

Kiwanian

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Tuesday, November 3, 2009

**Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity
The Community Action Agency for Jefferson County, Alabama**



Gayle Cunningham

Executive Director
Jefferson County Committee
for Economic Opportunity

Fellow Kiwanian, Gayle Cunningham is the executive director of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity, the Community Action Agency based in Birmingham, Alabama. From May 1986 until June 2004, and since January 2008 she also directed JCCEO's Child Development Services Division, which includes Head Start and Early Head Start programs serving nearly 1600 children. With a staff of nearly 500, JCCEO also operates a wide variety of other programs for low-income families and individuals, including adult day care centers, senior nutrition programs, a substance abuse prevention program, low income home energy assistance, home weatherization and rehabilitation, asset building, family development, housing counseling, and youth services. Ms. Cunningham was formerly an assistant professor responsible for coordination of the early childhood associate degree program at Delgado Community College, New Orleans, Louisiana. She also served as a consultant for Parent Child Center programs, a senior research associate with the CDA revision and expansion project at Bank Street College, New York City, and as field representative for the Bank Street College Parent Child Development Center Replication Project.

Gayle serves on a number of boards and advisory committees in Birmingham, in Alabama, and across the nation. These include the Children's Hospital of Alabama, Eastern Health Services, Housing Enterprise of Central Alabama, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Head Start Advisory Panel on Research and Evaluation, the Head Start Quality Research Center Consortium, and the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. Ms. Cunningham served on the HHS Advisory Committee on Services for Families with Infants and Toddlers, formed in 1994, which recommended the creation of Early Head Start. She also chaired the National Association for the Education of Young Children Commission on Early Childhood Standards and Criteria, and she will soon complete service on NAEYC's Board of Directors as treasurer.

Reared in Jackson, Mississippi, Gayle earned a bachelor's degree in American history from Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, and a master's degree in early childhood education, supervision, and administration from Bank Street College of Education. She was a Fulbright Fellow in Ghana, West Africa, studying child rearing and the transmission of traditional craft skills. Ms. Cunningham has traveled extensively and has developed a unique private collection of African and African-American artwork and literature. She has one daughter, Kelli, who is an entrepreneur and housing rehabilitation specialist.

Speaker's Address: JCCEO / 300 Eighth Avenue, West / Birmingham, Alabama 35204-3039

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Next Tuesday's Program November 3, 2009 - 12 noon



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Upcoming Programs

- Nov 10 Jim Noles "Veterans Day Program"
A Salute to our WWII Veterans
- Nov 17 Pete Deris, Sr. Vice President and
General Manager
ESPN Regional TV
- Nov 24 Dolores Hydock, Storyteller
"Abundant Blessings"
FAMILY PROGRAM – GUESTS WELCOME
- Dec 1 Bill Bowron, CEO
Red Diamond Coffee

KIWANIAN on the web www.kcob.org

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE - November 3, 2009

1. Program Information
2. Board of Directors / Upcoming Programs

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