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Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs Inc. Joins Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Strategic Partnership

ATLANTA (February 5, 2019) – <u>Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs Inc.</u> (ACE) is pleased to announce its partnership with the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GHCC) to enhance the development of small businesses in Georgia. The collaboration will begin in the greater Atlanta area, and then spread throughout the state.

"We know this partnership with GHCC will help both organizations make a bigger impact in the lives of Hispanic business owners," said Luis Izaguirre, ACE's chief program officer.

Besides promoting each other's ongoing workshops, events and seminars, the strategic partnership will provide enhanced benefits to GHCC members and ACE clients. ACE and GHCC will make sure more Hispanic businesses have access to capital in the state of Georgia. Also, ACE and GHCC will work with select organizations to create business accelerator programs in 2019 that help Hispanic entrepreneurs grow in their knowledge of running a successful business. These programs will provide small business owners with focused business and financial education and coaching that prepares them to apply for grants offered by the GHCC Hispanic Business Center.

In September 2017, ACE kicked off its Hispanic Initiative to foster trusted relationships over the long term by working one-on-one in the community with Hispanic entrepreneurs and helping them grow their businesses by providing access to capital, coaching and connections. Since then, ACE has provided \$3.5 million in loans to Hispanic business owners. In 2019, ACE looks forward to increasing the number of loans to qualified Hispanic entrepreneurs in need of capital.

GHCC will help ACE expand its reach of services to the Hispanic community. "This is a first step toward building a partnership throughout Georgia," said Santiago Marquez, president and CEO of GHCC. "We believe GHCC is perfectly aligned with ACE to increase Hispanic business growth in our state, and we look forward to providing our members and ACE clients with programs that will benefit the entire Hispanic community in Georgia."

About Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs Inc. (ACE)

ACE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and community development financial institution (CDFI) that provides loans and business consulting services to help borrowers throughout Metro Atlanta and North Georgia create and grow stable, sustainable businesses that generate jobs. Since 2000, ACE has loaned more than \$60 million to over 900 entrepreneurs, who have created or saved more than 7,700 jobs in Georgia. ACE's hallmark service is its combination of capital, coaching and connections. ACE is supported by grants and other forms of funding from banks, foundations, government entities and corporations to assist in its mission to help underserved business owners.

ACE has offices in downtown Atlanta and Cleveland, Ga., and an ACE Women's Business Center in Norcross, Ga. For more information, visit www.aceloans.org.

About the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GHCC)

Established in 1984, the GHCC's primary focus is on business formation, business growth, and civic and leadership development and engagement. It serves entrepreneurs and business owners through consultations, workshops and seminars. With over 1,000 members, the GHCC is one of the largest Hispanic Chambers in the country and can be found at www.ghcc.org

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