



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

CEO Awards Overview

Each year the Atlanta Business League (ABL) recognizes local chief executive officers (CEO) for outstanding participation in minority vendor development and community activities. The honors we confer are based in part on the willingness of extremely busy executives to take on work vital to carrying forward the agenda of the Atlanta Business League and the business community, which is establishing and building economic equality for minority enterprises.

We originally started this event as a means to increase corporate involvement with the League and to create greater awareness of the many successful and accomplished Black business owners. Through experience and input of the membership we now work to recognize those individuals who put forth time energy and resources for the betterment of the Atlanta community and the inclusion of all Atlanta's citizenry, particularly minority entrepreneurs, in the economic mainstream of our great city.

By honoring these individuals, we also recognize the companies and organizations they represent and their many contributions and efforts on behalf of metropolitan Atlanta.

For the past thirty (30) years, we have had the opportunity to salute those CEOs within our community who work each day to ensure that historically underutilized businesses participate in the economic mainstream of Corporate America. ABL has recognized several professionals who have made significant contributions to this effort. In doing so we also recognize the "Changing of the Guard" --- a change to bold leadership, young leadership descendants of our business forefathers, leadership which recognizes the need for innovative and creativity that affords every access to the "American Dream." Each person honored represents such leadership --- Leadership for Atlanta's future.

In addition to CEOs the Atlanta Business League has recognized a number of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in the development of minority business in the metro Atlanta area.

The Atlanta Business League is the South's oldest and most influential minority business development and advocacy organization. Formed in 1933, the Atlanta Business League seeks to provide economic empowerment and business development opportunities for minorities throughout the metro Atlanta community with specific emphasis on the development of African-American businesses.



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE **Awards Categories**

CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD is the most prestigious recognition any CEO can receive. This award recognizes the true measure of a CEOs' 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 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 industry which is evidenced by financial success and commitment to community service. Business savvy and tenacity are key components of this CEOs' 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 business. The Atlanta Business League understands and appreciates the personal sacrifice people working to serve the public make and recognize the vision and unwavering dedication needed to be successful in that role.

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

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 vision of harmony, safety and is responsive to the needs of all citizens with fair and just economic parity. In order 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.

ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE CEO AWARD HONOREES 1981 – 2009

CEO OF THE YEAR

| | | |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 2009 | Robert L. Fornaro | AirTran Holdings, Inc. |
| 2008 | Philip I. Kent | Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. |
| 2007 | E. Neville Isdell | The Coca-Cola Company |
| 2006 | F. Duane Ackerman | BellSouth Corporation |
| 2005 | David Ratcliffe | Southern Company |
| 2004 | Paula Rosput | AGL Resources |
| 2003 | Roy Barnes | Former Governor, State of Georgia |
| 2002 | Herman Russell, Sr. | H.J. Russell & Company |
| 2001 | Egbert Perry | The Integral Group |
| 2000 | Roger S. Kintzel | Atlanta Journal-Constitution |
| 1999 | H. Allen Franklin | Georgia Power |
| 1998 | A.D. "Pete" Correll | Georgia Pacific Corporation |
| 1997 | James Leintz | NationsBank of Georgia |
| 1996 | William "Billy" Payne | Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games |
| 1995 | G. Joseph Prendergast | Wachovia Bank of Georgia |
| 1994 | A.W. "Bill" Dahlberg | The Southern/Georgia Power Company |
| 1993 | Lawrence L. Gellerstedt, III | Beers Construction Company |
| 1992 | T. Marshall Hahn | Georgia-Pacific Corporation |
| 1991 | Ronald W. Allen | Delta Air Lines, Inc. |
| 1990 | Roberto C. Goizuetta | The Coca-Cola Company |
| 1989 | D. Raymond Riddle | First Atlanta Bank of Atlanta |
| 1988 | Jesse Hill, Jr. | The Atlanta Life Insurance Company |
| 1987 | Thomas R. Williams | First Atlanta Corporation |
| 1986 | Herman J. Russell | H.J. Russell Construction Company |
| 1985 | David C. Garrett, Jr. | Delta Air Lines, Inc. |
| 1982 | Smith Hollis | Hollis Realty |
| | W.T. Robie | Robie Real Estate |
| 1981 | Robert Edmund Flowerree | The Georgia Pacific Corporation |

CORPORATION OF THE YEAR (FORMERLY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR)

| | | |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2009 | George G. Andrews | Capitol City Bank & Trust Company |
| 2008 | Willie A. Watkins | Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home, Inc. |
| 2007 | Andrew Young & Carl Masters | GoodWorks International |
| 2006 | C. David Moody | C.D. Moody Construction |
| 2005 | Ronald Brown | Atlanta Life Financial Group |
| | Oscar Harris | Turner Associates |
| 2004 | Hank Aaron | Hank Aaron Enterprises |
| 2003 | Harold A. Dawson, Sr. & Harold A. Dawson, Jr. | Harold A. Dawson & Company |
| 2002 | Bernard Bronner | Bronner Brothers, Inc. |
| 2001 | Roosevelt Giles | Information Management Systems |
| 2000 | Maynard H. Jackson | Jackson Securities |
| 1999 | William "Bill" Clement | DOBBS, RAM & Company |
| 1998 | Michael Ryan | Staffing Innovations, Inc. |
| 1997 | Mitch Martin | Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co. |
| | Brenda Jefferson | |
| | Ken Syphoe | |
| | Terry Harps | |
| 1996 | Kent Matlock | Matlock & Associates |
| 1995 | Rudolph & Roy Terry | Terry Manufacturing Company |
| 1994 | Robert L. Brown, Jr. | R.L. Brown & Associates |
| 1993 | Raymond J. McClendon | Pryor, McClendon, Counts & Company |
| 1992 | Nathaniel R. Goldston, Jr. | Gourmet Services, Inc. |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1991 | Gregory & Juanita Baranco | Baranco Pontiac-GMC Truck, Inc. |
| 1990 | Lance H. Herndon | Access, Inc. |
| DISTINGUISHED SERVICE | | |
| 2008 | Spurgeon Richardson | Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau |
| 2007 | Evern Cooper Epps | UPS Foundation/UPS Corporate Relations |
| 2005 | Dr. Carl Patton | Georgia State University |
| 2004 | The Honorable Leroy Johnson | Attorney, Leroy R. Johnson & Associates |
| 2003 | Cathy Cox | Secretary of State, Georgia |
| 2001 | Daniel Levitas | Georgia Rural Urban Summit |
| 1999 | Dr. Emma I. Darnell | Fulton County Board of Commissioners |
| 1998 | Jondelle H. Johnson | NAACP, Atlanta Chapter |
| 1996 | Thomas Smith | IBM Corporation |
| 1995 | Harald R. Hansen | First Union Corporation of Georgia |
| 1994 | B. Franklin Skinner | BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. |
| 1993 | Robert M. Holder, Jr. | The Holder Corporation |
| 1992 | R. Charles Loudermilk, Jr. | Aaron Rents, Inc. |
| 1991 | John C. Portman | The Portman Companies |
| 1990 | Lawrence L. Gellerstedt, Jr. | Beers Construction Company |
| 1989 | Jeff White | Equifax, Inc. |
| 1988 | Arthur L. Montgomery | The Atlanta Coca-Cola Bottling Company |
| 1987 | I. Owen Funderburg | Citizens Trust Bank |
| 1986 | Michael H. Trotter | Trotter, Smith, & Jacobs, P.C. |
| 1985 | Dan E. Sweat | Central Atlanta Progress |

TRAILBLAZER

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|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2009 | Evelyn Gibson Lowery | SCLC/W.O.M.E.N, Inc. |
| 2009 | Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery | Co-Founder, President Emeritus Southern Christian Leadership Conference |
| 2007 | Hyatt Regency Atlanta | Joe Hindsley |
| 2006 | Rev. Walter Kimbrough | Cascade United Methodist Church |
| 2005 | Dr. Andrew Agwunobi | Grady Health System |
| 2004 | Xernona Clayton | Executive Producer, Trumpet Awards |
| 2003 | James Vaughn Paschal | |
| | Robert Paschal (Posthumously) | Owners, Paschal's Restaurant |
| 2002 | Dr. C. Clayton Powell | Fulton County Development Authority |
| 2001 | Kenny Leon | Alliance Theater |
| 2000 | David Roberts | WXIA TV, 11-Alive |
| 1999 | Joseph W. Robinson, Sr. | J.W. Robinson Associates |
| 1998 | Shirley Bradley Carmack | GNLD Neo-Life Diamite |
| 1997 | Valerie Ferguson | The Ritz Carlton |
| 1996 | Joseph Lowery | Southern Christian Leadership Conference |
| 1995 | John W. Cox | Delta Air Lines, Inc. |
| 1994 | Shirley C. Franklin | Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games |
| 1993 | Patricia A. Lottier | The Atlanta Tribune |
| 1992 | William Sharp | Sharp Advertising |
| 1991 | Lottie H. Watkins | Lottie Watkins Enterprises |
| 1989 | Felker W. Ward, Jr., Esq. | Ward & Associates |
| 1988 | Gregory T. Baranco | Baranco Automotive |
| 1987 | Essie Stewart | Air, Land, Ocean International |
| 1985 | Dionne Moore | D&K Unlimited, Inc. (Minority Business) |
| | Richard D. Jackson | First Georgia Bank (Majority Business) |

CATALYST

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 2009 | The Honorable Shirley Franklin | Mayor, City of Atlanta |
| 2006 | The Honorable David Burgess | Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission |
| 2004 | The Honorable Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore | Judge, Fulton County Superior Court |
| 2003 | Thurbert Baker | Attorney General, State of Georgia |

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|------|-------------------------|--|
| 2002 | Calvin Smyre | Georgia House of Representatives |
| 2001 | Senator Max Cleland | U.S. Senate |
| 2000 | Governor Roy Barnes | State of Georgia |
| 1999 | Michael Thurmond | Georgia Department of Labor |
| 1998 | William "Bill" Campbell | City of Atlanta |
| 1997 | Carole Dortch | General Service Administration |
| 1996 | Renee Glover | Atlanta Housing Authority |
| 1995 | Angela Gittens | Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport |
| 1994 | John Lewis | U.S. Congressman, 5th District |
| 1993 | Zell Miller | Governor, State of Georgia |
| 1988 | Thomas O. Cordy | AMC Mechanical Contractors |

LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 2009 | Michael A. Martin, AIA | Turner Associates/Architects & Planners, Inc. |
| 2008 | Joseph R. Hudson | Hudson Strategic Group, Inc. |
| 2007 | Alonzo Llorens | Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, PLLC |
| 2006 | Erica Qualls | Atlanta Marriott Marquis |
| 2005 | Daryll H. Griffin | Accolades, Inc. |
| 2004 | Leonard Jenkins, Jr. | Elite Staffing Services of GA, LLP |
| 2003 | Al Anderson | Anderson Communications |
| 2002 | Alice T. Wiggins | Morehouse School of Medicine |
| 2001 | Franklin O'Neal | Omega Systems, Inc. |
| 2000 | Harriette Watkins | Georgia Power Company |
| 1999 | Karen Shelton | BINGWA Software Company |
| 1998 | Robert Shannon, Jr. | Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. |
| 1997 | Arthur Queen | Ebony, Glass & Mirror |
| 1996 | Garry Blackwell | G. Blackwell & Associates |
| 1995 | Rita Owens | Publix Super Markets |
| 1994 | William C. Coleman, Jr. | Dust-Away, Inc. |
| 1993 | Ingrid Saunders Jones | The Coca-Cola Company |
| 1992 | Frankie Jennings-Kennix | Frankie Jennings International |
| 1991 | Kathleen Bacon-Miller | Quality Plus, Inc. |
| 1990 | Lynne L. Spiller | Citizens Trust Bank |
| 1989 | Deepak Shah | International Investment and Trade |
| 1988 | James "Jim" George | Georgia Power Company |
| 1987 | Phillip Gregory Johnson | American Business Adventures |
| 1986 | William Peel | Peel's Technical Services |
| 1985 | William A. Clement, Jr. | The Dobbs Corporation |

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

| | | |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2005 | Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. | General Manager & CEO, MARTA |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------|

VISIONS OF EXCELLENCE

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| 2006 | Frank Ski | The Frank Ski Kids Foundation |
| 2005 | Renee Lewis Glover, Esq. | Atlanta Housing Authority |
| 2004 | Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. | TWD, Inc. |
| 2000 | Rev. Cameron M. Alexander | Antioch Baptist Church North |
| 1999 | Edward Menifee | Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization |
| 1998 | Dr. Barbara King | Hillside International Truth Center |
| 1997 | Zell Miller | State of Georgia |
| 1996 | Hattie Dorsey | Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership |
| 1995 | Stephen R. Portch | University System of Georgia |