



GEORGIA'S RURAL CENTER

Powered by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 10/14/2022

The Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation, located at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, is pleased to announce a grant in the amount of \$150,000 to the Randolph County Development Authority. The grant is a joint effort between the Center and the Randolph County Development Authority that will provide new equipment and support in-house workforce training for new and existing employees to increase production at Peerless Manufacturing in Shellman. Peerless, known for its peanut handling equipment has been in business since 1954. Today, in addition to its peanut equipment line, Peerless builds grapples, hay forks, pallet forks, hay wagons, and airline baggage handling equipment at its Shellman facility. The grant represents the Center's first investment in its new Georgia Grow Your Own Workforce Solution (GROWS) program, which encourages small private business to develop in-house training and apprenticeship programs. Casey Beane, Project Manager at the Center is in charge of the project.



Pictured (left to right): State Representative Gerald Greene, Center Director David Bridges, Governor Brian Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, State Senator Freddie Powell-Sims, and Peerless employees Rhonda and Steve Wengerd.