry Direct

Rath Auto Resources

Mickle Griffin, LLC

Med Kwik Inc.



Thanks to everyone who attended our last quarterly breakfast in March to hear from Tom Gordon, CEO of Slim Chickens. Mr. Gordon told the Slim Chickens story and the hurdles he had to overcome including financing, putting the right team together, and expanding into a multi-unit franchise. His storytelling and business advice was well received by a record turnout crowd for an FEC Breakfast!

Thank you, also, to all attendees of the FEC Spring Conference. We extend our appreciation to Sarah McBroom, Dale Brunk, and David Moody for delivering insights and valuable information to enhance your family businesses. We hope you found their presentations insightful and gained valuable knowledge to apply in your personal family business..

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

Center for Business and Professional Development (CBPD)

The Center for Business and Professional Development at the CED delivers customized training and consulting services to meet your personal or company goals. Improve efficiency, develop front-line managers, boost employee morale, or enroll in a personal development course and build your skillset – You set the goal, we create the training program, and together, we get results.

Get in touch with Kendall.Ross@ufas.edu to learn more.

Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center (ASBTDC)

The ASBTDC Office works with all types of for-profit businesses, from home-based to high-tech. You can receive one-to-one confidential consulting and cutting-edge market research at no charge or expand your expertise by participating in our affordable educational events. Our individual consulting services are confidential and tailored to your needs. Whether you are a first-time entrepreneur or looking for a competitive edge for your established business, ASBTDC is here to help you succeed.

The ASBTDC can also provide certain market data to existing companies. Get in touch with Bill to find out more at bill.sabo@uafs.edu.

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