



Lee E. Rhyant

Executive Profile

Lee E. Rhyant is President of LER Solutions, LLC. As President, Lee offers executive coaching and executive development to Fortune 500 CEOs and senior executives. Lee shares his proven success, focusing on key leadership principles, guiding executives to optimize teams and organizational behavior, leading change and successfully mentoring organizations on how to embrace 21st century diversity. Lee is a highly sought after speaker to a wide variety of audiences focusing on all aspects of leadership. As President, LER Solutions, Lee guides other corporate leaders past the theoretical models of executive leadership into the kind of pragmatic leadership needed to meet the challenges of today's rapidly changing business environment.

Lee has led multi-billion dollar operations through crisis, prosperity and change. With a combination of highly developed business acumen, compassion for his employees and concern for his community, his talents have been highly recruited by business, government and community leaders. As a consultant and executive confidant, Lee counsels other executives on their specific situational challenges. Over his more than 33 years in executive leadership roles, Lee has developed a philosophy that addresses the business needs of more global enterprises and the communities where they operate.

Lee is the recently retired Executive Vice President and General Manager for the Marietta, Ga. facility of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. He was in this role from July 2000 until January 2011 – a decade of leadership and vision. In this position, he led Lockheed Martin's strategic operations, was the liaison between the company and its primary customer – the United States Air Force, and was the organization's representative for strategic community and government relations. He also was responsible for the 8,000-employee operation, delivering the world's finest military aircraft such as the C-130J Hercules, F-22 Raptor, P-3 Orion and C-5M Super Galaxy. Prior to joining Lockheed Martin, Mr. Rhyant served as Vice President of Production Operations for Rolls-Royce Aerospace. He joined Allison Gas Turbine in 1972, and held a variety of senior management positions within General Motors automotive and aerospace divisions.

Mr. Rhyant holds an MBA degree from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree from Bethune-Cookman University. In May 2009, he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Bethune-Cookman University. In 2010, the Lee E. Rhyant Residential Life Center, the first co-ed dormitory at Bethune-Cookman University, was dedicated in his honor. He has also completed a number of executive development courses at a variety of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world, including Harvard University, London School of Business, M.I.T. and General Motors Institute. He is also a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Rhyant has been recognized nationally and locally for his leadership. A few of his many awards include the:

- 2009 Executive of the Year by the National Management Association



- 2008 Citizen of the Year by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and “Marietta Daily Journal”
- Outstanding HBCU Graduate Leadership Award
- One of Georgia’s 100 Most Influential People by “Georgia Trend” magazine.
- 2008 Man of the Year by the “Atlanta Tribune”

He serves as Executive in Residence, Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University and serves on numerous boards including: Advisory Board Member, Coles College of Business, Kennesaw State University; Atlanta Area Boy Scouts Council; and The Georgian Club. Mr. Rhyant has chaired many major philanthropic events, including the 2009 United Way campaign of Cobb County, 2009 Atlanta Area Boy Scouts Peach of an Athlete Role Model, American Cancer Society Swordsmen’s Ball, YWCA Tribute to Women in Leadership, and Blacks United for Youth, Inc. He has also chaired the National Minority Supplier Development Council Expo, Oscar Night America benefiting Cobb Family Resources, and the SafeAmerica Foundation focusing on teen driving safety. He is a nationally recognized speaker presenting at business conferences, youth leadership forums and K-16 schools and universities.

Mr. Rhyant has been featured on CBS highlighting Black History Month, in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a premier Atlanta leader, the *Atlanta Tribune*, *Atlanta Business Journal*, *Points North* magazine and *James* magazine highlighting leaders in Georgia.

He and his wife Evelyn live in Roswell, Ga. They have two grown sons, Broderick and Roderick, both of whom are medical doctors practicing in Indiana and Georgia respectively.