



## PRESS RELEASE

Public Relations Contact:  
Ann Almond  
(404) 207-3817

# 2022 Georgia Minority Business Awards The Year of “Entrepreneurs & Partnerships”

ATLANTA, GA -- On March 17, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC), the Georgia Minority Business Awards (GMBA) will host their *24th annual awards dinner* to celebrate minority businesses and entrepreneurs from around Georgia who are making an impact within their perspective business communities. The speakers, CEO's, minority business winners and scholarship recipients represent the best in success and exhibit business ethics and values nationally.

Our awards committee recognizes these superior qualities in performance, citizenship, leadership, ethical behavior, diversity and teamwork. These individuals share their philosophy for putting customers first and increasing the value of their companies which make their work-place a great place to work. Additionally, they have had a tremendous impact on the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia. The keynote speaker for the evening is **Balram Bheodari, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport General Manager**. The distinguished host for the evening is Kay Thompson, WATC TV-57 and the show Coordinator is Melania Du. Other special invited dignitaries and guests that will be bringing greetings are: Elliot Wang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Kim Chi Ngo, Co-Founder of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce, Michael Hightower, Managing Partner, The Collaborative Firm and Gerald McDowell, Executive Director of the ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts. Rev. Dr. Shannon Jones, President of the Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta will give the invocation and entertainment by Kenne Blessin of Jamaica.

In partnership with Business Development Initiative, Inc. (BDI), which is an entrepreneurial school for youth in high school and middle school, we encourage the students to attend colleges and universities that focus on International Studies, and IT partnership programs that promote future employment opportunities and corporate growth in Georgia.

What began as merely a vision has turned into a successful annual awards event which businesses and entrepreneurs look forward to being a part of each year. Many thanks to Creed W. Pannell, Jr. for his follow through with the vision and commitment to the leadership of the GMBA. The Year of the Entrepreneur and Partnerships is a theme worthy of repetition and recognition.

“I started these award celebrations to simply acknowledge and congratulate local and small business men and women entrepreneurs who are trendsetters in their own right,” shared Founder and Executive Director Creed W. Pannell, Jr. “Planning to work the plan you create, is merely a good idea; working the plan to work for yourself – makes you an entrepreneur.”

### **GMBA will honor the following individuals:**

1. **JOHN LU INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Raymond Chan, CEO of the Juicy Crab Restaurant Chain
2. **TENACITY AWARD** - Bernie Chan, CEO of Champions Financial Group, LLC
3. **CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Laretta (Randi) Clowers, CFO, Uptime Electric Company
4. **HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY AWARD** - Christopher Beck, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Southeast – St. Jude Hospital, Memphis, TN.

5. **GEORGIA LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Billy Mitchell, Chairman of the Democratic Black Caucus
6. **INSURANCE INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Derek Campbell, CEO, Derek Campbell Insurance Agency
7. **HERITAGE AWARD FOR DIVERSITY** - Todd A. Gray, National Director for Supplier Diversity, Kaiser Permanente
8. **VISIONARY AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGY** - Floyd Henderson, Jr., President & CEO of Senergy Technology
9. **MAYOR OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Rev. Ed J. Johnson, Jr, City of Fayetteville, GA.
10. **COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD** - The Honorable Vivian Thomas, Commissioner of Henry County, Georgia 4th District
11. **LANDSCAPE DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Artie Jones III, Economic Director of Clearly College Park
12. **MULTICULTURAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD** - Juan Manuel Ramirez Gutierrez, President & CEO of Wood Trim, LLC

**Our proud sponsors are:** Atlanta Business Journal Magazine, ABJ Digital, BDI, Inc., Champions, Up Time Electric, Georgia Power, St. Jude Children’s Hospital, City of College Park, Clearly College Park, The Juicy Crab, Influencer 365, Henry County, GA., Wood Trim, LLC, Kaiser Permanente, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, City of Forest Park, and Senergy Technology

**About the Georgia Minority Business Awards:**

The Georgia Minority Business Awards is mandated to evolve and effect change to sustain and propel the vision in this 21st century. The awards sponsoring magazine, the Atlanta Business Journal and ABJ Digital are proud to serve as a catalyst for a new generation of business owners which notably serve as a valuable trend indicator in “Building Cultural and Global Relationships.”

We embrace diversity, overcome cultural obstacles and continue to build global relationships. The amalgamation of minds forms partnerships thus creating common ground for success and achievement.

The names, Atlanta Business Journal and Georgia Minority Business Awards reflects our dedication to help generate awareness about the positive changes and the collective successes of the multi-cultural communities and we look forward to continuing to share and recognize those collective successes for years to come.

**GMBA Dinner**

**Date: March 17, 2022**

**Time: 6:00**

**Location: Georgia International Convention Center (GICC)  
2000 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337**

**For tickets, please visit**

<http://gaminoritybusinessawards.com/>

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