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### ADW, Atlanta Business League And Hyatt Host Diversity Forum

By: CYNTHIA POST

May 28, 2006

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**The Atlanta Daily World will host its first diversity forum Thursday, May 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, located at 265 Peachtree St., N.E.**

**This year's theme is "Lessons Learned and Advice for the Next Generation."**

**A panel of senior executives will share their experiences and career paths and offer advice on how to have a successful career in corporate America.**

**The Atlanta Daily World, the Atlanta Business League and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta are partnering for the event.**

**Atlanta Daily World Publisher & CEO M. Alexis Scott will moderate the panel.**

**"As we look back on 30-plus years of affirmative action initiatives, this is a good time to see how the commitment to diversity has become a part of the corporate culture of major companies," Scott said.**

**Panelists include Leona Barr-Davenport, who is the Atlanta Business League's president and CEO; Curley M. Dossman Jr., who is the Georgia-Pacific Foundation's president and community programs vice president; E. Lamont Houston, Georgia Power's senior vice president of customer service and sales; and Angie Howard, Hyatt Regency Atlanta's director of human resources.**

Barr-Davenport, as president, works with the board of directors to provide increased access to business opportunities for people of color with specific emphasis on the development of businesses owned or operated by African Americans.

Her background combines more than 25 years experience in the areas of customer service, program development, organizational management and fundraising for associations and youth oriented programs.

A native of Johnsonville, SC, Barr-Davenport received a bachelor of science degree in business administration and economics from Benedict College in Columbia, SC.

In 1999, she was awarded the inaugural Dean's Community Improvement Scholarship totaling \$28,000 in the School of Business Administration by Clark Atlanta University.

Several organizations have been the beneficiary of her community and civic volunteerism.

They include the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization (SWAYBO), Metro-Atlanta Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), the Atlanta Inter-Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the Voter Education Project, Inc., Atlanta Red Cross, Minority Recruitment (2002 Co-Chair); Workforce Investment Board for the State of Georgia; Atlanta Development Authority; Clark Atlanta University Community Advisory Board (2002-03 Chair); Workforce Development for Fulton County; Boy Scouts of America and the National Leadership Coalition on Aids.

Barr-Davenport currently serves as an advisor for SWAYBO and is a previous board member.

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Subsequent to coming on staff with the Atlanta Business League, she served on the ABL board of directors.

Barr-Davenport is a 1999 Leadership Georgia graduate, 2002 Leadership Atlanta graduate and recent graduate of the Diversity Leadership Academy.

In April 2006 she was featured in Atlanta Woman Magazine as its Woman of the Year Nominee and was inducted into the 2006 YWCA Academy of Women Achievers.

Dossman is responsible for community relations program development for headquarters and local plant communities and administration of the Georgia-Pacific Foundation and community programs department.

In his role he works closely with Georgia-Pacific's executive leadership on Atlanta and Georgia-focused programs important to the company.

In directing the activities of the Georgia-Pacific Foundation, Dossman is responsible for developing and implementing the company's overall philanthropic strategies.

He received a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in 1973 and a law degree from Washington University School of Law in 1976.

Just prior to joining Georgia-Pacific in late 1994, Dossman was state vice president, government affairs for AT&T, where he was responsible for representing that corporation's interests in the legislative, regulatory and industry relations areas.

A native of Louisiana, he served for several years as legislative assistant and special assistant for U.S. Sen. Russell B. Long (D-LA).

Houston was born in Roanoke, Ala. and grew up in Chicago, Ill.

He holds a BSEE degree from Tuskegee University, an MBA from Georgia State University and has completed the advance management program at Harvard University.

Coming to work for Georgia Power Co. directly out of college in 1972, Houston has held a number of engineering, supervisory and management positions with the company until being elected as distribution vice president of the Southern Regions in May 2000.

In March 2005, he was named vice president of corporate services.

In January 2006 Houston was named senior vice president of customer service and sales.

Howard started her career with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts in May 1982 in Tampa, Fla. as a room service order taker in the food and beverage division.

Before joining Hyatt, she worked as an employment specialist for Hillsborough County Employment & Training Department for 8 years in Tampa, Fla.

Howard grew up in Tampa, Fla. and attended Hillsborough Community College.

She has over 23 years of human resources experience.

In her role as human resources director for Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Howard oversees the entire human resources function which includes the coordination of employment, compensation, employee/labor relations, benefits, worker compensation, diversity and training.

Howard is directly responsible for the development of her staff, which is comprised of six highly professional individuals.

Attendance for the diversity forum is free, but attendees must register by calling the Atlanta Daily World at (404) 659-1110, ext. 27 or by sending an email to [marketing@atlantadailyworld.com](mailto:marketing@atlantadailyworld.com).

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