



Ranae Bartlett

*Mayor
City of Madison*

Ranae Bartlett earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law where she was a member of the Arkansas Law Review and a member of the National Moot Court team. Upon graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Henry A. Politz, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Ranae graduated with high honors from the University of Central Arkansas, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in mathematics and political science.

Ranae and her family moved to Madison from Northwest Arkansas in 2003 where she worked for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. as Assistant General Counsel and Director of Risk Analysis and Security Resources. Upon moving to Alabama, she worked as a career law clerk to the Honorable C. Lynwood Smith, Jr., US District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Ranae was appointed to the Madison Board of Education in June 2011 and was reappointed in 2016. She served as Vice-President from 2015-2017 and President from 2017-2020. Ranae was elected to the Madison City Council in 2020. She served as Council President from 2022-2024 and Council President Pro Tempore in 2025.

Ranae is a graduate of Class 26 of Leadership Greater Huntsville.



Tommy Battle

Mayor

City of Huntsville

The Honorable Thomas “Tommy” M. Battle, Jr. has served as Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, since 2008 and was elected to a fifth term in 2024. His administration focuses on job creation, economic diversification, and enhancing quality of life. Under his leadership, Huntsville has become a statewide leader in new jobs and capital investment, driven by strong partnerships among regional leaders, industry, and educational institutions.

Mayor Battle emphasizes innovation and long-term strategic planning. He has championed initiatives in geospatial technology, cybersecurity, energy, and biotechnology, positioning Huntsville as a global hub for research and development. A key element of his vision is “The BIG Picture,” a comprehensive master plan addressing growth, infrastructure, urban redevelopment, transportation, and community design to guide the city’s future for decades.

Committed to sustainable growth, Battle secured a landmark \$250 million, five-year road improvement agreement with the State of Alabama during a period of reduced federal and state transportation funding. His fiscally conservative approach has maintained balanced budgets and earned Huntsville triple-A bond ratings from major agencies every year since 2009—an achievement held by only a small number of U.S. cities.



Beth Bentley Goodwin

CEO

EarlyWorks Museums

Beth Bentley Goodwin is the CEO of the EarlyWorks Museums, which consist of Alabama Constitution Hall Park, EarlyWorks Children's Museum and the Roundhouse, a role she has served in for two years. She has more than 25 years of experience in executive leadership, with 13 of those years at EarlyWorks.

Prior to her EarlyWorks position, Beth used her extensive marketing experience to serve as the Director of Marketing for several organizations: the Huntsville Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association, Sevierville, TN Chamber of Commerce, NASCAR Speed Park, and the Lee Greenwood Theater. Beth's professional experience extends into the areas of publicity and communications. She has also worked as a producer and reporter for television news companies in Nashville, Montgomery, and Huntsville.

Beth currently serves as a board member for the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association and has served on the Tennessee Film Commission Board of Directors. Recently, she became a member of Committee of 100. She completed the Leadership Management Academy 5 in Huntsville, as well as Leadership Sevier County in Tennessee. A proud graduate of Auburn University, Beth holds a degree in Communications and Journalism. While her official title is Chief Executive Officer, the title she prefers is Dreamer in Chief.



Joseph Bevel

*Director of Workforce Development
Drake State Community & Technical College*

Joseph Bevel serves as Director of Workforce Development at Drake State Community & Technical College in Huntsville, Alabama, a public, historically Black community and technical college and member of the Alabama Community College System. In this role, he works with regional employers to build short-term, hands-on training programs that give students industry-recognized credentials and a direct pathway into skilled careers.

Bevel helps lead Drake State's "Dig the Line" Underground Utilities program, a partnership with Huntsville Utilities designed to address a growing shortage of skilled utility workers. Enrollment is intentionally capped at ten students to maximize hands-on experience, and the program builds on the college's earlier Gas and Water Operation Certification partnership with Huntsville Utilities.

Before moving into workforce leadership, Bevel served as a welding instructor at Drake State, where he taught students in the college's welding program, represented the program in outreach to prospective students, and brought area technical-school students to campus competitions that awarded scholarships to Drake State. He studied at Northeast Alabama Community College.



Doug Brazier

*Dean of Workforce and Career Technical Education
Drake State Community & Technical College*

Doug Brazier is the Dean of Workforce and Career Technical Education at Drake State Community & Technical College. In this role, he leads initiatives that connect students with high-quality training and career opportunities aligned with north Alabama's rapidly growing industries.

Prior to joining Drake State, Brazier spent more than a decade at Calhoun Community College, where he held several key positions, including Director of Workforce Development, Academic Advisor, and Lead Recruiter. Over his 15 years in the Alabama Community College System, he has worked extensively across student advising, recruitment, and workforce programs, always with a focus on helping individuals discover their pathways through education and into meaningful careers.

Before transitioning into higher education, Brazier served as Vice President of Sales for his family's business, Brazier International Trucks, Inc., where he helped grow the company into the nation's largest International Associate dealer before its sale in 2007.

Brazier holds a bachelor's degree from Athens State University and a graduate degree from the University of West Alabama. Active in the community, he coaches youth sports and serves on the Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Board of Directors (Class 26).



Lucia Cape

*Senior Vice President of Economic Development
Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce*

Lucia Cape is the Senior Vice President of Economic Development for the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber. She manages the business recruitment, retention and expansion programs as well as the workforce development and education programs. She has worked on a variety of projects since taking the position in 2013, including Eli Lilly, Mazda-Toyota, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne, GE Aerospace, and Polaris. She started at the Chamber in 2006 as Vice President for Workforce.

Prior to joining the Chamber staff, Ms. Cape was a contractor to the Marshall Space Flight Center's Academic Affairs Office from 2002-2006 where she worked in informal education and business/industry partnerships. From 1999-2002 she was a Presidential Management Intern and then a contractor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. She served professional rotations with the Nashville/Davidson County Health Department and the Louisiana Public Health Institute in 2000-2001, focusing on public health ordinances and establishing a national network of public health institutes. She worked as a technical editor for environmental contractors to the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command in the mid-1990s.

Ms. Cape earned her Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) designation in July 2017 and is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management, the FBI Citizens Academy, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Class 23, and Leadership Alabama XXXIV.



Chip Cherry, CCE

President & CEO

Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce

Chip Cherry, CCE serves as President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County Alabama and Secretary of the Huntsville Industrial Development Board. His Chamber career spans forty-two years of service with Chambers of Commerce in Macon, Georgia; Greenville, North Carolina; Fredericksburg, Virginia; and Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

He holds a BA Degree in Business Administration from North Carolina Wesleyan College and an MBA from Mercer University. Secured the Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) designation from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), the Chamber industry's highest professional designation. He has served as Chair of ACCE, Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (GACCE), the Carolina's Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (CACCE), and the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (VACCE). He serves on Redstone Arsenal's Army Community Relations Committee, and the Board of the Business Council of Alabama.

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia; is married to Betty Cherry for 40 years and has two children. Trey and his wife Whitney live in Richmond, VA with their children Noah, Caroline, and Owen. Julia lives in Huntsville.



John Hamilton

*City Administrator
City of Huntsville*

John Hamilton is the City Administrator for Huntsville, Alabama. In that role he serves as a deputy to Mayor Tommy Battle supervising the day-to-day operations of the various City departments, developing and managing City budgets, and assisting with growth and development throughout the community.

He came to this position in 2013 following a 23-year career in the US Army having served in a variety of assignments in the US and abroad. He culminated his military career at the rank of colonel serving as the Garrison Commander for Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.



Erin Koshut

*Executive Director
Cummings Research Park*

Erin Koshut is the Executive Director of Cummings Research Park (CRP) in Huntsville, Alabama. With 300 companies situated over more than 3,800 acres and employing 26,500 employees, CRP is the second largest research park in the U.S. and the fourth largest in the world. Erin is responsible for managing and marketing CRP, and for providing a business environment that is conducive to growing existing industry and recruiting new industry into the Park.

In her role as CRP Director, Erin continues to lead the implementation of the 2016 comprehensive master plan that ensures another 50 successful years for CRP.

Partnering with stakeholders and community leaders, Erin is working to transform the culture in the Park and create a vibrant environment where employees connect, work, live, learn, and play. Erin is a certified Business Incubation Manager.



Joel Lamp

*Sports Development Manager
Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau*

With a passion for sports and communities, Joel Lamp joined the CVB team in 2021, bringing more than 20 years of experience in the sports and entertainment industry.

Over the past 16 years in Jacksonville, Lamp oversaw bringing the national spotlight to Northeast Florida with the first and second rounds of the NCAA men's basketball championship, the NCAA Tournament first and second rounds to VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena in 2006, 2010, 2015 and 2018 along with stints as the Senior Associate Athletics Director at Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida.

Joel was also responsible for launching the Moe's Classic, a two-day college and high school lacrosse event at TIAA Bank Field and bringing the USA Cycling Amateur Road Nationals to Clay County in 2021.

An avid golfer, Lamp and his wife Bonnie are the proud parents of their son, Steven, spending their free time helping him to chase his dreams.



Dr. Donald J. Leo

President

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Donald J. Leo, Ph.D. is the 11th president of The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), joining the university on June 1, 2026. An accomplished administrator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Leo is a leader whose career is largely defined by his 11-year tenure at the University of Georgia, where he served as the first permanent dean of the College of Engineering.

Most recently, Leo served as executive vice president and provost at Ohio University, where he was the institution's chief academic officer and responsible for overseeing nearly 300 academic programs that enroll over 30,000 students. Prior to his appointment as Dean at UGA, Leo spent more than a decade at Virginia Tech, where he was a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department and focused on applied research opportunities with federal agencies.

Leo has established a substantial body of scholarly work, having authored or co-authored over 200 research publications and written one of the first textbooks for advanced engineering courses in smart materials. Leo has received multiple awards and honors recognizing excellence in engineering research and academic leadership.

Leo holds a doctorate and master's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the University of Buffalo and a bachelor's degree in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Dr. Larry Lowe

*Chief Innovation Officer
City of Huntsville*

With a career spanning over thirty years and deep expertise in hardware, software, and data domains, Dr. Larry Lowe has a proven history of turning deep-tech ideas into business success, including contributing to the successful sale of two technology companies. As the City of Huntsville's inaugural Chief Innovation Officer, he leverages his background in engineering and strategic growth to identify technologies that scale municipal services for a rapidly expanding population.

His path to public service is built on a history of private-sector innovation. As Vice President of Engineering at GATR Technologies, he was a key leader in developing the unique inflatable satellite communications antenna that propelled the company to its successful acquisition. Transitioning to the forefront of commercial software and data science, he served as Chief Scientist at RippleWorx, where he engineered generative AI solutions to optimize workplace performance. His entrepreneurial drive also led him to found and operate Fractal Brewing Project, a venture that provided invaluable experience in community-building and small business operations.

Dr. Lowe holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University. He is deeply engaged in the Huntsville community, serving as Board Chair of the Huntsville Housing Authority and City of Huntsville liaison for the Huntsville AI Task Force. Dr. Lowe is also active at Trinity United Methodist Church. He is married to Amanda Lowe, and they have three almost adult children.



Zach McGovern

*External Relations Officer
City of Huntsville*

Zach McGovern is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. He planted roots in Huntsville in March 2020.

In December 2024, Zach was appointed to serve as the City of Huntsville's External Relations Officer. As such, Zach handles intergovernmental affairs on behalf of Mayor Tommy Battle and his administration. This entails coordinating Huntsville's advocacy and public policy efforts in Montgomery and Washington, D.C.

Zach also oversees Huntsville's relationships with other cities in Alabama, including Mayor Battle's involvement in the Big 10 Mayors organization and the Alabama League of Municipalities. Additionally, he's the point of contact in the mayor's office for businesses, universities, and nonprofits who need information from or seek to do business with the City of Huntsville.



Michael Ward

*Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs
Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce*

Michael Ward is the Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce. He has worked at the Chamber for 35 years. In his current position he is an advocate for policies and legislation at the local, state and national levels of government that support the economic prosperity of the Huntsville/Madison County region.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, he is a co-founder of Huntsville's Big Spring Jam, a music festival that was held in downtown Huntsville for 20 years, whose proceeds benefited various local charities. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Military Stability Foundation, the National Space Club - Huntsville Chapter; Cyber Huntsville and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Defense Communities.

He is married to the former Cathryne Hunt from Birmingham, and they have three adult children.

He is the author of the book "Shaping History" the story of the economic development of Huntsville and the parallel development of UAH and the Cummings Research Park. It traces the transformation of the city of Huntsville and the area surrounding it as an internationally acclaimed center for research and development in science, engineering, and technology and the concurrent evolution of The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).



General Stephen N. Whiting, USSF

*Commander
U.S. Space Command*

Gen. Stephen N. Whiting is the Commander, U.S. Space Command, headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base, Colo.

As Commander, Gen. Whiting is responsible for defending U.S. and allied interests in the space domain while providing space-enabled combat effects to joint warfighters around the globe. He exercises combatant command authority over Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Guardians operating ground and space-based systems around the world.

Gen. Whiting is a 1989 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He is a space operations officer and has commanded the 13th Space Warning Squadron; the 614th Air and Space Operations Center and Joint Space Operations Center; the 21st Space Wing; and the Combined Force Space Component Command and 14th Air Force.

Gen. Whiting's staff assignments include positions at Headquarters U.S. Air Force; U.S. Space Command; U.S. Strategic Command; the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group; the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense; Headquarters Air Force Space Command; and Headquarters U.S. Space Force.

Prior to his current position, the general was Commander, Space Operations Command, Peterson SFB, Colo.