



Get Involved



**Former Great Promise Partnership  
President Mike Beatty Named  
Director of the Center for Faith-Based  
and Neighborhood Partnerships for  
USDA.**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue has appointed Michael A. Beatty, of Jefferson, GA, the Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, for the United States Department of Agriculture Center (USDA). In this role, Beatty will lead outreach efforts to engage the faith-based and community organizations in partnership with local, state, and federal partners to meet the many challenges facing our rural communities.

Beatty is uniquely qualified to lead this effort with a background in education, farming, business, state legislator, and as Department of Community Affairs Commissioner under two Georgia governors. He is also the founder and former President of Great Promise Partnership (GPP). An initiative that has a 98% success rate helping hundreds of at-risk high school students across Georgia graduate, go to college, join the military or enter the workplace with well-paying jobs. "I've always felt that community-based

**Shaw Industries and GPP  
Expand Partnership,  
Again**

Shaw Industries and GPP are proud to announce an expansion of the GPP program to two additional manufacturing locations in Bartow County. Students have recently begun working at Plant T1 (Carpet Tile Manufacturing) in Adairsville and Plant 12 (Broadloom Commercial) in Cartersville.

With the addition of these two locations, Shaw now has GPP students at four locations in Bartow as well as locations in Whitfield County.

"GPP has provided Shaw with a platform to engage with students at an earlier age in order to expose them to manufacturing career opportunities within our company. We've been very pleased with the work ethic and aptitude of the students and have hired several students upon graduation. GPP helps create a better future for the students, the schools, our company, and the community -- a win for everyone involved! We look forward to continuing to grow the GPP program to additional operations across our company," stated Brian Cooksey, Director of Operations Training and Development, Shaw

partnerships bring the best of business, government and local leaders together to tackle the tough issues. It's important that we bring hope and opportunity by creating a climate of success for our families across America. I'm honored to be on Secretary Perdue's USDA Team. His vision and strategies for America are helping millions of our citizens become self-sufficient and productive citizens in our great nation" stated Beatty.

In addition to the USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, there are 12 other Centers within federal agencies, all coordinated by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. This partnership allows for a focused and effective approach to deal with issues such as the opioid epidemic, veteran assistance, youth development, workforce, housing, healthcare and other community challenges. For more information, [click here](#).

Lori Heemann, Executive Director of Great Promise Partnership, will increase her leadership responsibilities for GPP. "I'm proud of the great work that Lori has done in the past and am excited and confident in her leadership of GPP moving forward," said Beatty.



## Welcome Ann Shirra to GPP Staff

Ann joined GPP in February 2018 after a career in workforce development with the Georgia Department of Labor and the Atlanta Regional Commission. Her various roles included Director of Employment Services, Chief for Unemployment Insurance Integrity, Policy Analyst and a member of the Executive

Industries Group, Inc.



## Highlights of Interviews by the Fanning Institute, 2016-17

**95%** of employers said they would **recommend GPP** to another business.

**95%** of employers indicated that the students they worked with **learned valuable skills** from their time in GPP. The largest improvements were seen in the GPP students' **professionalism, initiative, self-confidence and work ethic**.

**75%** of employers agreed that their businesses **benefitted financially** from employing GPP student.

**95%** of employers agreed that their businesses **benefitted in non-financial ways** from employing GPP students.

**100%** of students agreed that participation in GPP:

- Made them better **prepared to enter the workforce** after graduation
- Taught them **valuable skills** for future careers
- Gave them a better **knowledge of career opportunities**
- Made them better prepared to **pursue post-secondary educational opportunities**
- They would **recommend GPP** to other students

**\$124,389,660:**

Board of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. Ann earned a BS at The Ohio State University and an MPA at Georgia State University. She volunteers with the Emory Healthy Brain Study, Trees Atlanta, and the DeKalb County Master Gardener program. Ann is the Regional Coordinator for Metro Atlanta/Middle Georgia.

**Estimated savings to Georgia by GPP graduates from 2011-17 based on \$215,580 lifetime cost to society of a dropout**

## GPP Cornerstone Community Process

**Goal:** Create a sustainable process that creates a pipeline of work-ready young people who will graduate high school, go to college, the military, or straight into the local workforce.

### The Four Cornerstones of GPP Success

- Local Political Leaders: mayor/commissioner
- Local Business Leaders: chamber/IDA
- Local School Leaders: superintendent/board
- Local Community Leaders: service agency/faith-based

### Steps:

1. Establish Cornerstone Community Partnership
2. Program Development
3. Successful Implementation of GPP Model
4. Cornerstone Community Recognition

**Ask your GPP Regional Coordinator how your community can get started on becoming a Cornerstone Community!**

## Cornerstone Community Sponsors





Learn how you can donate or volunteer.

## How you can help!

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[heather@gppartnership.org](mailto:heather@gppartnership.org)



404-229-1677



P.O. Box 1647  
Decatur, Georgia 30031

