For IMMEDIATE Release

Boone, Pertilla Graduate from Georgia Academy for Economic Development

TIFTON – Two employees of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recently graduated from the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. Garrett Boone, director of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC, and Franzelle Mathis-Pertilla, instructor in the Stafford School of Business, completed the training program.

Created in 1993, the Academy assembles a cross section of economic development professionals and resources to provide training in all 12 service delivery regions in Georgia. Since its founding, the Academy has provided training for thousands of professional and non-
professional economic developers around the state. The Academy has been offered annually since 1998. Georgia EMC and Georgia Power provide facilitators for the program, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs provides staff support.

“The world view of business has shifted with the globalization of markets,” said Pertilla. “The Georgia Academy for Economic Development program helped me to understand the economic landscape in South Georgia. Through the discipline of education, I can more effectively prepare students for the challenges ahead and positively influence social change in our local communities.”

The Academy’s multi-day program, taught one day a month over a four-month period, includes training in the basics of economic and community development. It also offers specialized segments on business recruitment and retention, tourism product development, downtown development, planning, and other essentials for community success.

In addition, the curriculum features specific leadership skills such as consensus building, ethics in public service, collaborative leadership and other segments needed for effective community leadership in economic development. Local elected officials may receive certification training credits through the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association for completion of this program.

The 2015 Region 11 class represented a number of professional and non-professional economic development fields, including elected officials, public servants, business leaders, educators, and social service providers from 18 counties.

The next Georgia Academy for Economic Development will take place in the winter of 2016. For more information, interested persons can contact Kelly Lane at 404-227-3619 or by email at kelly.lane@dca.ga.gov