



THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE

New Pro-Education Foundation for Alabama Unveiled



BY DANA BEYERLE

POINT CLEAR – The Business Council of Alabama on Aug. 17 unveiled a new education initiative that will help students prepare for 21st century jobs and leadership positions that businesses will need in order to continue the state’s economic growth.

The Business Education Alliance of Alabama, a non-profit education reform foundation, was unveiled at the BCA’s annual Governmental Affairs Conference at Point Clear.

Its chairman and president is former state school Superintendent Dr. Joe Morton. Former state Rep. Jay Love of Montgomery will work with the BEA for needed school reforms that he promoted as a member of the Alabama Legislature. Love served as chairman of the House Ways and Means Education Committee that prepares annual budgets for K-12, post-secondary, and college and university schools.

Morton said the BEA was created by the business and education communities “to ensure that our children will be prepared to fill the long lasting, well-paying 21st century jobs that Alabama pursues on a daily basis.”

A former classroom teacher, Morton served as state school

superintendent from 2004-2011. He said the BEA will work to build consensus among state business leaders, public education professionals, lawmakers, other elected officials and interested parties.

“The BEA partnership is one of the most exciting developments in my 40-plus years in education in Alabama,” Morton said.

Love was a three-term House member who resigned this year to join the effort to build business and education partnerships.

“As a small business owner and former legislator, I know how important the roles of those two groups are to bring our business and education groups together,” Love said. “One group prepares our workers and the other group employs them.”

He said the non-partisan BEA will advocate “those programs that have proven successful,” such as the Alabama Reading Initiative, the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, ACCESS Distance Learning, 21st Century Workforce Training, and the nationally recognized Alabama First Class voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds. The BEA also will advocate for education reforms including public charter schools and expanded school choice options.

“We are going to continue to search for innovative solutions and innovative ideas to train our kids and our students for the jobs of the 21st century,” Love said. “We believe Alabama’s economic future can well be changed by the announcement today.”

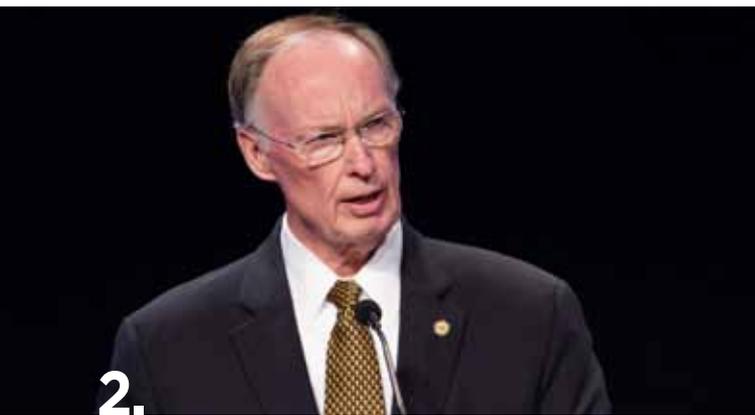
Business Council of Alabama President and CEO William J. Canary said the vision of creating a business and education alliance just came to him because it simply makes sense. “We support the BEA’s desire to be both pro-business and pro-education because, in the end, both communities share a common goal - propelling Alabama into a position of national and international leadership in economic development and education excellence,” he said. For more information on the Business Education Alliance of Alabama visit www.BEAalabama.com.

Former State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton and former State Rep. Jay Love were announced as the leaders of the Business Education Alliance (BEA), a new, non-profit education reform foundation that was unveiled at the Business Council of Alabama’s annual Governmental Affairs Conference.



Gov. Bentley updates BCA Conference on State's Economic Progress

Mo Isom, former top SEC athlete gives inspiring message



BY DANA BEYERLE

POINT CLEAR - Business Council of Alabama members who attended the annual summer Governmental Affairs Conference at Point Clear held Aug. 16-18 saw the unveiling of a new business and education initiative and heard a state progress update from Governor Robert Bentley.

BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, of JamisonMoneyFarmer in Tuscaloosa, opened the working session on Aug. 17 by welcoming about 500 BCA members and guests attending the annual BCA event at the Marriott Grand Hotel on Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore. The event included informative and inspirational messages.

Bentley said his goal of saving \$1 billion a year in state spending by the end of his first term in 2014 is nearly accomplished. He applauded when former state School Superintendent Dr. Joe Morton unveiled the Business Education Alliance of Alabama. "I think this is what we need in this state," Bentley said.

The BEA is a non-profit education-support foundation. Morton is chairman and president and former state Rep. Jay Love, R-Montgomery, will be involved in fundraising and coalition-building. Love, a small-business owner, was elected to three House terms and served as chairman of the House Ways and Means Education budget-writing committee.

Alabama businesses are the primary customers of Alabama schools for employees and the next generation of leaders. "No one cares more about job creation than Alabama business," BCA President and CEO William J. Canary said.

Canary released the annual BCA book, titled *Pillars of Progress 2013*, and presented Chairman Jamison a personal copy. The 333-page book reviews BCA activity over the past year including the successful 2013 regular legislative session.

Retired U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Mobile, whose First Congressional District includes the conference site, was honored for his service in Washington, first as a staffer and for the





last 10 years as a member of Congress. Bonner retired Aug. 2 to take a position with the University of Alabama System. The BCA made a donation in honor of Bonner to the Salvation Army Coastal Alabama Area Command. The chairman of the Salvation Army’s advisory board and Press-Register Editor Mike Marshall was on hand to accept the donation.

This year’s conference theme, “Connect at the Point,” began with a Washington, D.C., outlook by national political expert Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report. Cook said that younger voters are beginning to prefer private-sector solutions to problems. “People are ready for change,” Cook said.

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1. A standing room only crowd fills the ballroom at the Grand Hotel to listen to Charlie Cook, the editor and publisher of the *Cook Political Report* and columnist for the *National Journal*. Cook is considered to be one of the nation’s leading analysts of American politics and U.S. elections.

2. Gov. Robert Bentley addressed the crowd of business and elected leaders at BCA’s summer conference.

3. BCA President and CEO William J. Canary and BCA Chairman Carl Jamison present retiring Congressman Jo Bonner with a pen on behalf of the BCA. BCA also made a contribution in honor of Bonner to the Salvation Army Coastal Alabama Area Command, which was presented to Mike Marshall, the Salvation Army’s advisory board chairman and editor of Mobile’s *Press-Register* newspaper.

4. Mo Isom, former goalkeeper for the LSU Women’s Soccer team, gave an emotional testimonial on overcoming tragedy and personal challenges. She is pictured with (from left): BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, BCA President and CEO William J. Canary, BCA First Vice Chairman Fred McCallum and BCA Second Vice Chairman Marty Abroms.

5. BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, shareholder at JamisonMoneyFarmer PC in Tuscaloosa, recognizes Anita L. Archie, former BCA senior vice president for intergovernmental affairs and advocacy and legal advisor, for her service to the Alabama business community. Archie left in July to work in the office of Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange.

6. Rep. Juandalynn Givan and Rep. Pebblin Warren visit with BCA member George Clay, of Michelin North America, at the opening reception of BCA’s 2013 Governmental Affairs Conference.

7. Former Alabama Governor Bob Riley (left) shares a laugh with 2011 BCA Chairman Will Brooke, managing partner at Harbert Management Corp., and BCA President and CEO William J. Canary.

8. Doug Mannion, of Rheem Manufacturing and co-chair of BCA’s Manufacturing Advocacy Council, chats with Governor Robert Bentley.

9. *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Hyatt keynoted the Saturday morning program.



Cook handicapped the 2014 congressional mid-term elections by saying that Republicans probably will keep the U.S. House but there will be a battle for approximately six U.S. Senate seats that “will be in play” for its control — Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and North Carolina. Democrats control the Senate with 55 of 100 seats.

Former book publishing executive and motivational speaker Michael Hyatt informed businessmen and women how to get noticed in a “noisy” media world by promoting themselves on several platforms and social media. “You will not succeed unless you start,” Hyatt said.

Former top Southeastern Conference athlete and motivational speaker Mo Isom closed the session Aug. 18 at the traditional interfaith service with a heart-rending testimonial on how she overcame tremendous personal challenges and tragedy.



Ronnie Boles, of General and Automotive Machine Shop in Huntsville and co-chair of BCA's Manufacturing Advocacy Council, visits with Congressman Mo Brooks and his wife, Martha, at the 2013 Governmental Affairs Conference.

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