

Dr. Gary London, Sr.

Management & Marketing | Entrepreneurship | Business Education

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Pell City Board of Education?

I am a dedicated educator, business leader, and community advocate with a passion for improving educational outcomes through strategic leadership, business engagement, and innovative policy solutions. With a Doctorate in Business Administration focusing on management and education finance, My expertise in business operations, human resource management, and policy implementation uniquely positions me to contribute to the Pell City Board of Education.

As an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Talladega College, I mentor undergraduate and MBA students in business, marketing, and entrepreneurship while also advising student-led organizations. My background includes experience teaching business and marketing in public high schools, where I helped students develop skills in event planning, hospitality management, and human resources. Additionally, my community involvement, including serving as a board member for mentorship programs and working with youth development initiatives, reflects my commitment to student success at all levels.

If appointed, I will prioritize expanding community and business partnerships, strengthening Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs, and enhancing teacher support and retention. My strategic vision includes launching a Pell City Schools Business & Innovation Council (BIC) to forge stronger connections between schools and businesses, leading to increased internships, apprenticeship opportunities, and private-sector investment in education. By leveraging my expertise in strategic planning, business engagement, and fiscal efficiency, I aim to help Pell City Schools create sustainable educational programs that prepare students for college, careers, and entrepreneurship while ensuring responsible financial stewardship.

I am eager to serve on the Pell City Board of Education and apply my experience to drive meaningful, lasting improvements in our school system.

2. List your prior involvement in the Pell City school system or other public or private school systems.

I have higher education experience and as an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Talladega College, I educate and mentor undergraduate and MBA students in business, marketing, and entrepreneurship. I also serve as a faculty advisor for entrepreneurship and business clubs, helping students develop leadership and business skills.

As part of my public school experience, I previously taught business and marketing courses in Nashville Metro Public Schools, instructing high school students in human resource management, event planning, and hospitality management.

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I believe community engagement in education is important. I have been actively involved in mentorship programs, including serving as a board member for Seeds of P.R.A.I.S.E. and mentoring young boys at Glencliff Elementary in Nashville. These experiences have given me insight into student needs at different educational levels and strengthened my commitment to educational excellence.

3. Disclose any potential conflicts that may arise during your service, including, but not limited to:

- a. Do you have any children or relatives enrolled in the system? No
- b. Do you have any relatives employed by the system? No
- c. Do you provide any services or conduct any business with the system? No

4. What strengths, abilities, education, or experiences uniquely qualify you to serve? Include any significant contributions to Pell City and/or the community at large.

My strength is my education & research expertise. I hold a Doctorate in Business Administration with a focus on management, and my dissertation examined the cost of educational quality. My research background in strategic planning and school district spending allows me to analyze policies and recommend data-driven improvements. I can also develop measurable KPIs to track the success of partnerships and communicate their impact effectively.

I possess business and strategic leadership. With experience in business operations, human resource management, and strategic planning, I bring valuable insights into organizational efficiency, budget management, and policy implementation—all essential for guiding a successful school system. I understand strategic partnerships, funding models, and community engagement. I can bridge the gap between schools and businesses, ensuring real-world application of academic skills.

I have a strong commitment to Pell City and education-related community service. As a resident of Pell City, I am invested in the success of our school system. My involvement in mentorship programs and professional education organizations demonstrates my dedication to supporting student growth and leadership development.

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5. What goals should the Pell City Board of Education to prioritize over the next 3-5 years? Include things you think Pell City Schools are doing well and should be supported, and things you would seek to improve.

Initial priority should be given to strengthen Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. Pell City should continue expanding career pathways, including entrepreneurship, business, and STEM-related programs, to prepare students for the workforce and college. Enhancing technology integration and investing in modern classroom technology and digital learning tools will better prepare students for an evolving job market.

Secondly, the board of education should prioritize an increase in teacher support and retention. Prioritizing competitive salaries, professional development, and mentoring programs will help retain high-quality educators and improve student learning outcomes.

Lastly, the board of education should expand community and business partnerships. Strengthening ties with local businesses and colleges can provide internships, apprenticeships, and dual enrollment opportunities for students.

If the Pell City School Board expands community and business partnerships by 50% in the next year, it could make the other two recommended priorities unnecessary. I would seek to develop and launch a Pell City Schools Business & Innovation Council (BIC). By creating a structured Business & Innovation Council, the board of education could:

1. Enhance Career & Technical Education (CTE) – Businesses would directly shape curriculum, provide internships, apprenticeships, and real-world learning experiences.
2. Increase Teacher Support & Retention – Local businesses could sponsor teacher training, provide incentives, and offer real-world business education support.
3. Improve Technology Integration – Tech companies in the region could donate equipment, offer software training, and provide guest lectures.
4. Drive Fiscal Efficiency – By leveraging private-sector funding, sponsorships, and in-kind donations, the district could reduce dependence on traditional tax-based funding.

If Pell City Schools expands business partnerships 50% through this initiative, students will get career-ready faster, teachers will be supported by business sponsors, and technology investments will flow from the private sector. The school system will be less dependent on tax increases or state funding, making space for the board of education to support and prioritize other school initiatives.