

**ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE  
CEO AWARD HONOREES  
1981 – 2023**

**Herman J. Russell CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD  
(renamed in 2015 in honor of Herman J. Russell)**

2023	Carol B. Tomé	UPS
2022	Chris Womack	Georgia Power
2021	Ernest Greer	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
2019	William Pate	Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
2018	Ed Bastian	Delta Air Lines, Inc.
2017	Dan T. Cathy	Chick-fil-A, Inc.
2016	Miguel Southwell	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
2015	John Somerhalder II	AGL Resources, Inc.
2014	Cynthia Day	Citizens Trust Bank
2013	Renée Lewis Glover	Atlanta Housing Authority
2012	Daniel P. Amos	Aflac, Inc.
2011	Kasim Reed	City of Atlanta
2010	Michael D. Garrett	Georgia Power
2009	Robert L. Fornaro	AirTran Holdings, Inc.
2008	Philip I. Kent	Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
2007	E. Neville Isdell	The Coca-Cola Company
2006	F. Duane Ackerman	BellSouth Corporation
2005	David Ratcliffe	Southern Company
2004	Paula Rosput	AGL Resources
2003	Roy Barnes	State of Georgia
2002	Herman Russell, Sr.	H.J. Russell & Company
2001	Egbert Perry	The Integral Group
2000	Roger S. Kintzel	Atlanta Journal-Constitution
1999	H. Allen Franklin	Georgia Power
1998	A.D. "Pete" Correll	Georgia Pacific Corporation
1997	James Leintz	NationsBank of Georgia
1996	William "Billy" Payne	Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
1995	G. Joseph Prendergast	Wachovia Bank of Georgia
1994	A.W. "Bill" Dahlberg	The Southern/Georgia Power Company
1993	Lawrence L. Gellerstedt III	Beers Construction Company
1992	T. Marshall Hahn	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
1991	Ronald W. Allen	Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1990	Roberto C. Goizuetta	The Coca-Cola Company
1989	D. Raymond Riddle	First Atlanta Bank of Atlanta
1988	Jesse Hill, Jr.	The Atlanta Life Insurance Company
1987	Thomas R. Williams	First Atlanta Corporation
1986	Herman J. Russell	H.J. Russell Construction Company
1985	David C. Garrett, Jr.	Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1982	Smith Hollis	Hollis Realty
1982	W.T. Robie	Robie Real Estate
1981	Robert Edmund Flowerree	The Georgia Pacific Corporation

**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
**(formerly CORPORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD)**

2023	David Tann	Tantrum Agency
2022	Steve Ewing	Wade Ford
2021	T. Dallas Smith	T. Dallas Smith & Company, LLC
2019	Jan Prisby Bryson	BenchMark Management
2018	Ernest M. Hodge	EH Automotive Group
2017	Gregory B. Levett, Sr.	Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, Inc.
2016	Dr. Thomas (Danny) Boston	EuQuant
2015	Willie Burks	Resurgens Risk Management, Inc.
2014	Emanuel Jones	Legacy Ford
2013	Maceo Brown	System 5 Electronics, Inc.
2012	Karen Duckett	Duckett Design Group, Inc.
2011	Tirrell Whittley	Liquid Soul Media
2010	James Young	Citizens Trust Bank
2009	George G. Andrews	Capitol City Bank & Trust Company
2008	Willie A. Watkins	Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home, Inc.
2007	Andrew Young	GoodWorks International
2007	Carl Masters	GoodWorks International
2006	C. David Moody	C.D. Moody Construction
2005	Ronald Brown	Atlanta Life Financial Group
2005	Oscar Harris	Turner Associates
2004	Hank Aaron	Hank Aaron Enterprises
2003	Harold A. Dawson, Sr.	Harold A. Dawson & Company
2002	Bernard Bronner	Bronner Brothers, Inc.
2001	Roosevelt Giles	Information Management Systems
2000	Maynard H. Jackson	Jackson Securities
1999	William "Bill" Clement	DOBBS, RAM & Company
1998	Michael Ryan	Staffing Innovations, Inc.
1997	Mitch Martin	Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co.
1997	Brenda Jefferson	Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co.
1997	Ken Syphoe	Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co.
1997	Terry Harps	Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co.
1996	Kent Matlock	Matlock & Associates
1995	Rudolph Terry	Terry Manufacturing Company
1995	Roy Terry	Terry Manufacturing Company
1994	Robert L. Brown, Jr.	R.L. Brown & Associates
1993	Raymond J. McClendon	Pryor, McClendon, Counts & Company
1992	Nathaniel R. Goldston, Jr.	Gourmet Services, Inc.
1991	Gregory Baranco	Baranco Pontiac-GMC Truck, Inc.
1991	Juanita Baranco	Baranco Pontiac-GMC Truck, Inc.
1990	Lance H. Herndon	Access, Inc.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2023	John Hope Bryant	Operation HOPE, Inc.
2022	Rodney Strong	Griffin & Strong, P.C.
2018	Vicki R. Palmer	The Palmer Group
2016	Laura Turner Seydel	Captain Planet Foundation
2014	Bill Bolling	Atlanta Community Food Bank
2013	Sam Williams	Metro Atlanta Chamber
2012	Rev. C.T. Vivian	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
2008	Spurgeon Richardson	Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau
2007	Evern Cooper Epps	UPS Foundation/UPS Corporate Relations
2005	Dr. Carl Patton	Georgia State University
2004	The Hon. Leroy Johnson	Leroy R. Johnson & Associates
2003	Cathy Cox	Secretary of State, Georgia
2001	Daniel Levitas	Georgia Rural Urban Summit
1999	Dr. Emma I. Darnell	Fulton County Board of Commissioners
1998	Jondelle H. Johnson	NAACP, Atlanta Chapter
1996	Thomas Smith	IBM Corporation
1995	Harald R. Hansen	First Union Corporation of Georgia
1994	B. Franklin Skinner	BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
1993	Robert M. Holder, Jr.	The Holder Corporation
1992	R. Charles Loudermilk, Jr.	Aaron Rents, Inc.
1991	John C. Portman	The Portman Companies
1990	Lawrence L. Gellerstedt, Jr.	Beers Construction Company
1989	Jeff White	Equifax, Inc.
1988	Arthur L. Montgomery	The Atlanta Coca-Cola Bottling Company
1987	I. Owen Funderburg	Citizens Trust Bank
1986	Michael H. Trotter	Trotter, Smith, & Jacobs, P.C.
1985	Dan E. Sweat	Central Atlanta Progress

## TRAIL BLAZER AWARD

2023	Dr. Lakeysha Hallmon	The Village Market
2022	Joseph Hudson	Hudson Strategic Group of Companies
2021	Dr. Lonnie Johnson	Johnson Research & Development
2019	Dr. Paul Judge	TechSquare Labs & Pindrop
2018	Kofi Smith	Atlanta Airlines Terminal Corporation
2015	Ingrid Saunders Jones	National Council of Negro Women
2010	Ellen M. Crooke	WXIA 11 Alive/MyATLTV
2009	Evelyn Gibson Lowery	SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc.
2009	Joseph E. Lowery	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
2007	Joe Hindsley	Hyatt Regency Atlanta
2006	Rev. Walter Kimbrough	Cascade United Methodist Church
2005	Dr. Andrew Agwunobi	Grady Health System
2004	Xernona Clayton	Trumpet Awards
2003	James Vaughn Paschal	Paschal's Restaurant
2003	Robert Paschal (Posthumously)	Paschal's Restaurant
2002	Dr. C. Clayton Powell	Fulton County Development Authority
2001	Kenny Leon	Alliance Theater
2000	David Roberts	WXIA TV, 11-Alive

1999	Joseph W. Robinson, Sr.	J.W. Robinson Associates
1998	Shirley Bradley Carmack	GNLD Neo-Life Diamite
1997	Valerie Ferguson	The Ritz Carlton
1996	Joseph Lowery	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
1995	John W. Cox	Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1994	Shirley C. Franklin	Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
1993	Patricia A. Lottier	The Atlanta Tribune
1992	William Sharp	Sharp Advertising
1991	Lottie H. Watkins	Lottie Watkins Enterprises
1989	Felker W. Ward, Jr.,	Ward & Associates
1988	Gregory T. Baranco	Baranco Automotive
1987	Essie Stewart	Air, Land, Ocean International
1985	Dionne Moore	D&K Unlimited, Inc. (Minority Business)
1985	Richard D. Jackson	First Georgia Bank (Majority Business)

### **CATALYST AWARD**

2022	The Hon. Lisa Cupid	Cobb County Board of Commissioners
2021	Dr. Eloisa Klementich	Invest Atlanta
2017	Dana L. Lemon	W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home
2016	Cassius F. Butts	U.S. SBA
2014	Ceasar Mitchell	Atlanta City Council
2011	John Eaves	Fulton County Board of Commissions
2010	C. T. Martin	City of Atlanta, District 10
2009	Shirley Franklin	City of Atlanta
2006	David Burgess	Georgia Public Service Commission
2004	Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore	Fulton County Superior Court
2003	Thurbert Baker	State of Georgia
2002	Calvin Smyre	Georgia House of Representatives
2001	Senator Max Cleland	U.S. Senate
2000	Roy Barnes	State of Georgia
1999	Michael Thurmond	Georgia Department of Labor
1998	William "Bill" Campbell	City of Atlanta
1997	Carole Dortch	General Service Administration
1996	Renee Glover	Atlanta Housing Authority
1995	Angela Gittens	Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport
1994	John Lewis	U.S. Congressman, 5th District
1993	Zell Miller	Governor, State of Georgia
1988	Thomas O. Cordy	AMC Mechanical Contractors

**THOMAS W. DORTCH, JR. LEAGUE LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
 (renamed in 2023 in honor of Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.)

2023	Albert G. Edwards	C.E.R.M.
2022	Shawn Graham	National Black MBA Association
2021	Gretchen Fuller	Warner Fuller Consulting
2019	Milton Jones, Jr.	Peachtree Providence Partners, LLC
2017	Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.	TWD, Inc.
2016	Tiffany Callaway Ferrell	AGL Resources, Inc.
2015	Lonnie Saboor	Invest Atlanta
2014	Dennis Boyden	AT&T
2013	Laron Walker	Sciberus, Inc.
2012	Dr. Alvetta Peterman Thomas	Atlanta Technical College
2011	Tad Hutcheson	AirTran Airways
2010	Edward Menifee	Southeastern Management & Business Development Company
2009	Michael A. Martin, AIA	Turner Associates/Architects & Planners, Inc.
2008	Joseph R. Hudson	Hudson Strategic Group, Inc.
2007	Alonzo Llorens	Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
2006	Erica Qualls	Atlanta Marriott Marquis
2005	Daryll H. Griffin	Accolades, Inc.
2004	Leonard Jenkins, Jr.	Elite Staffing Services of GA, LLP
2003	Al Anderson	Anderson Communications
2002	Alice T. Wiggins	Morehouse School of Medicine
2001	Franklin O'Neal	Omega Systems, Inc.
2000	Harriette Watkins	Georgia Power Company
1999	Karen Shelton	BINGWA Software Company
1998	Robert Shannon, Jr.	Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C.
1997	Arthur Queen	Ebony, Glass & Mirror
1996	Garry Blackwell	G. Blackwell & Associates
1995	Rita Owens	Publix Super Markets
1994	William C. Coleman, Jr.	Dust-Away, Inc.
1993	Ingrid Saunders Jones	The Coca-Cola Company
1992	Frankie Jennings-Kennix	Frankie Jennings International
1991	Kathleen Bacon-Miller	Quality Plus, Inc.
1990	Lynne L. Spiller	Citizens Trust Bank
1989	Deepak Shah	International Investment and Trade
1988	James "Jim" George	Georgia Power Company
1987	Phillip Gregory Johnson	American Business Adventures
1986	William Peel	Peel's Technical Services
1985	William A. Clement, Jr.	The Dobbs Corporation

**VISIONS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

2021	Clyde Higgs	Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
2019	John Ahmann	Westside Future Fund
2018	Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD	Morehouse School of Medicine
2017	Dr. Joyce J. Dorsey	Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority
2017	Grace Fricks	Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs (ACE)
2016	John Hope Bryant	Operation HOPE
2014	Doug Shipman	The National Center for Civil and Human Rights

2013	Maria Saporta	Atlanta Business Chronicle
2012	Ed Baker	Atlanta Business Chronicle
2006	Frank Ski	The Frank Ski Kids Foundation
2005	Renee Lewis Glover, Esq.	Atlanta Housing Authority
2004	Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.	TWD, Inc.
2000	Rev. Cameron M. Alexander	Antioch Baptist Church North
1999	Edward Meniffee	Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization
1998	Dr. Barbara King	Hillside International Truth Center
1997	Zell Miller	State of Georgia
1996	Hattie Dorsey	Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership
1995	Stephen R. Portch	University System of Georgia

### **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

2022 Grady Health System

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

2005 Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. MARTA