



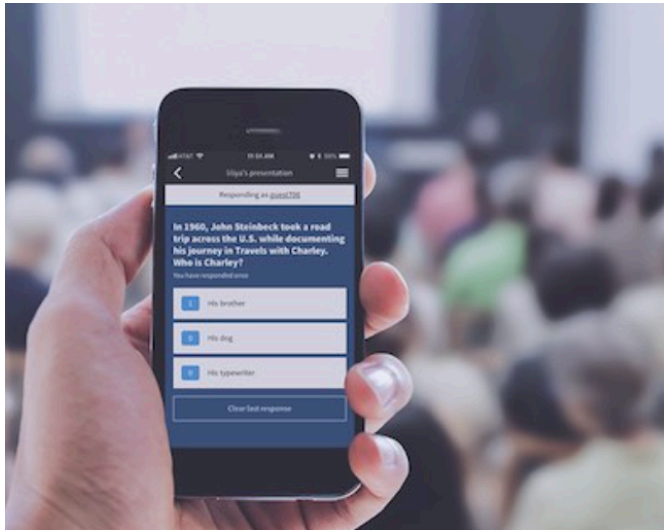
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The background of the hero section is a composite image. It shows a cityscape at night with a prominent clock tower (likely the Georgia State Capitol) and various buildings. Overlaid on this are blue digital lines and squares, suggesting a network or data flow. In the bottom right corner, there is a bright, fiery explosion or spark effect. The text "WELCOME TO THE THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT" is centered over the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

WELCOME TO THE THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

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THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

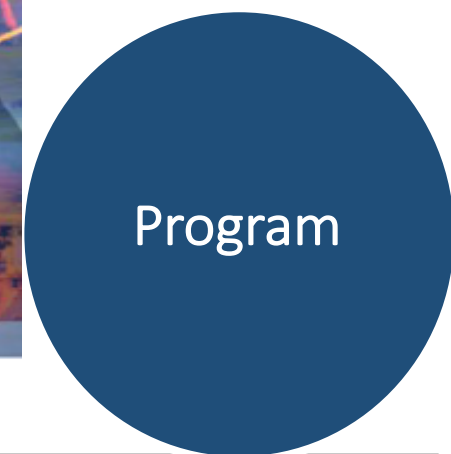
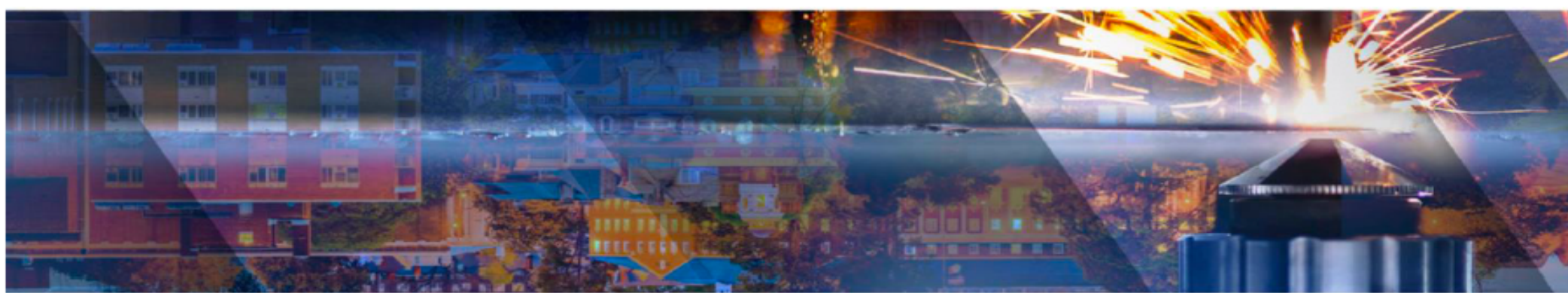
REGIONAL FUTURE SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

11:00am – 12:00pm



This program has been prepared under contract with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC), as fiscal agent for The Middle Georgia Innovation Project, with financial support from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation U.S. Department of Defense. The content reflects the views of The Middle Georgia Innovation Project and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, the U.S. Department of Defense



Time	Details	Group	Duration
11:00 am	Convening of participants	Future iQ	5 min
11:05am	Welcome and Overview by Angie Gheesling – Executive Director of Development Authority of Houston County	Angie	5 min
11:10am	Key outcomes and Roadmap recommendations	Future iQ	30 min
11:40am	Rapid Polling Questions	All	10 min
11:50am	Next Steps	Working Groups	10min
12.00pm	FINISH		

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT REGIONAL FUTURE SUMMIT

Future
Summit
Outcomes

INTENDED OUTCOMES FROM REGIONAL FUTURE SUMMIT

- Present findings to date - and initial ideas / recommended actions
- Rapid Polling undertaken - for vetting and alignment



THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

OVERALL OUTCOMES

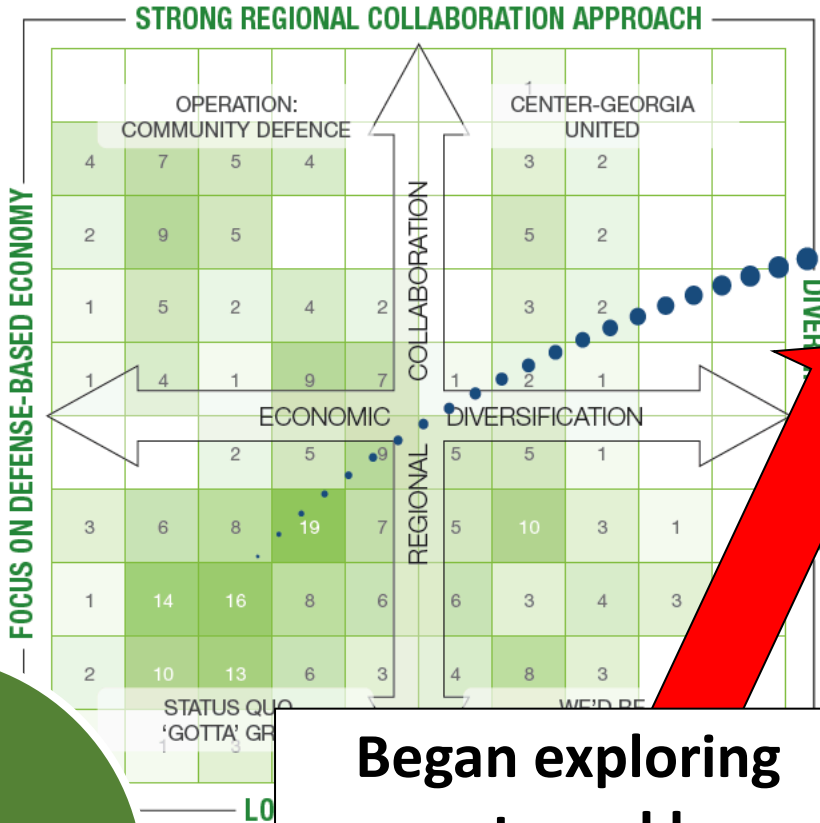
Overall Project
Outcomes

- Develop the Middle Georgia innovation ecosystem
- Provide a road map for Middle Georgia to become a 'Software Center of Excellence'
- The project will advance the efforts building the workforce that Middle Georgia needs for the future
- The outcome will be a Middle Georgia Innovation Roadmap Report and Path Forward recommendations



**MIDDLE GEORGIA CHARRETTE
AND REGIONAL PLANNING HEAT MAPS**

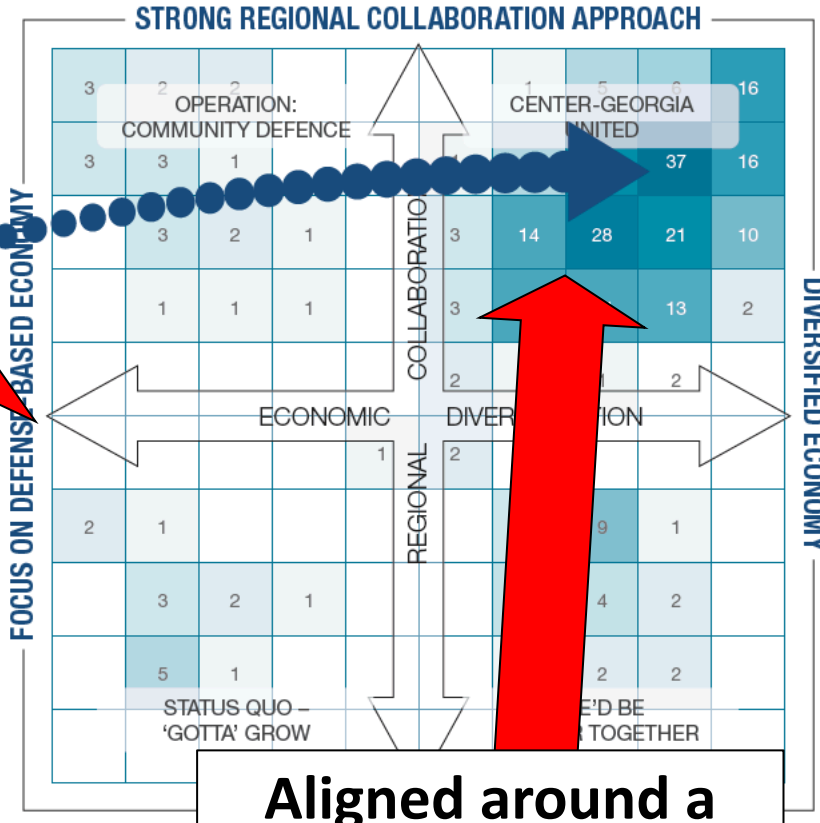
EXPECTED FUTURE – 2030



**Began exploring
assets and key
actions required**

**MIDDLE GEORGIA CHARRETTE
AND REGIONAL PLANNING HEAT MAPS**

PREFERRED FUTURE – 2030



**Aligned around a
vision and strategic
direction**

Built shared
vision

Background

STRONG REGIONAL COLLABORATION APPROACH

Key Strategic
Areas

Background

Build strong,
connected and
informed public
leadership
network

Leverage
region's natural,
technological
and intellectual
assets

Building safe
and vibrant
communities

**Preferred
Future**

Create a
regional
innovation
eco-system

Foster an
inclusive regional
education
system

Promote a
business and
industry
desirable
location

Cluster of Higher
Education
Institutions

Innovation and
Commercialization
across RAFB
membrane

Asset mapping
team to morph into
'Innovation Eco-
system'

**2 KEY STRATEGIC
ACTION AREAS**



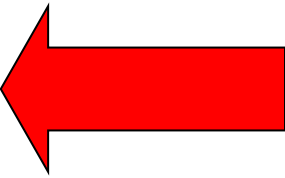
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WELCOME TO THE THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

Middle Georgia Innovation Project

- TASK 1 - Innovation Framework and Ecosystem
- TASK 2 - Innovation Performance and Gap Analysis
- TASK 3 - Working Groups
- TASK 4 - Middle Georgia Innovation Roadmap Report
- TASK 5 – Initial implementation steps

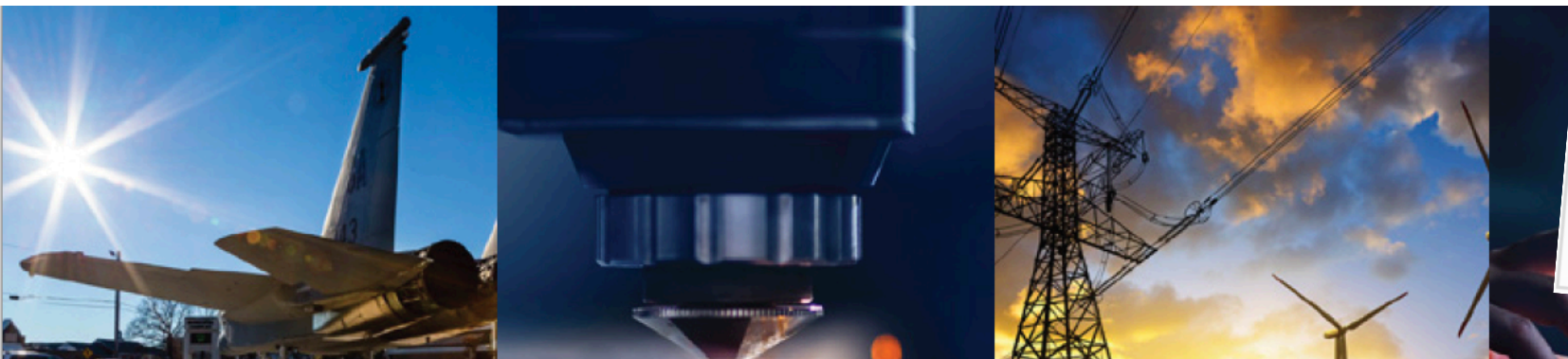


MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

FINDINGS – Task 1 - Innovation Framework and Ecosystem

Findings

- A need to build the regional innovation ecosystem and culture
- Place a deliberate focus on Industry 4.0 technologies
- Promote existing innovation and the region's livability story



TASK 2 – Innovation Performance and Gap Analysis

- **Innovation Case Studies Interviews**
 - Military Base/Community studies
 - Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, UT
 - Fort Benning, Columbus, GA
 - Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA
 - Regional Case Studies
 - Chattanooga, TN
 - Huntsville, LA
 - Southwestern Ohio – Cincinnati and the Dayton Region, OH
 - Local Georgia Case Studies
 - LBA Ware, Macon, GA
 - Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA
 - Atrium Health Navicent, Macon, GA
 - Wayne Reaves Software, Macon, GA
- **Middle Georgia Overview Snapshot**
 - Industry Cluster Analysis
 - Innovation Trends and Index
- **Production of Innovation Performance and Gap Analysis Report**
 - Part 1: Potential for Innovation and Comparable Case Studies
 - Part 2: Technical and Gap Analysis

Approach



MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

TASK 2 - Innovation Performance and Gap Analysis – Building Blocks

- Robins Air Force Base (RAFB)
- Strength in knowledge creation
- Rapidly growing technical and computer science sectors
- Proximity to Atlanta and emerging regional identity

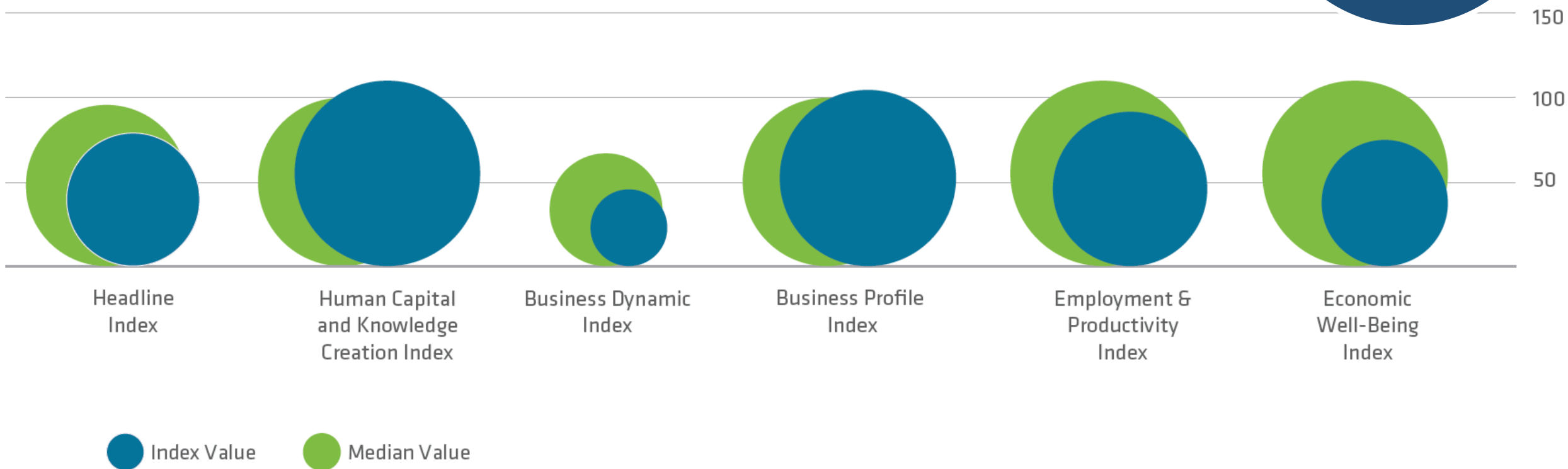


Located in Houston County, the military base employed 23,967 individuals in 2019 (6,188 military, 14,821 civilian, and 2,958 other employees) and contributed an estimated total economic impact of \$3.38 billion. The base awarded \$7.1 billion in contracts during 2019 fiscal year with \$518 million to Georgia firms and \$224 million to firms in Houston County. (Data sourced from the *Robins Air Force Base Economic Impact Statement, 2019*)



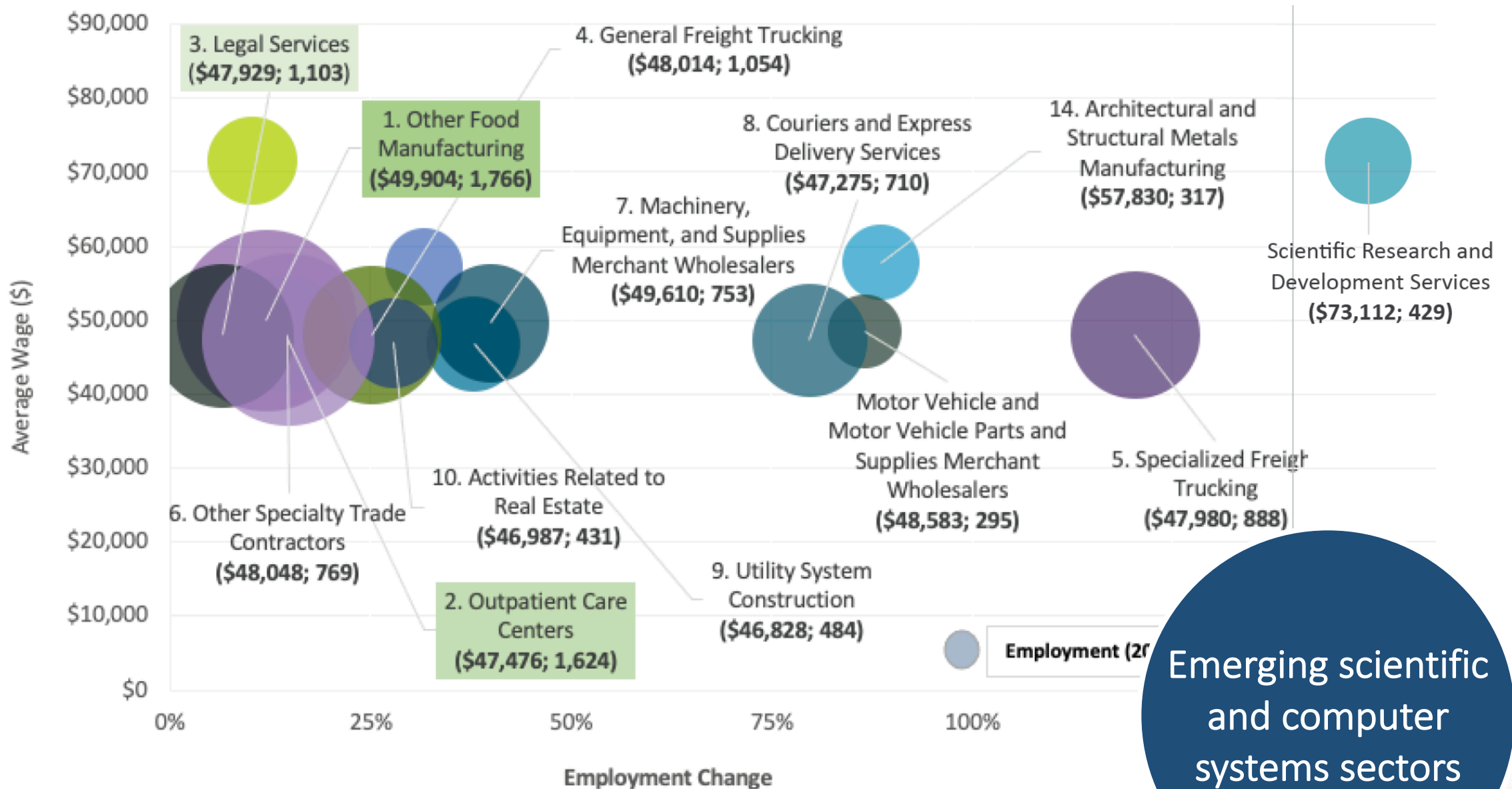
Innovation Index for Middle Georgia compared to Median US value

Outperforms
in Knowledge
Creation



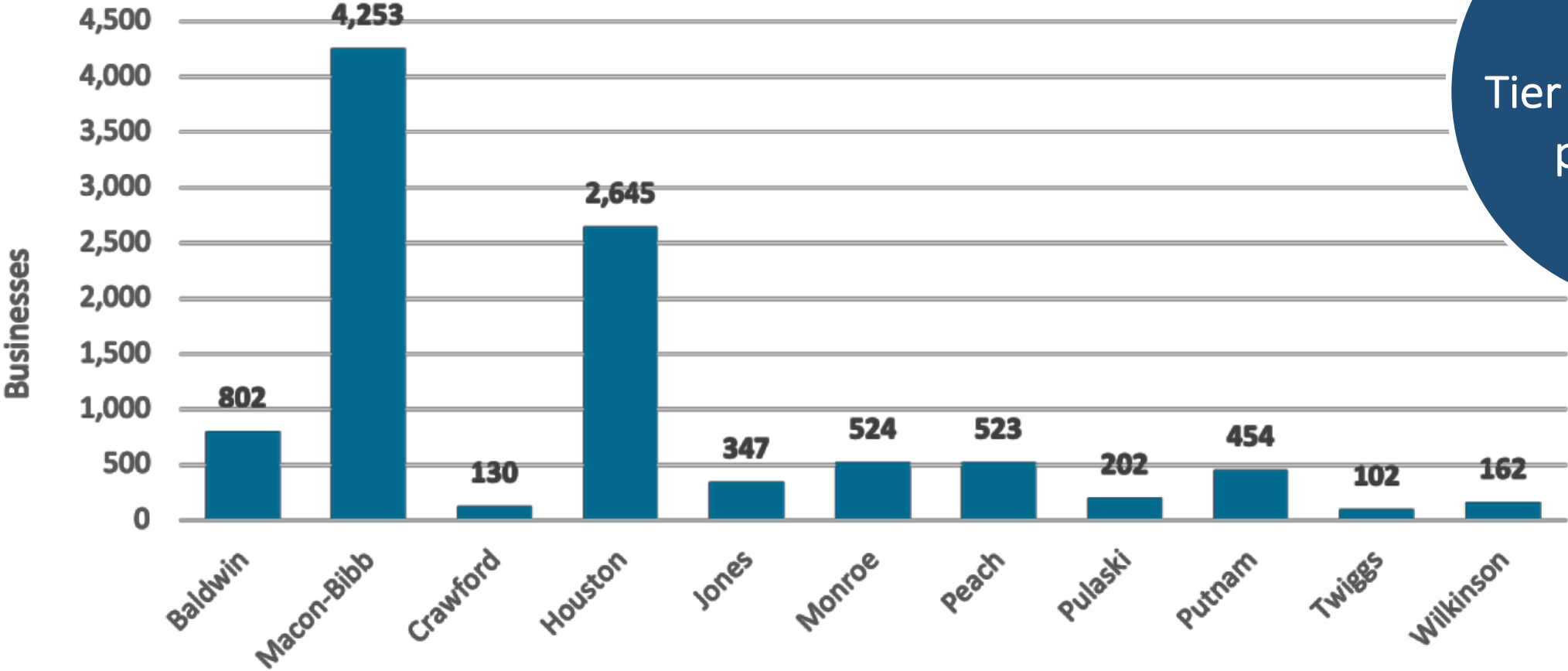
Source: StatsAmerica - Innovation Index 2.0, U.S. Economic Development Administration, 2016

High Performing Industries Tier II: Average Wage by Employment Change and Employment Level



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics(1991-2019), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(1991-2019)

Average Annual Number of New Businesses in Middle Georgia (2018)



Three key 'Innovation Ecosystem' Working Groups

Task 3

- **Start-Up Innovation Ecosystem**

Focus on building a connected ecosystem that fosters start-up and entrepreneurial culture.

- **Industry 4.0 Technologies Ecosystem**

Focus on building regional capability and readiness for Industry 4.0 technologies.

- **Software Engineering Ecosystem**

Focus on building local capability for software engineering and creating a relevant industry cluster.



Working group process.

TASK 3 Steps in process

- **STEP 1 – ASSEMBLE**
 - Identify and invite key stakeholders to each Working Group. (March)
- **STEP 2 - CONVENE WORKING GROUPS** (March – May)
 - Meeting 1 - Assimilate Data and Analysis
 - Meeting 2 - Brainstorm how to Build Ecosystem
 - Meeting 3 - Contribute to Action Plan
- **STEP 3 - PRESENT** (May)
 - Host Regional Future Summit where we present initial findings and recommended Action Plans. (May)

Each working group will meet (virtual) three times (over two months), and then all groups join for a Future Summit. Working sessions will be approximately two hours in length and will be supplemented by surveys and conference calls as required.

VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP SESSIONS 1 & 2

Task 3



IN-PERSON WORKING GROUP SESSION 3



Task 3



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Task 3

Start-Up Innovation Ecosystem Working Group

Focus on building a connected ecosystem that fosters start-up and entrepreneurial culture.

Meeting #3 Summary Notes: Contribute to Action Plan

THE KEY REGIONAL OUTCOMES TO ACHIEVE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

- Create an organization that fosters innovation diffusion across the membrane via resource sharing – and build the ecosystem via networking
 - Increase knowledge in who is doing innovation in the Middle Georgia Region
 - Purposely build innovation in each community and focus on diversity
- Identify spin off industries; and activate venture capitalists and community capital
 - Focus on software growth and hardware/software development in clean energy and agriculture via unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
- Promote methods to share information across the innovation community

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

Task 3

Industry 4.0 Technologies Ecosystem Working Group

Focus on building regional capability and readiness for Industry 4.0 Technologies

Meeting #3 Summary Notes: Contribute to Action Plan

THE KEY REGIONAL OUTCOMES TO ACHIEVE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

- Expand technology based curriculums into all levels of education (K-12 to College) in order to build a more skilled workforce that can better support the region's industries
- Build collaboration between large and small businesses / employers as well as between counties – use tools such as demonstrations and peer-to-peer learning
- Connect a network of Industry 4.0 subject matter experts to knowledge with other entities such as industry and education partners.

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

Software Engineering Ecosystem Working Group

Focusing on building local capability for software engineering and creating a relevant industry cluster

Meeting #3 Summary Notes: Contribute to Action Plan

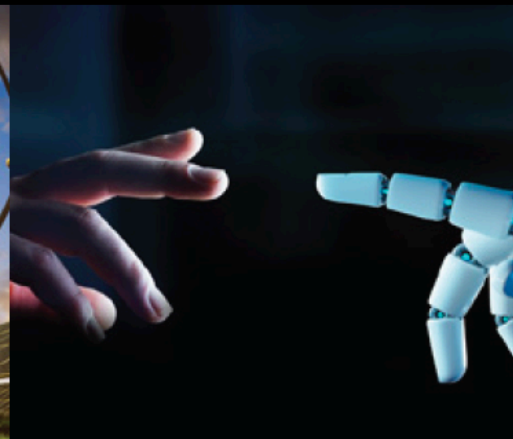
Task 3

THE KEY REGIONAL OUTCOMES TO ACHIEVE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

- Build a regional approach with the superintendents of the region's school systems regarding the need to collaborate across county lines to meet the needs of workforce development
- Invest in teacher's education in order to grow the STEM curriculum via a "Teacher Development Strategy"
- Create a unified message around Industry 4.0 similar to "Silicon Valley" and "Research Triangle"
- Improve the region's "Quality of Life" - A need for a combined effort from the region to engage people early in the "plug in"

BUILDING ROADMAP RECOMMENDATIONS

Task 4



THE MIDDLE GEORGIA INNOVATION PROJECT

HIGH LEVEL ROADMAP STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Task 4

#1 Create a Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor

- Form 'One Middle Georgia' entity that connects key players
- Build One-Stop Shop process for Innovators/Start Ups

#2 Expand focus on Industry 4.0 Technologies

- Continue to push into education and technical systems
- Broaden focus of traditional Economic Development
- Pursue Smart Cities concepts and demonstrations

#3 Amplify STEM and software engineering

- Work in collaboration with school and educational systems

#4 Broaden appeal of the Region

- Tell the good stories and invest in quality-of-life narrative
- 'Living in Middle Georgia' initiative

Real Time Polling

🖱️ Respond at **PollEv.com/fiq124**

💬 Text **FIQ124** to **22333** once to join, then **A, B, C, D, or E**

Poll Everywhere mobile app



Do you live in Middle Georgia?

Yes

No

Is creating a Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor a promising idea?

Definitely – great promise **A**

Probably a viable idea **B**

Maybe – need to know more **C**

No – don't see potential **D**

Not sure **E**

What is most logical geographic focus of a MG innovation corridor?

Around Warner Robins

Around Macon

Corridor from Warner Robins to Macon

Whole Middle Georgia region

Not sure

How important do you think is an Industry 4.0 focus?

Critically important

Reasonably important

Marginally important

Not important

Who should be the primary leadership for an Industry 4.0 focus?

Economic
development groups

Universities and
technical colleges

Schools

Businesses and
entrepreneurs

How long will it take to build an innovation ecosystem?

1-2 years

5-10 years

More than 10 years

Never going to happen

How urgent is it implement the MG Innovation Roadmap?

Critically urgent –
need to start now

In next few years

Within the next
5-10 years

Can the region become an innovation hub?

Yes - Very realistic

Seems generally
realistic

Not really realistic

No chance this
will ever happen

When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/fiq124

Text **FIQ124** to **22333** once to join

Do you / your organization want to be part of creating Middle Georgia as center of innovation?

Definitely yes

Likely yes

Probably not

No

Not applicable

NEXT STEPS

