## **ERIC ALLEN**

Erick Allen was born in Nashville, Tennessee, to Reverend Harry and Patricia Allen. As a child, Erick was raised as a member of the St. Luke CME Church, and is a proud product of the public-school system. After graduating high school in 1994, Erick attended Volunteer State College in Gallatin, Tennessee, where he received his associate degree in secondary education. Erick went on to receive a bachelor's degree in human and organizational development from Belmont University, as well as a master's in business administration from Kennesaw State University. In 2002, Erick decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia, because he believed that Georgia as a state placed a high value on public education, promoting small businesses and supporting minority entrepreneurship. Erick's wife, Tameka, a dentist, and Erick believed that Georgia was the perfect place for them to not only pursue their professional careers, but also build a family. Since then, Erick has built and grown his own consulting firm, which focused on workforce performance and development. As a result, Erick has worked side-by-side with small and medium-sized companies and non-profits to help steer them through the recent economic recession. Erick has also served in leadership with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, where he helped establish programs and services designed to serve the most vulnerable citizens in our state. And, it is because of these experiences that Erick began to look more closely at the policies and missed opportunities that have kept Georgia from not just recovering but thriving once again. He currently works as a talent management consultant for a global firm. Erick lives in the Vinings area with his wife, Dr. Tameka Allen, and daughter, Elise.