



Alabama Community Leadership Network

August 2019



2019 Conference of the Alabama Community Leadership Network

Please join us on **September 26, 2019** for our annual Conference held at **The American Village** located in Montevallo, Alabama. **Check-in begins at 9:00 am and we will end at 2:00 pm.** Lunch is included.

The conference focus will be for both youth and adults who are interested in developing leadership skills. We are planning a fun, informative and engaging event.

We are delighted that **Jeremiah Castille** will be our keynote speaker. Castille is founder of the Jeremiah Castille Foundation, former All-American University of Alabama Legend and NFL football player (Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Denver Broncos) as well as an ordained minister. The foundation's vision is to **invest, influence, impact and inspire** lives so they will rebuild and restore generations. [Learn more](#) about the Jeremiah Castille Foundation.

The conference will provide the opportunity to network with other professionals and participate in multiple breakout sessions pertaining to leadership and community development.

Breakout Sessions include:

- Developing Leaders: Off the Bench – Developing a Community of Leaders for the Future
- Engaging the Community: Assessing Your Community Accurately
- Preparing the Youth: FUNdamentals of Youth Leadership
- Developing Leaders: The different Levels of Leadership – What's Your Level and How to Improve
- Engaging the Community: Advocating for Your Health and the Community
- Preparing the Youth: Conflict Resolution – How to Overcome Bullies and other Difficult Situations in Life

Registration will be open through September 20, 2019. Registration fees are \$50 for adults and \$25 for students.

[CLICK HERE to Register](#)



ACLN Launches a New Logo and Website

We are pleased to announce that the ACLN has a new logo and website. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out. You'll notice that we have a tab for the Advisory Council and Partners as well as a Resource tab that includes past newsletters, and presentations.

We are working on a tab for all Leadership Programs in Alabama. We will need your help with this section. Please provide us with the formal name of your Leadership Program as well as the contact name, telephone number, city, county and e-mail so that we can include this information on the website.

HELP US BUILD OUR DATABASE

We continue to build our database and want to make sure you and your organization are listed correctly. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to provide your current contact information.

KEEP US INFORMED OF YOUR LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

We also want to share your successes. As you continue to build your leadership programs, please send us a brief description of your events and be sure to share photos. We want to highlight all of your hard work. Please submit this information via e-mail to: <mailto:Martha.Whitson@ua.edu>



RESOURCES AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Leadership Tidbits – The Decision is Yours!

According to *Psychology Today*, we make thousands of decisions each day. And certainly some decisions are more important than others. For the more important decisions to be made, you should consider utilizing the decision making process. This process includes the following steps:

- State the Problem – Identify the issue/problem (e.g., low high school graduation rate).
- Determine the Goal – Clearly state the goal that will result in a positive outcome (e.g., increasing the high school graduation rate).
- Alternatives – Establish potential solutions that will help to achieve the

overall goal (e.g., start program A; start program B, etc.).

- Pros and Cons – For each alternative, list the pros and cons (e.g., pros – easy access to tutors, access to mentors, location of program; cons – availability of tutors, cost, etc.).
- Make the Decision – Based on the information from the alternatives weighing the pros and cons of each, you should make the best possible decision that will hopefully lead to accomplishing the goal.
- Have a Reason – Once you have reached a decision, as a leader, you have a responsibility to justify your decision. Help others to understand why and how you reached your decision.

The decision making process is a tool. It's not a cure all. Difficult decisions will still be difficult even with the decision making process. This model offers you a method to reach a decision. And remember, the decision is yours!

To Meet.....or Not?

Meetings, meetings, meetings and yes...more meetings. Millions of meetings are held each year in the United States. According to *Inc. Magazine*, there are more than 25 million meetings per day. On any given day, there is likely to be a wide range of meetings occurring such as departmental, staff, committee, planning, community, family, special purpose, task force and a number of other types of meetings.

Since meetings always require time, energy, and resources, individuals are asking the forever important question, "Why have a meeting anyway?" Some suggest that man is a social species and it is natural within the human culture for people to come together in groups from time to time. Others profess the dominant theory which states that meetings are the way much of the important work of any institution is accomplished. Therefore, there must be a specific reason (purpose) to hold a meeting. In my experience, the major reasons for having a meeting are the following: [Click HERE to read more.](#)

Reference:

-Rogelberg, Steven G. **The Surprising Science of Meetings**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019

Arturo S. Menefee, Ph.D.

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MOTIVATIONAL MOMENT ©



"One of the most powerful things on earth is a made-up mind." - - - Author Unknown

Experts tell us that the mind is a map of cognitive faculties that enables reasoning, perception and judgment in all human beings. The mind not only helps us to think and to make decisions, but also helps us to overcome difficult situations and to

simply get things done.

I have a childhood friend that has suffered from substance abuse for many years. His family encouraged him repeatedly to seek help, but he didn't want

help. He continued to use drugs and it impacted his health and he even served time in jail. After his release, he continued his old, bad habits. But then one day, a few months ago, by his own volition, he enrolled himself into a treatment facility and completed a substance abuse prevention program. He is now doing fine, working a steady job, staying out of trouble and has dreams of starting a business. Like some people, my friend gave in to those bad habits. But he finally made up his mind to better his life and that made the difference. And through this process he discovered his most powerful asset... his mind.

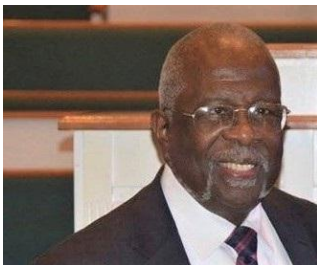
What are some bad or not so good habits in your life you would like to overcome? What are you hoping to achieve in life? Have you made up your mind? Others can help you or try to offer assistance but it is ultimately up to you.

I am sure you've heard the saying that if the mind can conceive it, then you can achieve it. And you can and will, once you set your mind to do so. You have many great talents and a desire to win. But it all starts with you. So just remember, a **powerful mind** is a terrible thing to waste!!!

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Clifford E. Jones

Clifford E. Jones is a native of Laurel, MS a 1969 graduate of Alcorn State University (Lorman, MS), a 1979 graduate of Gordon – Conwell Theological Seminary (Hamilton, MA) and a 1984 graduate of Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL.

Dr. Jones also holds an honorary doctorate from the Montgomery Bible Institute and Theological Center in Montgomery, AL. In 1996, he retired from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as State Resource Conservationist in Alabama, completing a career of 27 years of service.

In 1993 he became pastor of the Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama. This church has grown from a membership of 300 to over 1000. In addition to the growth of the membership, Construction of a Worship Center and a Family Life Center has been completed with a cost of over \$5,000,000. A Veteran Memorial has been constructed on the campus of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church to honor Veterans who served in each branch of the military. He has an extensive connection with Veterans in Alabama and the nation. Some of the activities are: Hosting and speaking at the Clergy and Veteran Conference at Auburn High School; Spoke on a National Webinar for Army One; Hosted and spoke on a VA Mental Health Summit at Greater Peace; Spoke on The Stigma of Moral Injuries in Montgomery to Veterans; Hosted and spoke at a Summit entitled God4Vets at Greater Peace, Opelika and St. James UMC in Montgomery; Spoke at the Extreme Civility Retreat in Washington, DC; Participated in Warrior Outreach Promoting Strong Veterans and Families.

In 2000 Dr. Jones founded the Greater Peace Community Development Corporation (GPCDC) a 501(c)3 non-profit. Through the GPCDC the following activities have been created: Youth Leadership Academy; A Child Development Center; A STEM afterschool program; A Summer Education Enrichment Program (S.E. E. P); An Adult Education (GED) Program; The Construction of Jordan's Gate a 3 and 4 Bedroom 48 Affordable Housing Community for low-moderate income families cost totaling over \$9,300,000.00; and a \$77,000.00 grant from USDA-Rural Development to develop a Farmers Market and Community Gardens.

Dr. Jones serves on many boards and has received countless awards and recognitions. He is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. In 1992, he received the President George H. Bush: Thousand Points of Light Award for Community Involvement. He serves as President of the Southeast Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, President of the Alabama Association of Community Development Corporations. He is President of the Greater Peace Community Development Corporation. President of Lee County Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Board, He is a member of the East Alabama Food Bank Advisory Board, Salvation Army Board, Mercy Medical Clinic Board, Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board, The Children Policy Council, and the Owens Center Counseling Board.

He is married to Lillie Jones and they have two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, golf, listening to classical music and helping people.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9 - 12, 2019 - Intensive Economic Development Training Course – Auburn University – GEDI

<https://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org/event/intensive-economic-development-training-course-auburn-university-gedi/>

September 11, 2019 - ADECA is sponsoring a LWCF application workshop at the Center for Commerce, 401 Adams Avenue, Montgomery, AL in the 7th Floor Auditorium. **To register: contact Kim Martin, at 334-353-3151 or kim.Martin@adeca.alabama.gov**

September 20, 2019 - ACE Annual Community Reunion: - Alabama Power Company Clanton Conference Center.

<https://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org/event/ace-community-reunion-september-20-2019-clanton-al-al-power-clanton-conference-center/>

Visit the **Your Town Alabama** website to learn details of the 2020 annual 2.5 day leadership workshop. <https://www.yourtownalabama.com/>

ASK ACLN



If you have a question regarding an article in this newsletter, or any strategies/resources/ideas pertaining to your local leadership program, please submit your question to us and we will present our response in the next quarterly newsletter. Please submit any questions to: Martha Whitson at martha.whitson@ua.edu.

Thank you for helping the ACLN chart our way to building sustainable

leadership programs.

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Alabama Community Leadership Network (ACLN)

On behalf of The University of Alabama

Center for Economic Development