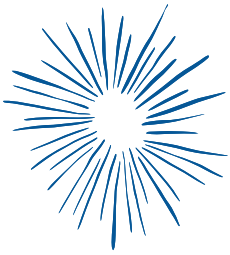


120TH ANNUAL MEETING



DREAM
COURAGEOUSLY



ATHENS AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MISSION

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business. By connecting, innovating, and growing opportunity for all, the Chamber is laying the foundation for tomorrow's workforce and economy.

VISION

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is the essential business champion for Athens - the premiere community for creativity, innovation, and economic development.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

David Bradley - President/CEO, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

INVOCATION

Rev. Elizabeth Hagan - Minister, First Christian Church of Athens

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Clarke County High School Junior ROTC

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Michael Burnett - CEO, Piedmont Athens Regional

COURAGEOUS DREAMER

Erin Barger - CEO, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Presented by Kat Ahmed, Owner, Munch Hut & BasKat Catering

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Athens Area Community Foundation.

Presented by President/CEO Sarah McKinney

COURAGEOUS DREAMERS

Stephen Nobles - Government/Flexibility Specialist, Clarke County School District

Aliceson Nobles - Principal, Barnett Shoals Elementary Schools

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Presented by Walker Keadle, Market President, Truist Bank

ATHENA AWARD

Presented by Elaine Cook, Director and Major Gifts Officer, Piedmont Athens Regional

COURAGEOUS DREAMER

Chad Brown - CEO, Brown & McCook

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Presented by Johnelle Simpson, Attorney, Fortson, Bentley, & Griffin

SPIRIT OF ATHENS

Presented by Jody Patton, Northeast Georgia Division CEO, Synovus

UPSHAW BENTLEY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Presented by John Mitchell, CEO, Athens Research & Technology

CLOSING REMARKS

COURAGEOUS DREAMER



ERIN BARGER

FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Erin Barger knew the moment she drove into Northeast Georgia for the first time that this was home. She has proudly called Athens home ever since, and has built community in places of worship, work, and play. As President and CEO of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, she is emboldened and inspired by the vision of the Food Bank, which is to awaken one day with certainty that no neighbor across this region experiences food uncertainty or despair. She believes that this can be done in her lifetime, but only because she is fully convinced that Northeast Georgia is second to none in the philanthropy and resilience required to make this vision a reality. Erin brings experience in disability supports and advocacy, refugee resettlement, and service as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in China. Erin's favorite place to be is by the side of her husband, Brian, and trying to keep up with their sons, Lazarus, Atticus, and Moses.

COURAGEOUS DREAMER



ALICESON NOBLES
BARNETT SHOALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aliceson Nobles is living her dream as the proud principal of Barnett Shoals Elementary School. Aliceson has a passion for educating students and working collaboratively with educators, families, and community members to meet the diverse needs of all students. It is her personal mission to lead a team that will challenge students to think and go beyond their preconceived limits so that they may function as elite citizens in a society thirsting for ambitious front-runners. Her services and accomplishments have earned many professional distinctions, including features in education publications, being selected as a CCSD Four Star Award Recipient, Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Month, along with numerous first place prizes from the award-winning Show Stoppers Step Team that she co-founded. Beyond any recognition, the long-lasting relationships that she has forged with families over the last 17 years as an educator is the ultimate honor.

COURAGEOUS DREAMER



STEPHEN NOBLES
CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stephen Nobles serves as the Governance & Flexibility Specialist for Clarke County School District. Stephen's mission is to empower CCSD schools and governance teams to think beyond ordinary ideas in an effort to evoke the needed shifts in order to strengthen student achievement and increase community partnerships. As a literacy promoter and read-aloud enthusiast, Stephen encourages youth in Athens and throughout the nation to find joy in reading through his notable Youtube page, Storytime with Mr. Stephen. He also serves on the board for Books for Keep and the Grant Review panel for the United Way of NEGA. He finds the most satisfaction is serving as a mentor to teen boys at Innovative Living for Life.

COURAGEOUS DREAMER



CHAD BROWN

BROWN & MCCOOK

An Accounting & Tax Alum of the University of Georgia, Chad has spent the last 22 plus years furthering his education and experience in income tax planning, LLC set up, and tax filings for entrepreneurs and business owners. He focuses on tax planning to help you pay tremendously less in taxes. Chad has extensive experience helping clients save thousands each year by taking advantage of structure, loopholes, and write-offs. Chad has served as an owner and partner in Athens for 22 years. Chad currently owns multiple companies, has several residential and commercial rental properties, and is the founder of The Stronger Business Summit held each year in Athens, GA. Chad's newest venture is a Serial CFO brand offering consulting, content, and a financial app to help small business owners financially manage their business. When Chad is not in the office, he enjoys visiting Charleston, boating/fishing, and talking business. Follow along at @chadbrowncfo on Instagram and <https://strongerbusiness.com/podcast/> for his weekly podcast.

AWARDS

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

2021-2022	Thelma Collins	2010	Emma Holman
2019	Tex Bagley	2009	Lana Vivant
2018	Bridget Burke	2008	Sharon Roberts
2017	Emily O'Rear Lewis	2007	Chad Erwin
2016	Ariana Smaczniak	2006	Katie Mercardante
2015	Bridget Burke	2005	Cindy Haddon
2014	Lorie Petersen	2004	Bob Long
2013	Tiffany Burrows	2003	Al Rogers & Kay Chapman Tiller
2012	Mike Leggett		
2011	Michael Seibert	2002	Annette Nelson

SPRIT OF ATHENS

2022	Doc Eldridge	2010	Jim Sykes
2021	Dexter Fisher	2009	Paul Cramer
2020	Daniel Epting	2008	Red Petrovs
2019	Nancy Denson	2007	Ed Graham
2018	Elaine Cook	2006	Steve Jones
2017	Charlie Upchurch	2005	E.H. Culpepper
2016	Buddy Allen	2004	Clementi Holder
2015	Richard Boone	2003	Len Sopera
2014	Pat Allen	2002	Tom Hollingsworth
2013	Kathy Hoard	2001	H. Randolph Holder
2012	Christy Terrell	2000	Ron Schwartz
2011	Paul Chambers	1999	Louis Griffith

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

2022	Athens Research & Technology	2018	Tazikis
2021	Cofer's	2017	Avid Bookshop
2020	New Urban Forestry	2016	The Sign Brothers
2019	Epting Events		

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

2022	Food Bank of Northeast Georgia
2021	Athens Area Homeless Shelter
2019	Extra Special People

AWARDS

ATHENA

This international award is presented to a person who demonstrates excellence, creativity and success in business and furthers those goals for other professional women. We are grateful to the Heyward Allen Motor Company for their sponsorship of this award.

2022 Alison McCullick	2004 Tammy Gilland
2021 Julita Sanders	2003 Kathryn Fowler
2020 Laura Whitaker	2002 Vivian Fisher
2019 Dr. Andrea Daniel	2001 Janey Cooley
2018 Regina Quick	2000 Katy O'Neal Arrowood
2017 Kathy Hoard	1999 Maxine Pinson Eason
2016 Christy Terrell	1998 Nancy Staton
2015 Rubielen Norris	1997 Christine Bates
2014 Andree Terry	1996 Mickey Montevideo
2013 Joan Prittie	1995 Elizabeth Dalton
2012 Patricia Barron	1994 Barbara Smalley
2011 Marilyn Farmer	1993 Martha Henderson
2010 Margaret Wagner-Dahl	1992 Helen Mills
2009 Flora Tydings	1991 Sharon Baker Pickett
2008 Cheryl Legette	1990 Maxine Burton
2007 Elaine Cook	1989 Carol Williams
2006 Sue Lawrence	1988 Louise McBee
2005 Nancy Denson	1987 Mary Betts

UPSHAW BENTLEY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This award is presented to a person who is committed to making Athens-Clarke County an extraordinary home. Their selfless persistence inspires many to do the same.

2022 Rick Parker	2013 Cardee Kilpatrick
2021 Steve Middlebrooks	2012 Dr. and Mrs. Michael F Adams
2020 Michael Morris	2011 Officer Tony Howard & Family of Officer Buddy Christian
2019 Richard Boone	2010 Judge Steve Jones
2018 Nancy Denson	2009 Richard & Barbara Anderson
2017 Phil Bettendorf	2008 Upshaw Bentley
2016 Ricky Chastain	
2015 Alan Reddish	
2014 Chief Joseph Lumpkin	

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



JAKELYN SPENCER
CLEVELAND ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jakelyn Spencer has been with CCSD and Cleveland Road Elementary School since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. She also worked in the West Lafayette, Indiana, school district as a Title I teacher following graduation from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education & Exceptional Needs. She obtained a Master of Science in Special Education and Dyslexia Endorsement from the University of Georgia while working at UGA's Child Development Lab at McPhaul Research Center.

Ms. Spencer delights in the "fast paced, ever-changing, chaotic world" of teaching third grade. She says nothing makes her happier than watching her students flourish and being successful. The thrill of witnessing that "clicking" moment never gets old for her! She serves on Cleveland Road's PBIS team and After School Program, the Teacher Advisory Board, and also on the local school governance team (LSGT).

Ms. Spencer is originally from Michigan where she was born, raised, and surrounded by a family full of Michigan State Spartans. (She still bleeds green even after all her years as a Purdue Boilermaker and Georgia Bulldog!) She enjoys traveling to her home state to catch up on snow skiing and boating whenever she gets the chance. Ms. Spencer spends her time outside of school frequenting local events with her friends, making connections with her church community, traveling to new places, and keeping up with collegiate athletics.

2023 ATHENA AWARD NOMINEES



Jill Bateman

University of Georgia



Cristi Donahue

Oconee State Bank



Melanie Ford

University of Georgia



Kim Keegan

Ashton Hope Keegan Foundation



Kay Keller

United Way of NEGA



Sarah McKinney

Athens Area Community Foundation



Michele Pearson-Tucker

Edward Jones



Patricia Priest

Independent Writer/Producer



Chanda Santana

DIVAS Who Win Freedom Center



Jennifer Zwirn

Small Business Owner

NEW MEMBERS

2023

Peyton Pettus - State Farm Insurance Agent
Athens Pride & Queer Collective
Woodland Gardens Organic Farm LLC
Brown & McCook LLC
Nextech AR Solutions Inc.
Gyro Wrap
Pillar Insurance Agency LLC
Grand Slam Pest Control
Flicker Theatre and Bar
Bank OZK
All Clean By Anabelle
Jinya Ramen Bar
Calor Creative
Summers Plumbing
Whataburger
Family Promise of Athens
Graham, Inc.
Center for Personal Reflection
Girtz Media Group
Provost Creative
Casa de Amistad
Gibbs Capital Development
Agape Hospice Care of Clarke County, LLC
Stretch Zone Athens
AthFest Educates
Northwestern Mutual
Wheels of Hope
Interstate Batteries
HealthMarkets Travis Dean Agency
Breathe with Holly
Elevation Resources, LLC
Sideways Sunlight Ministries
Ellianos Athens
Can I Recycle This, Inc. (CIRT)
Encourage HER Academy
Fairway Independent Mortgage
Bruxie
Northeast Brokerage
Ascend Tree Care
Scout Brokerage
Athena Academy & Family Enrichment
Athens Oconee Cleaning, LLC
Porterhouse Grill
Mother Lode Athens
Emmy Squared Pizza
Innovative Health Care Institute
Brian Cathey Law
Lightmark Media LLC
First Christian Church Athens
Psychiatric Professionals of Georgia
TechMonk
A-Z Junk Removal LLC
Integrity Staffing Solutions
Classic City Collective
JME Leadership Strategies
Maid Right of Lawrenceville
Charles Schwab
Home Town Kicks
The Lakes at Statham
Another Broken Egg Cafe
Galaxy Tax & Insurance
DOM BUILT
1-800-Water Damage
Travelmation - Kristi Patrick
Holden at Oak Grove
1051 Baxter
beem® Light Sauna Athens
Anmge Solutions LLC
Origins Spine and Joint Physicians
Behavioral Health Connections of Georgia
Multifamily Solutions, Inc
SK Battery America Inc.
Avenue Wealth Management Group
Adobe
NatureScapes
Life Enrichment Recovery
Emily Louise
Tidal Wave Auto Spa
Logo Surfing Promotional Items & Apparel
Leslie Gordon Speech Coaching, LLC
Delagen Consulting LLC
Avery Village
Ellie Mental Health Athens
Dead Silent Lawn Care
Certified Clean Care
Cloverleaf Farm
Hodge Consulting Services LLC
High Shoals Health & Rehabilitation
The Piedmont Group
Warner Brothers Appraisal
Chasing Performance and Rehab
Horizon at Tallassee
Gaines + Shoal Animal Clinic
Connect Care Medical Training Institute
Georgia Conflict Center Inc
CertaClean, Inc
Morgan Stanley
Athens Twilight Criterium
Waseca Biomes
nexAir
Rooster High Productions, LLC
Helping Hands ABA
Southern Sustainability Services
Haven Memory Care of Athens

NEW MEMBERS

2023

Atlas Real Estate Advisors LLC
Fire Pit Capital
G&P Remodeling LLC
Shore Coaching Services
Sound Insight
Southern Design Build Group
MLW Allphase Construction & Roofing
Jim 'N Nicks BBQ
TMB Medical
MainStreet Family Care
Barberitos CoStor, LLC
Saurabh Arora
Athens Trimlight
Classic City Candy Company
LAA - Ellinore R. Young Class of 2019
Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement
Iron Grid Networks
Loving Botanicals
Birdies
MuniRem Environmental LLC
Oak House Distillery
ProBuilt Construction
R&R Secret Flowers
Fully Financial
Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery
Rowen Foundation
Blanchard Wellness Clinic
Taco Mama
Local Coffeehouse & Study Lounge
Perry Planning

Southeast Energy Solutions
On My Watch, Inc.
Peachtree Planning Corporation
Lexington Vintage
Figment Brewing
Pink Boots Athens
All Dry Service of Athens
Eastside Roofing
Elan Enterprises
Moms Adopting Moms
Beautiful Mess
Timberlane Construction
Athens Soap Company
CBiz Solutions, Inc.
Edward Jones, Greg Settineri
Porterfield Tire Discounters
Artistic Ornamental Ironworks
Clayton Homes of Athens
KEM Vending
Athens Farmers Market Collective Inc.
BEE Club Inc.
The Reserve at Athens
Big Saving Appliances Athens
Prior Law Firm
Edward Jones Investments - Denise Ricks
City of Hope Atlanta

welcome

TO THE CHAMBER!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Michael Burnett

Chair
Piedmont Athens Regional

Rhodes McLanahan

Past Chair
First American Bank & Trust

Michele Pearson Tucker

Chair Elect
Edward Kpmes

Doug Brouillard

Treasurer
Sellit North American Inc.

Develon Davis

Membership
Peach State Federal Credit Union

Tino Johnson

Public Policy
Jackson EMC

Kat Ahmed

Special Events
Munch Hut/Baskat Catering

Walker Keadle

Education/Workforce Development
Truist

Eric Fletcher

Business Development
Farm Bureau

Directors

Janet Estrada

JanPlan Properties

Sterling Gardner

Boys & Girls Club

Errol Wint

Caterpillar

Robert Hardell

Synovus

Kyle Tschepikow

UGA Business Engagement & Innovation

Erin Barger

Food Bank of NEGA

Jason Leonard

Spirits on Washington

Scott Talley

5 Market Realty

John Mitchell

Athens Research & Technology

John Culpepper

Express Employment

Corey Watson

Pilgrims

Rashe Malcolm

Rashe's Cuisine

Daniel Epting

Epting Events

Johnelle Simpson

Fortson, Bentley, and Griffin

Jennifer Zwirn

Prodigies Childcare Management

Stonish Pierce

St. Mary's

Chad Brown

Brown & McCook

Tony Ferguson

Georgia Power

Sunita Singh

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow

Ex-Officio

Mayor Kelly Girtz

Athens-Clarke County

Linda Ford

Athens Downtown Development Authority

Katie Williams

Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ilka McConnell

Athens-Clarke County Economic Development

Dr. Robbie Hooker

Clarke County School District

Nathan Moore

UGA

Dr. Andrea Daniel

Athens Technical College

Alison Rosch

Clarke County Mentor Program

PAST CHAIRS

1987 Jimbo Lamboon	2005 Annette Nelson
1988 A. Mark Smith	2006 Ed Graham
1989 M. Don Paulk	2007 Phil Bettendorf
1990 Tom Hollingsworth	2008 Sean Hogan
1991 Robin Chasman	2009 Jim Sykes
1992 Buddy H. Allen, Jr.	2010 Jim Jones
1993 C. Patrick Allen	2011 Elaine Cook
1994 Joe Chandler	2012 Brian Brodrick
1995 Ted DeVore	2013 Mike Morris
1996 Peter Hodgson	2014 Christy Terrell
1997 Ron Neislar	2015 Chad Collins
1998 Scott Orr	2016 Kip Farlow
1999 Lois Van Horn	2017 Dean Mannheimer
2000 Robin Chasman	2018 Dr. Shannon Wilder
2001 Paul Chambers	2019 Chuck Toney
2002 Jeff Wilson	2020 Tony Ferguson
2003 Elizabeth Dalton	2021 Montez Carter
2004 Eduardo Noriega	2022 Rhodes McLanahan
2005 Terry Trotochaud	2023 Michael Burnett

AWARD SPONSOR



DINNER SPONSORS



Jeannette Rankin
FOUNDATION
Transforming Futures Through Education



Clarke County
School District
Better Together



Ashton Hope Keegan Foundation

SPECIAL THANKS



CHAMBER
AMBASSADORS



EPTING EVENTS
FLORALS BY SU-LIN



PREMIERE PARTNERS



ELITE PARTNERS



CLASSIC PARTNERS



TRUIST



TRANSICOLD

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

ServPro

Jackson Spalding

Heyward Allen Toyota

Peach State Federal Credit Union

Athens Research & Technology

Regions Bank

Classic City Bank

FRIENDS OF THE CHAMBER

Donegal Insurance Group
Athens, Dodge, Jeep, Chrysler
Good Works Consulting, LLC
Grahl Construction, LLC
Landmark Properties
Kevin Price Construction
Milestone Construction, LLC
NEGA Medical Center Barrow

Terrapin
Pinnacle Bank
Oconee state Bank
JOMA Cosntruction
W&A Engineering
Clarke County School District
Georgia Heart Institute
NEGA Physicians Group

Pellicano Construction Inc.
Superior Air Management
Coca Cola Bottling Company
Oconee Construction Services
Carson Advisory Group
Michele Pearson Tucker
Edward Jones
Munch Hut/BasKat Catering