

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

2010 STAFF and SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

RLI STAFF

Tony Landers is the Director of the Department of Community Services for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). He has held several key leadership positions throughout the ARC organization. He currently manages the divisions of Local Government Services, Workforce Development and Aging Services. He co-founded and directs two executive development programs, the Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) and LINK-a learning program that takes established community leaders to a different city/region each year.

Tony received a Business Management degree from the University of Georgia and has also done post-graduate work in Public Administration at the University of Georgia.

Robert W. “Billy” Browning, Ph.D. is the President of Browning Consulting, LLC, an organization development firm that specializes in serving Executives and Board of Directors. Billy is a Board Certified Licensed Psychologist with a dual specialty in Clinical Psychology and Organizational Development. He has extensive experience in leadership assessment and developmental coaching that spans over 20 years. During this time he has served as a sounding board for executives at all levels. Dr. Browning uniquely combines his clinical skills with his comprehensive business acumen to provide coaching for leaders across a broad spectrum of businesses. His clients have included organizations such as Turner Broadcasting Systems Inc., CNN, Georgia Power, Atlanta Regional Commission Board, Eastern Health Systems Board, Georgia Pacific, Celanese Corporation and ADP. He has a broad base of expertise in team-based systems, large-scale change, and he is considered an authority on organizational design and “best practices.” He is an author and international speaker on such topics as gaining competitive advantage, team design and the changing role of leadership.

Billy received his BA in Psychology from Asbury College. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Georgia State University. After completing his Clinical Internship at the Alabama Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, he did post doctoral studies in organizational design, organizational behavior and organizational development. He practiced as a Clinical Psychologist for 5 years in Atlanta.

Kellie Anne Brownlow is the Division Chief of Local Government Services at ARC. The Local Government Services division is responsible for implementation of the LINK (Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge) and RLI (Regional Leadership Institute) leadership programs, developing training courses for citizen and staff planners through the Community Planning Academy, managing the agency-wide quality growth initiative – Community Choices and providing direct management and operations assistance to local governments.

Prior to ARC, Kellie worked at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in the Local Government department, assisting cities and counties statewide on issues such as annexation, consolidation and service delivery agreements. Originally from Rhode Island, she received a Bachelor’s degree in Communications and Political Science from Rhode Island College and a Masters from the University of Georgia.

Crystal Jackson is a Senior Program Specialist in ARC’s Local Government Services Division. In addition to working with the RLI program, Crystal is responsible for the logistical coordination of the annual LINK program. She also provides local governments with management and training assistance, manages the Schools and Communities forum and coordinates the division’s Community Planning Academy programs.

Prior to ARC, Crystal managed the Georgia Conservancy’s Blueprints program, a technical assistance initiative that helped Georgians achieve successful communities by creating sound conservation and growth strategies. Previously, she was the Assistant Public Programs manager for the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, GA. Crystal earned a Bachelor’s degree in Earth Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Ashley Rivera is a Senior Program Specialist in ARC's Local Government Services Division. Ashley works primarily on management and operations projects for local governments, including compensation and classification studies, workforce analyses and salary studies. She also coordinates quarterly Manager's Meetings and training programs for the Local Government Training Institute.

Ashley earned her Bachelor's degree in Economics from Agnes Scott College. She earned a Masters in City and Regional Planning and an MS in Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Before beginning her career in planning and public administration, Ashley worked in sales and business development for a financial services firm for two years. Prior to that she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Ukraine where she worked in business education.

SPEAKERS

Michael Coles is an accomplished businessman, community leader, education advocate, and family man, and is living proof that there are no limits to what we as individuals can accomplish. He has been an entrepreneur all of his life and put those skills to the test in 1977 when he co-founded the nationally successful Great American Cookie Company with an initial investment of only \$8,000. With three major cookie companies already in existence, one with almost 100 stores and two with almost 50 stores, Michael and his partner put in a unique twist on the concept and grew the company to the largest franchisor of cookies stores in the United States. When they sold the company in 1998, it had hundreds of stores nationwide with sales over \$100 million. Michael has also served as President and CEO and remains on the board of Caribou Coffee Company. He founded Charter Bank and Trust, which he later sold to Synovus Bank. Michael currently serves as the Executive Chairman and President of OnBoard Media Group and CEO of Boardwalk Investment Group, which operates restaurants under the name Boardwalk Fresh Burgers and Fries.

Always committed to women and minorities' equal opportunities, he was presented the National Women's Political Caucus' Good Guy of the Year Award for his work on behalf of women's issues. He joined the ranks of past recipients, including Bill Cosby, Alan Alda and former Vice President Walter Mondale. In recognition of Michael's success, leadership and benevolence, Kennesaw State University (KSU), under the authority granted by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, named the institution's School of Business in perpetuity as the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University. In 1999, he received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from KSU.

Craig Lesser (RLI Class of 1994) is a Managing Partner of Pendleton Consulting Group. Prior to this, he served as the Managing Director and Head of International Public Affairs for McKenna Long & Aldridge, a law firm based in Atlanta. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Commissioner of Economic Development for the State of Georgia where he was the Chief Marketing Officer responsible for investment, trade and tourism. His responsibilities included oversight of the state's small business and entrepreneur programs, efforts to grow existing business as well as marketing Georgia as an ideal destination for filmmakers, the music industry, and tourists. Craig has served as VP of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Georgia Power Company; President and CEO of Mirant New York; and Senior VP of External Affairs for Mirant Americas. He is Chairman of the Board of the World Trade Center of Atlanta, Chairman of the Board of the Vienna International Exchange, Secretary of the Georgia China Alliance and chairman of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce International Programs Committee. He has been recognized by Georgia Trend, James Magazine and the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of Georgia's most influential people.

Craig received his Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College at Oneonta, is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business and Leadership Georgia.

Mike Bodker was elected the first Mayor of Johns Creek, Georgia in November 2006 and is currently serving a second term. He is also a partner in Johns Creek-based nexDimension Technology Solutions. Mike has served as Treasurer, Co-Zoning Chair and Government Liaison for the Johns Creek Community Association (JCCA). In 2005, he was nominated by Fulton County Commissioner Lynne Riley to serve on the County's Blue Ribbon Commission on Better Governance. Through his work with the JCCA, he was appointed Chair of the Northeast Fulton Study Committee (NEFSCO), working closely with State Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore Mark Burkhalter for the passage of HB 1321, which called for a voter referendum on the formation of City of Johns Creek. Mike was also instrumental in founding the North Fulton Municipal Association (NFMA) in 2007, serving as

its first Chairman. He is an active member of the Republican Party, serves on the board of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and is a founding board member of the Johns Creek Foundation. Mike also serves as on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association and as GMA's Chairman of the Revenue and Finance Policy Committee. Recently he was elected treasurer of the Atlanta Regional Commission Board of Directors and serves on its Executive, Transportation and Air Quality, and Regional Transit Committees. In the spring of 2008, the Atlanta Journal Constitution named Mayor Bodker one of its annual "Heroes of Open Government," one of eight recipients overall and one of only two elected officials to be honored.

Mike earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Georgia.

Lisa Borders (RLI Class of 2000) is President of the Grady Health Foundation, a philanthropic institution whose mission it is to maximize donations for the benefit of the health system while upholding public accountability and institutional integrity. As President, Lisa helps lead the Greater Grady capital campaign and guide the system's fund-raising efforts during the most important period of Grady's history. Formerly, she served as President of the Atlanta City Council from August 2004 – January 2010. Lisa has previously been CEO of LMB LLC, a consulting company advising clients on community reinvestment, external affairs, marketing and communications and she also served as a Senior Vice President of Marketing and External Affairs with Cousins Properties Incorporated, an Atlanta-based Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). Prior to joining Cousins, Lisa worked in the health care arena for over 15 years. She has worked in her community primarily focusing on family issues in the areas of education, healthcare and housing. She serves as a trustee at the Westminster Schools and a board member at Clark Atlanta University. Lisa is a member of Leadership Georgia and recruits and interviews students for her alma mater, Duke University, where she also serves on the Board of Visitors. She has recently resigned from the boards of Saint Joseph's Healthcare System Research, the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, Teach For America, Great Schools Atlanta and The Salvation Army in an effort to devote time to the City.

Lisa holds a Bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Master of Science in Health Administration from the University of Colorado.

Nick Masino (RLI Class of 2009) is Vice President of Economic Development for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce where he oversees the business recruitment and retention efforts for Gwinnett County as well as the implementation of the Partnership Gwinnett Strategy. Prior to his role in economic development, Nick spent 12 years in the recruiting, headhunting and staffing industry both in Metro Atlanta and throughout the U.S. He worked with various business models from entrepreneurial ventures to Fortune 100 companies, managing multi-million dollar efforts focused on recruitment in the areas of IT, Finance and General Business. Nick also served the citizens of Suwanee, GA, as Mayor from 2000-2007 leading the city to receive over 30 national, regional and local awards, including its most recent and highest honor as the 2007 Money Magazine 10th Best Small Town in America. Nick was a member the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), where he served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Legislative Policy Committee and the Community Development Policy Committee. In 2005 and 2006, Nick led the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association as its president. He is a founding board member of the North Gwinnett Schools Foundation and is a member of the Gwinnett County Schools Superintendent's Community Advisory Board and Board Member of Gwinnett County Schools Foundation.

Nick holds a Bachelor's in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication from Ohio State University.

Jack Smith was elected in 2006 to Post 4 on the Fayette County Commission, one of the County's two "at-large" posts. Upon taking office in January, 2007, he was immediately chosen by his fellow Board members to serve as the County Commission's Chairman for 2007. He was likewise chosen to serve as Chairman for 2008 and 2009. Earning his CPA certificate in 1977, Jack assumed increasing responsibilities until he became part owner in a Fayette County CPA firm in the mid eighties. In 1990, Jack and a partner founded what is now known as Smith, Conley and Associates, PC, one of the largest CPA firms on the south side of Atlanta. The firm prides itself in serving clients, both individuals and businesses, in numerous states and several foreign countries. In addition to his role as an elected official, Jack is Treasurer of the Joseph Sams School, Inc., a Fayette County school for developmentally disadvantaged children, and Treasurer of the Fayetteville Rotary Club where he has held numerous positions, including President. He is Vice Chairman of the Fayette County Public Facilities Authority, and a board member of the Griffin Technical School Foundation. For twelve years he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Fayette County Development Authority.

Jack holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Accounting from the University of Georgia.

Tom Wright is the Executive Director of the New York Regional Plan Association (RPA), the nation's oldest private regional planning organization. Projects he has directed include the Draft Vision Plan for the City of Newark (2006) and A Region at Risk: The Third Regional Plan for the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Area (1996). He participated in planning and organizing "Listening to the City," the historic electronic town hall forum on the World Trade Center site held in July, 2002 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. Tom manages a staff of 35, oversees budgeting and fiscal planning for a \$6 million organization, and coordinates a 60-member Board of Directors. He lectures widely on growth management and regional planning and is a Visiting Lecturer in Public Policy at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Previously, he was the Deputy Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of State Planning, where he coordinated adoption of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (2001) and wrote the Executive Summary of the State Plan. From 1991 to 1993, he was Coordinator of the award-winning Mayors' Institute on City Design, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Tom is a member of the Forum for Urban Design and the Board of Directors of the Riverside South Planning Corporation and the Arts Council of Princeton.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a certificate in American Studies from Princeton University and a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University, where he received a Kinne Fellowship and AICP Award.

Michael Alexander (RLI Class of 2007) joined ARC in 2001 and has been Chief of the Research Division since 2006. As Chief of the Research Division, Mike manages the annual development of population and employment estimates for the ARC planning area. In addition, he develops long-range growth forecasts for the region and manages ARC's Geographic Information Systems efforts. Mike has worked on numerous planning efforts for ARC including its latest planning process called Plan2040 which began this year. Prior to joining the Atlanta Regional Commission staff, Mike worked in Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia in local government planning specializing in growth and development issues.

Originally from South Carolina, Mike attended Auburn University where he received a dual Masters degree in Public Administration and Community Planning.

Michael Meyer, Ph. D. is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and former Chair of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. From 1983 to 1988, Mike was Director of Transportation Planning and Development for Massachusetts where he was responsible for statewide planning, project development, traffic engineering, and transportation research. Prior to this, he was a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at M.I.T. He was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Georgia Transportation Research Board. Mike has written over 140 technical articles and has authored or co-authored numerous texts on transportation planning and policy, including a college textbook for McGraw Hill entitled *Urban Transportation Planning: A Decision Oriented Approach*. He was the author of *Transportation Congestion and Mobility: A Toolbox for Transportation Officials*, a book sponsored by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration that focuses on transportation actions that can be implemented to enhance mobility.

Mike has a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from M.I.T. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Georgia.

Tom Weyandt (RLI Class of 1997) is Director of Comprehensive Planning for the Atlanta Regional Commission where he manages planning for transportation, the environment and land use, as well as demographic and economic research and the regional Commute Connections Program. Prior to joining ARC, he was Senior Associate in the Policy Research Center (PRC) in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and Executive Director of Research Atlanta, Inc. Tom has over twenty-five years of experience in urban planning and development having served as Planning Director and Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Atlanta and as Director of Transportation for the Atlanta Regional Commission. He also served as President of the Downtown Dayton (Ohio) Partnership, a public-private effort to rejuvenate an urban downtown. Tom was Director of Transportation for the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee where he was responsible for the development and operation of all transportation services for the 10th Paralympic Games - the second largest sporting event in the world.

He received a BSFS from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and has studied in Germany and Switzerland.

Renay Blumenthal Renay is the Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Metro Atlanta Chamber, which represents 4,000 member companies who employ nearly 1 million workers. In this capacity, she oversees the development and advocacy of public policy issues in the areas of transportation, education, water resources and land use. The Chamber has been described by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as an organization that has “filled a vacuum in state policymaking, proposing action on crises ranging from transportation funding to water to Grady Memorial Hospital.” Renay has over 14 years of experience in key leadership roles in state and city government. She served as policy director to former Governor Roy Barnes and also served as a budget and policy advisor to former Governor Zell Miller. Immediately prior to joining the Chamber, Renay served as Mayor Shirley Franklin’s budget chief, overseeing the newly created Office of Budget and Fiscal Policy. In these various capacities, she has researched, developed and implemented a variety of policy initiatives ranging from water and sewer infrastructure to economic development to education to health care. Renay currently serves on various boards, including chair of the Clean Air Campaign, the Grady Hospital Board of Advisors, Women’s Forum of Georgia, Leadership Atlanta and the Livable Communities Coalition.

A native Atlantan, she is a graduate of Georgia Tech and has an MBA from Georgia State University. Renay was named a *Georgia Trend* “40 under 40” in 2001 and was a member of the Leadership Georgia class in 2000 and Leadership Atlanta class in 2006.

Matt Hicks (RLI Class of 2007) is the Associate Legislative Director for Economic Development and Transportation with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). In this capacity, he facilitates the development of the association’s transportation and economic development policy in coordination with Georgia’s 159 counties. Matt co-founded and helped lead the Get Georgia Moving Coalition, an alliance of more than 100 groups of Georgia business and government leaders, transit advocates, road builders and environmentalists dedicated to achieving transportation funding solutions. Prior to joining ACCG, Matt worked with former Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard as the Finance Director in her 2004 bid for the United States Congress and as her Policy Director at Atlanta City Hall. While at city hall, he coordinated policy initiatives with the city council and managed the Atlanta Beltline project in its early days. Matt also worked as the healthcare and social services caseworker for former United States Senator Zell Miller. He is an active volunteer and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Academy for Economic Development; as a member of the Georgia Economic Developers Association, where he sits on the Policy Committee; and as chair of the Government Day Program for Leadership DeKalb.

Matt was recognized as a “40 Under 40 Up and Comer” in 2006 by the Atlanta Business Chronicle and in 2007 received the “Power 30 Under 30” Award from the Apex Society. He grew up in Stone Mountain and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Emory University.

Rick Brownlow (RLI Class of 2003) works for the engineering/consulting firm CH2M HILL in their Atlanta office as a Client Service Manager and Senior Consultant in the firm’s Water Business Group. He is responsible for developing and managing a variety of projects with local government clients throughout Georgia, and assists with the leadership of the water resource management team in the firm’s southeast region. Prior to joining CH2M HILL, Rick was Program Manager for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. He was responsible for leading the development and implementation of regional water planning efforts, specifically water, wastewater, and stormwater management plans for the 16-county Atlanta metropolitan area. He also provided public policy guidance to the District and its member local governments, coordinated the District’s efforts to secure federal funding for infrastructure projects, and represented the District in its dealings with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, state and federal agencies, and other organizations.

Brownlow is a Georgia native and currently resides in DeKalb County. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Auburn University in 1994 and a law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1998.

Patricia Graham serves as the Vice Chair of the Upper Oconee Council for the Statewide Water Plan. The Council is one of ten in the state to represent the water interests to its respective region. The 25-member council basin covers portions of thirteen counties and oversees the preparation of regional water development and conservation plans for the region, focusing on water quantity and water quality issues and forecasts of future supply and treatment needs. Patricia is also a member of the Braselton Downtown Development Authority and an Annexation Arbitrator for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She has served as the Governor’s appointee to the Service Delivery Taskforce of The Commission for a New Georgia, non-profit corporation that is led by the state’s most distinguished CEOs and business leaders to bring breakthrough thinking and a fresh perspective to ways state government can better manage its assets and services and map its strategic future.

Patricia is the former Mayor of the Town of Braselton, Georgia. By the end of her two terms as Mayor, and her efforts to raise the profile of the town resulted in a stream of accolades, including Georgia Trend's "Trendsetter Award" and the national "City Showcase" recognition. As Mayor, Patricia served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and as Chair of its Municipal Government Legislative Policy Committee. Prior to entering the field of public service, she was an executive with Frito-Lay and stay-at-home mom.

Tim Lowe (RLI Class of 2002) is Lowe Engineers' Chief Executive Officer. The firm provides civil engineering, transportation engineering, surveying and geospatial services to a client base that includes both government and private entities with projects located throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, and the Far East. Tim was recently appointed Co-Chair of the Governor's Water Contingency Task Force, by Governor Sonny Perdue. He is also Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Co-Chairman of the Coverdell Leadership Institute, Vice President of the Buckhead Coalition, Ft. McPherson Redevelopment Authority Board Member, Council for Quality Growth Board Member and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority as well as serving on the Board of Advisors of the Trust for Public Land - Georgia. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Atlanta and the Georgia Institute of Environmental Leadership (IGEL). Tim has been selected by GeorgiaTrend as one of "100 Most Influential Georgians" for 2010 and one of the Atlanta Business Chronicle's "100 Most Influential Atlantans."

An Atlanta native, Tim attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and the London Business School. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a MBA from Emory University. Lowe spent thirty years of Active and Reserve duty in the U.S. Navy serving aboard ship and ashore, including four Commands.

Frank Stephens (RLI Class of 2001) is the Water Resources Program Manager for Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources. In his words, Frank was "born west of the Mississippi, south of the Mason-Dixon Line, but not in Texas!" In between probation and detox, he graduated from high school, got married, and worked the sawmill night shift through liberal arts college and graduate school. Equipped with a Master's in Environmental Engineering, Frank went to Southern California to work for Rockwell International, aiming to be the first dodo engineer in space. Later, he found his niche at a hillbilly state agency where there were signs on the polished conference tables that said "No Chewing or Dipping". He alleges to be a registered Perfeshunal Injineer. While in Colorado his utility got a flag from the EPA that proclaimed their sewage treatment plant the best in the U.S. Frank was later acquitted on all charges. Same thing happened later in Gwinnett County. Frank began more or less working with the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources in 1996. They have since then upgraded their standards. In a videotaped interview once, answering the question why he wanted to work in a water and sewer department, Frank said he reckoned there was a flaw in his gene pool. Graduated RLI in 2001 before RLI began verifying application credentials.

Frank is forgetful, and re-enrolls in school to stall creeping (some days galloping) senility. In Colorado he received his MPB (Masters in Petty Bureaucracy). He is currently ABD at UGA. Married 37 years with three ornery kids, Frank has a sign in his office that says "Government may be slow, but we make up for it by making decisions more than once."

Kathryn Lawler (RLI Class of 2009) is the External Affairs Manager for the Atlanta Regional Commission. She provides support to the different divisions of the agency including transportation, land use, environment, workforce, local government support and aging. Her primary responsibility is to form strategic partnerships with federal, state and local governments, public and private organizations to transform the region into a more livable community for people of all ages and abilities. Prior to this role, she was a consultant working with local governments, foundations and community based coalitions, interested in effectively organizing to better prepare for the rapidly growing older adult population. Her work specialized in the development of cross disciplinary partnerships, bringing together aging, planning, architecture, public and mental health professionals, hospitals, elected officials and local residents. From 2002 to 2006, Kathryn was Director of Aging Atlanta, a 50 organization partnership focused on preparing the metro region for the rapid growth in the older adult population. From 2001 to 2002, she was a fellow at Harvard University's Joint Center on Housing Studies. Her research focused on the development of health and housing policy to facilitate aging in the community and modernize long term care systems.

Kathryn received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree from Harvard University.

Chris Clark (RLI Class of 2001) is Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR has statewide responsibilities for the management and conservation of Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources, including fish and wildlife, land conservation, coastal resources, historic preservation, sustainability initiatives, and air and water quality. Chris currently serves as Chairman of the Coastal Marshlands and Shore Protection Committees, chairs the Conserve Georgia Council, and serves on the Land Conservation Council and the Georgia Aviation Authority board. He is an advisory board member for the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, a member of the advisory board for the College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Southern University, and serves on Georgia College and State University's Masters of Arts Advisory Council. Prior positions include serving as executive director of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, president & CEO of the Fayette County Development Authority in metro Atlanta, and president & CEO of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce and Development Association. In 2006, Georgia Trend Magazine named Chris to its annual "40 Under 40" list of state leaders, and in 2010 included him in its list of "100 Most Influential Georgians."

A native of Fitzgerald, Chris earned a Bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University and received a Master's degree in public administration from Georgia College and State University.

Stephen D. Dolinger, Ed.D is President of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, an Atlanta based non-profit organization dedicated to improving public schools throughout Georgia through research, advocacy and communication. The Partnership works to impact education policies and practices in order to improve student achievement throughout the state. By using research and non-partisan advocacy, the organization informs and influences business and government leaders, educators, citizens and other non-profit organizations. When Steve joined the Partnership in 2002, he brought 33 years of education experience, including: seven years as Superintendent of Schools in Fulton County, Georgia; and 26 years in various teaching and administrative positions in Fairfax County, Virginia. During his tenure with Fulton County, *Money Magazine* rated the school system as one of the top 100 school systems in the nation. Steve introduced many changes in the Fulton County school system based on the principles and practices of business management and he has received national recognition for many of these applications.. In 2001 he was named Georgia School Superintendent of the Year.

Steve received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University. He has served as an adjunct professor at George Mason University, where he received his Master's degree in education, and on the Alumni Board of Directors for Vanderbilt University, where he received his doctorate in education.

Roger Tutterow, Ph.D. is a Professor of Economics at Mercer University in Atlanta. Prior to joining Mercer University, Roger held faculty and administrative appointments at West Virginia University, Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and at the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies in Seoul, South Korea. In addition to his work in academia, Roger has served as a consultant on economic, financial and statistical issues for corporate clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to closely-held businesses. He has provided expert testimony on economic, financial and statistical matters in state and federal court and before the Georgia Public Service Commission. Roger has given several hundred speeches to professional and civic groups on various topics in the economic, business and political arenas.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Decision Science from Berry College and a Master's and Ph.D. in Economics from Georgia State University.

Jeff Dorfman is an economist and professor at The University of Georgia, where he has been since 1989. He teaches classes in economic theory and the economics of the food industry and performs research on productivity measurement and the economics of growth and sprawl. He has authored a book, over fifty academic journal articles and a variety of other articles published in trade publications, the popular press and on the web. He has testified to the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, to the Georgia Senate Special Committee on Feedgrains, and to a USDA Panel on Farmland Preservation. He is a consultant to a variety of business and foundations with past and current clients including Sprint, the Turner Foundation, the American Farmland Trust, The Georgia Conservancy, Pennington Seed, Fulton County Schools and numerous city and county governments in the Southeastern U.S. He is married, with one daughter and they attend Central Presbyterian Church where he serves as treasurer.

Mike Berg (Class of 2006) is serving his second term as Chairman of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners. He is Chairman of the First Citizens Bank of Georgia Financial Corporation and Chairman of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. Mike is a member of the Coosa-North Georgia State Water Planning Council and is on the board of the Institute of Government Environmental Leadership (IGEL). He is a member of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) board of managers and executive committee and chairman of ACCG's Annexation Committee, Public Defender Committee and Water Resource Committee. Locally, he serves as a member of Dawson County Family Connection, Dawson County Board of Health, Dawson County Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Dawson County. Previously, he served on Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and was a State PTA officer.

Mike is retired from the Georgia Power Company. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Georgia State University.

John Fretti is the Mayor of the City of Valdosta and has served the City since 2004. John has developed a "Service above Self" philosophy and realizes that being a public servant is an honor and a responsibility he takes very seriously. He believes in smart yet aggressive growth, strong yet lean government, and caring yet prudent community affairs. He believes that measurement breeds visibility which in turn breeds accountability. It is this attitude that he envisions for all government. A few of his positions of community service include: 1st Congressional District representative for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; member of the Governor's Work Force Investment Board; chairman of the Georgia Municipal Association's Transportation Legislative Policy Committee; and member of the International Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Prior to public service, John was the technical director for a local wood preservative chemical company and owner of All States Moving and Storage, Inc., a local agent for United Van Lines. Under his management, All States became one of only ten companies annually chosen world-wide to be awarded the Military Traffic Management Command Quality Service Award two years in a row.

A native of Valdosta since 1976, John graduated from Valdosta State College Bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in chemistry.

Randal Morris (RLI Class of 1995) is Regional Public Affairs Manager for Georgia-Pacific. His responsibilities include the management of public/external affairs and communications for four Georgia-Pacific facilities in the Brunswick, GA region including Brunswick Cellulose, GP Gypsum, the GP Sterling sawmill and the company's bleached board operation in St. Marys. Additionally, he manages the public affairs and communications activities of the Cellulose Division which includes mills in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Prior to joining Georgia-Pacific, Randal served on the faculty of the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute where he worked with communities across Georgia to help them enhance their community and economic development initiatives. He worked for over twenty years in the economic development field and has served in various positions at local and statewide levels including Brunswick, Savannah, and Conyers and with the former Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism where he was Deputy Commissioner from 1997-2000. Randal is a graduate of the 1993 Leadership Georgia Class and served as a Trustee from 1995-1997.

Originally from St. Marys, Randal has a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia.

Shelley Lauten is President of myregion.org, a Regional Development Program formed in 1999 to serve as a catalyst for Central Florida's individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments to act together in making our region globally competitive. Since it was established, myregion.org has gained state and national recognition for its ground-breaking work that includes the first-ever Central Florida Regional SourceBook, a framework for regional collaboration throughout the seven-county region along with a library of original research completed with key community partners: the Central Florida Regional Indicators Report, Penn Design Central Florida, Central Florida Values Study, Naturally Central Florida – Fitting the Pieces Together, and The Central Florida Social Capital Survey. Shelley is especially proud of myregion's leadership in "How Shall We Grow?" an eighteen-month initiative to address projected regional growth in Central Florida. As part of her role with myregion.org she served as the Florida Director for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Florida Initiative on Regional Collaboration, established to identify new opportunities for the State of Florida to support and encourage communities around the state to collaborate regionally.

Prior to her work with myregion.org and the Central Florida Partnership, Shelley held key executive positions at Walt Disney World and the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company. She was raised in Melbourne Beach, Florida and has called Orlando her home for over 30 years.

Jeri Barr (RLI Class of 2007) has been the CEO of The Center for Family Resources since 1984. Under her guidance, the organization has grown from a small financial assistance agency to a multi-function human service organization, serving the needs of the whole family in order to help them attain self-sufficiency and responsibility for their family. Prior to coming to The Center for Family Resources, Jeri served as the Director of Volunteer Cobb, a United Way service, and as Agency Relations Director for United Way. Currently, Jeri is the Past Chair of the Cobb Community Collaborative, member of the Advisory Boards for Kennesaw State University's Master in Public Administration and MSW programs, Past Chairman of the Cobb Community Transit Board, member of Wellstar's "First Steps" Advisory Board, Governor's appointee to the Board of Commissioners of the Commission on Equal Opportunity; and Cobb County Commission appointee to the Regional Commission On Homelessness. Most recently, she was honored as one of Atlanta's "25 Power Women To Watch" by Atlanta Woman magazine, received a Family Connection Community Achievement Award for her role as Chair of the Cobb Community Collaborative and named as one of the "75 Women Leaders" of Cobb by the Junior League of Cobb/Marietta.

Jeri is a graduate of the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford University, Executive Leadership Program for Nonprofit Organizations sponsored by the Goizueta Business School at Emory and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. She is married to former US Congressman Bob Barr and lives in Smyrna.

Judy Waters (RLI Class of 1996) is the Executive Director of the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia (CFNEG), which she joined in 2004. Prior to the CFNEG, she was Vice President of Business Development for Hayes, James and Associates Inc. Judy is well known and active throughout the community. She served as Councilwoman on the Snellville City Council and as District 3 Commissioner for the Gwinnett county Board of Commissioners. She presently serves on the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Gwinnett Childrens' Shelter Board of Directors, the Foster Children Foundation Board of Directors, the 1818 Club Board of Directors, the Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation, the Georgia Gwinnett College Board of Trustees, the Civic League Board of Directors, and the Atlanta Regional Commission Board of Directors. Judy is a graduate of Leadership Gwinnett and Senior Leadership Gwinnett.

An Atlanta native, Judy attended Florida State University and Georgia Southern College. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Tad Leithead (RLI Class of 1991) is President and CEO of Tad Leithead Advisors. Prior to forming his own governmental relations and consulting firm, he was responsible for leading Cousins Properties development efforts as they relate to entitlement issues throughout the region, and served as liaison with the various governmental entities and community-based organizations. As a founding partner with Childress Klein Properties, Tad was instrumental in the operation of the Atlanta Galleria, one of Atlanta's premier mixed-use developments, and a key participant in the development of Cobb Galleria Centre. In 1998, he formed Urban One Associates, a development and transportation consulting firm, working with Midtown Alliance, Perimeter Center, Gwinnett County and others in the formation of several new Community Improvement Districts. Tad was a principal in the development of Ridenour, a 90-acre "Smart Growth" community in northwest Cobb County – which received the Atlanta Regional Commission's "Development of Excellence" award in 1999. He was elected in December 2009 as Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission, a 39-member board that steers the planning and development for the 10-county Atlanta region. He has served on the ARC board since 2000, and was Chair of its Transportation & Air Quality Committee from 2007-2009. Tad also serves as Chairman of the Cumberland Community Improvement District, on the Boards of Directors of the Bank of North Georgia, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fulton County Perimeter Community Improvement District and the North Fulton Community Improvement District.

Tad is a resident of Cobb County and graduated with a B.A. from Washington and Lee University.