

Karl Webster Barnes



Karl Webster Barnes is a native Atlantan and a West End resident since 1974. A Georgia Tech and University of Pennsylvania Wharton MBA graduate, Mr. Barnes served as a contract consultant (president of *deWebster Barnes Company*), project manager and grant writer with Morehouse College Community Revitalization Initiative (MCCRI). The college received a \$250,000 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration Grant and a \$150,000 U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration Grant for an Incubator/Accelerator Feasibility Study. Both grants foster entrepreneurship, creation of a culture of innovation, and job creation in 40 census tracts

surrounding the Atlanta University Center Consortium campuses. Currently, he is serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA project coordinator for the college.

He has taken an active leadership role within the community and has more than 20 years of experience serving on community boards and committees for the City of Atlanta, including: the Zoning Review Board (ZRB), the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), and the Atlanta Renewal Community Coordinating Responsible Authority ACoRa). Mr. Barnes played a pivotal role in the National Register's designation of West End as a Historic District – at the federal, state and local levels. In addition to Morehouse College, he has previous experience worked with another prominent Atlanta institution - The Coca-Cola Company. Currently, he serves on Atlanta Emerging Markets, Inc. ("AEMI"), a community development entity wholly-owned by Invest Atlanta (Atlanta Development Authority) that seeks to spur job creation, economic development and neighborhood revitalization in under-served parts of the City of Atlanta.

Barnes is a native of old South Atlanta – and a product of the Atlanta parochial system including the first integrated class of St. Pius X Catholic High School. **He is a 1973 graduate of the** Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Management and the first African-American student athlete and letter winner (i.e., football and track) to graduate from Georgia Tech.