

SELMA NATIVE SPEAKS AT CENTRE FOR COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING

Selma and Dallas County Centre for Commerce hosted its 11th Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 22nd at the Carl C. Morgan Convention Center in downtown Selma.

A Reception sponsored by the Economic Development Authority began the evening.

Speaker for the event was a Selma native: Meria Joel Carstarphen, Ed.D. Dr. Carstarphen is superintendent of the Atlanta Public Schools where she leads and provides oversight to the district's 50,000 students; 5,500 employees; and 106 learning sites with an \$800 million annual budget. She has 20 years of education and experience in diverse, major metropolitan public school districts which include Austin, Texas; Saint Paul, Minn.; and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Carstarphen began her education career as a middle school teacher in her hometown of Selma, Ala. where she graduated from Selma High School in the late 1980s.

She earned a doctorate from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She earned a bachelor of arts from Tulane University and master of education degrees from Auburn University and Harvard University. She also studied at the University of Seville, Spain, and the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

The event had outstanding attendance with more than 260 seats reserved. Dr. Carstarphen did a great job sharing with the audience the importance of hope in students' lives.

Sponsors for the event were: Alagasco, Alabama Power, Bush Hog, Cornerstone Realty, Craig Field Airport & Industrial Authority, Edmundite Missions, First Cahawba Bank, Henry Brick Company, Interlink Drugs, Jamison-Money-Farmer, Pioneer Electric Cooperative, THOMAS Accounting & Income Tax Service, and Trustmark Bank.

The Centre for Commerce is a non-profit corporation that offers strategic direction and administration of shared operational expenses for the Economic Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism.