



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS



Dr. Rosaria Mangiavillano Meek

The Oracle of Style

rosariameek@gmail.com

Dr. Rosaria Mangiavillano Meek is the founder of The Oracle of Style, a premier leadership presence consulting firm where she champions the transformative power at the intersection of confidence, identity, and empowerment. Through her work, she helps leaders cultivate authentic presence, elevate their influence, and align how they show up with who they truly are. A Certified Coach for Thriving and a Cognitively-Based Compassion Training (CBCT) teacher, Dr. Meek integrates evidence-based practices with practical leadership tools that support resilience, clarity, and purposeful leadership. A native of Italy with a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, Dr. Meek brings academic depth, global perspective, and cultural fluency to every engagement. With seasoned experience across the business, academic, corporate, and nonprofit sectors, she offers a rare and grounded lens on leadership development and human potential. Deeply committed to community impact, Dr. Meek is a member of the LEAD Athens program through the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, where she actively engages in initiatives that strengthen the region's leadership ecosystem. Through her speaking and consulting, Dr. Meek empowers leaders to embody authenticity, lead with gravitas, and cultivate a presence that inspires lasting impact.



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS

**John Brantley**

The Auxin Leader

john@theauxinleader.com

An innovator & thought leader, John has been helping organizations develop the people side of growth for 40 years in healthcare, banking-finance, and manufacturing. He is the author of The Auxin Leader, Performance Coaching, High Octane Teamwork, and The One Thing You Missed As a Leader. He is also the co-founder of Resilient Families Institute and leads family retreats for active-duty military families around the world.

**Zach Armstrong**

Rooster High

zach@roosterhigh.com

Zach Armstrong is a fractional Chief Marketing Officer whose specialty is finding the right words for the right story. He lives in Athens with his wife and son.

**Chris Clark, CCE**

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

cclark@gachamber.com

A Georgia native, Chris Clark, has served as the President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce since 2010. Chris previously served as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, and as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Economic Development among other positions. He is a graduate of Georgia Southern University and Georgia College and State University. In 2023, Chris published his first book, The CEO Imperative. He and his wife Tiffany live in Peachtree City and attend Dogwood Church. Their son Christian attends the University of Georgia.



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS

**Kathleen Da Silva**

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
kdasilva@gpee.org

Kathleen joined the Partnership team in 2023 as its Regional Engagement Manager. She has previously worked in public education and nonprofit sectors, developing and implementing programs supporting families and communities. Most recently, at the Atlanta Mission, a nonprofit organization empowering those experiencing homelessness, she served as the Corporate Account Manager. In this role, she recruited, managed, and stewarded all employment partners, contributing to the goal of transforming lives and communities through sustained employment. Originally from Massachusetts, Kathleen holds a BA in Social Justice from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

**Matt Smith**

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
msmith@gpee.org

Matt joined the Partnership in 2021 and has worked with a diverse group of education stakeholders - state legislators, state agency staff, district leaders, and philanthropies - to develop strategies that transform student outcomes. After graduating from Peabody College, Vanderbilt University with a Master in Public Policy, Matt moved to Colorado, where he managed the policy output for two grants - one on remedial and developmental education, the other on college and career readiness - for the Education Commission of the States. After three years in Denver, Matt returned to his hometown of Atlanta to manage a five-year, \$13 million regional educator quality grant for the Southern Regional Education Board. More recently, he has supported school districts in Middle and South Georgia that receive Title IV, Part A federal funds through his work at the Georgia Department of Education. With experience working at the local, state, and national levels, Matt is excited to assist Georgia's education leaders to reinforce linkages between best practices and supportive, sustainable education policy.



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS



Crosby Johnson

Mayor, City of Brunswick

cjohnson@cityofbrunswick-ga.gov

On January 5, 2022, Brunswick native Cosby H. Johnson was sworn in as the second African American to hold the title of Mayor in the City of Brunswick. Mayor Johnson comes from a family of public servants, raised by an educator and veteran who instilled in him the importance of serving your community. An amiable change-agent who ran under the platform of "Building a Better Brunswick," Johnson strives to represent the voice of the people and is passionate about being a good steward. Mayor Johnson is a proud Brunswick High School Pirate and graduated from Valdosta State University before beginning a career in government. He serves as Vice President for Government Affairs in the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and was influential in lobbying the Georgia Legislature to pass a hate crimes bill and repeal the state's citizen's arrest law. Government accountability, transparency, education, and economic development are his top priorities.