

Innovation of the Year Awards --- Nomination Form

The Georgia Micro Enterprise Network intends to offer two (2) innovation awards at this year's annual conference on October 21st:

- **Innovation in Technology** – A computer technology, such as MIS systems or Internet applications which increases the effectiveness of the program.
- **Innovation in New Program Design** – A program structure (training classes, technical assistance opportunities, or access to markets) that increases success of clients and businesses.

Innovation: n. 1: the introduction of something new 2: a new idea, method, or device 3: a significantly different or new approach, process, procedure or technique that shows promise, has the potential to change the way organizations do business, and will or has resulted in better quality of service and/or significantly increased the numbers of individuals served.

The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge, highlight and share the most unique and creative innovations taking place in the microenterprise development field among GMEN members. Each GMEN member is invited to nominate one Georgia microenterprise organization that has not been a previous winner in that category. **You may self nominate.** This award was initiated in 2005.

To make a nomination, please note which area (technology or program design) and respond to the following:

1. Description of the innovation.
2. Description of the innovation's implications for the microenterprise field.
3. Describe the innovation and how it fits into the organization/program.
4. What is new and/or unique about this innovation?
5. What was the old practice/process used before the innovation?
6. How is the innovation an improvement over the previous practice/process? Please include any relevant program statistics.
7. What are the implications of this innovation for the microenterprise community (e.g. Does it lower cost of capital, increase success/sustainability of microenterprise, increase number of new business formations, etc.?) Is your innovation replicable?
8. Please describe the test or initial roll out of this innovation.
9. How do you measure outcomes? What are your success indicators for this innovation?
10. What has been the success of this innovation to date? Please describe using the measure outlined in question 9.
11. Full contact information for the organization, including individual contact name, address, phone, fax and email.

**Please return this information to GMEN via email to pc_gmen@comcast.net
Information must be received by Friday, September 16.**

Previous technology winners were:

2005: Cobb Microenterprise Center (now EDGE Connection)
2006: East Athens Development Corporation

Previous program design winners were:

2007: EDGE Connection
2008: SBAC
2009: EDGE Connection
2010: East Athens Development Corporation