



**Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO
Atlanta Business League**

Leona Barr – Davenport is president & CEO of the Atlanta Business League (ABL), Atlanta’s oldest minority business development and advocacy organization. As President, she works with the board of directors to provide increased access to business opportunities for minorities with specific emphasis on the development of businesses owned or operated by African – Americans. Her background combines more than twenty – five (25) years of experience in the areas of customer service, program development, organizational management & fundraising for associations and youth – oriented programs.

A native of Johnsonville, South Carolina, Leona received a B . S . Degree in Business Administration & Economics from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. In 1999, Leona was awarded the inaugural Dean’s Community improvement Scholarship totaling \$28,000 in the School of Business Administration by Clark Atlanta University. She completed the requirements for a Master of Business

Administration with a Marketing concentration in the Weekend Working Professionals Program in August 2001.

Several organizations have been the beneficiary of her community and civic volunteerism. They include the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization (SWAYBO), Metro – Atlanta Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), the Atlanta inter – Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the Voter Education Project, Inc . , Atlanta Red Cross, Minority Recruitment (2002 Co-Chair); Workforce Investment Board for the State of Georgia; Atlanta Development Authority; Clark Atlanta University Community Advisory Board (2002 – 03 Chair); Workforce Development for Fulton County; Boy Scouts of America and the National Leadership Coalition on A I D S . She currently serves as an advisor for SWAYBO and is a previous board member. Subsequent to coming on staff with the Atlanta Business League, Ms . Barr – Davenport served on the ABL Board of Directors.

Ms . Barr – Davenport serves on the Advisory Boards and committees for Business NOW of Goodwill Industries of Atlanta, Inc . ; the Atlanta Coalition of 100 Black Women of Atlanta; the Community Foundation, and United Way of Metro Atlanta. Her current board affiliations include Crossroads Community Ministries, Economic Development Corporation of Fulton County; Minority Entrepreneurship Education, Inc . (Secretary) and the National Business League. She is a 1999 Leadership Georgia graduate, 2002 Leadership Atlanta graduate, and recent graduate of the Diversity Leadership Academy.

In 1997, Leona received the Keeper of the Dream Award from the Golden Neo – Life Diamite (GNLD) Wellness Center and Bradley – Carmack, Inc . ; the Ordinary Women with Extraordinary Talents Award from Women Looking Ahead News Magazine, Inc . in 1998; Outstanding SWAYBO Advocate in 1999; the President’s Award from Concerned Black Clergy in 2000; the Community Achievement Award in celebration of the 10th anniversary of For Sisters Only from WAOK/WVEE Radio; the 2002 Pinnacle Leadership Award from the Fortitude Educational and Cultural Development Foundation, the AIACJUNCF Outstanding Alumnus Award and the Advocacy Award from the National Association of Minority Contractors. In April 2006, Leona was featured in Atlanta Woman Magazine as its Woman of the Year nominee and was inducted into the 2006 YWCA Academy of Women Achievers.

Leona resides in Sharpsburg, GA with her husband, Jewel L . Davenport. She is member of Antioch Baptist Church North where Reverend Kenneth L. Alexander is pastor.



**Stacey Key, President / CEO
Georgia Minority Supplier
Development Council**

Stacey Key is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC), the state of Georgia's leading authority on supplier diversity and minority business development. Supply chain partnerships facilitated by the GMSDC transact more than \$9 billion in revenues annually and have contributed tens of thousands of jobs to Georgia's economy. Key has more than 25 years of previous corporate experience in sales, marketing, operations and customer service at global brands like IBM, AT&T, Schlumberger and Samsung Telecommunications. Prior to joining the GMSDC in 2008, she was responsible for leading nationwide marketing efforts at Samsung Telecommunications as its Marketing Director. She also served as Vice President – Public Sector for Schlumberger, the world's leading supplier of products and services to the oil and gas industry. In addition, she is an accomplished entrepreneur, with more than 15 years of experience at the helm of a successful family business.

Stacey has been recognized as a thought leader and subject matter expert throughout the state for both her career accomplishments and community service. Some of her awards and honors include: the 100 Influential Women to Know by Engineering Georgia, Who's Who of Black Atlanta, the Business Advocacy Award from MARTA, the Atlanta Business League's 100 Top Women of Influence, Diversity Plus Magazine's Top 25 Women in Power Impacting Diversity, the Black & Latino Council's Global Commerce Award, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Apex Small Business Champion Award and the 2018 Atlanta Business Chronicle Women Who Mean Business Award.

Key earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Computer Science from Western Kentucky University, and an MBA from Kennesaw State University. She holds a certificate in Mergers and Acquisitions from Kennesaw State University and is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014 and a graduate of the 2018 Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute. Key is actively involved in the community and serves on numerous boards of directors, including the Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Midtown Alliance, Emory University Center for Ethics Advisory Board, Metro Atlanta Chamber Advisory Board and the Chic-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame. She is the proud mother of one daughter, who is a college student.



Veronica Maldonado-Torres
President & CEO
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce

Verónica Maldonado-Torres is the President and CEO of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. As a highly versatile and visionary Latina business owner and community leader, Verónica brings her entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity, born from over 60 years of generational entrepreneurship on both sides of her family, to the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GHCC). With over a decade of experience as a small business champion and supplier diversity advocate, Verónica is a catalyst of growth for both small businesses and large corporations, bringing thought-leadership and innovation to the supplier development space. She has also been an avid champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout her career.

Known as the people and business accelerator, Verónica excels at building strategic alliances and fostering win-win relationships between small businesses and corporate America. Prior to joining the GHCC, Verónica successfully guided the development and growth of more than 150 firms across multiple industries ranging from \$1M-\$100M in annual revenue in her role as Program

Director for the Georgia Mentor Protégé Connection (MPC). There, she fostered over 131 Fortune 500 corporate relationships, supported the supplier development efforts of more than 41 corporations, as well as created and produced over 85 small- to large-scale business conferences and events including the Georgia Innovation Summit. Before MPC, Verónica served as the Director of Strategic Alliances and Partnerships for the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC) where she fostered partnerships among GMSDC, Minority Business Associations, chambers, and organizations focused on minority small business development in Georgia.

Verónica is also CEO and founder of VMT Consulting and creator of the DRIVEN TO THRIVE™ mindset, model, and way of living where she empowers professionals and businesses to grow, transform and thrive. Through VMT Consulting, Verónica enables small businesses to increase sales, secure long-term contracts, and maximize their growth potential by unleashing the value proposition they bring to corporate America. VMT Consulting also supports large corporations with the creation and implementation of supplier development programs, diversity and inclusion initiatives, cultural mastery trainings, and leadership development programs, with a special emphasis on women and multicultural professionals.

A passionate community leader with a desire to serve, Verónica serves as a board member for the American Heart Association, board director for “The Assembly” Community Improvement District (CID) appointed by DeKalb County, Board member of the Technology Association of Atlanta’s Business Process Management Group, board member of the Hispanic Corporate Council of Atlanta (HCCA). She is a 2016 Graduate of Leadership DeKalb’s Class of 2016.

Verónica has earned several accolades for her leadership in championing small business growth and creating community impact. She’s received the Corporate Diversity Champion Award 2021- Atlanta Business Chronicle DEI, distinction of “Top 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia” by the GHCC in 2018, “Diversity Star of Atlanta” by the Diversity Professional Magazine among Fortune 500 diversity leaders, “40Under40 Atl Mover and Shaker” by the Atlanta Business Chronicle in 2017, “Keep it Moving Forward-Raising Generations” awardee by the Mary Parker Foundation in 2016, “Top 15 Georgia Latina of Excellence-Rising Star Award” recipient by LISTA in 2016, and, Community Builder Awardee – Business Sector” by GHCA in 2015, among other recognitions.

Verónica is also a highly sought-after public speaker, moderator, and frequent radio/TV guest on the subjects of small business, diversity and inclusion, servant leadership, purpose-DRIVEN living, career advancement, work/life/balance, and women empowerment. She has appeared in media such as the Atlanta Business Chronicle, Atlanta Tech Edge, Business Radio X, CIO Magazine, The Dana Barrett Show, and Diversity Inc, among others. Verónica has presented, spoken and worked with Fortune 500s and organizations such as The Coca-Cola Company, Cox Enterprises, SunTrust, Kellogg, Unilever, SC Johnson, Verizon, Fifth Third Bank, VDART’s Global Women Leadership Initiative in India, Cornell University, Kennesaw State University, Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA), DeKalb Chamber, USPAACC, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mujeres de HACE (Hispanic Alliance for Career Advancement), GMSDC, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, University of Georgia’s Small Business Development Center’s (SBDC) Women Expo, ENRICHER Conference, 100 Female Entrepreneurs, She Leads Conference, the Avanzar Program, the Women’s Multicultural Conference, and countless others



Sachin Shailendra
President
SG Contracting

As President of SG Contracting, Inc., Sachin has responsibility for the company in its entirety, governing its activities and providing the direction to smoothly and efficiently match people and projects to deliver successful outcomes.

Sachin is known for his integrity, honesty and commitment to client satisfaction. His extensive portfolio of construction experience and his ability to solve problems and effectively communicate plans and processes at all levels, make him a valuable leader to assist owners, subcontractors, architects and designers with new projects and renovation projects alike.

Sachin is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology and an alumnus of Woodward Academy, where he has also served as a former President of the Alumni Association and Member of the school's Advisory Council. He is a current Member of the Carter Center Board of Councilors, Rotary Club of Atlanta, The Atlanta Police Foundation, Atlanta Speech School, Chairman of the Rowen Foundation, and Trustee of The Georgia Research Alliance.

He is also the former chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.



Rodney K. Strong
Attorney and CEO
Griffin & Strong, P.C

Rodney K. Strong is the C.E.O. of Griffin & Strong, P.C., a law and public policy consulting firm based in Atlanta, Georgia. He is currently the project principal for public policy consulting engagements with numerous state and local government entities. A member of the State Bar of Georgia, he represents a range of public entity and corporate clients, specializing in public contract, community development and real estate law. He is also the general counsel for the Metro Atlanta Land Bank Authority. He has been the supplier diversity consultant for numerous major construction projects. Most recently he was the supplier diversity consultant for both the Mercedes-Benz Stadium construction and the State Farm Arena renovation in Atlanta.

He is widely considered one of the foremost national experts in the area of procurement disparity research and supplier diversity program development. His experience in these areas began in 1984, when then-Mayor Andrew Young appointed him Director of Contract Compliance for the City of Atlanta, a position he held until 1992.

He is a graduate of the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, where he was a Herbert Herff Presidential Law Scholar. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Morehouse College.