



## **CFSA Welcomes Danny K. Patterson**

The Community Foundation of South Alabama recently hired Danny Patterson as Director of Community Economic Development. He leads a team of professionals to address the areas of workforce development, affordable housing, education, asset building micro enterprises, healthy communities and community leadership.

Danny, a native of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, graduated from Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1974 earning the BA degree in Economics. He joined IBM in 1978, and moved to Mobile in 1987 as the first African American Marketing Manager, Sales Operations in Mobile/ Pensacola. Most recently he worked as the Senior Location Executive for IBM's Mobile/Pensacola locations. With 30 years at IBM he has worked primarily with clients in the manufacturing and distribution industries. Danny was recognized with the IBM Chairman's Award in 1995 for successful leadership at the Mercedes-Benz US assembly plant in Tuscaloosa.

Danny established the Lighthouse Community Development Corporation in Grand Bay in January, 2002 with a vision to assist the underserved residents of southwest Mobile county. He now serves as Chairman of this organization. Danny also served as Chairman, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, 2003 – 2006; and currently on the Board of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, Mobile United, and Leadership Mobile.

Danny and his wife, Melody, have two children, Betty (35) and James (34) who live in Mobile and Birmingham respectively. They also have two grand-children: Dreu (7) and Morgan (1 month). They attend the Lighthouse Holiness Church in Grand Bay. When asked for reasons why he came to work with CFSA, Danny said, "Upon retiring from IBM, I wanted to do something that I believed in and continue to believe is one of the best ways to help our community. The Community Foundation of South Alabama provided an opportunity for me to meet two goals, 1) continue to serve the community with pride, and 2) do it with a passion every day."