

# A Year in Review...

As the sun sets on another fiscal year in the Golden Isles, I look back with pride and towards the new year with great anticipation. The work that we do never ends, but rather, is a process of continual new beginnings. This year the Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) has closed the books on industrial parks, sold properties, invested to become self-sustaining, and embarked on new journeys – it's a great day to be in the Golden Isles!

Culminating work that started decades ago, the McBride Industrial Park is now fully occupied. With recent investments from Jered-Par Marine and flexible warehouse development, the park is generating jobs and taxes. Likewise, the Gateway Tract on I-95 now has 560,000 feet of industrial buildings in construction, soon to be occupied by our talented workforce. The East Gate Industrial Park was also sold, is privately owned and on the Glynn County tax rolls.

Through these sales, and the sale of a dorm facility to the federal government, this year marks a milestone in the GIDA's evolution as we are now self-sustaining. Investing in real estate and risk averse securities, we can now concentrate on maximizing our return to the community.

While we've made great progress this year, there's still work to do. To stay competitive, we must keep investing in property development—because in today's market, even days can determine whether a company chooses us or goes elsewhere

Our marketing efforts continue to bear fruit as more people are engaging with our brand than ever before, but we will continue to refine our message and target the correct audiences. Entrepreneurs are thriving in the Golden Isles, creating brands and businesses – especially in downtown Brunswick. But we will not be complacent, we will continue to connect and empower our small businesses.

And perhaps most important, we will continue to grow and equip our workforce with the skills of today for the jobs of tomorrow. With low unemployment and much opportunity for growth, area businesses need qualified people. We will engage and grow young people with the Keep Glynn Running message as they are trained by our educational partners, and we will continue to find novel ways to attract new residents and employees.

None of this is possible without the wonderful Board Members that the GIDA has had over the years. Our leadership is second to none and I owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thank you all for giving back to the place that we've chosen to call home.

**Ryan Moore**  
*President & CEO*  
GIDA

