

Melvin M. Coleman is the President & CEO of the Atlanta Black Chambers, an organization of more than 700 entrepreneurs and growing rapidly. Known throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area as the ABC, the Chamber's mission is the creation and growth of competitive, profitable, and sustainable Black owned businesses. Under Melvin's leadership, since January 2017, the ABC has seen explosive growth. With an innovative modern structure, the ABC focuses on the powerful demographics that already exist in the Black community. The Women's League, The Young Entrepreneurs Collaborative, and the recently launched Veteran Entrepreneurs Group are all components of this innovative model built for today's entrepreneurial world. Launching the Transportation & Logistics Committee and most recently The Global Opportunities Committee, The ABC, under his outstanding leadership is going to new heights. Melvin gives a ton of credit to his talented dynamic leadership team for their support and commitment to the ABC's mission.

The ABC has emerged as the go to source for entrepreneurs in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Melvin and his team provide great opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect with each other and collaborate to create new opportunities together. The organization gave over \$100,000 in small business grants in 2022 to business owners who really needed access to capital. The ABC produced over 200 events and activities in 2022. All of this led to over 200 new business owners joining the Atlanta Black Chambers last year. The Financial Services Committee delivers critical financial literacy for the Black community. The Health & Wellness committee delivers critical education to empower the Black community with knowledge about how to improve our health. This is just some of the great work the Atlanta Black Chambers is doing every day to support the entrepreneur community in Atlanta.

Melvin is a proud Georgia native, Savannah born and raised. He committed to the United States Navy before even graduating high school in 1986. His time in the Navy afforded him the opportunity to travel and see some of the most remarkable places in the world. Based in Norfolk Va., Melvin served aboard the U.S.S. Ponce in the aviation department. His Navy experience took him to the Mediterranean Sea for a six month tour in 1988. It was during this deployment he had the opportunity to visit Paris, Rome, Israel, North Africa and more. This experience really helped to broaden his horizons and has served him well to this very day.

Melvin returned home to Savannah after his active-duty commitment in 1989. He graduated from Savannah State University cum laude, in 1993, with his B.A. in Business Management. He continued his education at Georgia Southern University where he earned his MBA degree in 1995.

During his freshmen year at Savannah State he began working for UPS as a part time package sorter. Upon completing his MBA in 1995 he was promoted into management in the business development

department. Over a 15 year career he ascended to the level of senior account executive. He was responsible for managing major corporate accounts. Melvin credits his career at UPS as the foundation of his professional development.

Melvin is Chief Investment Officer at Essential Wealth Management Group, LLC. He founded EWM September 2006 shortly after leaving Raymond James & Associates. Raymond James is one of the most highly regarded brokerage firms in America and he benefitted tremendously from his experience there. He earned his series 7 and 66 securities licenses during his time at RJ.

Melvin is very active in the business community and really enjoys public speaking and participating in panel discussions on key issues relevant to Black entrepreneurship, Black wealth and Black excellence.

Melvin is highly respected in the Atlanta entrepreneur community. In December of 2021 he was the proud recipient of the ABC Transformative Leadership Award. He is also the proud recipient of the Atlanta Association of Insurance Professionals' LINC award for 2018. LINC stands for Lead, Inspire, Network and Connect. This award is given to someone who brings people together for collaboration and support. He is a charter member of ICABA Atlanta, the International Career and Business Alliance. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and a life member of the Savannah State University National Alumni Association.

Melvin is the proud father of a 13-year-old daughter, Layla Alyse Coleman. Every spare moment he can find is daddy/daughter time.