

THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Volume 8 | Issue 7

A publication of the Business Council of Alabama

BCA Governmental Affairs Conference is Best Ever

The Business Council of Alabama's 2017 Governmental Affairs Conference held Aug. 11-13 was the most successful in BCA history. It featured a new education report, presentations by Alabama members of Congress, release of the BCA's annual book, inspirational speeches by Governor Kay Ivey and Attorney General Steve Marshall and an entertaining keynote address by a Washington, D.C., political observer.

The annual BCA conference at the Marriott Grand Hotel and Spa at Point Clear was attended by more than 500 BCA members, elected officials, and honored guests.

Awards were announced and the Business Education Alliance of Alabama released its fourth white paper - "Student Achievement Matters: The Future of Students Assessment is Now."

COVER: Retired General David Petraeus will address the Business Council of Alabama's 2017 Chairman's Dinner scheduled Sept. 20 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. Gen. Petraeus, a public speaker and member of business boards of directors, also was director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

1: Past Chairman's Dinner speakers have included former U.S. Navy SEAL Rob O'Neill, a highly decorated combat veteran who is credited with killing Sept. 11, 2001, mastermind Osama bin Laden during a coordinated assault on his compound.

2: Former two-term Florida Gov. Jeb Bush spoke to the Chairman's Dinner in 2014 and talked about education and his famous family.

3: The BCA's Chairman's Dinner setting is the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. Sponsorships are available at www.bcatoday.org. The dinners usually attract nearly 1,000 valuable BCA members and guests.

4: Former National Football League Most Valuable Player and two-time Super Bowl champion Quarterback Peyton Manning was an entertaining and informative speaker at last year's Chairman's Dinner. Manning won Super Bowls with the Indianapolis Colts and Denver Broncos. 2016 BCA Chairman Tommy Lee, president and CEO of Vulcan Inc. in Foley, conducted an entertaining interview with Manning.

BCA Chairman Jeff Coleman, president and CEO of Coleman Worldwide Moving in Dothan, presided over the Aug. 11 board of directors meeting. BCA First Vice Chairman and ProgressPAC Chairman Perry Hand, CEO and chairman of Volkert Inc. in Mobile, reminded board members of the BCA Chairman's Dinner on Sept. 20 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

The dinner speaker is retired U.S. Army General David Petraeus, "One of the most outstanding military leaders of our time," Hand said. Hand also outlined the importance of ProgressPAC for the 2018 election cycle and urged its support.

BCA President and CEO William J. Canary released the BCA's 2017 book, *Time and Again*, a 288-page historical record of the BCA's substantial work during the third year of the 2014-18 legislative quadrennium.

"There is a price to pay when you take on the status quo," Canary said. "Time and again, when we are united, no challenge is too great for us to meet."

Canary highlighted the important relationship between the BCA and its national partners, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of

Manufacturers, and the enduring grassroots link with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

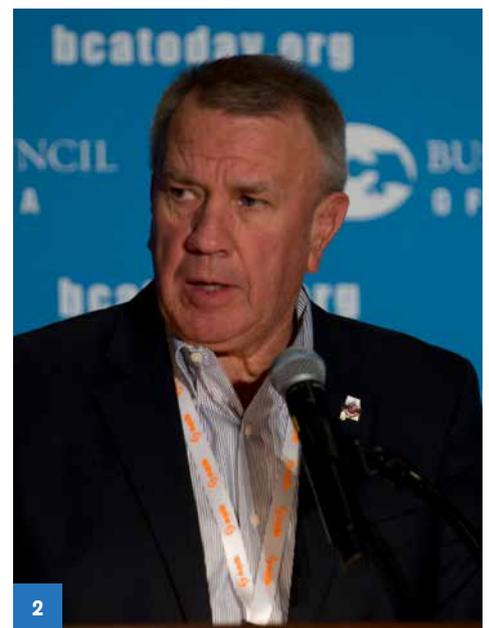
U.S. Chamber Southeastern Region Executive Director Moore Hallmark and U.S. Chamber Southeast Region Congressional & Public Affairs Manager Clark Thomason presented Alabama U.S. Reps. Robert Aderholt, R-Haleyville, Martha Roby, R-Montgomery, and Mike Rogers, R-Saks, with U.S. Chamber Spirit of Enterprise Awards for their support of Alabama business issues.

"It's great to work with the Chamber and the Business Council of Alabama," Aderholt said. "With the Chamber and the BCA on the same page, it helps us in Washington."

"Thank you, BCA, for promoting the issues important to Alabama," Roby said.

Coleman presented BCA 2014 Chairman Fred McCallum, president of AT&T Alabama, with the BCA Distinguished Leadership Award. "Fred has been a tireless advocate for our organization," Coleman said.

Joe Morton, Ph.D., chairman and president of the Business Education Alliance of Alabama, presented the BEA's fourth "white paper" report, "Student Achievement Matters: The Future of Student Assessment is Now."





5: Retired General David Petraeus will address the Business Council of Alabama's 2017 Chairman's Dinner scheduled Sept. 20 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. Gen. Petraeus, a public speaker and member of business boards of directors, also was director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

6: Past Chairman's Dinner speakers have included former U.S. Navy SEAL Rob O'Neill, a highly decorated combat veteran who is credited with killing Sept. 11, 2001, mastermind Osama bin Laden during a coordinated assault on his compound.

7: Former two-term Florida Gov. Jeb Bush spoke to the Chairman's Dinner in 2014 and talked about education and his famous family.



Emerging Small Business of the Year for 2016, was recognized.

Governor Ivey was lauded for her backing of infrastructure efforts almost immediately after she became governor on April 10.

"It's the right thing to do, it's economic development, and it is progress," Governor Ivey said. "My support will continue."

"In her first week in office she stepped forward and has not backed down," Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama president and CEO and Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure Chairman Jim Page said.

House Speaker Mac McCutcheon, R-Huntsville, and Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, R-Anniston, discussed increased investment

McCutcheon said he had hoped that during the 2017 regular legislative session, the 105-member House had at least "53 leaders" to support the first infrastructure investment increase in 25 years. But it didn't happen.

"The challenge is for business leaders to challenge candidates running for election to support infrastructure and fix the problems," McCutcheon said.

"We have a comprehensive education plan and a comprehensive infrastructure

"If we don't know they're making progress, we won't know if we are doing our jobs," Dr. Morton said.

The white paper builds on three previously released BEA reports: the 2014 BEA research report, *Obstacles Into Opportunities: A 90% High School Graduation Rate in Alabama by 2020 Provides the Educated Workforce That is Key to Expanding Our Economy*, the 2015 BEA report, *Teachers Matter: Rethinking How Public Education Recruits, Rewards, and Retains Great Educators*, and the 2016 report, *Exceeding Expectations: Keys to Alabama's Student Success*."

Spicer's Music in Auburn, the BCA and Chamber of Commerce Association's

THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE



Previous issues available at bcatoday.org.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:

Nancy Wall Hewston

MANAGING EDITOR:

Dana Beyerle

ART DIRECTOR:

Joshua Vaughn

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, Alabama's foremost voice for business. The BCA is a non-partisan statewide business association representing the interest and concerns of three-quarters of a million working Alabamians through its member companies, and is Alabama's exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For information on becoming a member of BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334.240.8749, or elainef@bcatoday.org. For more information, visit bcatoday.org.



plan," Marsh said. "If we address these two issues, we can get something done."

Governor Ivey also urged support of her education initiative, "Strong Start, Strong Finish," that focuses on three stages of education, from early childhood education, to computer science in middle school and high school, to workforce preparedness. "When our people can start strong, they can finish strong," Governor Ivey said.

Attorney General Marshall challenged conference attendees as mentors to make Alabama better. "It's time for us to get some righteous anger," he said.

Canary presented Canadian Consul in Atlanta Louise Blais with the BCA Top Diplomat Award for her tireless support of Alabama's important trade status with Canada.

Leslie Searcy, executive director of the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund,

previewed an excellent video of the organization's efforts to promote quality education for children through tax credits that support Alabama schools.

Art Tipton, president and CEO of BCA member Southern Research in Birmingham, told of the company's discovery of seven important cancer fighting drugs and the scientific observation role Southern Research planned for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse using its high-performance monitoring aircraft.

"Yes, we will cure cancer," Tipton said.

Washington, D.C., pundit and blogger Rich Galen entertained and informed attendees at Saturday's general meeting and Francois Fineberg, founder and director, LEGACY School of Discipleship, closed the conference at the traditional Sunday inter-faith service. **TBADV**

