

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GSDA's Luckie gets GEDA's highest honor

Gov. Deal presented award on behalf of statewide group.

MACON (August 18, 2015) – Today the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA), one of the leading organizations for economic development professionals in the U.S., awarded David M. Luckie of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority the 2013 Rip Wiley Award for Professional Excellence. Gov. Nathan Deal presented the award to Luckie at GEDA's Annual Awards Ceremony, this year held at the Macon Marriott City Center.

An economic developer for more than 24 years including 20 in his current post, Luckie is a former president of GEDA. "David served with great pride in this association and always led with integrity," said Willie Paulk, who nominated him. "He has always been helpful to others in the industry and remains well-liked and respected by his peers."

Luckie is also the founder of the "GEDA All-Star Band," a group of economic development professionals who enjoy playing music at select industry events.

GEDA's most prestigious award, the Rip Wiley Award for Professional Excellence is named for the late H. W. "Rip" Wiley, a former director for the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Wiley represented the state with honor, leadership, integrity, dedication, professionalism and hard work, impacting numerous people in the industrial development field in Georgia. This award was established upon his death in 1978 to be presented to the person in economic development who best represents his spirit of excellence.

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, GEDA is a non-profit association of professionals, volunteers and supporters. The association provides networking and professional development opportunities for its members, and supports public policies that promote quality job creation and sustainable economic development throughout the state. For more information, visit www.geda.org.