

EDGE Delivers for Emanuel County

EDGE CCA's approach to community and business engagement ensures that students, families, employers, and the entire community benefit from strong, intentional partnerships.

Together, we build a future-ready workforce for Emanuel County.



#CTAE DELIVERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

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Chamber of Commerce Engages EDGE CCA Students in Small Business Entrepreneurship Basics

The Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority partnered with EDGE College and Career Academy today to deliver an engaging and informative presentation to students enrolled in the Small Business Entrepreneurship Basics course. Mr. Ken Warnock, CEO of Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority and our EDGE CCA Board Chairman shared his insights on business within Emanuel County. This collaboration reflects the Chamber's ongoing commitment to supporting workforce development, fostering entrepreneurship, and strengthening relationships between local business leaders and emerging young professionals.

involvement, networking, and local business resources available to new entrepreneurs. "Our local entrepreneurs are the backbone of economic growth, and we are excited to introduce students to the possibilities of creating and sustaining their own businesses," said Mr. Warnock. "EDGE CCA students consistently show curiosity and initiative, and we are proud to support their exploration of real-world career pathways."

EDGE CCA's Small Business Entrepreneurship Basics class prepares students to think creatively, problem-solve, and explore potential business ventures. By hearing directly from Chamber professionals, students gained insight into the challenges and rewards of small business ownership while learning about the support systems that exist within their own community.

During the presentation, Mr. Warnock introduced students to foundational concepts in small business ownership, including identifying market needs, understanding startup costs, building strong customer relationships, and developing effective marketing strategies. Students also learned about the importance of community



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITS EDGE

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EDGE College and Career Academy (EDGE CCA) welcomed Emanuel County entrepreneur and Emanuel County Schools Board of Education member Cherie Hooks as a guest speaker for students enrolled in the Small Business Entrepreneurship Basics course. Mrs. Hooks shared real-world insights and practical guidance drawn from her experiences as a local business owner and community leader.

During her presentation, Mrs. Hooks spoke with students about the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including identifying business opportunities, managing startup challenges, building customer relationships, and maintaining a strong work ethic. She emphasized the importance of perseverance, adaptability, and accountability in business ownership, while also highlighting how community support and local resources contribute to long-term success.

Mrs. Hooks encouraged students to view entrepreneurship as both a career pathway and a way to positively impact their community. She discussed how local businesses play a critical role in economic development and job creation, and she challenged students to think creatively about how their ideas and skills could meet needs within Emanuel County. Her message reinforced the value of leadership, service, and integrity—qualities she applies in both her entrepreneurial endeavors and her role on the Emanuel County Schools Board of Education.

EDGE CCA's Small Business Entrepreneurship Basics course is designed to help students explore business concepts, develop problem-solving skills, and gain exposure to real-world career opportunities. Guest speakers like Mrs. Hooks provide students with meaningful connections to local professionals and valuable perspectives beyond the classroom.

EDGE CCA appreciates Mrs. Hooks' commitment to student learning and community engagement and looks forward to continued partnerships that inspire and prepare future entrepreneurs and business leaders.

“EDGE CCA: Where Effort Meets Opportunity.”