Moderator and Speaker Bios

Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Summer Meeting
Macon State College PSC Center, Macon
August 25, 2011
Michael K. Anderson  
Senior Vice President  
President & CEO, Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.  
Georgia Power Company

Mike Anderson is Senior Vice President for Georgia Power Company and President & CEO of Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. Mike manages the company’s corporate giving and also serves as Vice President of Southern Company Charitable Foundation, Inc. Prior to this position, Mike served as Vice President of Corporate Services. In this role, he was responsible for Corporate Safety, Labor Relations, Fleet Management, Workforce Development and Workforce Training.

An Atlanta native, Anderson received a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was also inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni. He has an MBA from Emory University and is an alumnus of The Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership Georgia and Leadership Atlanta.

Mike began his career with Georgia Power in 1979 and has held numerous leadership positions in Capital Budgeting, System Planning, Customer Operations, Information Technology, Marketing and External Affairs. Prior to joining Georgia Power, Anderson was recruited from Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas where he implemented quality control component testing for nuclear warhead guidance systems.

In the community, Mike serves on numerous boards, including the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, Industrial & Systems Engineering Advisory, ZOO Atlanta, Emory University Board of Visitors, Chick-Fil-A Bowl, Inc. and Georgia Tech Alexander-Tharpe Inc. His past board affiliations include the Eisenhower Consortium on Science and Mathematics, Electric Vehicle Association of the Americas, Regional Atlanta Civic League, Buckhead Business Association, Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, Kennestone Health Care Foundation, 100 Black Men of Atlanta and Center for Puppetry Arts.

Anderson’s recognitions also include the Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America Whitney M. Young Award, Chauncey Davis Foundation’s Man of The Year Award, Atlanta Business League Men of Distinction Award and Georgia Institute of Technology’s Total Person Alumnus Award.

He and his wife Andreane have one son, Christopher, also a graduate of Georgia Tech.

The Honorable Linda Blechinger  
Mayor of Auburn, Georgia  
President, Gwinnett Municipal Association

Linda was born in Manhattan NY, she has lived in NY and California, and she has lived in Georgia with her husband and sons since 1989.

Linda worked in the defense manufacturing field as a manager before settling down to motherhood. While raising her boys she earned certificates in Christian counseling through Light University. Deciding it was time to get involved with her city by volunteering for Parks and Recreation, which she chaired, she then decided to run for city council. Serving for a year on Council, she ran for the Mayor’s seat winning in 2007.

During this time period Mrs. Blechinger also wrote and published her first book, “From Mourning to Morning” which will be rereleased in 2011.
The City of Auburn has seen quite a turnaround under Linda’s administration and is undergoing major redevelopment.

The City of Auburn is located in both Barrow and Gwinnett Counties. Linda serves both counties as well as the state wide Georgia Municipal Association.

**Ann Wilson Cramer**

**Director, Americas**

**IBM Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs Americas**

Ann Wilson Cramer, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina with a degree in mathematics and serves on its board. She is with IBM Corporation as its Director for IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs for the Americas. Ann and her husband, Jeff, their two children, Megan and Wil, are all active at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, where Ann has served as Senior Warden of the Vestry. Ann started with IBM as a Systems Engineer in Jacksonville. After being "retired" from IBM for ten years, Ann returned to IBM in External Programs, now Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs.

Ann’s commitment to and involvement with children and youth has been a lifelong journey. Her current job with IBM allows her to continue her work with the improvement of conditions for families, because of IBM’s historic involvement with and investment in local communities.

IBM is committed to K-12 education, job training and employment, community and family services, literacy programs and support for the disabled and disadvantaged through its people and technology. IBM employees are considered its strongest philanthropic asset in its approach to improve the communities in which they live and work. IBM’s primary emphasis is focused on education reform, especially related to the powerful use of solutions including services, software and technology as tools for learning.

In support of IBM’s primary focus areas, Ann currently serves as chair of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE), the Carter Center Board of Councilors, Atlanta Partners for Education and the Council on Foundations Public Policy Committee and is on the Council’s board and past chair of Communities in Schools-Georgia, and the Georgia Chamber’s Education Committee, Voices for Georgia’s Children, and is on the Executive Committee for the US Chamber’s Institute for Competitive Workforce and BCLC, the Conference Board’s Business and Education Council, Metro Atlanta Chamber Education Committee and Project GRAD Board. She serves on several non-profit organization boards including the Woodruff Arts Center, the Alliance Theatre Company, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, the Georgia Center for NonProfits, Public Broadcasting Atlanta (PBA), the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Chapter of the International Women’s Forum, UGA Board of Visitors, the Hands-on-Atlanta Advisory Board and the Atlanta Cities of Service board. And currently chairs the Advisory Councils for the Alliance Theatre and Imagine-It the Children’s Museum of Atlanta.

Likewise, Ann chairs the Council on Foundations Public Policy Committee and serves on its executive committee and board, and she has represented IBM on the United Way of America’s National Corporate Leaders Council, the Center for Corporate Citizenship Advisory Board at Boston College, the US Chamber’s Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC), the Independent Sector’s Membership Committee and the Southeastern Council on Foundations Communications Committee.
In support of children, youth and education, Ann most recently chaired the Workforce Development Task Force for the Governor’s Commission for a New Georgia. Ann has chaired the Governor’s Child Protective Services Task Force, served as Chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Children and Youth and co-chaired the Governor’s Welfare Reform Task Force, the Governor’s Policy Council for Children and Families and the Grady Foundation, the Governor’s Action Council for Safe Kids and led a team developing Voices for Georgia’s Children.

In 2009, Ann was the first to receive the “Essence of Atlanta” Award at the 41st Anniversary of Outstanding Atlanta. She was recently honored with the Georgia Center for Non-Profits 2011 Revolution Legendary Philanthropist Award and named by Atlanta Woman Magazine as the Power Woman of the Year,”25 Atlantans to Watch,” inducted into the Business Hall of Fame and awarded Georgia’s 1st Visionary Leadership Award, Leadership Atlanta’s Legacy of Leadership Award, the Lexis Leader of the Arts, the Shining Star recognition from the Atlanta Women’s Foundation, the first Narrowing the Digital Divide Award, the Andrew Young Public Policy and Faith award, Leading Ladies and Women Making the Mark distinctions, the Georgia Council for Economic Education’s prestigious VanLandingham Award, the Urban League’s 2000 Distinguished Community Service Award, the LifeTime Achievement in the Arts, Outstanding Achievement in Child Advocacy and she has received the 1988 11-Alive Community Service Award, the 1983 Georgia Volunteer of the Year, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Public Service Award; 1991 Alumnae Leadership Award for Salem College, and the 1990 DECA Award, one of ten outstanding business women in Atlanta.

Ann is past chair of the United Way of Metro-Atlanta, Research Atlanta, the Arts and Business Council; the WorldClass Schools Foundation; past president of the Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. and was selected by the YWCA for its first Outstanding Women of Achievement Recognition in 1984. She has participated in Leadership Atlanta, Leadership Georgia and the Regional Leadership Institute, is a member of Outstanding Atlanta, and chaired Leadership Atlanta’s 25th Anniversary Celebration. Also, she chaired the Volunteer Task Force for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), was appointed the public member and has served as the Chairman of the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

**Gregory J. Dent**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Community Health Works**

Gregory J. Dent is President and Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Works, a non-profit health care company. CHW began as a seven county collaborative whose vision is better health for all residents through communities working together and, under Greg’s leadership, has become a regional center for health innovation.

Dent is a graduate of Georgia College and State University where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a former accountant with the regional public accounting firm of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Company, and formerly a financial consultant with The Robinson-Humphrey Company, a securities brokerage firm. Greg started his own business in 1997, Dent Capital Management, an investment and management-consulting firm based in Macon, Georgia.

Dent was first elected to the Crawford County Board of Commissioners in 1996. In 1999, he was asked to serve on the Community Health Works Board of Directors. At the beginning of his second term, January 2001, he was elected Chairman of the Commission Board and served as
Chairman of the Health & Human Services Policy committee for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. In this capacity, he helped formulate and lobby for policies that are beneficial to Georgia counties and others responsible for the health and welfare of the citizens of Georgia.

Greg fell in love with the vision and mission of Community Health Works, and in 2003 he took a more active role when he accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer. In June 2004, he was asked to take the helm of the organization and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer.

Greg served as a Trustee of the National Rural Health Association. His national advocacy efforts include membership on NRHA’s Rural Health Policy Board and serving as President of the Georgia Rural Health Association’s Board of Directors. He has testified before members of the United States Congress and the Georgia General Assembly on economic development and rural health issues.

Additionally, he is a member of the America College of Healthcare Executives and former President of Georgia Small Business Lender, which manages a healthcare revolving loan fund, and he is a graduate of Leadership Georgia. He served as President of the National Cooperative Health Networks Board of Directors. Greg and his wife, Alecia, have a teenage son, Adam, and they reside in Macon, Georgia.

Lin Hollowell
Associate Director, Health Care Division
The Duke Endowment

Lin Hollowell is Associate Director of the Health Care Division of The Duke Endowment, a Charlotte-based private philanthropic foundation. Lin is a graduate of Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and a Master of Business Administration degree. Prior to joining The Duke Endowment in 2001, Lin worked in hospital administration with the Greenville Hospital System in Greenville, South Carolina. Lin’s current work at The Duke Endowment includes directing grant initiatives supporting mental health, emergency medical services and access to care for the uninsured.

Nancy Kennedy
Executive Director
Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership

Nancy Kennedy has been the executive director of the Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership since June 1994. Under her leadership, the Healthcare Partnership was chosen as one of America’s best community health networks by its selection and participation in the National Community Care Network Demonstration Program funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Nancy has served on a variety of social services, health care and educational boards. She is committed to improving the health status of her community but also enjoys working with other communities in framing and building their community health collaboratives.
Karen Minyard  
**Executive Director**  
**Georgia Health Policy Center**

Karen Minyard, Ph.D. has directed the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) at Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies since 2001. Minyard connects the research, policy, and programmatic work of the center across issue areas including: community and public health, end of life care, child health, health philanthropy, public and private health coverage, and the uninsured. Prior to assuming her current role, she directed the networks for rural health program at the GHPC. She has experience with the state Medicaid program, both with the design of a reformed Medicaid program and the external evaluation of the primary care case management program. She also has 13 years of experience in nursing and hospital administration.

She is an advocate for the importance of community in national, state, and local policy and the power of communities to improve health. Dr. Minyard maintains her connection with communities by working directly with local health collaboratives and serving on the boards of the National Network of Public Health Institutes, Physicians’ Innovation Network, and Communities Joined in Action.

Minyard’s research interests include: financing and evaluation of health-related social policy programs; strategic alignment of public and private health policy on all levels; the role of local health initiatives in access and health improvement; the role of targeted external facilitation and technical assistance in improving the sustainability, efficiency, and programmatic effectiveness of non-profit health collaboratives; and public health systems and financing.

Dr. Minyard frequently makes presentations and acts as a neutral convener and facilitator for groups and organizations. She often provides testimony for the state legislature and recently presented to congressional and executive agency staff on health reform and provisions related to the safety net. She is currently spearheading a team of faculty and staff at Georgia State University dedicated to translating national health care reform.

She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Virginia, a master’s degree in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia, and a doctoral degree in business administration with a major in strategic management and minor in health care financing from Georgia State University.

The Honorable Teresa Tomlinson  
**Mayor**  
**Columbus, Georgia**

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson is the 69th Mayor of Columbus, Georgia. On January 3, 2011, she was sworn in as the city’s first female mayor.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson moved to Columbus in 1994 from Atlanta and married Wade H. (Trip) Tomlinson, who was raised in Columbus, graduating from Hardaway High School. For 16 years she practiced with the law firm of Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick and Morrison, LLC, where she specialized in complex litigation and was the firm’s only female partner.

In 2006, she left her law practice to become the first Executive Director of MidTown, Inc. a non–profit community renewal organization which sought to market, economically stimulate and better plan Columbus, Georgia’s 9 square mile center.
Since the year 2000, she served as a member of Columbus’s Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), which studies issues of regional growth and provides citizen input on important state and municipal transportation decisions. Mayor Tomlinson served two years as the CAC’s Chair and as its representative on the Planning Organization’s Technical Committee and Policy Committee.

Mayor Tomlinson was recognized three times by the Columbus City Council for her work on government appointed boards and tasks force committees; was recognized by the Georgia House of Representatives as an Outstanding Volunteer; received a Certificate of Special U.S. Congressional Recognition for “outstanding achievement, service and public distinction”. She was also named a Columbus Woman on the Rise and Exceptional Role Model in Business and was a Concharty Council of Girl Scouts Woman of Achievement.

She has served as Chairperson on the Strategic Communications Task Force for the Regional Growth Management Plan related to BRAC growth; as a member of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce Board (Ex Officio); as Mayor Wetherington’s appointee to the Columbus Conventions and Visitors Bureau Board; on the Board of Trustees for the RiverCenter; on the Board of Directors of Columbus Regional Medical Center Foundation; as Mayor Poydasheff’s appointee to the Columbus South Revitalization Task Force; and many others.

Mayor Tomlinson is a 1983 graduate of Chamblee High School in Atlanta, Georgia, a 1987 graduate of Sweet Briar College and a 1991 graduate of Emory University School of Law.