

EARLY EDUCATION COMMISSION OVERVIEW

In 2008, the United Way Early Education Commission was formed and is comprised of a group of civic leaders from Atlanta. Its focus is to investigate the impact of early learning on the short- and long-term economic development of the metro Atlanta area. The Commission will explore and analyze the current state of metro Atlanta to identify areas in which specific changes can be made to improve early learning, and offer concrete action recommendations.

Commission Chairs

Dennis Lockhart

President, The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Beverly Daniel Tatum

President, Spelman College

Commission Members

Greg Adams

Judge, Superior Court, DeKalb County

James S. Balloun

Retired Chairman & CEO, Acuity Brands, Inc.
Retired Director, McKinsey & Company

Sharon J. Bartels

President, Gwinnett Technical College

Dr. Jay Berkelhamer

Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer,
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Stephanie Blank

Trustee, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Robert L. Brown, Jr.

President, CEO, RL Brown & Associates

Anna Cablik

President, CEO, Anatek, Inc.

Rev. Darrell D. Elligan

President, Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atl., Inc.

Lillian C. Giornelli, J.D.

Director, Nonami Enterprises, Inc.

John T. Grant, Jr.

CEO, 100 Black Men of Atlanta

Beverly L. Hall, D.H.L.

Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools

Russell Hardin, J.D.

President, Whitehead Foundation
President, Woodruff Foundation

Johnny Isakson

US Senator, Georgia

Phil Jacobs

Retired, AT&T Communications

Emily Jennette

Education Program Specialist, Department of Education

Larry Johnson

Commissioner, DeKalb County

Nancy Juneau

CEO, Juneau Construction Company

Charles B. Knapp, Ph.D.

President Emeritus, University of Georgia
Chairman, Board of Directors, East Lake Foundations, Inc.

Milton J. Little, Jr.

President, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

Sam Nunn

Co-chairman & CEO, The Nuclear Threat Initiative
Retired US Senator, Georgia

Tim Pakenham, J.D.

Partner, Alston & Bird, LLP

Daniel S. Papp, Ph.D.

President, Kennesaw State University

Maria Elena Retter

Executive Director, Goizueta Foundation

Holly Robinson, Ed.D.

Commissioner, Bright from the Start:
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Joe W. Rogers, Jr.

Chairman, CEO, Waffle House

Lee Torrence

Retired, IBM Corporation

Topics of research for Commission members:

- Human development as economic development
- Brain development
- Potential problems of children prior to kindergarten
- Quality of early care and education
- Long-term impact of children being ready for kindergarten
- Funding models
- Public perception and community involvement