



Jessie J. Allen
General Manager
Orange County Convention Center

Jessie Allen's professional career spans 25 years. During that time, he has held a number of positions within Orange County Government, which have allowed him to develop a very broad background in management. This experience has helped him to contribute to the growth and development of Orange County.

In the early years of his career, Mr. Allen managed the Community Development and Housing Division. The Division, with an annual budget in excess of \$10 million, was responsible for addressing the County's affordable housing and redevelopment activities.

After expanding a nationally recognized community development program, Mr. Allen was promoted to the position of Director of the Community Services Department. In 1987, the Community Services Department and Administrative Support Department were merged. For three years, he headed the largest department in County government.

In the fall of 1992, Mr. Allen was assigned to the Orange County Convention Center as Deputy Director. As Deputy Director, which later became General Manager, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations. His assignment to the Convention Center has been the most challenging. Because of the expansion of the facility, it was transformed from the 23rd to the 2nd largest convention center in the country.

Mr. Allen has a B.S. degree from Florida A&M University and a M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida. In 1990, he completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. In 1995, he completed the requirements for IAAM's Public Assembly Facility Management School. In 1998, he completed a Senior Executive Program at Cornell University.