

SPOTLIGHT ON CULLMAN COUNTY



Dr. Phillip Cleveland



Sammie Danford



Garlan Gudger



Dr. Jan Harris



Dr. Vicki P. Hawsey



Mickey Parrish



Tanva Shearer



Max Townson



Jim Weidner

Movers & Shapers

Dr. Philip Cleveland, Ed.D

Philip Cleveland is vice president for learning/applied technologies at Wallace State Community College. He administers and supervises budgets and all instructional programs within the technical and academic divisions. He leads training for existing business and industry and the adult education division. Cleveland serves on the state Business and Industry Development Advisory Committee, Region II Workforce Development Committee and the state Course of Study Committee.

Sammie Danford

Sammie Danford has served as economic development director for Cullman County for the past nine years and has a 24-year career with the county. Her agency has written and received grants that have totaled just under \$20 million to develop and enhance the county. She is a member of Leadership Cullman, as well as active on several civic and charitable boards and organizations.

Chester Freeman

Chester Freeman, a longtime member of the business community, is a park and recreation activist and the catalyst behind the Field of Miracles, a specially-designed baseball field to accommodate people who are physically and mentally challenged. The entire complex, which includes

four fields, bears his name. He also was a member of the National Recreation Park Association and received a lifetime membership from that group.

Garlan Gudger Jr.

Garlan Gudger Jr. is president of Southern Accents Architectural Antiques Inc. in Cullman, one of the largest reclamation companies of its kind in the nation. He is responsible for restoring several historic properties in downtown Cullman back to its original elegance. He is a two-term member and current chairman of the Cullman City Council. He is active on several boards and committees.

Dr. Jan Harris

Jan Harris was named superintendent of Cullman City Schools in 2005. A former math teacher, assistant principal and principal, she heads a system that has been ranked in the top 10 school systems in the state in college ACT scores and the SAT10 evaluation for 10 years. She is the recipient of several awards and active in the community. She is author of *The Principal's Office: A Primer, A Guide to Balanced Leadership*.

Dr. Vicki P. Hawsey

Vicki Hawsey is president of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. Appointed in 2003, she introduced WSCC to the Learning College concept, which has transformed WSCC

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through its emphasis on student learning, starting right, evidence-based decision making, and use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Wallace State is one of the most technologically advanced colleges in the state and earns national accolades in several areas.

Mickey Parrish, CLU, ChFC, CASL

Mickey Parrish owns Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance and Financial Ser-

VICES in Cullman and has been associated with State Farm for 22 years. She is the 2010-2011 chairman of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and is active with several civic and charitable organizations. She is past president of the American Business Association. She is a chartered financial consultant, a chartered advisor for senior living and a chartered life underwriter.

Tanya Shearer

Tanya Shearer is the coordinator/liason between the 17 different partner groups of Cullman Area Workforce Solutions. CAWS is a voluntary partnership working to develop a strong qualified workforce to meet the current and future needs of industry. She implements the Keeping it Real program for ninth grade students in Cullman County and coordinates the Educator Exchange program between local industries and city and county schools.

Peggy Smith

Peggy Smith has served for more than 25 years as director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency. Her office assists with local industry expansion, new industry recruitment, retail development and special projects. She recently was appointed by Gov. Bob Riley to the Alabama Rural Action Commission and serves as co-chair of the Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Max Townson

Max Townson is serving his first term as mayor of Cullman. He enjoyed a career in pharmaceutical sales until his election. He served in the U.S. Air Force and is a former teacher and coach, leading West Point Junior High's football team to its first state championship in 1970. He has been an active member of the community, including serving on the Cullman City Board of Education and holding several positions in his church.

Jim Weidner

Jim Weidner is president and CEO of Cullman Regional Medical Center. A former steel industry executive, he changed careers in 1993 and served in several high-level hospital positions. Since coming to Cullman, the hospital has received several national honors. He serves on several community boards, including the Good Samaritan Clinic, the Cullman Healthcare Coalition, Area Chamber of Commerce, the March of Dimes and the Bethsadia Fire Department.

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