



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

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Atlanta Business League Names Mayor Kasim Reed “CEO of the Year” 33rd Annual CEO Luncheon is May 17, 2011

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed will receive the “**CEO of the Year**” award at the Atlanta Business League’s (ABL) **33rd Annual CEO Appreciation Luncheon, Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 11:30 am, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.**

The ABL serves as the leading advocate for minority business development and advocacy in metro Atlanta. Each year the ABL recognizes local chief executive officers (CEO) for outstanding participation in minority vendor development and community activities.

“Mayor Reed’s firm resolve in his decision making during his first full year in office makes him a standout for this top leadership award,” says Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO, Atlanta Business League. “He had some tough issues to face in 2010; however, he has not wavered in doing what he views is best for the City. He consistently speaks out on local, national and international issues with confidence and precision. His dedication to moving Atlanta from where it is to where it needs to be is ‘job one.’ He is forging ahead with a force that is unparalleled. We salute his tenacity!”

This is the first time in the organization’s 78-year history that it has given the CEO Award to a seated Mayor. ABL members nominate leaders in the city for the various awards and a selection committee reviews the nominations and makes a final decision based on the best qualifications for the award descriptions.

In addition to the tribute to Mayor Reed, the ABL will also honor **Mack Wilbourn**, president of Mack II, LLC (**Corporation of the Year**); The **Honorable John Eaves**, chairman, Fulton County Commission (**Catalyst**); **Tirrell Whittley**, principal/founder, Liquid Soul Media (**Entrepreneur of the Year**); and **Tad Hutcheson**, vice president of Sales and Marketing, AirTran Airways (**League Leadership**).

The CEO Luncheon is a fundraising event. This year’s proceeds will be used to support the Youth Entrepreneur Programs and the Business Enrichment Seminar Series for Entrepreneur Development. For more information and tickets, call 404-584-8126 or visit www.atlantabusinessleague.org.

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.

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The Award categories and description are:

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.

CORPORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD recognizes an outstanding African-American 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.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD recognizes a young African-American who is a proven leader within his industry, which is evidenced by financial success and commitment to community service. This business owner is a rising star and one to watch.

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.

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