

Early Education Commission

A community leadership collaborative supporting the United Way's goal of ensuring children are ready for school



United Way of
Metropolitan Atlanta

Biographical Sketches



Gregory A. Adams is Superior Court of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit and is running unopposed for re-election in 2008. In April 2007, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to re-name the new \$40 million juvenile court the “Gregory A. Adams Juvenile Justice Center,” making him the first judge to have a building named in his honor in DeKalb County. Judge Adams is currently chairman of the Trustee Board of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, which is responsible for the training of the Judicial Branch of Georgia. He is also a member of Rotary International and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Previously he served as Chief Judge of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court for ten years. In 2005 his portrait was hung in the DeKalb County Juvenile Court, making him the first African-American jurist in DeKalb County to have a portrait displayed in a county building. He has served as president of the DeKalb Lawyers Association and president of the DeKalb Bar Association, chairman of Leadership DeKalb, member of the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, and member of the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board for the State Bar of Georgia. Judge Adams holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia State University in the area of Criminal Justice (1981) and a law degree from The University of Georgia School of Law (1983). He is also a graduate of The National Judicial College.



James S. Balloun retired as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, Inc. in 2004. He is the former Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of National Service Industries, where he led the company for five years prior to the spin-off of Acuity Brands, Inc. in November 2001. In 31 years with McKinsey & Company, Inc., Jim dealt with business issues in a broad range of industries and locations, primarily in San Francisco, Tokyo and Atlanta. Jim was one of the senior governing leaders in the firm, serving as a member of the firm's shareholders (board of directors), partner election, and partner review committees when he left the Firm. He is an active contributor to the Atlanta community. He is past Chairman and life Trustee of The Commerce Club and of the Woodruff Arts Center. He is a Director of Radiant Systems, Inc., Enzymatic Deinking Technologies, and Unisen/StarTrac. He is a former Director of Wachovia Bank and Georgia-Pacific Corporation. He serves as Trustee of the Westminster Schools, and as an Elder of Trinity Presbyterian Church. He Chairs the Board of the Jasper Ocean Terminal Project Office, a joint venture of South Carolina and Georgia. Jim holds a B.S. degree from Iowa State University and received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

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Sharon J. Bartels is the President of Gwinnett Technical College. She has a high profile, not only in Gwinnett County, but throughout the state of Georgia. Sharon has been named one of Georgia Trend's 100 Most Powerful and Influential Georgians, and was named Gwinnett Magazine's 2005 Woman of the Year. She is also a well-known community leader. She served as Chair of the Board, Vice-Chair and an executive committee member of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce. Sharon was recognized by the Chamber with its Public Service Award. She is now serving as the Co-Chair of the Chamber's Partnership Gwinnett initiative. A former long-time member of the Gwinnett Rotary Club, she was also on the board of directors for the United Way of Gwinnett and chaired its 2004 campaign. Sharon is currently a board member of the Emory Board of Visitors, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, and Georgia Gwinnett University.



Jay Berkelhamer is Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Clinical Professor at Emory, Adjunct Professor at Morehouse and a general pediatrician. Dr. Berkelhamer attended the University of Michigan, and trained in Pediatrics at the University of Chicago. Following residency and service with the U.S. Public Health Service in Virginia, he joined the University faculty, where he directed the residency program, served as associate chair of the department and performed clinical research while practicing general pediatrics. He later became Chair of Pediatrics at the Henry Ford Health System. Collaborating with Children's Hospital of Michigan, he established The Child Health Network and worked with the University of Michigan to start a managed care program for special needs children. Having legislative experience as a RWJ Health Policy Fellow, Jay advocates for children's issues and is a national spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He is the Immediate Past President of the AAP through October, 2008, and has held numerous state and national offices and committee chairmanships. He is a Past President of the Ambulatory Pediatric Association and the Chicago Pediatric Society.



Stephanie Blank has a passion for making a difference. A native of North Carolina, she grew up believing that education and community involvement are twin pathways to creating a just and more inclusive society. As an advocate for children, Stephanie serves as a board member of Camp Sunshine, a board member of The Emory University Board of Visitors, and an advisory board member of the Atlanta Outward Bound Center. She is Chair of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation Board of Trustees and the Atlanta Falcons Women's Association. She chaired the capital campaign for the Imagine It! Children's Museum of Atlanta, is a co-founder of Mothers & Others for Clean Air and has served on numerous boards and committees in Atlanta. Both Stephanie and her husband, Arthur M. Blank, are well-known community leaders and philanthropists, and she is a trustee of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Together, Arthur and Stephanie were named the 2000 Georgia Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fundraising Executives. In 2001, they were joint recipients of The Abe Goldstein Human Relations Award from The Anti-Defamation League. She holds a B.S. in interior design from Appalachian State University.

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Robert L. Brown Jr. has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of R. L. Brown & Associates, Inc. since 1984. Previously, he was Staff Architect for Dillingham Construction Co. from 1980 to 1984 and Project Architect for Stevenson and Wilkinson from 1976 to 1980. Robert started his career in 1973 as an intern architect for Lord, Aeck & Sargent. He serves as a member of the board of directors of eleven civic and business organizations, including the DeKalb Convention Center Authority, Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Perimeter College, Smart Start and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Robert is a member of the Board of Trustees of Grady Health System. He has been a Director of Georgia Power Company since May 2003. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority, and Chair of the Board of Smart Start, the early childhood division of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. Robert graduated magna cum laude from Tuskegee University, with B.A. degrees in architectural science and architecture.



Anna R. Cablik, a nationally-recognized business owner, was born and raised in the Republic of Panama, where she obtained a degree in medical technology from Canal Zone College. After two years on the staff of Piedmont Hospital, she had an opportunity to work with a construction materials company, progressing from clerk to Vice President in seven years. In 1982 she left to start ANATEK, INC., a contracting company specializing in highway bridges. After leading ANATEK, Inc. to become one of the largest Hispanic-owned firms in Georgia, Anna formed ANASTEEL & Supply Company, LLC, in 1994. ANASTEEL is the only Hispanic/female-owned reinforcing steel fabricator in the Southeast. Anna is on the Board of Directors of Georgia Power Company and a member of the Georgia Advisory Board of BB&T Corporation. She was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the board of the Work Force Development Commission for the state of Georgia and to the Commission for a New Georgia. Anna serves on several boards of directors, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and the Georgia Department of Economic Development. From 2001 to 2006, she partnered with Mark Massmann in MassAna Construction, LLC, and is currently a partner in PanAmerican Logistics, LLC, PanAmerican International, LLC, and International Trade Imports, LLC.



Rev. Darrell D. Elligan is a spiritual businessman and a community leader. He received his education from Atlanta Public Schools, Massey Business College and Georgia State University. He is a cum laude honor graduate of Beulah Heights Bible College. He received his leadership education from Harvard University School of Divinity - SLI Program. He is the President and CEO of TLBC Lighthouse Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization that includes an early childhood development and learning center, eight-week summer camp, after-school program and a community economic revitalization plan. Darrell has established the Make-A-Way Scholarship and an educational ministry of TLBC called the Get READY Educational Ministry. He is also President of Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., serves on the boards of several organizations in Atlanta and is Chairman of the Morehouse School of Medicine CRC Community Advisory Board. He was recognized as one of the four Most Influential Pastors in the City of Atlanta for 2007, named as one of the 100 Most Influential Multi-cultural Business Leaders of Georgia by Atlanta Business Journal, and has received Outstanding Citizens Recognition by the state of Georgia Secretary of State's Office each year since 1998.

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Lillian Cousins Giornelli is Executive Director of CF Foundation, Inc., and President of the Cousins Foundation, Inc., East Lake Investments, Inc., East Lake Holdings, Inc., East Lake Shopping Center, and Nonami Enterprises, Inc. In these positions, Lillian has the responsibility of overseeing many of her family's foundations and investment ventures. She also serves on the boards of directors of the East Lake Community Foundation, Cousins Properties Inc., and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Prior to assuming her responsibilities in the family's business, she practiced law in Atlanta. She earned a B.A. degree in history from Dartmouth College in 1982, and a Juris Doctor degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Georgia in 1988.



John T. Grant, Jr. is the Chief Executive Officer of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. (100) and has been a member of the organization for 20 years. He joined as its youngest member in 1988 and was named Man of the Year in 1989. John has garnered a reputation among his Atlanta-chapter colleagues for his ability to obtain "blue-chip" corporate sponsors and to successfully manage their investments in the organization. Under his leadership, the 100 has attained a level of visibility and prominence that underscores the importance of its philanthropic mission established by its founding members in 1986. His prior business experience includes a successful career with Airborne Express in Greenville, S.C., and Atlanta, rising to the position of District Sales Manager and receiving numerous awards, including the company's first and only Humanitarian Award in 1997. John served as Chairman of the Atlanta Football Classic from 1999-2001, and currently serves on several boards, including The Alliance Theater, The American Red Cross, Southern Region, True Colors Theater Company, National Wildlife Federation, Central Atlantic Progress, and the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau. He also serves on the Emory University Board of Advisors. He was selected by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of 2005, 2006, and 2007's Most Influential Atlantans.



Dr. Beverly L. Hall, the 15th appointed superintendent of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS), was born in Jamaica, West Indies, and emigrated to the United States upon completion of her high school education. Under her leadership, APS standardized test scores have risen, aging facilities have been renovated and a new blueprint for business operations is being implemented. Beverly has worked actively with the community to gain support for public education in the city of Atlanta, developing relationships with the business community, civic organizations, non-profits and government leaders. She serves on the board of the new private, non-profit Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation and is Chair of Harvard University's Urban Superintendents Program Advisory Board, where she mentors participants in the doctoral program. She was a member of the Teaching Commission, which developed policy recommendations to address the teaching crisis in America. Beverly serves on the boards of the U.S. Department of Education Urban Education Research Task Force, Communities in Schools of Atlanta, and Junior Achievement of Atlanta. A nationally recognized educator and speaker, Beverly earned her Doctor of Education from Fordham University and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Oglethorpe University.

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Russ Hardin is President of the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Lettie Pate Evans Foundation and Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. The Woodruff Foundation is an independent private foundation established by Robert W. Woodruff, longtime chairman of The Coca-Cola Company. The Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Lettie Pate Evans Foundation and Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation were established by members of the Joseph B. Whitehead family, one of the two original Coca-Cola bottlers. Russ joined the Foundations' staff as Secretary in 1988. He became Treasurer in 1989, Vice President in 1994, and President in 2006.

Prior to joining the Foundations' staff, he practiced law with the Atlanta firm of King & Spalding and was associated with The Robinson-Humphrey Company. He also taught a course at the University of Georgia School of Law. Russ received his B.A. with high distinction from the University of Virginia in 1979, and his J.D. with honors from Duke University School of Law in 1982. Russ serves as a director of Gwinnett Industries, Inc. and The Commerce Club in Atlanta. He serves as a trustee of the Foundation Center and served as a trustee of the Southeastern Council of Foundations for seven years and as its chairman from 1999-2001.



Johnny Isakson is a businessman, a public servant and family man whose common-sense approach and conservative values have made him a leader in Georgia for over 30 years. Johnny began his business career in 1967 when he opened the first Cobb County office of a small, family-owned real estate business, Northside Realty. Johnny later served as president of Northside for 20 years, presiding over the company's growth into the largest independent residential real estate brokerage company in the Southeast and one of the largest in America. Johnny entered Georgia Republican politics in 1974 and served 17 years in the Georgia Legislature and three years as Chairman of the Georgia Board of Education. In 1999, Johnny was elected to the U.S. House of

Representatives for the first of three terms before being elected to the United States Senate in November of 2004. In Washington, Johnny has proven to be a leader who gets results. He was an original author of the President's No Child Left Behind Act, the most significant improvement to our education system in a generation. Johnny is a 1966 graduate of the University of Georgia and served in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972.



Phil Jacobs retired from AT&T/BellSouth on December 31, 2007, after a distinguished career in telecommunications. During his 34-year tenure in the company, he held numerous management positions prior to being promoted to Vice President and elected an officer of the corporation in 1993, assuming control of BellSouth Business Systems, the \$4 billion multi-state large business services marketing unit. In 1996, he was named Chief Operating Officer of Optus Communications, headquartered in Sydney, Australia, and partially owned by BellSouth. Upon returning to Atlanta with the sale of Optus in 1998, Phil was named President of Georgia Operations, a position he held

until 2005 when he was named President of the newly formed BellSouth Community Technologies group. Most recently, Phil served as President of Business Communications Services of AT&T-Southeast. For his leadership in BellSouth and extensive community involvement, Georgia Trend magazine named Phil the Most Respected CEO in Georgia for 2005. He currently serves as Chair of the CDC Foundation Board of Directors, and on the boards of several organizations, including the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Woodruff Arts Center Board of Trustees. He rotated off the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta board in July 2008. Phil received his undergraduate degree from Denison University.

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Emily Jennette is an Educational Program Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education, serving both the Special Education Supports and the School and Leader Quality divisions in the area of teacher recruitment and retention. Emily was a teacher in Marietta City Schools for eight years, teaching second and third grade. After being named 2008 Georgia Teacher of the Year, she served as an educational ambassador and advocate for all of Georgia's public schools, students and teachers. During her one-year sabbatical from the classroom she spoke throughout the state, conducted staff development activities and participated in statewide committees and conferences.

As a member of the National State Teacher of the Year program, Emily also met with other state honorees to discuss research-based educational practices and policies and teacher leadership. She earned her undergraduate degree in early childhood, elementary, and special education from The University of Alabama, and her master's degree in elementary education from Kennesaw State University in 2003. She received her ESOL endorsement in 2004. Emily is a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, the National and Georgia Associations for Supervision and Curriculum Development, The International Reading Association, and the Early Childhood Learning Committee at Kennesaw State University.



Commissioner Larry Johnson, elected as the DeKalb County 3rd District Commissioner in November 2002, was one of the youngest commissioners ever to be elected to the Board of Commissioners. As a Board Member, he has served as Chair of the Economic Development/Planning Committee, Chair of the Board of Education/Board of Commissioners Intergovernmental Committee, Chair of the Budget Review Committee and currently serves as Chair of the Economic Development Committee. He is past President of the Board of Directors for the DeKalb Prevention Alliance and past Vice-Chair for the statewide Covering Kids Health

Initiative. Larry previously worked as a Health Education Coordinator for the DeKalb County Board of Health and has always focused on finding solutions and opportunities that will improve children's educational outlook. His dedication to young people is motivated by the simple fact that when he was young, someone cared about him, reached out to him and motivated him to succeed. As a young man who has overcome many adversities, he is committed to serving as a role model for our youth. Larry holds a B.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in community health, and earned his master's degree in public health from the University of Northern Colorado.

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Nancy Juneau is CEO of award-winning Juneau Construction Company. The Atlanta-based company is one of the largest female-owned general contractors in Georgia. Nancy is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a major in education, but like many, her career journey veered in another direction after college. Her first position out of college was with a large engineering consulting firm in St. Louis, and she held positions with Metric Constructors in Florida and Heery International's corporate headquarters in Atlanta before joining forces with her husband, Les Juneau, President of Juneau Construction. Over the last 25 years, she has been very active in community and industry organizations and has become a leading voice for women in the construction industry. She is a past board member of HORIZONS Atlanta and the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and active in the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). Juneau Construction has been ranked the 18th Top Women-Owned Firm in Atlanta by Atlanta Business Chronicle, and Nancy was the 2007 recipient of the Construction Visionary Award given by NAWIC. She continues to demonstrate her commitment to the inclusion and role of women in the construction industry through a scholarship she established at Georgia Tech. Nancy also created a scholarship, the Beare-Jones Fund, in honor of her mother, Marjorie Beare, at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School.



Dr. Charles B. (Chuck) Knapp is an economist and educator. He is the Director of Educational Development for the CF Foundation and the Chairman of the Board of the East Lake Foundation. He also serves as a Professor of Economics, Distinguished Public Service Fellow, and President Emeritus of the University of Georgia, where he was President of the University from 1987 to 1997. Charles has also been President of the Aspen Institute and was formerly a Partner with the executive search firm Heidrick and Struggles, Executive Vice President of Tulane University and the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training during the Carter Administration. In April 2006, Charles was named Chairman of the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. The commission's report, *Tough Choices or Tough Times*, issued in December 2006, has resulted in productive national debate on the future of education and training policy in America. In July 2008, Charles was named by Governor Sonny Perdue as the Co-Chair of a working group charged with determining how the recommendations of *Tough Choices or Tough Times* can be applied to educational reform in Georgia. Charles received his B.S. degree, with honors and distinction, from Iowa State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been awarded the Distinguished Achievement Citation (highest alumni award) from Iowa State and the Abraham Baldwin Award (for distinguished service) from the University of Georgia.



Milton James Little, Jr. is President of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. He assumed that role in July 2007 after having been the President and Chief Executive Officer at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. Milton's 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors includes creating workforce and education programs, building national partnerships to fund housing, and developing corporate philanthropy and community involvement strategies. Prior to joining the United Way system in June 2004, he was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and Interim President and CEO of the National Urban League, and also held positions at Lucent Technologies, Inc., and its predecessor, AT&T. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated magna cum laude from Morehouse College in 1976 with a B.A. in sociology. He also earned an M.A. in urban sociology and social policy from Columbia University in 1978, and pursued additional post-graduate studies in public administration at New York University. Milton's professional and board affiliations have included The Council on Foreign Relations, President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush's President's Committee on the Employment of People With Disabilities, JP Morgan/Chase Housing Advisory Council, the Information Technology Association of America Minority Advisory Council, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Task Force on Completion Rates in the Community Colleges and a Regional Panelist for the White House Fellowship Program.

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Dennis P. Lockhart took office March 1, 2007 as the 14th President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Dennis also chairs the Bank's Management Committee. In addition, he serves on the Federal Reserve's chief monetary policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). From 2003 to 2007, Lockhart served on the faculty of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, teaching in the master's program. Prior to that, his career in international finance spanned the globe, with responsibilities in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. He was Managing Partner at the private equity firm Zephyr Management, L.P., served as Executive Vice President and Director of Heller Financial, and as President of Heller International Group. He also held various positions, both domestic and international, with Citicorp/Citibank (now Citigroup). Dennis serves on the board of directors and the executive committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the board of St. Joseph's Health System. He is on the board of trustees of the Southern Center for International Studies, and is a trustee for Agnes Scott College. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was a member of the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, serving as Chair in 2000. He earned a B.A. in political science and economics from Stanford University in 1968 and an M.A. in international economics and American foreign policy from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in 1971. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1968 to 1974.



Sam Nunn is Distinguished Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology and is a former United States Senator (1972-1997) from Georgia. He is also the co-chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a charitable organization working to reduce the global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Sam was born in Macon, educated in the public schools of Perry and attended Georgia Institute of Technology. He graduated from Emory University, Atlanta, and received his law degree from Emory in 1962. He served in the United States Coast Guard (1959-1960) and the Reserve (from 1960-1968). Sam was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1962 and commenced practice in Perry, where he operated a farming business and was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives (1968-1972). He was elected in a special election in 1972, he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Richard B. Russell. He was re-elected reelected in 1978, 1984 and 1990 and served to January 3, 1997. While in the Senate, Sam was Chairman, Committee on Armed Services. He was a Partner, King & Spalding law firm in Atlanta, 1997-2003. From 1997 to the present, he has been Distinguished Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology.



Tim Pakenham, Partner, Alston & Bird, LLP, is a former leader of his firm's 57-lawyer Real Estate Finance and Investment Group. He is also a former Chair of the firm's Executive Committee and is currently a second-term member of that committee. Tim is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and is featured as one of the leading Georgia lawyers for real estate in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Pension Real Estate Association and CoreNet. Tim received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame in 1978. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Fuqua Graduate School of Business Administration at Duke University. He received his law degree from Duke University School of Law in 1983. Tim has been a long time member of the Board of Directors of Sheltering Arms, one of Georgia's largest non-profit organizations and is a two-term former Chair. He is a member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of The Georgia Aquarium, and a Director of Central Atlanta Progress. He is also currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Atlanta Athletic Club.

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Dr. Daniel S. Papp became the third President of Kennesaw State University July 1, 2006. Prior to being named President by the Board of Regents, Daniel served as Senior Vice Chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs of the University System of Georgia, directed educational programs for Yamacraw (Georgia's initiative in international broadband technologies and components), and served as Interim President of Southern Polytechnic State University. Over a distinguished 24-year career at Georgia Institute of Technology, he was Executive Assistant to the President, Founding Director of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and Director of the Georgia Tech School of Social Sciences. In 1993, Daniel was selected Georgia Tech's "Distinguished Professor," the first time the honor was awarded to someone other than an engineer or physical scientist. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College, he received his doctorate in international affairs from the University of Miami. He is the author or editor of 10 books, has published more than 60 journal articles and chapters in edited books and had his research funded by numerous organizations, including The U.S. Department of the Army, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Information Agency, the U.S. Department of Education and NATO. He has twice been awarded the U.S. Department of the Army's "Outstanding Civilian Service" medal. Daniel is past Chairperson of the American-Soviet Relations and Southern Sections of the International Studies Association, Senior Fellow for international security at the Southern Center for International Studies, and a member of the Society of International Business Fellows.



Maria Elena Retter, Executive Director of The Goizueta Foundation, was born in Havana, Cuba. The Goizueta Foundation was established by Roberto C. Goizueta, former chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. In creating The Goizueta Foundation, he sought to acknowledge his indebtedness to this country and to continue the commitment to philanthropic endeavors that has symbolized the leadership of The Coca-Cola Company for more than a century. Under the leadership of Olga C. de Goizueta, Chairman and Trustee, The Goizueta Foundation focuses on success in educational attainment from early childhood to higher education. While working for IBM and The Coca-Cola Company, María Elena gained experience in process improvement, strategic planning, and evaluation, which assisted the Foundation's team in assessing the Foundation's impact over the past ten years as well as shaping its future grant-making direction. María Elena holds a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in education from the University of Miami. As a refugee grateful for the opportunities in the United States, María Elena works to ensure that all children succeed in their educational endeavors.



Dr. Holly A. Robinson is the commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start). As commissioner of Bright from the Start, she oversees an annual budget of over \$400 million and manages state programs to improve the quality of early care and education services provided to Georgia's youngest citizens and their families. Before being named commissioner by Governor Sonny Perdue in November 2007, Holly served as Senior Vice President of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. Her career has included positions in the corporate world, state government, and academia. She was Vice President of Learning for Convergent Media Systems, Deputy State Superintendent for Policy, Public Information, and Legislation at the Georgia Department of Education, and has held teaching and leadership positions with Marist School of Atlanta, Ocean County Community College in New Jersey, Villanova University, Georgian Court College of Lakewood, New Jersey, and the University of San Francisco, where she served as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Throughout her career, Holly has worked extensively in curriculum, instruction, and leadership with corporations, schools (K-12), community colleges, technical colleges, and universities across the country. She is currently Chair of the Best Practices committee of the Governor's Education Finance Task Force. She received a B.A. from Old Dominion University, an M.A. from Villanova University, and an Ed.D. from Rutgers University.

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Joe W. Rogers, Jr. is Chief Executive Officer of Waffle House, Inc., a company with which he has been affiliated since 1961 as a high school student at Avondale High School, near the original Waffle House in Avondale Estates started by his father and his partner in 1955. Joe graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. degree in industrial management in 1968 and served a year in the National Guard before attending Harvard University Business School, Boston, MA, where he earned his MBA in 1971. He joined the company as Vice President Finance/Operations in 1971, when Waffle House was operating about 75 restaurants. He was named Chief Executive Officer in 1973, and the iconic restaurant system now has more than 1,500 restaurants in 25 states. Joe is a Director of Sun Trust Bank, Atlanta, a Trustee of the Woodruff Arts Center, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Research Alliance. He is a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and a former member of the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees.



Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum is the ninth President of Spelman College. Prior to her appointment to the Spelman presidency in 2002, she spent 13 years at Mount Holyoke College, serving in various roles, including acting president, dean of the College, department chair and professor of psychology. Dr. Tatum is a clinical psychologist whose areas of research interest include black families in white communities, racial identity in teens, and the role of race in the classroom. For more than 20 years, she taught her signature course on the psychology of racism and has toured extensively, leading workshops on racial identity development and its impact in the classroom. In her critically acclaimed 1997 book, *“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” and Other Conversations about Race*, she applied her expertise on race to argue that straight talk about racial identity is essential to the nation. Her latest book, *Can We Talk about Race? and Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation*, was released in 2007. She has published numerous articles and is the recipient of several honorary degrees. In 2005 she was awarded the prestigious Brock International Prize in Education for innovative leadership. She earned a B.A. in psychology from Wesleyan University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan. She also holds a M.A. in religious studies from Hartford Seminary.



Lee B. Torrence retired from IBM in June, 2008, as the Managing Director and Senior State Executive for Georgia. During a 34-year career with the firm, he held a variety of technical, marketing, consulting and global management positions. His experiences and competencies include human resource development, organizational modeling, motivational speaking, national marketing campaign delivery, business process reengineering and general management. Lee attended American University on a full academic scholarship, receiving a B.A. degree in economics. He received his Client Executive Certification upon successful completion of a course of study at Harvard University. In addition, he has participated in executive education courses at the Wharton School of Business. He is immediate past Board Chair for the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, former Executive Board Member of the Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce, former Chair of the Atlanta Chamber Logistics Council and former Board Member of the Atlanta Ballet. He currently serves as a Board Member of the United Way, provides leadership development to college students and corporate executives, and supports Feed the Hungry and adoption of middle/high schools through IBM within Atlanta's inner city.

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United Way Staff Support to the Early Education Commission



Dr. Christopher Allers is Executive Vice President of Community Impact for the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. In this role, he is responsible for designing ways to mobilize citizens and community groups involved in building a stronger and safer community. Chris oversees the development of local and regional strategies that focus on: preparing children for school, helping youth succeed in learning, families, making families and individuals stable and economically self-sufficient and, people at risk successfully coping and living independently. Chris has lived in the Atlanta area for 19 years and holds a Ph.D. in counseling from Georgia State University. Prior to his current position, he was a psychotherapist in private practice, Executive Director of a community-based organization serving the homeless, and Vice President in charge of United Way 211. He has founded three non-profits in the Atlanta area and has published numerous articles in professional journals. In February of 2004, Chris was the senior author of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin's "The Blueprint to End Homelessness in Atlanta."



Donna Stone Buchanan is Chief Operating Officer for the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. Prior to her appointment to this position in July of 2008, she had served as president and chief staff officer for Junior Achievement of Georgia since 1993. She began her Junior Achievement (JA) career in 1979 in New Orleans, followed by several regional and national positions. In 2004, Donna was awarded the Charles R. Hook Award, which is Junior Achievement's highest national award. Both the JA Hispanic Initiative and the JA Fellows Program began with her leadership in Georgia. Donna serves on the board of the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Education Committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Consortium for Personal Financial Literacy. In addition, she is a past President of the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta and was a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2000.



Sharen Hausmann, Vice President of Early Learning, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, is recognized as an expert in child development, specifically early childhood. She has dedicated her life to improving the quality of care for all children, a crucial factor in preparing children academically and socially for future successes. As the executive director of Smart Start, the early childhood division of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, Sharen helped develop innovative programs that foster quality early learning environments and provide training for child care providers. Prior to Smart Start, Sharen served as a consultant, lecturer, teacher and trainer, empowering teachers to promote healthy growth and development in young children. She received her master's degree in child and youth care administration from Nova Southeastern University. She also took part in the Reggio Emilia Education Approach Summer Institute in Reggio Emilia, Italy and participated in the School-Age Child Care Leadership Institute of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. In addition, she is affiliated with a number of state and national early care and education professional organizations.



Katrina D. Mitchell is Senior Director in Smart Start, the early childhood division of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta (UWMA), in which she is primarily responsible for providing leadership and oversight of federally funded early literacy initiatives. Prior to assuming her role at UWMA, she served as Program Director at Literacy, Inc (LINC) and Manager in the Education & Youth Division at the National Urban League. Katrina conducts local and national training sessions for college students teaching in summer reading programs, and for education professionals who implement education programs at community-based organizations. In addition, Katrina serves as an advisory member of the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School Curriculum Committee. Katrina brings a variety of personal and professional experiences to her professional roles along with her passion for touching the lives of the children she encounters as a godparent, mentor, role model and teacher. After receiving a B.A. in English from Wellesley College, Katrina earned a masters of education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education with a special focus on language & literacy and arts in education.