BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

“BUILDING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND PROFITABLE BUSINESS”

BTW SUMMIT

27TH

SEPT

14-16

2023

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, MONTGOMERY, AL.
About the Summit

On September 18, 1895, Booker T. Washington gave a historically renowned speech at the opening of the Atlanta Exposition. Though some leaders were critical of the approach espoused in the speech, one thing remains clear; Booker T. Washington’s strategy for addressing the social ills of society was through the economic development of black people. The Booker T. Washington Economic Summit uses this and other historical and philosophical perspectives of Booker T. Washington to focus on present day changes and to promote entrepreneurship and business opportunities for economic development in small towns, the southern region, and rural America. It is with this intention that then Extension Administrator, Velma Blackwell, established the summit in 1995, commemorating 100 years of the vision espoused by Booker T. Washington at the Atlanta Exposition.

It is with great honor that we welcome our partner, The National Business League, who are launching a national campaign for “Black Economic Freedom”. Founded by Booker T. Washington on August 23, 1900, the National Business League is the nation’s oldest business and trade association and continues to be a leader in developing a variety of business and trade associations, coalitions, and institutions.

This year’s Summit is pivotal, as it moves into its second quarter of a century. With persistent issues of economic underdevelopment, social and political strife, and impending shifts in global climate and trade; this year’s summit and partners seeks a renewed focus on profitable black business in black communities. Restore, Renew, and Regenerate the vision of Booker T. Washington to build a more equitable and just economic environment for all.

As a conference, the objectives are:

1. Provide technical assistance for individuals and organizations to become eligible for financing opportunities
2. Provide a forum and a source of funding that eligible individuals can access to launch and/or grow for-profit and not-for-profit business entities
3. Act as an aggregation point for entities in target industries seeking to improve their profitability through alliances, partnerships and/or cooperatives

Conference participants are expected from the minority business sector, community-based organizations, government, HBCUs and other universities. They will convene to learn more about procurement and funding opportunities; examine best practices, programs and policies; and exhibit success stories and model business programs for new opportunities and growth in individual businesses, small towns and rural communities.

Entrepreneurship and Start-up Business Development and Education are extension projects within the planned program area of Community and Economic Development. This program area primarily focuses on community resources and leadership development, business and entrepreneurial development, individual and family financial management. The major objective is to enhance financial security and organization for families, start-up micro-entrepreneurs, and communities. Extension Projects for this program area include: (a) Family Finances, (b) Start-up Businesses and Non-Profits, (c) Heir Property and African American Landloss, (d) Cooperative Development, and (e) Increase access to broadband internet.

Summit Website
www.tuskegee.edu/btwsummit
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Registration (Conference Registration Desk)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Opening Plenary Session (Ballroom)

Welcome & Greetings  Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, President  Tuskegee University

The Honorable Steven Reed, Mayor  City of Montgomery, Alabama

The Honorable Lawrence “Tony” Haygood, Mayor  City of Tuskegee, Alabama

The Honorable Louis Maxwell, Chair  Macon County Commission, Tuskegee, AL

Recognition of Special Guests  Dr. Raymon Shange, Extension Administrator  Tuskegee University

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Introduction of Guest Speaker  Raymon Shange

Guest Speaker  Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair  Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  First General Session (Ballroom)

**Economic Development: The Role of Federal Regional Commissions/Authorities**

**Moderator:** Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu, Senior Community Economist  Carver Integrative Sustainability Center (CISC)  Tuskegee University

Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development  Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed Federal Co-Chair  Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)

Community-Based Programs & Infrastructure  Joe Turnham  Macon County Economic Development Authority

Tracy Delaney  South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC)

**Topics of Discussion**

Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development
Community-Based Programs & Infrastructure
Workforce Development & Housing
Questions & Answers
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  

Luncheon (Ballroom)

**Moderator:** Dr. Faye Hall-Jackson  
Assistant Provost for Faculty Development Affairs  
Tuskegee University

**Awards and Recognitions**

**Distinguished Alumni Award:** Gregoire Tillery, WeDats  
**Emerging Business Award:** Terrence Johnson, TJK Companies  
**Distinguished Service Award:** Myron Penn, Penn & Seaborn

1:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  

Second General Session: Track A (Ballroom)  

**Moderator:** Dr. DeQuarius King, Tuskegee University

**Community Based Strategies for Community and Economic Development**

- Cooperative Development for Strengthening Communities  
  Terence Courtney  
  Federation of Southern Cooperatives

- Entre to Entrepreneurship  
  Amber Twitty  
  CED Educator, Southern Region  
  Central State University Extension  
  Central State University

- Peacock Tract Revival  
  John Myers, Vincent Hall, Kalonji Gilchrist  
  Tuskegee University & 21 Dreams Arts & Culture

- Preserving Cultures in Open Spaces  
  Kim Davis  
  Florida A&M University

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.  

**Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  

Second General Session (Ballroom)

**Resources and Strategies for Enhancing Community Infrastructure for the 21st Century**

**Moderator:** Catrina Hoffman, Coordinator  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension

- Sustainability Markets, Clean Community Financing  
  Venus Welch-White  
  Senior Advisor for Agriculture  
  Environmental Protection Agency

- Rural to Broadband  
  Aaron D. McCall Managing Director  
  South Central Alabama Broadband Cooperative District

- Sustainable to Energy  
  Richard Martin, Norfolk State University
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. .............................................................. Registration/Information Desk

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ................................................................. Breakfast

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ............................................................... Third General Session (Ballroom)

Introduction of Speaker ......................................................... Raymon Shange Extension Administrator

Dr. Corey Wiggins
Federal Co-Chair, DBA

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ............................................................ Business and Economic Development

Moderator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University

Andrea Mosley, Director
Alabama Small Business Development Center

Thomas Todt, State Director
Small Business Administration

Nivory Gordon, Jr., State Director
USDA Rural Development

Daryl Hunter, CEO
TrendCo, LLC

Tyler Hunter, President
TrendCo, LLC

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. ............................................................ Break

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ............................................................ Fourth General Session

Strategies on Sustainable Economic Futures

Moderator/Introduction of Speaker: Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dean
College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences

Keynote Speaker: Michael V. Roberts, President & CEO
Roberts Companies
Finance of the Future

**Introduction of Speaker:** Denzel Veale
Tuskegee University

**Speaker:** Armando Pantoja
Futurist, Investor and Author

**Moderator:** Denzel Veale
Tuskegee University

**Panelists:**
- Gregory Tillery, We Dat’s, New Orleans, LA
- Kalauna Carter, Kolors by Kay
- Chasity Pritchett, Emblem Olive Oil

**Remarks:**
Nicholas Perkins, Chairman, President, and CEO
Perkins Management Services Company and Black Titan Investment Corporation
About the Speakers

**DR. JENNIFER CLYBURN REED** was nominated by President Joe Biden in August 2021 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 8, 2021 as the first Federal Co-Chair of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). SCRC is a federal-state partnership established by the 2008 Farm Bill (page 547, P.L. 110-234) to spur economic development in seven Southeastern states - AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and VA.

As a small business owner, public servant, educator, and community advocate, Dr. Reed understands the importance of transportation, housing, infrastructure, education, healthcare, a skilled workforce, and civility to improve social and economic conditions within communities.

Dr. Reed's professional career spanned 28 years in the South Carolina public school system and at the college level before retiring in 2020. Dr. Reed is the former Director of an education and equity center at the University of South Carolina and was co-founder of the Apple Core Initiative (ACI), a teacher recruitment, enrollment and retention scholarship program in the USC College of Education. She also serves on the selection committee for the Dr. Emily England Clyburn Endowed Scholarship housed at the Dr. Emily E. Clyburn Honors College on the campus of South Carolina State University, the state's only public HBCU.

Dr. Reed earned a doctoral degree in Instructional Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is also a three-time graduate of the University of South Carolina, earning an Education Specialist in Teaching (Ed.S.), Masters in Arts and Teaching (M.A.T.), and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science degrees. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Reed was co-owner of a property investment, restoration and management company, and President of its nonprofit arm which channeled her commitment to local communities. She has operated an educational consulting company and is a self-taught home gardener.

Dr. Reed is married to Mississippi native Walter A. Reed and they have two adult children, Walter A. Clyburn Reed and Sydney Reed Jackson, a son-in-law, Justin Jackson, and one granddaughter, Eden Elyse Jackson.

The South Central Alabama Development Commission (SCAC) is a public, quasi-governmental agency that provides aging, planning, and economic and community development services to its member governments. The SCADC region includes Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Macon, and Pike Counties, as well as Montgomery County for Economic Development District purposes. For more than 40 years, SCADC has successfully assisted local governments in preparing planning strategies, securing, and administering development grant funds, and providing aging assistance, thereby allowing local officials to make informed decisions regarding their community’s future and providing additional benefits for their citizens. The staff of the South Central Alabama Development Commission works with elected officials and local leaders in each of the six counties of the region on a daily basis, providing professional planning, community and economic development, GIS, and aging services. Currently, the SCADC staff is managing planning, community and economic development projects totaling more than $46 million in ongoing and pending local improvement projects.

Additionally, the South Central Alabama Development Commission has a long-standing contractual relationship with **TRACY DELANEY** who brings 32 years of experience in working with regional planning commissions, local governments, and other organizations to produce comprehensive plans, land use plans, trail and greenway plans, watershed management plans, zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. Mrs. Delaney has worked closely with the SCADC since 2001 to assist the member governments in their community planning efforts.
AMBER J. TWITTY is a management professional who has worked in all aspects of community development and planning projects from building housing, highways, organizations and community blocks, to helping people move towards self-sufficiency. She has worked with businesses – both large and small, in the areas of capacity building, diversity and inclusion, organizational development, grants administration, leadership development, program development and evaluation, workforce development, neighborhood business districts, stakeholder outreach and strategy, within the non-profit, academia, government and private sectors. Amber also has extensive experience in designing and implementing youth employment, and other workforce development programming for hard-to-serve and non-traditional workers, such as veterans and returning citizens.

In addition to her “behind the scenes” volunteerism in the community and investment in individuals (especially youth), Ms. Twitty commits her time to groups who are change agents. She previously served as a member of the Health Collaborative’s Consumer Council, which works with health professionals in the areas of strategic planning for the Greater Cincinnati region, quality of care, payment structures, self-empowerment of consumers on their health and improving regional health outcomes through the power of the consumer voice. Amber is an executive board member of the Diversity Compliance Coalition of Ohio whose focus is on building relationships, providing business development training, and improving existing procurement systems so that opportunities can be realized by minority-owned, veteran-owed, women-owned, small, and disadvantaged businesses throughout the State of Ohio. She is also a board member for Rugby Ohio. Appointed by the Mayor of Cincinnati, Amber serves as the Chairperson of the City of Cincinnati Human Services Advisory Committee. This committee reviews, monitors and makes funding recommendations for over $6 million of Cincinnati funds to be granted to various social service agencies that serve Cincinnati residents. She also serves on the Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center’s (MBAC) - Cincinnati Advisory Committee. To this day, she utilizes various platforms to build the capacity of other businesses, improve efficiencies and processes, empower individuals, and develop programming that serves as a catalyst for implementing solutions to local and regional economies.

Amber J. Twitty pursued higher education from the University of Cincinnati with a focus in Business Finance from the Carl H. Lindner College of Business. She has completed additional graduate coursework in the areas of Community Development and Planning and in Public Administration. Amber is an Dr. O’Dell M. Owens Fellow alunna. She is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections as an Offender Workforce Specialist, in Emotional Intelligence and Diversity from the Emotional Intelligence and Diversity Institute at UCLA; Rural Grocery Specialist from Kansas State University Extension; and two certifications from the University of South Florida in Inclusive & Ethical Leadership; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace. She has been recognized for her impactful work in the economic inclusion space. Nationally, she serves as a federal grant reviewer for NIFA (an arm of the USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services. Amber has been honored for her Economic Inclusion work and as a 2018 “Werking Woman of Cincinnati” by the Morgan A. Owens Brand and The Cincinnati Herald.

ANDREA ROGERS MOSLEY has been with the SBDC network for 13 years and has served as director of the Alabama SBDC and PTAC at Alabama State University since 2016. Prior to joining the SBDC, she owned a solopreneur virtual assistance and web design company for seven years. In 2021, she was recognized with the America’s SBDC “State Star” award. This national award from America’s SBDC recognizes those who demonstrate exemplary performance, make significant contributions to their networks, and are deeply committed to the success of America’s small businesses. She is passionate about helping small businesses survive and thrive. She is active in her small business ecosystem working with elected officials, area chambers of commerce, local SBA District Office, lenders, and other economic development organizations to identify and connect businesses to resources. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from Troy University and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Services: Counseling Business from Liberty University. Andrea honorably served as an active duty service member in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1989 to 1993 and is a Desert Shield and Desert Storm Veteran. She loves traveling with her husband and spending quality time with their children and family.
**MR. TOM TODT** (pronounced “tote”) has been the Director of the US Small Business Administration’s Alabama District Office since June 2008. In his role as District Director, Mr. Todt oversees a professional staff of 7 in the delivery of SBA’s Financial Assistance, Entrepreneurial Development, Business Training, Government Contracting and other marketing and outreach programs throughout Alabama’s 67 counties. This delivery network includes 10 Small Business Development Centers, 8 APEX Accelerators (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)), five SCORE chapters, 3 Women’s Business Centers and dozens of lending institutions. He received his marketing degree from the University of Alabama and is a former small business owner. Tom has worked in a variety of sales, marketing, and management positions for different types of large and small firms, and non-profit organizations. Todt also has twelve years of economic and community development experience, as well as nearly twelve years of active-duty military experience. He is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institutes for Organization Management (IOM) program. Mr. Todt has served as chair of the State of Alabama Business Education Advisory Committee, a member of the Vocational Education State Courses of Study Committee, and a board member of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce Executives Association, as well as many other business, chamber of commerce, and community initiatives. He can be reached at thomas.todt@sba.gov

**MR. GORDON** has over 34 years of service with the USDA Rural Development. He started his career as a Co-op Student in 1987 while attending Alabama A & M University in Huntsville, Alabama. Gordon obtained a B.S. in Agricultural Education in 1989 and M.S. in Agricultural Management 1992. During his tenure with the Agency, he has illustrated respect for others, productive work environment and leadership with integrity.

Gordon held the following positions over the years with USDA: Assistant County Supervisor 1989-1991; Construction Analyst 1991-1995; Rural Development Specialist 1995-2002; Area Specialist 2002-2013; Area Director 2013-2021. Gordon has positively impacted the lives of many Rural Alabamians over the years. Based on his extensive experience, leadership and aggressive work ethics, his goal will be to operationalize the Agency’s mission.

Gordon is a native of Wilcox County, Alabama where he resides with spouse Rachel. Nivory III and Bryant Arthur are his adult sons. He currently operates the family farm (beef cattle and quarter horses) in Furman, Alabama. Gordon serves on the Deacon Board of First-Born Church of Ackerville; Wilcox County Cattleman Association Board of Director, Delta Leadership Institute 2015-2016 Graduate; National Cutting Horse Association Membership; Selma Dallas County Alabama A & M Alumni Chapter President and various other community organizations.

Entrepreneur **MICHAEL VICTOR ROBERTS**, Sr. was born on October 24, 1948, in St. Louis, Missouri to Delores Talley Roberts and Victor Roberts. He grew up the first of four siblings. The Roberts family was educated in the St. Louis Public School System, and Roberts began working as a youth, earning money doing chores around the neighborhood and delivering newspapers. Roberts heard St. Louis’ Dick Gregory talk about the Civil Rights Movement and was inspired. Graduating from Northwest High School in 1967, where he played the trombone and tennis, Roberts attended Central Missouri State University and Forest Park Community College. He met Jack Danforth at Camp Minnewanka and finished Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri as a Danforth Fellow. He began his first business selling dashikis and other African merchandise to area bookstores. Roberts studied law at St. Louis University School of Law, and in 1974, earned his J.D. degree and began Roberts-Roberts and Associates, a business and construction management firm headquartered in St. Louis. In 1976, Roberts worked as St. Louis campaign manager for Jimmy Carter, and after Carter’s election as U.S. President, he was a regular guest at the White House. One year later, Roberts was elected the youngest alderman in St. Louis. His brother, Steven C. Roberts, would claim this title two years later, serving along with Mike Jones, Virvus Jones and Wayman Smith. Roberts was the chief sponsor of the St. Louis Center and Union Station developments, and he was involved in major redevelopment efforts for the City of St. Louis. In 1981, Roberts and his brother began Roberts Broadcasting. After establishing WRBU-TV in St. Louis, the Roberts Brothers would
build eleven more television stations across the country, from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Mobile, Alabama. While building these stations, the Roberts Brothers founded Roberts Construction Company in 1989.

This additional business enterprise supplemented the commercial and residential developments the brothers had established in 1982 known as Roberts Brothers Properties. In 1999, the Roberts Brothers opened the first Sprint PCS-affiliated wireless store in Jefferson City, Missouri. It was the only PCS-affiliated company owned by African Americans. The Roberts Companies include a $460 million thirty-four-company organization, with an aviation division, a gated Bahamas community and other real estate developments. Roberts serves as chairman of the board, while his brother Steven serves as president.

**DARRYL HUNTER** is the CEO Trendco LLC. He holds a BSE Electrical Engineering University of Alabama Birmingham School of Engineering. Darryl has over 38 years of manufacturing supply chain management and plant engineering experience. He has worked for Fortune 500 consumer products companies such as Kellogg’s, Procter and Gamble, General Foods, and M & M Mars. He also has an extensive career in plant engineering and plant management.

Darryl is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Trendco LLC, a South Carolina Based LLC founded in 2018 to help physicians provide Interventional Pain Management Therapy to patients suffering from chronic and acute pain. Darryl started the PPE supply division because of demands for medical supplies presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic. He has a proven expertise in sourcing Medical Mask, Surgical Gowns, Medical Exam Gloves, IR Thermometers and Rapid Test kits for a wide range of frontline medical providers and assisted living facilities over the past 9 Months. Has imported PPE goods from ASIA, Turkey and sourced PPE supplies from a wide range of US domestic suppliers. Experienced in managing the import logistical movement of PPE supplies from Asia to customer doors in the United States. Our customer base includes Veteran Affairs Columbia, SC, Prisma Health System, South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, Appalachian Mountains Community Health Care Group, Primary Health Care Group of Detroit MI, Southside Medical Primary Health Care Group, Spartanburg Regional Medical Group and Caduceus Occupational Medicine Group Atlanta. Trendco has established a network of reliable suppliers and customers capable of supplying and or purchasing OTG inventory up to $3 Billion in value. Has direct sourcing relationships with Cranberry, 3M, Kimberly Clark, Cardinal, and US Medical Gown Manufacturing.

**TYLER HUNTER** is the President of TrendCo, LLC., where he drives product strategy and direction for the firm’s Weight and Balance logistics software, which delivered consumer-grade simplicity and ease of use to complex analytics products for users of all skill sets, resulting in the acquisition of a $1.6mm Logistics Consulting contract for a 10-week project in South Korea. He developed product requirements for the firm’s Nitrile Medical Examination Glove product, led efforts on end-user training/product testing/rollout and fostered a data-driven culture that facilitated innovation - resulting in three Nitrile Glove product variations. Additionally, he set the standard for communicating Nitrile Medical Examination Glove product benefits internally, driving adoption within our core customer base and helping to secure a $500k government contract through the General Services Administration (GSA).

Tyler has a has BS degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.
Chairman, President, and CEO Perkins Management Services Company and Black Titan Investment Corporation, The Parent Company of Fuddruckers “Worlds Greatest Hamburgers”. This the acquisition made MR. PERKINS, the first African American to own a National Hamburger Franchise System. Mr. Perkins was born in Fayetteville, NC and raised by his single mother with assistance from his maternal grandmother. Mr. Perkins’ solid upbringing and desire to become an entrepreneur inspired him to deftly exact impactful goals with demonstrated excellence. To that end, Mr. Perkins has committed himself to economic development and creation of job opportunities within under-sourced communities.

Mr. Perkins founded the Perkins Management Company in 2005, specializing in the provision of contract food service management. Perkins Management Services Company is now a multi-million-dollar enterprise with multiple business platforms serving a diverse portfolio of clients that include colleges and universities, hospitals, and the US Department of Defense. In his roles as Chairman, President, and CEO, Mr. Perkins has successfully honored his forefathers by building a company premised on a solid financial foundation with a core leadership team possessing strong business acumen and ethics.

Mr. Perkins is a 1999 graduate of E. E. Smith Sr. High School and a 2003 graduate of Fayetteville State University. In 2013, Mr. Perkins received his MBA from Howard University. Mr. Perkins’ driven goals and demonstrated excellence earned him the Prominent Alumnus award from the Howard University School of Business. Mr. Perkins is also a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Mr. Perkins is widely recognized and depended upon as a distinguished leader and progress agent in many communities. Mr. Perkins has served on numerous boards. Former Governor Pat McCrory appointed Mr. Perkins in 2014 to serve as member of the Governor’s Advisory Council for Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses, which is responsible for expanding state contracting opportunities for women or minority owned small businesses. In 2015, Mr. Perkins was appointed as a Trustee for the Board of the National Urban League and stands as its youngest trustee in service. Mr. Perkins also serves on the School of Business Deans Advisory Board for Fayetteville State University School of Business.

As a leader within the community, Mr. Perkins wisely understands the need for advocacy and activism. Mr. Perkins is proactively committed to being an example to young leaders with entrepreneurial desires. Additionally, Mr. Perkins is a major financial supporter of his own alma maters as well as the colleges and universities where he is honored to partner and provide his company’s stellar services. Mr. Perkins’ commitment to professional and civic excellence results in his being a respected leader in the communities he proudly serves. Mr. Nicholas M. Perkins is committed to excellence with each undertaking.

MS. KIMBERLY DAVIS is an Extension Agent/Emergency Management Specialist with the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Cooperative Extension Family, Youth and Community Program. Her areas of specialization include natural resources conservation, environmental education, disaster preparedness and resiliency, and environmental health and safety. She has over 30 years of experience in coordinating STEM and environmental education outreach programs including Kids Involved in Math and Sciences (KIMS) Program, Forestry and Conservation Education (FACE) Summer Program and FAMU B-WET Sky to Sea Program. The FACE Summer Program has the distinction of being one of the longest running summer programs at FAMU. Ms. Davis has been both a formal and informal educator, and has worked with hundreds of students and teachers. For over 10 years, she was also employed with the Florida Division of Emergency Management as the State Environmental Scientist and Planning Manager. She holds a M.S. degree in Agricultural Sciences with a major in Environmental Sciences from Florida A&M University.
JOE TURNHAM currently serves as Director of the Macon County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and resides in Tuskegee. Joe’s efforts have helped foster phenomenal economic growth in both industrial and retail investment and new job creation over the past decade in Macon County. Macon County now competes at the highest level for major projects, having not been active in economic development just ten years ago.

Prior to his time in Macon County, Joe gained a national reputation both as a political figure and tier-one consultant to a myriad of clients worldwide. Joe served a record three terms as chair of the Alabama Democratic Party between 1995 and 2011, as well as being a member of the Democratic National Committee during those same years. He chaired the 1996 and 2008 Alabama delegations to the Presidential Conventions for Clinton-Gore and Obama-Biden respectively.

Joe was a founding director in 1999 for what is now, Conservation Alabama, the political lobby for Alabama’s environmental and conservation communities. Joe currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of East Alabama.

Joe is a 1981 graduate of Auburn University with a degree in General Business. Joe is part of bigger Auburn Family, with his late father, Pete Turnham (three Auburn degrees), serving for 40 years in the Alabama House of Representatives (1958-1998) where he was fondly known as “Mr. Auburn” in the halls of the legislature.

Joe is married to Shealene Turnham of Newnan, Georgia. Joe has two children, Abby -32 and Pete -26. His son, Pete, is also an Auburn graduate and was an award-winning diver on Auburn University’s Swimming and Diving team from 2014-2018.

Joe continues to collaborate with institutions such as Tuskegee University, Auburn University and other local communities finding win-win collaborations for successful projects. Joe is an accomplished writer and author appearing on many state and national shows as both an analyst and commentator on elections and leadership.
SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE
Raymon Shange, Chair
Miles Robinson, Co-Chair
DeQuarius King, Co-Chair

HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS
Velma L. Blackwell (deceased)
Clifton Warren, USDA/FSA
Nivory Gordon, Jr., USDA/Rural Development
Walter A. Hill, Tuskegee University

LOGISTICS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Carmalita Pollard
John Myers

LOGISTICS/AUDIO VISUALS/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Karen Craig*
Peter Kanyi
Douglas Eaves
Amir Muhammad

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Barrett Vaughan

program committee
Lawrence Haygood, Jr.
Barrett Vaughan
Candace Clark
Miles Robinson
Rodney Stone
Jacquelyn Carlisle
Gloria Tinubu
DeQuarius King

PROGRAM MEALS COMMITTEE
Carmalita Pollard
Wanda Morrow*

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Shannon Payne*
Elizabeth Whetstone
De’Ambria Abner

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Jacquelyn Carlisle*
Karen Craig
Barrett Vaughan

* Denotes Coordinator

SPONSORS
USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture
(Planned program area on Community Development and Resources)

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

KEY PARTNERS
The National Business League

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences
College of Business and Information Science
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Act of 1977, in cooperation with Raymon Shange, Administrator, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCE), the TUCE is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Tuskegee University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033 - 4097; Number 404-679-4501) to award doctoral, masters, and bachelor degrees.