



CRITERIA AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Become one of the elite small businesses to benefit from the knowledge of the world's largest corporations by participating in the **MENTOR PROTÉGÉ CONNECTION**.

The Mentor Protégé Connection provides unique opportunities to a select group of Georgia's emerging businesses to improve business practices, develop relationships and promote business growth.

For one year, a protégé company is paired with a leading Georgia-based corporation to focus on areas such as:

- New markets and global expansion
- Professional development, business training and networking
- Business operations improvements including HR, systems, sales, financial analysis
- Cutting-edge business practices and mentoring

The program is hosted by the state of Georgia in partnership with its mentor sponsors: GE Energy, Georgia Power, Hardin Construction, Lockheed Martin, The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Turner Broadcasting and United Parcel Service (UPS).

WHO CAN APPLY?

All potential protégés must:

- Be nominated or referred for consideration in the program
- Be a Georgia-based business owner
- Be established for at least three years and no more than 20 years
- Supply most recent three years' financials and other documentation

- Have a minimum of three full-time, non-contract employees
- Adhere to program schedule that includes regular meetings with assigned mentor, three reporting sessions, educational programming and other functions
- Submit complete application by October 15, 2009

Who can nominate or refer?

Established companies, business leaders, organizations, institutions and government agencies are encouraged to submit nominations. Examples of nominating enterprises include: chambers of commerce, economic development authorities, established Georgia businesses, business organizations such as NFIB, SBDC and SBA, past mentors and protégés, bankers, CPAs and others.

Accepting applications July 15 – October 15, 2009

(12-month program beginning February 2010)

For more information:

Georgia Department of Economic Development

Mentor Protégé Connection

Kate Kelsey, Manager

75 5th Street, NW | Suite 1200

Atlanta, GA 30308

kkelsey@georgia.org