

# 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 Pankenham, 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