



News and events of the DEKALB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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On Mon., June 1, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce will welcome **Michael A. Young**, the newest chief executive officer and president of Grady Health System as its keynote speaker for the First Monday Lunch series. Young brings more than 25 years of health-care industry leadership to Grady

Young

Health System and was hired last year after the exit of **Otis Story**.

Healthcare concerns continue to be one of the top priorities in this country with increased insurance rates that make it harder for residents to receive care. Grady Health Systems is very much a pivotal institution in the Georgia region and beyond given that its doctors serve in advisory capacities and continue to provide professional expertise and advice.

"Grady Health System is a critical part of not only DeKalb County but the entire region as our Level 1 Trauma Center. The viability and sustainability of a strong Grady is important to our region's economic engine," said **Charles Yorke**, Chairman, DeKalb Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to hear about the new financial structure of Grady and Dr. Young's plans for the future."

The DeKalb Chamber is thrilled to have Young as its mid-year speaker and looks forward to an enlightened and spirited conversation between Young and the attendees of the luncheon.

Young began his career at Lancaster General Hospital and Health System in Lancaster, Penn. and most recently was president and CEO of Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, NY. During his tenure there, Young was instrumental in turning around ECMC's historical operating losses to its first-ever operating gain in 2006, a \$32 million turnaround in two years.

A native of Pennsylvania, Young received a bachelor of science in biology in 1978 and a master of healthcare administration in 1979 from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1998 he received an Executive MBA from the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

Grady Health System opened its doors in 1892 and is known for its cutting edge trauma and emergency services which include asthma, burn, sickle cell and stroke care. Grady also has critical care and intensive care units including neonatal intensive care units. According to Grady's website, one out of four doctors in Georgia trained at Grady.

Message from the President

Membership Has Its Privileges

In today's highly competitive business environment, business owners are consistently faced with mounting pressures, two of which are increasing revenue and controlling costs. Current economic conditions have further heightened these two concerns. Consequently, businesses are constantly exploring new ways to address these often daunting tasks.



One way to accomplish both is by joining the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the Chamber, businesses can take solace in knowing that there are numerous opportunities to meet new clients and form strategic alliances and partnerships. Like-

minded business professionals are able to obtain a plethora of best practices and to learn from one another.

In addition to business development opportunities, business owners and representatives are able to obtain countless cost saving discounts. One of which allows businesses with two to 50 covered employees premium discounts of up to five percent on health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBS). In working with BCBS, the Chamber is allowing small businesses to remain competitive by offering quality health coverage to top employees while saving precious dollars.

Join the DeKalb Chamber today and see why membership has its privileges.

Leonardo McClarty
President

Member spotlight

UpBuild Design, LLC

There's some serious woman power in the East Decatur Station office of Chamber member, UpBuild Design, LLC. Owner **Nadine Levy**, a talented, intelligent and creative architect who will let nothing get in her way, is the driving force of the company. "Nobody can tell me what I can't do. This is what I know; this is what I'm destined to do," she says of the successful architectural design firm.

Levy, originally from Jamaica, came to the United States in 1987 and has been on the fast track to success since then. As one of only approximately 200 African American female architects in the country, Levy says she is very proud of her accomplishments and business recognition.

Levy runs a tight ship and says that a design firm "doesn't have to be large, we just have to be good." Apparently this drive and determination has been recognized by some very demanding clients including Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport and Georgia State University.

The most recent projects completed by UpBuild required

extremely tight completion schedules. One such project is the recently completed Angel's Academy in South Fulton County.

While working on the education facility project, Levy was also working against a tight deadline to complete renovations on concourse B of Atlanta's airport for the operators of T. G. I. Friday's prior to the busy Memorial Day weekend.

LaVeeta Branche who is Ambassador leader for the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce is responsible for business development for UpBuild and for coordinating the Chamber's Ambassadors team. Branche said she has benefited greatly from the company's affiliation with the Chamber. The Ambassadors are responsible for making those attending Chamber functions feel welcome and to be sure that each Chamber sponsored event is as pleasant and beneficial as possible for attendees.

Since becoming a member of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, Branche has taken advantage of the networking opportunities of Chamber mem-



Nadine Levy (left) and LaVeeta Branche

bership and has forged new banking and payroll relationships as a result. Her genuine smile and her dedication to both UpBuild Design and the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, make for a winning combination of mutual benefits for both organizations.

Both Levy and Branche exemplify the successful traits of determination and ability, and as Levy stated, "I don't plan on giving up anytime soon."

Save these important dates for June

- June 1—First Monday Lunch—Michael Young—President and CEO of Grady Health System
- June 3—Network DeKalb Leads Group—Holiday Inn Select—Decatur
- June 9—First Line Health—Longterm Care
- June 11—Business Builder Series—DeKalb Library
- June 17—Network DeKalb Leads Group—Holiday Inn Select—Decatur
- June 18—New Members Lunch Reception—DeKalb Convention and Visitors Bureau
- June 25—Government Affairs Council Meeting

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