

**THIRD GRAD SITE APPROVED IN BARROW COUNTY**  
*270-Acre Industrial Site Ready to Bring Jobs, Investment to  
Georgia's Innovation Corridor*

**WINDER, GEORGIA (September 23, 2015)** – The Barrow County Economic Development Department announced today that the third Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site was approved in Barrow County by the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The 270-acre site, owned by Barrow County and the Winder Barrow Industrial Building Authority, has high visibility along University Parkway/Hwy 316, also known as Georgia's Innovation Corridor and is located a mile south of historic downtown Winder.

"We are thrilled that the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Allies have awarded our Park 53 Innovation & Technology Complex the GRAD designation" said Pat Graham, Chairman of the Barrow County Board of Commissioners. "As the connecting route between Atlanta and Athens, University Parkway/ Highway 316, Georgia's Innovation Corridor, has the potential to bring tremendous economic development and new jobs to Barrow County and this GRAD site will aid in that process."

This is the third GRAD site in Barrow County. The first site was designated in 2010 and the second in spring of 2015, both of which are also located along University Parkway/ Highway 316, Georgia's Innovation Corridor. As currently envisioned, the newest GRAD site that was just certified will include an industrial mix of office, R&D, manufacturing and distribution.

"This is the closest GRAD site to Metro Atlanta. Barrow County now has three GRAD sites poised for industrial development along Georgia's Innovation Corridor. We are one of only two counties in the State that has three GRAD sites and the only Metro Atlanta County with multiple GRAD sites. With our enviable position along Georgia's Innovation Corridor, our proximity to Metro Atlanta, and the brand new Barrow County Workforce Development Campus, which houses Lanier Technical College and the Sims Academy for Innovation & Technology, Barrow County is strategically positioned for industrial growth and development" said Guy Herring, Director of Economic Development for Barrow County. "We look forward to continuing to work together with our local, regional and state partners to bring more high-paying jobs and capital investment into our community."

Established by the Georgia Allies, the GRAD site program creates shovel-ready sites with advance due diligence. Once they receive approval, these sites are ready for rapid development. To qualify, these sites must include a minimum of 50 acres, ownership security, zoning designation, road and rail accessibility, utilities service and wetlands and stream delineation. GRAD sites receive several tools to help with marketing including program benefits on the Georgia Department of Economic Development website, site awareness for statewide project managers and GDEcD partners and

highlighted listings on the industrial site database of major electric utility web sites in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

"Park 53 Innovation & Technology Complex along University Parkway in Barrow County is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of companies desiring to locate on a campus setting. Combined with the co-location of the Lanier Technical College and Sims Academy for Innovation & Technology, this GRAD certified site offers exactly what today's company's need: a quality location joined with the high school and college training for their future workforce" said Rope Roberts, Northeast Georgia Region Economic Development Manager for Georgia Power.