



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

45th Annual CEO Awards Luncheon



Tuesday | June 11, 2024 | 11:30 AM

Atlanta Marriott Marquis | 265 Peachtree Center Ave. | Atlanta, GA 30303

CONNECTING THE WORLD IN THE AIR. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ON THE GROUND.

Proud to support the 45th Annual CEO Awards Luncheon.



KEEP CLIMBING
 DELTA 

A Message from the Board Chair and the President & CEO



Greetings:

There are people who walk among us who see obstacles yet, find ways to navigate around or conquer them.

This year we honor five who have spent their professional lives accomplishing amazing feats and living up to the theme of this year's Atlanta Business League CEO Awards Luncheon. All the people we will recognize this year are CHANGEMAKERS who turn PROBLEMS into POSSIBILITIES.

The Atlanta Business League established the CEO awards ceremony to highlight such people in 1979. Georgia-born Jimmy Carter was president of the United States, and the governor of this state was a Democrat that year. Attitudes about workforce development had started to change. But the change wasn't taking place quickly and Atlanta's first Black mayor, Maynard Jackson, had riled the status quo during his second term in office. He wanted to see more African American business owners and professionals have access to the opportunities that existed all over the metro Atlanta area.

Some leaders of that era understood that building a vibrant and sustainable community could only happen when business talent from all communities was included. The Atlanta Business League wanted to recognize these far-sighted men and women and established the CEO awards program to do so.

Atlanta has since burgeoned into an internationally known city and a place where several multinational companies have headquarters. Still, in 2024, limitations and divisive attitudes restrict workforce inclusivity. It is specifically fitting at this time to laud enterprises that utilized the wealth of Black business talent that metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia have to offer. The Atlanta Business League has always advocated the kind of social consciousness that seeks to lift all boats in the rising tide of prosperity. We have done this for more than 100 years. Few advocacy groups from any other cultural or ethnic group can make that statement.

So, it is with pride and admiration that we recognize our honorees both as corporate citizens who care about their community and as exceptional truth-tellers who understand the need for diversity in commerce. Our honorees are:

- *Keith Parker, Goodwill of North Georgia, CEO, recipient of the Herman J. Russell CEO of the Year*
- *Tharon Johnson, The Paramount Consulting Group, Founder & CEO, recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award*
- *Nikema Williams, Congresswoman Georgia's 5th District, recipient of the Catalyst Award*
- *Michael Thurmond, DeKalb County CEO, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award*
- *Eric Pinckney, President of Program Management, The Integral Group, recipient of the Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. League Leadership Award.*

We hope the stories you hear about the lives of each person will motivate you in your personal quest for goals and dreams.

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to join us and thank you for supporting the Atlanta Business League.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wilson
Board Chair

Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO



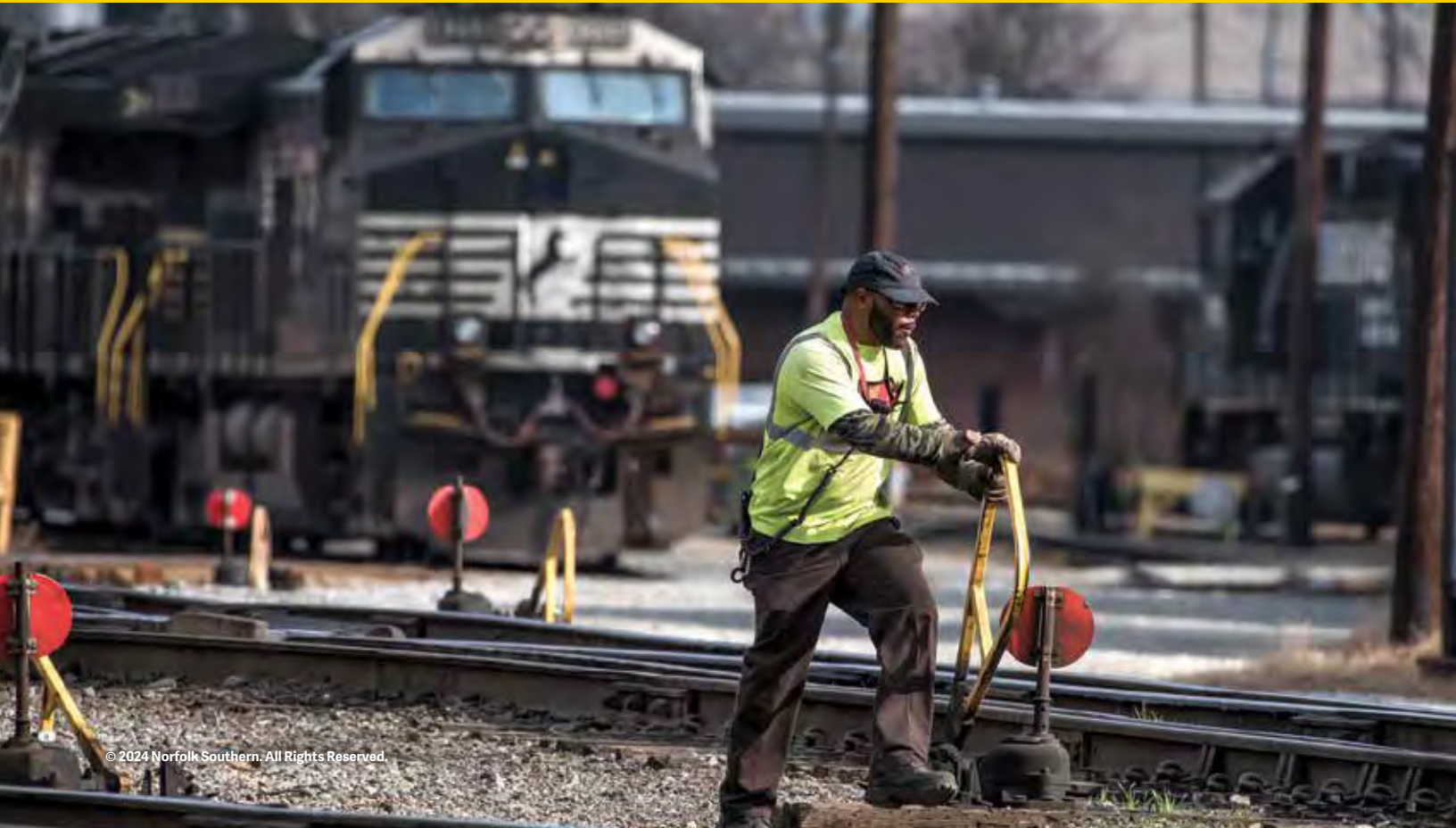


BUILDING A BETTER WORLD WITH THE POWER OF ALL

We are driven to take diversity, equity, and inclusion further.

A train runs on the strength of the people behind it. At Norfolk Southern, we run on the strength of our diversity. That's why we work with organizations like the Atlanta Business League to create a culture of respect and lay the foundation for a more inclusive tomorrow. Together, we can all achieve more.

See how we lead the way to a greater future at [NorfolkSouthern.com](https://www.norfolksouthern.com).



45TH ANNUAL CEO AWARDS CEREMONY

11:30 AM • Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Welcome..... Shon Gables
Anchor, Atlanta News First

Greeting & Acknowledgments..... Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO, Atlanta Business League

Invocation..... Rev. K.L. Alexander
Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church North

Luncheon

Awards Presentation

THOMAS W. DORTCH, JR. LEAGUE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presenter..... Andrella Kenner
Founder, CEO & President, CI² Aviation Inc.

Honoree..... **Eric Pinckney**
Legacy Principal, Integral Group, LLC

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presenter..... Al Edwards
Chief Executive Officer & President, C.E.R.M.

Honoree..... **The Honorable Michael L. Thurmond**
Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County

CATALYST AWARD

Presenter..... Valerie Nesbitt
Director Supplier Inclusion & Sustainability, Norfolk Southern

Honoree..... **The Honorable Nikema Williams**
Congresswoman, Fifth District

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presenter..... Andrew Morse
President & Publisher, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Honoree..... **Tharon Johnson**
Founder & CEO, Paramount Consultant Group

HERMAN J. RUSSELL CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presenter..... Ryan Wilson
Co-founder & CEO, The Gathering Spot

Honoree..... **Keith T. Parker**
President & CEO, Goodwill of North Georgia

Closing Remarks..... Leona Barr-Davenport

HERE, HISTORY ISN'T JUST THE PAST. HISTORY IS STILL IN THE MAKING EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Atlanta's rich heritage is deep, progressive, thriving and continuously evolving.

The culture of our city is one that few can rival with diverse, creative, innovative communities that leave lasting legacies which continue to influence the world. Atlanta has been recognized for its history and cultural offerings, named to prestigious Best Places to Travel and Best of the World lists in 2022 and 2023, and became the seventh MICHELIN Guide destination in the U.S. in 2023. Visit our site to learn more about ATL Unguided and the experiences behind these accolades.



SCAN AND DISCOVER MORE

INSPIRING

MY SWEET PEACH TELLS A STORY IN EVERY BITE

W Peaches

ATLANTA INFLUENCES EVERYTHING

ONE THING WAS TO EMBRACE THIS MELANATED OASIS.

THIS IS A TOWN WHERE VIBES TURN INTO IDEAS.

ATL UNGUIDED

WHERE LEGACY MEETS EVOLUTION

DiscoverAtlanta.com



AWARDED
BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL 2023
money.com





ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

*Dr. Booker T. Washington
Founder of the National Business League*

History of the Atlanta Business League

The Atlanta Business League (ABL) was established in 1933 as an affiliate of the National Business League, founded in 1900 by Dr. Booker T. Washington. The National Business League was committed from its inception to a strong, comprehensive program of self-help and self-sufficiency that encourages civic pride and community re-investment.

The Atlanta Business League was formed on the same premise and principles. Serving the role of minority business developer and advocate, the ABL seeks to provide economic empowerment and business development opportunities for minorities throughout the metropolitan Atlanta region. The ABL is a strong force for positive growth whose programs and initiatives have fostered business relationships that have translated to hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and new business start-ups. It serves as one voice for many small businesses, using their collective power to influence the course of events economically, politically, and socially. As challenges arise, the ABL continues to resolve them.

MISSION, GOALS & BENEFITS

Mission: The Atlanta Business League fosters the growth, creation, and development of successful business enterprises that are owned, operated, and managed by African Americans in metropolitan Atlanta.

Goals:

- Implement programs that promote the development of African-American business and entrepreneurship
- Develop and implement initiatives that support African-American businesses
- Implement programs that promote increased access to business opportunities and capital
- Encourage the support and patronage of businesses owned by African Americans

Benefits:

- Affiliation with a well-networked, business development organization that advocates on behalf of minority-owned businesses
- Networking opportunities during Business Power Forums, Business Enrichment Seminars and events
- Weekly News Exchange with information for and about member businesses and our corporate partners
- Educational training opportunities for business owners and staff
- Marketing and promotion of member businesses, via the ABL website
- Special discounts and more



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WCLK



WE ARE THE JAZZ OF THE CITY – WCLK.COM

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY



2024 CEO Awards Luncheon Sponsors

Presenting



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Media Sponsors

American Technologies
Atlanta News First
NK Divisions
The Atlanta Inquirer
The Atlanta Voice

Audio/visual Sponsors

A1 Audio Visual

Here's to the



CHANGE MAKERS



MOLD BREAKERS



TRAILBLAZERS

Congratulations to the 2024 Atlanta Business League CEO Award Honorees.

kp.org





CEO AWARDS CATEGORIES

HERMAN J. RUSSELL CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD is the most prestigious recognition any CEO can receive. This award recognizes the true measure of a CEO's success -- commitment and fairness to people -- while maximizing shareholder profits. In today's world, that is very challenging. The CEO of the Year has an unparalleled commitment to fairness as demonstrated by his/her commitment to minority business enterprise programs even when it is unpopular amongst many of his/her corporate colleagues.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD (formerly referred to as Corporation of the Year) recognizes an outstanding minority business owner who is a proven leader within his/her industry which is evidenced by financial success and commitment to community service. Business savvy and tenacity are key components of this CEO's success.

TRAIL BLAZER AWARD recognizes an individual who has demonstrated pioneering attributes in providing opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises and the minority community at large; has reached the top in his/her profession; and has made an impression on the Atlanta community through business and civic leadership.

CATALYST AWARD recognizes the contributions of an elected official for his/her effort in enhancing opportunities for minority businesses. The Atlanta Business League understands and appreciates the personal sacrifice people working to serve the public make and recognizes the vision and unwavering dedication needed to be successful in that role.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD recognizes an individual who has distinguished him/herself as both a community and civic leader in Atlanta and throughout the nation.

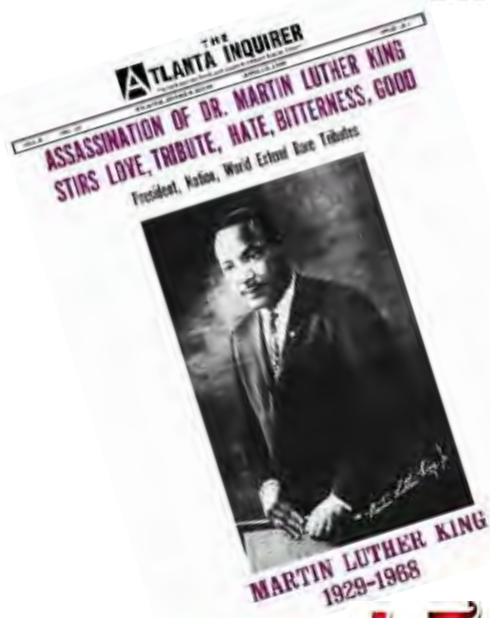
THOMAS W. DORTCH, JR. LEAGUE LEADERSHIP AWARD is the ultimate badge of honor for an Atlanta Business League member. This award recognizes the ABL volunteer who continuously makes significant contributions to the mission and goals of the League.

VISIONS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD recognizes an individual within our community who is committed to a vision for Atlanta and surrounding communities. It is a vision of harmony and safety and is responsive to the needs of all citizens with fair and just economic parity. To understand this, one must be able to envision the dream -- believe it possible -- and be an active participant & developer in the realization of it.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD allows the ABL leader to share thoughts about why a particular person or institution should be recognized for the good things they have done to impact the community at large.



The Atlanta Inquirer newspaper
Celebrates



45th

Annual CEO Awards Luncheon

CONGRATULATIONS TO ABL 2024 HONOREES



Hon. Nikema N. Williams

Catalyst Award



Hon. Michael L. Thurmond

Distinguished Service Award



Tharon Johnson

Entrepreneur of the Year Award



Keith T. Parker

Herman J. Russell
CEO of the Year Award



Eric L. Pinckney

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.
League Leadership Award



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

PARTNERS FOR CORPORATE GROWTH

Companies committed to the growth and development of minority-owned businesses.



Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. League Leadership



Eric Pinckney
Legacy Principal
The Integral Group

Eric Pinckney is a legacy principal at The Integral Group (Integral), an Atlanta-based, mission driven real estate development and investment management firm. He came to Atlanta, GA to study Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. While pursuing his undergraduate degree, he was tutored youth and assisted the resident association, further encouraging his lifelong commitment to developing the proverbial African village. "It takes a village to raise a child."

Pinckney volunteered as a tutor and coach to children at Techwood/Clark Howell Homes, a nearby housing project in 1980. His witness of the negative effects of gentrification in Boston led him to advise residents to reject offers from real estate developers because he believed the best way to build sustainable communities was to create villages like the one he experienced in Roxbury.

After graduating, Pinckney spent the first three years of his career in mechanical engineering in Orlando and Chicago, before returning to Atlanta in 1989. He returned to find a different community. By 1990, 30313, the zip code for Georgia Tech and Techwood Homes, was the most violent zip code in America. It is under this backdrop that Pinckney, coached by Dr. Norman Johnson, PhD, sought to find innovative ways to rebuild communities.

After Dr. Johnson introduced Pinckney to Egbert Perry, Pinckney learned that real estate development could recreate economic diversity that had existed before the age of the outlawing of racial segregation. He then changed his educational focus to make his passion for building functioning communities into a profession. He then pursued a master's degree in City Planning from Georgia's Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, Pinckney was hired by Integral, where he has spent 30 years developing economically sustainable communities.

Throughout his 30-year career, Pinckney led neighborhood revitalization projects in Richmond, VA., Baltimore, MD., Washington, DC, Memphis, TN and Denver, CO. In 2002, he was named Vice President of Operations for Integral's development division. During that time, his dream of creating sustainable neighborhoods was becoming a reality for families and businesses all over the country.

He credits mentorship from Dr. Johnson, Perry, and Renee Glover, former president, and chief executive officer of the Atlanta Housing Authority, for helping him and Integral create some of the most successful and transformative residential developments in the nation.

Some of Pinckney's notable projects include the City of Atlanta's Olympic Legacy Program, Assembly at Doraville, Microsoft's acquisition of Quarry Yards. He is currently working with the 2 Peachtree Street project team towards the revitalization of Downtown Atlanta's Five Points district.

Pinckney earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a master's degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology. As a husband and father of two sons, Pinckney remains committed to building sustainable communities through his work and service on several boards, including the Atlanta Business League, Arthur Blank Family Youth YMCA, The Ascent Project, Commitment to Excellence, The Alliance at Cook Park, GTFCA, and Trustee for Central United Methodist Church. Pinckney is an active, life-member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

THE ATLANTA
VOICE

*Honoring the Legacy
of
The Black Press*

“A People Without A Voice Cannot Be Heard”

The Atlanta Voice’s mission is to help shape the narrative about the African American diaspora by producing and distributing compelling content across multiple platforms that will change and guide the world’s view of what it truly means to be Black in America



SEE MORE ONLINE
www.TheAtlantaVoice.com

Distinguished Service



The Hon. Michael Thurmond
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County

Michael L. Thurmond won a 2016 landslide victory to become chief executive officer of DeKalb County, one of the most diverse counties in the Southeast. Since his Jan. 1, 2017 swearing-in, Thurmond's primary mission is restoring trust in county government. His other priorities include adopting a balanced budget, ensuring accurate water bills, removing blight, offering summer youth employment, improving employee compensation, and fulfilling the federal/state sewer consent agreement.

Thurmond, a former member of the Georgia General Assembly and the first African-American elected to a statewide office without prior appointment, is widely regarded as a "turnaround expert" after fundamentally transforming the culture and enhancing operations of complex organizations such as the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Labor and the DeKalb County School District.

As superintendent of DeKalb schools, Thurmond is credited with stabilizing the system during a governance crisis, upgrading its threatened accreditation, eliminating a multimillion-dollar deficit, and improving student academic performance and graduation rates.

Thurmond was raised as a sharecropper's son in Clarke County, Georgia. He graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Paine College and later earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina's School of Law. He also completed the Political Executives program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In 1986, he became the first African-American elected to the Georgia General Assembly from Clarke County since Reconstruction. During his legislative tenure, Thurmond authored major legislation that provided more than \$250 million in tax relief to Georgia's senior citizens and working families.

Thurmond received a gubernatorial appointment to lead the state Division of Family and Children Services and direct Georgia's historic transition from welfare to work. He created the innovative Work First program, which helped more than 90,000 welfare-dependent Georgia families move from dependence into the workforce.

In 1997, Thurmond became a distinguished lecturer at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The following year, he was elected Georgia labor commissioner.

During his three terms as labor commissioner, Thurmond's most significant achievement was the construction of a \$20 million school for children with disabilities at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

Thurmond's latest book, *Freedom: Georgia's Antislavery Heritage, 1733-1865*, was awarded the Georgia Historical Society's Lilla Hawes Ward. In 2004, The Georgia Center for the Book listed *Freedom* as one of The 25 Books All Georgians Should Read. He serves on the University of Georgia Libraries Board of Visitors. He is married to Zola Fletcher Thurmond, and they have one daughter, Mikaya.



CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY AGENCY, Inc.

...keeping business communities safe since 1972...

Employment Opportunities Available for Qualified Applicants

• Accepting New Clients •

Atlanta, Georgia 30305 • Office 404-888-0801

www.ConfidentialSecurityAgency.net

Catalyst of the Year



The Hon. Nikema Williams
Congress Woman
Georgia's 5th District

Congresswoman Nikema Williams has been a fierce advocate for social justice, women and families throughout her political and professional career.

As a Member of Congress, Congresswoman Williams continues to uplift the legacy of her mentor and predecessor, Congressman John Lewis, by fighting to prevent voter suppression and expand free and fair access to the ballot box. She always centers the voices of those who are most marginalized. She brings this concern to Congress having seen firsthand how women and people of color continue to fight for racial and social justice in our country.

Congresswoman Williams was elected as the Freshman Class President for the 117th Congress. As President, she organized and advanced the interests of her Freshmen Democratic colleagues to fulfill their oath to work for the people. She has membership in several caucuses including the Congressional Black Caucus, Democratic Women's Caucus, Congressional Progressive Caucus, Voting Rights Caucus, LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus and the HBCU Caucus.

Congresswoman Williams has a passion for a number of legislative issues including voting rights, reproductive justice, social justice, economic justice and healthcare—her work addresses delivering on the promise of America for all.

Congresswoman Williams has a history of advancing the issues that matter to Georgians and underserved people across the country, regardless of their bank account or ZIP code. Before her congressional service, Congresswoman Williams served in the Georgia State Senate. As a State Senator, Williams got in the "Good Trouble" Congressman Lewis spoke about. In the wake of the disastrous 2018 Georgia elections, marked with rampant voter suppression, she was arrested at the Georgia State Capitol while peacefully protesting with her constituents, demanding that every vote be counted.

Congresswoman Williams was born in Columbus, GA and raised by her grandparents in Smiths Station, Alabama. She attended Talladega College – a liberal arts Historically Black College (HBCU) in Talladega, Alabama – where she was initiated into Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Congresswoman Williams has been recognized as one of Georgia Trend magazine's 100 Most Influential Georgians, Forty under Forty, Power 30 Under 30, Outstanding Atlanta, and Who's Who in Black Atlanta. As State Senator, she received the Freshman Legislator of the Year award from the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and the 2020 Pinnacle Leadership Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Recently, she was awarded the ACLU of Georgia's Dare to Create – Liberty Award.

Congresswoman Williams and her husband, Leslie Small, reside in Atlanta with their son, Carter.



Building a Stronger Atlanta, with HOPE.

At HOPE, we're dedicated to transforming communities with financial literacy.

Since 1992, Operation HOPE has been promoting financial dignity through financial literacy for communities throughout the U.S. Working with strategic corporate, financial, government and community partners, we help power access to the American dream through access to education and opportunity.

Together, we are creating a safer, stronger Atlanta — one client, business, homeowner, and neighborhood at a time.



Entrepreneur of the Year



Tharon Johnson
Founder and CEO
Paramount Consulting Group

Tharon Johnson is the founder and CEO of Paramount Consulting Group, a full service, bipartisan government affairs and communications firm based in Atlanta, serving clients in the corporate and political sectors.

A nationally recognized political strategist and trusted community leader, Tharon appears each week on Fox 5 Atlanta's longest-running public affairs program, "The Georgia Gang" and on 90.1 WABE-FM's popular "Political Breakfast" podcast, ranked among the top 40 political podcasts nationally. He is also the author of the award-winning column "Red, Blue, and You," which can be found monthly in Georgia Trend magazine.

Tharon advises elected officials at the highest levels of government. Most recently he served as a senior advisor to the Biden-Harris campaign in the battleground state of Georgia. He has served at senior levels of federal, state, and local campaigns, including for President Barack Obama, Congressman John Lewis, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Congressman John Barrow and DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond.

He appears regularly as a key contributor on news shows, including CNN, MSNBC and Atlanta's WSB-TV, providing timely insights on political developments at the national, state and local levels. He also is frequently quoted in Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Politico, Roll Call, The Hill and other notable publications.

Tharon was named both a "Top Lobbyist" and one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Georgians" by James Magazine. The magazine has also repeatedly recognized Paramount Consulting Group as one of Georgia's top small, non-law firm affiliated lobbying firms. He was also named one of Atlanta's most powerful leaders in 2023 and Atlanta Business League's entrepreneur of the year for 2024. He was the youngest and first African American to receive the "Campaign Manager of the Year" distinction from the American Association of Political Consultants. In addition to his political honors, Tharon was also awarded the "Unsung Hero Award" by his alma mater Clark Atlanta University for outstanding contributions in Arts & Sciences. His board positions include the Atlanta Beltline Partnership, John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation, Leadership Atlanta, First Tee Metro Atlanta, Clark Atlanta University, and Atlanta Ballet.

Tharon is married to dermatologist Dr. Chynna Johnson, who owns and manages her own practice with offices in Atlanta and Alpharetta. They have two young sons, Tyeson and Tatum.

Paramount Consulting Group specializes in government affairs, lobbying, campaign strategy and communications. Leveraging deep relationships from across the aisle, the firm supports clients through a variety of complex needs, providing strategic guidance and solutions that drive results.



THE
ATLANTA BRAVES
 ARE PROUD
 TO SUPPORT THE
ATLANTA BUSINESS
LEAGUE



Celebrating
Eric Pinckney

Eric's unassuming style and quiet determination has allowed him to strategically forge partnerships that have quietly caused a revolution in the heart of American cities. His passion for people and relentless pursuit of excellence and community empowerment has transformed the lives of many. Eric's unwavering dedication brings light to the forgotten corners.



www.Integral-Online.com



We provide customized grant writing solutions to help you **think** through grant strategies and **ink** competitive grant applications.

We specialize in foundation, local, state and federal grants supporting **women, children, health and education.**

Think and Ink Grants is a DBE/MBE Certified firm

Visit thinkandinkgrants.com today to get started.



1-800-503-6743
info@thinkandinkgrants.com
 309 East Paces Ferry Road NE STE 400, Atlanta, GA 30305

Herman J. Russell CEO of the Year



Keith T. Parker
President and Chief Executive Officer
Goodwill of North Georgia

Keith T. Parker, a seasoned executive with a rich history of board service and CEO experience, is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Goodwill of North Georgia (GNG). GNG, one of the largest retail and nonprofit organizations in the southeast, operates across a 45-county territory with 69 stores, 49 attended donation centers, and 14 career centers.

Parker's leadership has been instrumental in GNG's success, employing over 3,000 team members who play a direct or supporting role in the organization's operations. Annually, GNG serves more than 7 million shoppers and, through the revenue generated in its stores, trains and connects tens of thousands of North Georgians to employment annually. This has established GNG as the #1 Goodwill in the nation for connecting people to jobs among its 158 affiliates.

Before his tenure at GNG, which began in October 2017, Parker served as CEO of the largest transit systems in several cities, including San Antonio, Charlotte, and most recently, Atlanta. His five-year leadership at the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) transformed it from a beleaguered transit agency with major budget deficits and public image issues into a fiscally sound, award-winning organization.

Parker's leadership roles have not been limited to executive positions. He has a long history of service to nonprofit, charitable, and corporate boards. He remains active and engaged with the Rotary Club of Atlanta, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Fire & Rescue Foundation, Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, Learn4Life, and Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

On a national level, Parker serves on several prominent boards including The Eno Center for Transportation while having served on National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), to which he was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2016. On the corporate side, Parker serves on the Fifth Third Bank Advisory Board as well as the VHB Architecture and Engineering Board of Directors. Recently, Parker began his tenure on the board of Directors at Wellstar Health System, a hybrid corporate and nonprofit board.

Parker's commitment to his alma mater, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), is notable. He received the VCU Alumni Star Award in 2015, followed by successive appointments to the VCU Board of Visitors by Governor Terry McAuliffe (2016) and Governor Ralph Northam (2020). More recently, Parker was unanimously elected Rector and Chairman of the VCU Board of Visitors, further highlighting his board leadership experience.

Throughout his career, Parker has received numerous awards and accolades as a transformational leader and transportation visionary. He has won multiple CEO awards in multiple states and was recognized as the nation's Outstanding Public Transportation Manager by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) in 2015. In 2023, Parker was selected to be added to the Titan 100 Hall of Fame.

Parker and his wife are natives of Virginia and have 3 children. He holds an MBA from the University of Richmond.

Congratulations!

CEO MICHAEL THURMOND



DeKalb County congratulates CEO Michael Thurmond for providing transformational leadership to move DeKalb County forward!



DeKalb County
GEORGIA



DEKALBCOUNTYGA.GOV

(404) 371-2000

@ITSINDEKALB

2024 CEO Awards Luncheon Selection Committee



Al Edwards - Chief Executive Officer & President, C.E.R.M.



Tiffany Callaway Ferrell - Vice President of Operations, Atlanta Gas Light & Chattanooga Gas Company



Daryll H. Griffin - President, Accolades, Inc.



Milton H. Jones - Founding Member, Peachtree Providence Partners, LLC



Andrella Kenner - Founder, CEO & President, CI² Aviation, Inc.



C. David Moody - President & CEO, C.D. Moody Construction Company



Erica Qualls-Batthey - Area General Manager, Marriott International, Atlanta Marriott Marquis



Ryan Wilson - CEO & Co-founder, The Gathering Spot



Atlanta Business League Staff and Contributors

- Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO
- Terrisita Terry, Director of Operations
- Quentin White, Client Services Manager
- Ebony Williams, Administrative Assistant
- Marti Covington, Executive Producer
- Owen Montague, IT Consultant
- Reggie Tolbert, Graphic Design



ANF
ATLANTA NEWS FIRST

**FIRST ALERT
WEATHER**

**YOU RELY ON ACCURATE
FORECASTS TO
SUCCEED**



SO DO WE

ATLANTA'S MOST ACCURATE

10 YEARS IN A ROW
CERTIFIED INDEPENDENTLY BY

WeatheRate





ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

BUSINESS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR SERIES

The Atlanta Business League utilizes the Business Enrichment Seminar Series (BESS) to provide its members with educational experiences, training, and consulting that provide members with significant opportunities for personal and individual business growth.

BUSINESS POWER FORUM

The Atlanta Business League Business Power Forum (BPF) is an educational gathering where attendees can hear from successful local and national entrepreneurs, CEOs of major corporations, and leaders of key Atlanta organizations. Attendees learn from the experiences of these seasoned business professionals and gain valuable tips while also enjoying networking with the speakers and other ABL members.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Atlanta Business League (ABL) recognizes local chief executive officers (CEOs) for outstanding participation in minority vendor development and community activities. These CEOs are recognized, in part, for their vital support of the ABL's work of promoting economic equality for minority-owned enterprises.

CONGRESS ON THE STATE OF BLACK BUSINESS

The Atlanta Business League collaborates with other key organizations to host the Congress on the State of Black Business in metro Atlanta. The Congress is a forum for reviewing the current economic outlook, showcasing business opportunities, and creating networking opportunities.

MEN OF INFLUENCE RECEPTION & INDUCTION CEREMONY

Each year the Atlanta Business League releases its list of Atlanta's most Influential Black Men during a reception and induction ceremony. These "Men of Influence" have demonstrated their commitment to the citizens of metro Atlanta by maintaining significant involvement and participation in community and civic activities.

WOMEN OF VISION BREAKFAST

The Atlanta Business League published its inaugural list of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence" in 1994. The WOV Breakfast provides an educational opportunity for individuals at all levels, from students to corporate

executives, to meet and interact with women in leading positions throughout metro Atlanta.

SUPER TUESDAY CONFERENCE

The Atlanta Business League provides workshops and training for participants and recognizes African-American female business owners and professionals from all walks of life. Super Tuesday Conference attendees are primarily business owners and professionals, especially women, from throughout the metro Atlanta community.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Atlanta Business League Annual Meeting serves as a yearly recap that recognizes the achievements that the ABL and its members have made throughout the year. The event also recognizes African American-owned businesses that have been in operation continuously for 25 years or more and holds an induction ceremony to enter them into the ABL Business Hall of Fame.

STUDENT BUSINESS SHADOW PROJECT

The ABL provides high school juniors and seniors with hands-on, real-world access to African-American business owners and their companies to encourage them to explore careers in business. The Student Business Shadow Project (SBSP) provides the students with exposure to professionals in corporate America as well as minority business owners and their employees.

ABL CARES

The ABL CARES initiative is a coordinated effort to channel the financial and volunteer resources of ABL members and their associates to benefit the Atlanta metro community.

TUESDAY TALKS WITH ABL CEOs

The Tuesday Talks with ABL CEOs allows members to meet with metro Atlanta CEOs and community leaders in small group settings. The Tuesday Talks are quarterly, 90-minute roundtables that are typically held at the office of the host CEO. During the talks, CEOs engage ABL members in a candid exchange of ideas and information.

THE BRIDGE

The (ABL) Bridge consists of young entrepreneurs and professionals aged 21 to 40. It connects the existing ABL structure to a new wave of younger entrepreneurs through programming that is focused on their needs.



Atlanta Business League
 931 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW
 Atlanta, Georgia 30314
 (Office) 404-584-8126
 (Fax) 404-584-0445



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____/_____/_____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Web site address: _____ NAICS Code(s): _____

Name of CEO/President/Owner: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

Title: _____

Product/Service: _____

(As it would be listed in the "Yellow Pages")

Ownership: Minority Majority

Type of Business: Services Retail Manufacturer Wholesaler
 Government Non-Profit Other-Specify: _____

Revenue: \$1-\$250K \$250K-\$500K \$500K-\$1 Million \$1 Million +

Year Business Started: _____

of Employees: 1-5 6-10 11-20 21-50 51-100 100 +

Age of Applicant: 1900-1945 1946-1964 1965-1980 1981-→

Method of Payment: Check Master Card Visa American Express

Account #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____ Credit/Debit Card CVV Code: _____

✓	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	REVENUE	DUES	Memberships Incl.
	Corporate Business	> \$5 Million	\$2,500.00	2
	Mid-size Business	> \$1 Million, < \$5 Million	\$1,500.00	1
	Small Business	< \$1 Million	\$1000.00	1
	Associate/Individual	N/A	\$250.00	1
	Student	N/A	\$50.00 (with student ID)	1

Write the number of additional company representatives:

- Additional company representative: \$150.00 per rep.

Name: _____

Please return the completed application with your check, payable to **Atlanta Business League**, for membership dues to:
Atlanta Business League, P.O. Box 92363 Atlanta, Georgia, 30314, Attn: **Membership**

Make your mark

Let's innovate and shape
our community for a better
tomorrow, together.



OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE:
PARTNER | VENDOR | SPONSOR
SPEAKING | ADVERTISING

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

