Meeting Notes, May 24, 2022 –

Ms. Jennifer Ryan was the May 24, 2022, Rotary Club of LaFayette guest speaker. Jennifer is the Communications Director for the Auburn University Government and Economic Development Institute, or GEDI. She explained that GEDI is a part of the Auburn University Outreach Program.

Jennifer explained that Auburn has an outreach mission. According to the Outreach Program’s website “As a land-grant institution, Auburn has a special legacy in serving the community beyond campus through Outreach. For more than a century, Auburn University's outreach and engagement mission has been partnering with communities, businesses, schools and government to help people meet their educational goals and to improve quality of life all across our state. Simply put, through Engagement, we Instruct, we Assist, and we Serve”

As one of several departments of the Auburn University Outreach Program, the Government and Economic Development Institute vision is:

“GEDI is recognized as Alabama’s top organization for university outreach. Because of its excellent reputation, GEDI is the primary resource for education, consulting, and policy leadership by state government and by local governments and the economic development community. GEDI continues to build upon its strong traditional programming but remains relevant to emerging state and community needs.”

Its mission is:

“Promote effective government policy and management, civic engagement, economic prosperity, and improved quality of life for the State of Alabama and its communities (through training, research, consulting, and collaborative partnerships.)”

GEDI’s Program Areas consist of

* Education & Training including –

Economic & Community Development, Professional Certifications, Conference Management

* Research & Publications including –

Wage and salary surveys, Alabama Issues, articles

* Consulting & Engagement including –

Human Resources policies, programs, manuals, job descriptions, training

* Connections & Communications including –

Know your community tool on the GEDI website, e-newsletters, social media, partnerships, presentations

The Auburn University Government and Economic Development Institute is an exceptional resource and offers support to government and business leaders. For more information on GEDI go to their website at <https://auburn.edu/outreach/gedi>.

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