



### **Statesboro Wins \$1 Million in National Economic Development Competition**

Statesboro, Georgia's "Blue Mile" revitalization project has been nationally recognized as a top community improvement project. The plan was selected in April as a winner in the America's Best Communities competition hosted by The Weather Channel, Frontier Communications, DISH and CoBank.

Initiated in 2014, the contest provided the finalists of each round with funds to help accomplish the improvement goals set out in contestants' plans. More than 350 non-urban communities entered the competition. Thirty months later, Statesboro was named as one of three in the winner's circle.

A community leadership meeting in 2012 was the catalyst for the plan to revitalize a historic but economically depressed area connecting Georgia Southern University to Statesboro's town center, a corridor now known as the "Blue Mile." The plan was entered in the America's Best Communities' inaugural competition in 2014. In 2015 Statesboro was named in the top 50 of over 350 original entrants. January and April 2016 rounds brought Statesboro to the top 15 and 8.

"The competition was created to spark ideas leading to economic vitality and sustainable growth in small towns and rural communities," said Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce President Phyllis Thompson. Earlier rounds plus the winner's circle designation meant Statesboro took home a total of \$1,165,000.

For more information about the America's Best Communities competition, Statesboro's improvement project and those of other finalists, visit [www.americasbestcommunitites.com](http://www.americasbestcommunitites.com).

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