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Atlanta Business League celebrates achievements of CEOs during 70th anniversary

The Atlanta Business League, the oldest business development and advocacy organization for African American business owners, announced the 2003 CEO honorees to be recognized at the 25th Annual Chief Executive Officer Appreciation Luncheon May 13 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis downtown. This year's theme is "Shaping The Future."

The CEO Awards Luncheon has become one of the Atlanta Business League's most renowned events, honoring the visionary and influential leadership of Atlanta's best and brightest business leaders. These outstanding honorees are recognized for giving their time, energy and resources to improve the quality of minority businesses within the city of Atlanta. While positively impacting the state's economy, James E. Young, newly inducted board chair, has begun new and improved strategies for the continual growth and development of the organization as the ABL begins its 70th year. Young is president and CEO of Citizens Trust Bank after an outstanding tenure in the same position at First Southern Bank of DeKalb County.

The chair of the 25th Annual CEO Awards Luncheon is Vickie R. Palmer, senior vice president, treasurer and special assistant to the CEO at Coca Cola Enterprises Inc. Palmer has oversight responsibility for corporate affairs and assists in establishing the strategic direction of the company's organizational development efforts. She also serves as a member of the company's Management Advisory Board.

This year's award categories and honorees include:

- Chief Executive Officer of the Year: Roy Barnes, former Georgia governor. The CEO of the Year Award is the most distinguished award presented by the ABL. It recognizes the true measure of a CEO's success—commitment and fairness to people—while maximizing shareholder profits.
- Corporation of the Year: Harold Dawson Sr. and Harold Dawson Jr., Harold A. Dawson Co. Inc. The Corporation of the Year recognizes an outstanding minority business that is a proven leader in its respective industry, recognized by financial success and community service. Business savvy and tenacity are key components of this company's success.
- Trail Blazer Award: James Paschal and the late Robert Paschal, Paschal's Restaurant. The 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 risen to the top in his/her profession and has made an impression on the Atlanta community through business and civic leadership.
- Catalyst Award: Thurbert Baker, State of Georgia. The 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: Cathy Cox, State of Georgia. The 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: Al Anderson, Anderson Communications. The 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.

The CEO Luncheon offers a platform to exchange an array of ideas with Atlanta's corporate and small business community. For information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact the Atlanta Business League at 404-584-8126 or visit the Web site at www.theabl.org.

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