



“Moving Black Business Forward: Systems, Structure, and Success”

THE 18TH ANNUAL CONGRESS ON THE STATE OF BLACK BUSINESS IN METRO ATLANTA



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025
8:00AM-3:00PM**

Atlanta Metropolitan State College
1630 Metropolitan Parkway, SW • Atlanta, GA 30319

PROGRAM AGENDA

7:30 AM

Event Check-In and Exhibits

8:00 AM

Breakfast

8:25 AM

Welcome

- Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO, Atlanta Business League



Leona Barr-Davenport

8:29 AM

Invocation

- Rev. Sean Smith, Pastor, New Horizon Baptist Church/Senior Advisor for Faith Affairs, City of Atlanta



Rev. Sean Smith

8:30 AM

Introduction of State of Black Business Outlook Speakers

- Congress Chairman – Al Edwards, President & CEO, CERM



Al Edwards

8:35-9:00 AM

Outlook on Infrastructure, Workforce & Small Business in Metro Atlanta & Across the Country

- Anna Roach, President & CEO, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Shelton A. Russell, Publisher, American DBE Magazine



Anna Roach



Shelton A. Russell

9:05-10:05 AM

Regional Leadership Outlook

- Honorable Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, CEO, DeKalb County
- Honorable Nicole Love Hendrickson, Chairwoman, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
- Stacey Key, President and CEO, Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council
- Steven Parker, Chief of Staff, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
- Ricky Smith, General Manager, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Moderator: Heather Fatzinger, President & CEO, Full Circle Communications, Inc.



Honorable Lorraine Cochran-Johnson



Honorable Nicole Love Hendrickson



Stacey Key



Steven Parker



Ricky Smith



Heather Fatzinger

10:10-10:25 AM

Visit Exhibits and Interviews

**** CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS ****

10:30-11:30 AM

INFRASTRUCTURE

Laying the Foundation: Connecting Black Enterprise to Infrastructure Opportunities

- Michelle Arnold, Pre-Construction Division Director – Program Delivery , Gwinnett County Department of Transportation
- Yolanda Broome, Deputy Commissioner, City of Atlanta, Department of Watershed Management
- Ernest Ellis, President & CEO, FS 360, LLC
- Kimberly A. King, Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Georgia Department of Transportation
- Kenyata Smiley, President , Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

Moderator: Derrick Vincent, PE, Vice President, GA Transportation Client Account Manager, Jacobs



Michelle Arnold



Yolanda Broome



Ernest Ellis



Kimberly A. King



Kenyata Smiley



Derrick Vincent

PROCUREMENT

Unlocking the Pipeline: Procurement Leaders on Opportunity, Equity, and Impact

- Michelle Butler, Chief Procurement Officer / Director, DeKalb County Government | Department of Purchasing & Contracting
- Maria Roux, Chief Procurement Officer, Georgia Department of Transportation
- Jaliz Williams, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Clayton County, GA Government

Moderator: Bruce Bell, Owner/President , Atlanta Business Consulting Group, LLC



Michelle Butler



Maria Roux



Jaliz Williams



Bruce Bell

WORKFORCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Bridging the Skills Gap

- Dr. Irvin Clark, President, Southern Crescent Technical College
- Corliss Davenport, Ed. S., Director, ATL Workforce Programs, Office Administration, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- Dr. Patricia Ford, Principal, South Atlanta High School
- Nancy Flake Johnson, CEO & President, Urban League Of Greater Atlanta
- Dr. Victoria Seals, President, Atlanta Technical College
- Heidi Schneider, Deputy Program Manager, Gresham Smith

Moderator: Keith Parker, President & CEO, Goodwill of North Georgia



Dr. Irvin Clark



Corliss Davenport



Dr. Patricia Ford



Nancy Flake
Johnson



Dr. Victoria Seals



Heidi Schneider



Keith Parker

GLOBAL TRADE

Imports, Exports, and Tariffs

- Jennifer Barbosa, CEO, International Supply Partners
- SirDarryl Roundtree, CEO, Zip Ship USA
- Roosevelt Giles, President & CEO, Endpoint Ventures, LLC
- Carl Humphrey, CEO, Yachtmen Trading Company

Moderator: Shaquana Teasley, CEO, Agate Solutions



Jennifer Barbosa



SirDarryl Roundtree



Roosevelt Giles



Carl Humphrey



Shaquana Teasley

11:30-12:15 PM

Visit Exhibits and Interviews

12:15-12:45 PM

Lunch: Greetings, and Remarks

- Congress Chairman – Al Edwards, President & CEO, CERM
- President - Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D., Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- ABL Chair Elect – Eric Pinckney, Principal, The Integral Group



Al Edwards



Ingrid Thompson-Sellers



Eric Pinckney

12:45-2:15 PM

ENERGY

Fueled and Energized for Growth: Empowering Businesses Through Energy Opportunities

- Walt Farrell, President and CEO, Atlanta Gas Light & Chattanooga Gas Company
- Julia Settles, Diversity Business Manager, Transmission & Distribution Atlanta, Burns & McDonnell
- Glenda Thomas, CEO, Electra Grid & Electra Lines

Moderator: Tiffany Callaway Ferrell, Vice President, Operations, Atlanta Gas Light & Chattanooga Gas Company



Walt Farrell



Julia Settles



Glenda Thomas



Tiffany Callaway
Ferrell

2:15-2:45 PM

Audience Q&A

2:45-3:00 PM

Closing Remarks

18th Annual Congress Planning Committee

Honorary Chair: Anna Roach, President & CEO, Atlanta Regional Commission

Chair: Al Edwards, President & CEO, CERM

Co-Chairs: - Heather Fatzinger, President & CEO, Full Circle Communications, Inc.

- Tiffany Callaway Ferrell, VP of Operations, Atlanta Gas Light & Chattanooga Gas
- Nykita Hurt, Diversity Program Manager, HNTB
- Julia T. Settles, Business Diversity Manager, SE Region, Burns & McDonnell
- Lawrence Sharp, Owner & Broker, Lawrence Sharp Realtors, LLC
- Shaquana Teasley, Founder & CEO, Agate Solutions, LLC

Collaborative Partners:

Atlanta Black Chambers (ABC)

Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)

Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC)

National Association Of Minority Contractors (NAMC)



2025 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MONTH	DATE	TIME	TITLE	LOCATION
JANUARY	28	6:00 PM	BOARD INSTALLATION CEREMONY	Atlanta Technical College
FEBRUARY	20	6:00 PM-7:30 PM	BRIDGE PROGRAM: TOWN HALL MEETING	The Gathering Spot
MARCH	25	6:00 PM-7:30 PM	BRIDGE PROGRAM; ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS	Atlanta Technical College
MAY	22	12:30 AM-2:30 PM	46th ANNUAL CEO AWARDS LUNCHEON *	Marriott Marquis
JUNE	9	8:00 AM—3:00 PM	STUDENT BUSINESS SHADOW PROGRAM BEGINS	Atlanta Technical College
JUNE	18	11:30-AM-12:30 PM	BUSINESS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR SERIES; <i>DOING BUSINESS WITH DELTA AIR LINES AND NORFOLK SOUTHERN.</i>	ONLINE
JUNE	24	8:00 AM-3:00PM	18th ANNUAL CONGRESS ON STATE OF BLACK BUSINESS IN METRO ATLANTA *	Atlanta Metropolitan State College
JULY	18	8:00 AM-3:00 PM	STUDENT BUSINESS SHADOW PROGRAM: ENDS	Atlanta Technical College
JULY	22	6:00PM– 7:30 PM	STUDENT BUSINESS SHADOW PROJECT: GRADUATION CEREMONY	Atlanta Technical College
AUGUST	26	6:00 PM	19th ANNUAL MEN OF INFLUENCE RECEPTION & INDUCTION CEREMONY *	Hyatt Regency
SEPTEMBER	10	8:30 AM-11:30 AM	BUSINESS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR SERIES; DOING BUSINESS WITH MARTA	Atlanta Technical
OCTOBER	6	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	42nd ANNUAL SUPER TUESDAY CONFERENCE & 28th ANNUAL WOMEN OF VISION BREAKFAST *	Marriott Marquis
NOVEMBER	TBD	6:00 PM	92ND ANNUAL MEETING *	TBD
NOVEMBER	TBD	6:00 PM	ABL TAKE YOUR BUSINESS 2 THE NEXT LEVEL! GRADUATION	TBD

Select events listed occur repeatedly throughout the calendar year, and are complimentary to ABL members. The ABL will send out email notifications regarding the specific time and location for each event. Please contact the ABL should you have questions.

**Fee-based event with reduced rates to ABL members*

Atlanta Business League
 931 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, NW | P.O. Box 92363
 Atlanta, GA 30314
 (404) 584-8126 | Office ♦ (404) 584-0445 | Fax



Board of Directors

2025 BOARD OFFICERS



CHAIR
Andrella Kenner
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
CI² Aviation, Inc.



CHAIR-ELECT
Eric Pinckney
Principal
Commercial Real Estate Division
The Integral Group



TREASURER
Gretchen Fuller
President
Warner Fuller Consulting, LLC



ASSISTANT TREASURER
Michael V. Smith
Partner, Assurance Services
Ernst & Young, LLP



SECRETARY
Heather Fatzinger
President & CEO
Full Circle Communications, Inc.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Nykita Hurt
Program Manager
Diversity Programs
HNTB Corporation



IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Ryan Wilson
CEO & Co-Founder
The Gathering Spot

2025 VICE CHAIRS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Elaine Armstrong
Vice President of Marketing
Goodwill of North Georgia



Dawn Arnold
Executive VP & COO
Invest Atlanta



Shannon Brown
Chief Executive Officer
ActionLogics



Pat Dixon
Attorney
Dixon and Dixon
Attorneys at Law, LLC



Albert G. Edwards
Chief Executive Officer
& President
CERM



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



Dr. Georgette Fraser-Moore
President & CEO
Transformation Lead, LLC



Chris Goode
Managing Partner
Goode Van Slyke Architecture



Kevin Gordon
System Vice President
Supply Chain
Grady Health System



Shawn M. Graham, CPA
EVP, Chief Administrative Officer
Russell Innovation Center
for Entrepreneurship



Todd Gray
National Director
Supplier Diversity NFS
Kaiser Permanente



Michael Griffin
Director of Marketing
Accolades, Inc.



Valerie Nesbitt
Director of Supplier Inclusion
and Sustainability
Norfolk Southern Corporation



Dionne Moore Peasant
CEO
Meat Masters, Inc.



Lawrence Sharp
Broker, Owner
Lawrence Sharp Realtors, LLC



Rodney Strong
CEO
Griffin & Strong, P.C.



Dr. Kimberly West
CEO
Magnum Opus Consulting



Milton Jones, Jr.
Chair, ABL Foundation
Founding Member
Peachtree Providence Partners, LLC



Tashwanda Pinchback Dixon
ABL General Counsel
Partner
Balch & Bingham LLP



Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO
Atlanta Business League

2025 ABL CONGRESS SPONSORS

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



INVESTOR

Atlas

CHAMPION

HNTB Corporation
Turner & Townsend Heery

MEDIA



Interested in Membership?

