



THE CITY OF EAST ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

# 2008 Opportunity: East St. Louis

*"Enhancing Business & Development Opportunities"*

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

FACILITATOR: Mr. Percy Dace, The Dace Company

## Thursday, September 25, 2008

### Casino Queen Hotel and Casino Grand Ballroom

Registration & Continental Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.

## 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

*Lunch Provided*

**RSVP by Contacting:**

**Kathryn Bastian @ 618.482.6653 or email:**

**Kathryn.Bastian@cesl.us**

**Please Register by Friday, September 19, 2008**



**Senator James Clayborne, Jr.**  
Illinois State Senate

Illinois State Senator James Clayborne currently serves as the Assistant Majority Leader and has represented the 57th District since 1995. His committee assignments include: Senate Committee of the Whole; Environment and Energy (Chairperson); Executive; Executive Appointments; Insurance; Pensions and Investments. He is the former St. Clair County Assistant State's Attorney. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he received his B.S. degree from Tennessee State University and his J.D. from the University of Miami. Senator Clayborne is a partner with the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson.



**Dr. Gerald Higginbotham**  
LLIFE "Dreams Realized"

Dr. Gerald A. Higginbotham is an educator, entrepreneur, and community activist who is also an airline pilot of 21 years. He holds a PhD in Divinity from the Jesus Christ of Nazareth Church International.

Dr. Higginbotham is currently CEO and President of Living Learning In Faith Everyday, Inc. (LLIFE), Manager/Member of Information Age Consultants, Inc., and Executive Director of Unity for a Better Community, NP Inc. He conducts Executive level training in Leadership Development, Financial Literacy, and Success Networking (the Collaborative Imperative).



**Mr. Tony Thompson**  
President/CEO KWAME Building Group, Inc.

Anthony (Tony) Thompson is the President/CEO of Kwame Building Group, Inc. (KWAME), which he founded in 1991. Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, KWAME is a construction management/ program management firm that serves as an independent agent to the owner. KWAME provides, along with other services, project management, scheduling, estimating, contract/claims administration, document controls, and value engineering.

A professional engineer, Mr. Thompson holds bachelors degrees in environmental design and architectural engineering from the University of Kansas and he has a master of science in civil engineering/construction management from Washington University and master masters in business administration from Webster University.



**Mr. Michael Roberts, Jr.**  
Roberts Hotels Group, LLC

Michael V. Roberts, Jr. serves as Vice President of Business Development and heads Roberts Hotels Group under its parent, The Roberts Companies. His sole responsibility is to increase the net worth of the family owned businesses by expanding the hotel assets and operational management services. Prior to his current employment, Michael worked at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP. Michael is the co-founder of Roberts Twins & Associates, an entertainment consulting firm. Most recently Michael served as field operator for the Obama for President campaign.

Michael has a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and a J.D. from Pepperdine School of Law in Malibu, California.

