Business Council Hosts Capital Leadership Day

BCA welcomes new board members, salutes state leaders

The Business Council of Alabama welcomed its new directors at BCA’s annual Capital Leadership Day in March. The members were briefed by BCA staff on BCA’s legislative agendas, policies and upcoming events as well as their responsibilities as board members at a luncheon. The group includes businessmen and businesswomen from Alabama companies of all types and sizes.

With guidance from members of BCA’s committees, the volunteer board establishes the Business Council’s annual state and federal legislative agendas and determines BCA positions on other key issues. The state agenda is presented to the Alabama Legislature at the beginning of each regular session.

The new members received special pins from First Vice Chairman Carl Jamison, then attended their first full board meeting and a business-education alliance policy forum presented by BCA and the Alabama School Readiness Alliance.

New Members of the Business Council of Alabama Board of Directors for 2012:

Pamela Burnham, Saraland Area Chamber of Commerce, Saraland; Jeff Coleman, Coleman World Group, Midland City; Danny Cooper, Alabama Association of REALTORS, Montgomery; Edward Crowell, VT Miltope Corporation, Hope Hull; Ron Davis, ZF Lemforder Corporation, Tuscaloosa; Ashley Eiland, Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce, Andalusia; Al Garrett, Robertson Banking Company, Demopolis; Keith Granger, Trinity Medical Center, Birmingham; Perry Hand, Volkert, Inc., Mobile; Bill Lyons, Lyons HR, Inc., Florence; Sid McAnnally, Energen Corporation, Birmingham; Mark Nix, Infirmary Health, Mobile; Marty Parker, Boise Paper, Jackson; Joanne Randolph, Women’s Business Center of North Alabama, Huntsville; John Turner, Regions Financial Corporation, Mobile; Phil Webb, Webb Concrete & Building Materials, Inc., Heflin; Barry Whatley, Craftmaster Printers, Inc., Auburn; Lisa Williams, System Dynamics International, Huntsville; Robert Vaughan, Alabama Self-Insured Worker’s Compensation Fund, Birmingham; Morri Yancy, Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, Guntersville; Ronald Yarbrough, America Apparel, Inc., Selma.
When a state doesn’t invest adequately in educating its youngest children in quality pre-kindergarten programs, the long-term effects can result in widening achievement gaps, increased healthcare costs, and additional burdens on business, the BCA Board of Directors was told at a special business-education alliance policy forum.

W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University, spoke to the board and invited guests from the education community and state government about the proven economic returns of funding pre-K programs.

Alabama has an advantage, Barnett said, because its First Class Pre-Kindergarten program is in place and is “very high quality. It just needs to be available to more kids, and the business community understands that,” he said. The next step is to secure political support to drive up the enrollment without cutting the quality. “That will be the key to success,” he said.

Barnett’s presentation is available on BCA’s website at www.bcatoday.org/resources.