

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Andrew Moody Selected for 2024 GeorgiaForward Young Gamechangers Cohort**

**ATLANTA** — [GeorgiaForward](#) recently selected Andrew Moody as one of the 45 promising professionals to serve the organization’s 2024 Young Gamechangers (YG) program. YG is a unique leadership action program hosted by GeorgiaForward, a non-profit organization administrated by the [Georgia Municipal Association](#). Young Gamechangers brings professionals from across the state to work on the persistent challenges of one Georgia community.

In 2024, Valdosta-Lowndes County will host the Young Gamechangers. Local leaders have finalized their four “Challenge Questions” that the 2024 cohort will be charged to answer through the eight months they will spend developing specific, actionable recommendations for the community. These questions focus on economic development, green infrastructure, corridor redevelopment, and community togetherness.

“Each year, our Young Gamechangers, through the energy and innovation of our state’s best minds, help improve our cities and counties,” said Amir Farokhi, chair of the GeorgiaForward board of directors. “This year, we are excited and grateful to partner with Valdosta/Lowndes County. Great ideas come from all over Georgia, and we cannot wait to see our Young Gamechangers in action.”

Andrew Moody, 26, is one of the 45 Gamechangers selected for this class. Andrew has been employed by the City of Newnan since 2021. Andrew is the Special Projects Manager responsible for the administration of the City’s federal grants and affordable housing initiatives. Through this work, Andrew has had the opportunity to work with all City of Newnan departments in various ways and develop a versatile skillset. Andrew also serves as a staff liaison to the Newnan Urban Redevelopment Agency. He is a recent two-time graduate of the University of West Georgia (B.S 2019, MPA 2021), and currently is serving his first term on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“I am so eager to work alongside a group of accomplished, Georgians from diverse fields for the purpose of cultivating and creating a positive impact on Valdosta-Lowndes County,” Moody said. “I can’t wait to meet my fellow Gamechangers in April.”

“We are all excited to welcome this impressive program and equally as impressive list of young leaders and professionals into our community! The deep look, the fresh set of eyes, and the

programs and projects they bring back to us will be received by an enthusiastic team ready to coordinate City staff and civic leaders on implementation. The future is theirs, the time to act on that future is now...welcome Gamechangers!" said Valdosta Mayor Scott Matheson.

The 2024 cohort of Gamechangers will meet for the first time in the City of Valdosta on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and their work will culminate with a community presentation of their findings and recommendations on October 10th.

Previous Young Gamechangers Host Communities are Americus-Sumter County, Dublin-Laurens County, Douglasville-Douglas County, Augusta-Richmond County, LaGrange-Troup County, Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Albany-Dougherty County, Monroe-Walton County, Dalton-Whitfield County, and Columbus-Muscogee County.

**About GeorgiaForward:** GeorgiaForward is a convener, connector, and unifier. We exist to unite our state, strengthen communities, and create a talent pipeline within Georgia.

GeorgiaForward engages young professionals with leaders in civics, industry, government, academia, and the media to find a common vision for Georgia. The nonprofit organization, which is administered by the Georgia Municipal Association, accomplishes this by creating an environment in which vision and pragmatism can overcome political deadlock, fostering communication and goodwill among Georgia's stakeholders, and seeking innovative solutions to Georgia's biggest challenges. To learn more about GeorgiaForward visit, [georgiaforward.org](https://georgiaforward.org).

**About the Georgia Municipal Association:** Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to all of Georgia's 537 cities. GMA anticipates and influences the forces shaping Georgia's cities and to provide leadership, tools and services that assist municipal governments in becoming more innovative, effective and responsive. Created in 1933, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. For more information, visit [www.gacities.com](http://www.gacities.com).

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