



Tom Cunningham

Senior Vice President & Chief Economist, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Tom joined the MAC in July 2015 following a 30-year career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He is a specialist in open economy macroeconomic policy and regional analysis. At the MAC, he manages an internal team that supports the research and advocacy roles of the economic development and public policy departments.

After starting his career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta as an economist in the Macropolicy group, Tom served at various times as associate director of research, interim director of research, vice president for the Regional group where he was also responsible for the Latin American group, and acting head of the Finance group. He served on the Bank's Personnel, Information Technology, and Risk Management Committees and as a member of the Federal Reserve System's Information Security Group and Technology Services Council. He also was the acting director of, and helped establish, the Bank's Center for Real Estate Analytics. When Dr. Cunningham retired from the Fed, his title was Vice President, Senior Economist and Regional Executive.

A native of Reedley, California, he received a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in economics from California State University, Fresno. He earned a master's degree, a master of philosophy, and a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University. He previously worked as an economics instructor at Barnard College at Columbia University and as an adjunct instructor at Iona College, Agnes Scott College, and Emory University. He attended the executive development program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and is a member of Leadership Atlanta's class of 2018. He is a board member of Atlanta's Neighborhood Nexus as well as the Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance. Dr. Cunningham has published numerous professional articles and is a member of the American Economic Association, the Western Economic Association, and the Southern Economic Association.





Dennis Lockhart

Former President & CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Dennis Lockhart's career includes time in the private sector, academia, and government.

He is a Distinguished Professor-of-the-practice in Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech and a principal in Navigation Capital Partners, a private equity firm.

He recently stepped down from the position of president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. In this role, Lockhart served on the Federal Reserve's chief monetary policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). Within the Federal Reserve System, he chaired the Conference of Presidents for his final two years and earlier chaired the Information Technology Oversight Committee.

Before becoming a central banker, Lockhart was a member of the faculty of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service where he chaired the Masters program's concentrations in *global commerce and finance* and *international business-government relations*. He taught courses focused on *global business strategy, international finance and investment, project finance, and business-government relations*. He also was an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Simultaneously, he was chairman of the Small Enterprise Assistance Funds, a sponsor of emerging markets venture capital/private equity funds.

Earlier he was managing partner of a boutique private investment firm with activity in Africa and Latin America and president of Heller International Group, a financial firm with activities in commercial finance in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In 2000, he chaired the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

At the start of his career, Lockhart held various positions, both international and domestic, with Citicorp/Citibank (now Citigroup). He worked in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Iran, Latin America and the southeast United States. He was Citicorp's senior corporate officer and head of corporate banking for the southeast domiciled in Atlanta.

Lockhart was born and grew up in California. He was educated at Stanford University and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He also attended the Senior Executive Program at the Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.



Enterprise Forum
Atlanta

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**Kartik Athreya**

*Executive Vice President and
Director of Research at the
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*

Athreya's work has been published in a variety of academic journals, including *the Journal of Monetary Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, and *International Economic Review*. He is also an associate editor at the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*. In recent years, Athreya has taught a doctoral course in macroeconomics at the University of Virginia and authored a book entitled *Big Ideas in Macroeconomics* (2013, MIT Press). He earned his doctorate from the University of Iowa in 2000.

Athreya's research interests are in macroeconomics and consumer finance. His current research aims to measure and understand household financial distress and debt repayment decisions, to quantify the links between household investments in human capital and in the stock market, and to assess the importance of risks associated with college enrollment for educational attainment and inequality.

**Gayathri Srinivasan**

*Executive Director in the Office of
Corporate Relations at Emory University.*

Gayathri is a scientist, a microbiologist, by training with her PhD from the Ohio State University and her Post-doc at MIT. Her role at Emory is to provide a “front door” for industry to connect with the right resources within Emory to further their objectives and support Emory’s research and education mission. She collaborates with teams within and outside of Emory to determine synergies where partnerships can be initiated or expanded in order to solve real world problems and advance innovation.





Melanie Brandt, (moderator)
*President and CEO of the Association for
Corporate Growth (ACG), Atlanta.*

ACG is the ultimate resource for corporate development, private equity, investment banking and other professionals involved in mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to ACG, Melanie was the COO of the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG), providing strategic leadership and management of TAG's operations, including key initiatives, fundraising and staff management, and initiated several noteworthy projects as COO, such as the Where Georgia Leads maps, the TAG Social Media Council, and the annual S.T.E.M. Education Awards.

In 2018, Melanie was honored by the Association for Corporate Growth for leadership and excellence. She was recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as a "40 under 40" Atlanta Business and Community Leader in 2010 and in 2015 as a Woman Who Means Business.

Melanie has an MBA from the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University and an undergrad degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

