



SCHOOL OF CHAMBER & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY, JULY 28 - FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015

MARRIOTT MARQUIS

901 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20001



SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

#SCBM15

#WeAreUSBC

#Back2School

#Blackbizmatters

#BlacksInTech

#BlackDollarsMatter



U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.
@usblackchambers

AFL-CIO @AFLCIO

African American Chamber of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky @AACChamber

African American Chamber of Wisconsin @AACCMKE

All About People @allaboutpeople

American Express @AmericanExpress

Austin Black Chamber of Commerce @ATXChamber

BB&T @askBBT

Beaufort Black Chamber of Commerce @BeaufortBlack

Black Chamber of Arizona @blackchamber_az

Black Enterprise @BlackEnterprise

Bloomberg @business

California Black Chamber @CalBCC

Cameroonian American Chamber of Commerce @CAMAMCommerce

Department of Transportation @DOT

Diageo @Diageo_NA

Economic Development Administration @US_EDA

Empowerment Temple @EmpowermentTemp2

Enlightened Inc. @Enlightened_Inc

ENVIRO AgScience @ENVIROAgScience

Federal Deposit Insurance Company @FDICgov

Fortis Networks @Fortis_Networks

Gagne Associates @GagneAssociates

Ghost Note Agency @ghostnoteagency

GM @GM

Google @google

Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce @heartlandbcc

Hyundai @Hyundai

Industrial Bank @BankIndustrial

International Franchising Association @Franchising411

International Trade Administration @TradeGov

JP Morgan Chase @jpmorgan

Macy's @Macys

Marriott Marquis @MHMarriottMarquisWDC

Mobile Future @mobilefuture

Multicultural Media and Telecom Council @mmtconline

NAMAD @NAMAD_USA

National Grid @nationalgridus

Offspring Solutions, Inc. @OSSolvesIT

Overland Storage @OverlandStorage

Pfizer @pfizer

Powernomics @Powernomics

Purchase Black @PurchaseBlack

Safe Routes to School @SafeRoutesNow

Small Business Administration @SBAGov

Sam's Club @samsclub

Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce @TAAACC

The Elocen Group @TheElocenGroup

The Federal Housing Finance Agency @FHFA

The Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce @GBBCC

The Security Exchange Commission @SEC_News

TV One @tvonetv

Uber @uber

University of Phoenix @UOPX

U.S. Office of the Trade Representative @UTTradeRep

Valpak @Valpakcoupons

Walker's Legacy @walkerslegacy

Walmart @walmart

Wells Fargo @WellsFargo

White House @WhiteHouse



AGENDA

TUESDAY | JULY 28

5:00PM – 8:00PM

PRESS CONFERENCE & WELCOME RECEPTION

Greetings by USBC Leadership and announcement of national efforts to support Minority Automobile Dealers

[Catholic University Room]

with special guests:

DAMON LESTER

President - National
Association of Minority
Automobile Dealers

MARC BLAND

Vice President, Diversity &
Inclusion, IHS Automotive



WEDNESDAY | JULY 29

8:00AM – 10:30AM

PLENARY SESSION #1: STATE OF USBC

[Catholic University Room]

Hear from USBC Leadership, Regional Directors and select National Partners to learn about what has been accomplished over the past year and what is in store for the near future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

USBC President, Ron Busby, and Chairman of the Board, Aubry Stone, will share reports on their progress over the last 12 months.

REGIONAL REPORTS

USBC's 5 Regional Directors will provide brief reports on the state of their region.

MOBILE APP UPDATE

The USBC Mobile App is now accessible online. Learn about how to access the national Black business directory and become an affiliated seller.

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

Hear from the University of Phoenix on a proposed educational certification program for Black businesses across the country.

USBC MICROGRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

USBC will announce the winners of the 13 chambers who received microgrants courtesy of Wells Fargo.

10:30AM – 11:30AM

CHAMBER TRAINING

WORKSHOP SESSION #1A: SECURING A FINANCIAL FUTURE: BUSINESS MODELS FOR GENERATING REVENUE

[George Washington University Room]

Black Chambers of Commerce fulfill a critical need of supporting business members within their footprint. In order to deliver consistent quality programs and services, chambers are required to solidify consistent streams of income. Learn what financial tools must be in place for chambers to acquire additional operational dollars as well as the methods for securing capital.

PRESENTERS: **Marvin Clark**, Vice President and Senior Business Banking Relationship Manager, Wells Fargo Business Banking; **Bridgett Gagne**, CPA, Gagne Associates; and **Larry Holman**, President, Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce

[takeaways]

- Learn the differences between a 501(c)6 and 501(c)3 in regards to available funding
- Understand the importance of audited financials when applying for grants
- Learn where/how to generate funds to support chamber overhead

ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING

WORKSHOP SESSION #1B: FRANCHISING: THE FORGOTTEN ROUTE TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

[Georgetown University Room]

Business ownership is not solely limited to entrepreneurs with unique ideas. Franchise operations provide entrepreneurs with a proven business model and challenges CEOs to maximize their efficiency. Learn what resources exist for those interested in franchise opportunities as well as best practices to turn your business into a franchise.

MODERATOR: **Charles O'Neal**, Principal, Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce

PANELISTS: **Brian Hall**, Franchise Owner, All About People NEO, LLC; **Kevin Hicks**, Partner, Blackman and Associates; **Kurt Mangum**, Managing Partner, Performance Management Consulting Services LLC; and **Erik C. Smith**, Director, Cultural Competence and Inclusion, Valpak

[takeaways]

- Learn the advantages of owning a franchise
- Understand the risk associated with franchising
- Explore global franchising opportunities

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

WORKSHOP SESSION #1C: BLACK MALE ENTREPRENEUR INSTITUTE

[Howard University Room]

In an effort to address the societal barriers that young Black men are often faced with, the Black Male Entrepreneur (BME) Institute was designed to serve as a peer-to-peer networking and resource group for aspiring CEOs. Learn what the original cohort of BME inductees has accomplished as well as hear about plans for additional BME programs across the country.

MODERATED BY: **Ronald Busby, Jr.**, Honor Student, Columbia University

PRESENTERS: **Howard Jean**, Principal & Co-Founder, S.E.I.L. LLC; **Randall Keith Benjamin, Jr.**, Campaign Manager, Safe Routes to School; **Christopher R. Upperman**, Senior Advisor, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

[takeaways]

- Discover what resources are available for young entrepreneurs
- Learn about solutions for growing Black businesses
- Learn about scaling up the program and the future Black Women Entrepreneur Institute

11:30AM – 12:30PM

PLENARY SESSION #2: POWERNOMICS 2015 | THE NATIONAL PLAN TO EMPOWER BLACK AMERICA

[Catholic University Room]

In the preface of "PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America," Dr. Claud Anderson explained that if we did not embrace a specific plan of collective empowerment by 2010, our economic future would be in serious doubt. Are we too little, too late? Learn the real facts on the Black economic state in America and what we can do about it.



special guest presenter:

DR. CLAUD ANDERSON

President, PowerNomics Corporation of America, Inc. and The Harvest Institute

12:30PM – 1:30PM

LUNCHEON



[Mezzanine Foyer]

SPONSOR REMARKS: **Janet McUlsky**, Senior Director, Alliance Development, Pfizer Inc.

1:30PM – 2:30PM

Travel to Google for afternoon sessions and reception
[25 Massachusetts Ave NW #900, Washington, DC 20001]

3:00PM – 4:00PM

PLENARY SESSION #3: CORPORATE DIVERSITY IN TECH

Despite African Americans' high consumption of techproducts, there is still very little visibility for Black C-suite executives at some of the nation's leading tech companies. Is there a lack of talent, or lack of opportunity? Learn about diversity relations for some of the country's top companies. Also learn what supplier diversity initiatives are in place to ensure Black businesses do not continue to remain in similar situations.

MODERATED BY: **Nicole Turner-Lee**, VP & Chief Research & Policy Officer, Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet Council (MMTC)

PANELISTS: **Denise Evans**, Vice President, Market Development, IBM Corporation; **Carla Hunter-Ramsey**, Director, Supplier Diversity, National Grid; **Erika Irish Brown**, Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Bloomberg LP; and **Adrianna Samaniego**, Supplier Diversity, Google

4:00PM – 6:00PM

WORKSHOP SESSION #2: HANDS ON WITH GOOGLE



Enjoy several breakout workshops to learn Google's suite of products!

[takeaways]

Get America's Business Online; Accelerate with Google; Google Analytics; Google Docs & Drive, and Quick Tips & Tricks

6:00PM – 7:00PM

TOWN HALL: BLACKS IN TECH

The digital divide has the power to separate us, or bring us closer together. It is imperative for African Americans to be on the forefront of the new technology age if we plan to increase our economic state. Learn what industries Blacks are already competing in, as well as areas where aspiring CEOs should look for long term careers in technology.

PRESENTERS: **Alex Armour**, President & CEO, Offspring Solutions, Inc.; **Emma Christman**, Community Outreach Manager, Mobile Future; **Steven Jumper**, President of Strategy & Co-Founder, Ghost Note Agency (1776); **Eric Kelly**, President and CEO of Overland Storage; and **Navarrow Wright**, Founder, Close the Divide



moderated by:

JEFF JOHNSON

Award-winning journalist, communications specialist, and thought leader. Partner and Chief of Strategy, Illume



THURSDAY | JULY 30

CONTACTS TO CONTRACTS

Join our partners as they share insight about viable contracting opportunities. These unique matchmaking sessions will create an intimate setting where both the supplier and business owners can truly develop lasting relationships and turn new **contacts into contracts**.

8:00AM – 9:30AM

MGM GRAND [Georgetown University Room]

10:00AM – 11:30AM

MACY'S [Georgetown University Room]

WELLS FARGO [Howard University Room]

WALMART [Gallaudet University Room]

Blazing the trail for people just like **you.**

nationalgrid
HERE WITH YOU. HERE FOR YOU.

We're committed to providing minority, women-owned, diverse and small businesses with an opportunity to work with us. Learn more about becoming a qualified supplier through these and other programs:

**CORPORATE
PROGRAM**

GSA PROGRAM

TIER 2 PROGRAM

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

TRADE SHOWS

**SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**





SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

**SUPPLIER DIVERSITY
EXPOS**

ACADEMIC PARTNERS

**NEWSLETTER
'COMPANY HIGHLIGHT'**

Email us at supplier.diversity@nationalgrid.com | Visit us at www.nationalgridus.com/supplierdiversity

Connect with us on    



AGENDA

THURSDAY | JULY 30

8:00AM – 9:30AM

PLENARY SESSION #4: ACCESS TO CAPITAL: WHAT'S THE MISSING LINK?

[Catholic University Room]

Obtaining working capital has, and continues to be, the number one challenge for small businesses across the United States. What are Black businesses doing wrong that keep us on the outside, looking in? Where are the sources of money for small businesses to hire new employees and take their business to the next level? Learn from our panelists about traditional and non-traditional methods of accessing capital in 2015.

MODERATOR: **Marie Johns**, Managing Member, Leftwich LLC

PRESENTERS: **Matthew Beardall**, Managing Director and Market Manager, Chase; **Doyle Mitchell**, President & CEO, Industrial Bank; **Thomas Ransom**, Market President, BB&T; **Nathan Ohle**, Special Advisor for External Affairs, Economic Development Administration (EDA); and **Thomas G. Cooper, Sr.**, Principal Relationship Manager and Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Business Banking Group

9:30AM – 10:30AM

CHAMBER TRAINING

WORKSHOP SESSION #3A: CREATING PROFITABLE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

[Dogwood]

Developing valuable chamber programs and services that provide consistent streams of revenue is critical for a chamber's success. Learn what financial tools must be in place for chambers to acquire additional operational capital as well as methods for securing sponsors and grants.

PRESENTERS: **Dr. Eve Hall**, President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin; and **Sean Rugless**, President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky

[takeaways]

- Learn evaluation metrics funders look for and support
- Identify programs that work
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with chambers in your region

ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING

WORKSHOP SESSION #3B: WOMEN IN BUSINESS

[Cherry Blossom]

Black women continue to excel, despite the barriers that are placed upon them. From racial and gender discrimination, Black women entrepreneurs are still growing in numbers and size. Learn from these distinct leaders how to successfully grow your business in 2015 while dealing with the (not always rosy) realities of living as an African American woman.

MODERATED BY: **Natalie Cofield**, President, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce

PANELISTS: **Dr. Krystal Conner**, CEO, ENVIRO AgScience, Inc.; **Lasenta Lewis-Ellis**, President & CEO, LLE Construction; and **Amanda Littlejohn**, PR Strategist & Personal Branding Coach

[takeaways]

- Learn the secrets of a work/life balance
- Understanding "the politics" of business
- Overcoming stereotypes

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

WORKSHOP SESSION #3C: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING. I'M CERTIFIED, NOW WHAT?

[Magnolia]

When it comes to winning federal contracts, there's more to it than just becoming 8(a) certified. Your business needs to be seen. Learn more about how to ensure your business is maximizing its efficiency across government platforms as well as how to market your business to government agencies.

MODERATED BY: **Antwanye Ford**, President, Enlightened, Inc.

PANELISTS: **Melodee Brooks**, Senior Deputy Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); **Necole Parker**, Principal, The Elocen Group; American Express; **DeVera Redmond**, Manager, Procurement Assistance, OSDU, US DOT; **Michelle Thompson-Dolberry**, Advisor, American Express OPEN, and **Justin G. Tanner**, Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

[takeaways]

- Learn what government contracting agents are looking for in bid selections
- Learn the keys for new businesses to "get in the pipeline"

10:30AM – 12:00PM

PLENARY SESSION #5: CHAMBERS OF CHANGE: THE AFTERMATH OF MIKE BROWN, FREDDIE GRAY & TAMIR RICE

[Catholic University Room]

With more news stories citing rioting and looting in urban communities after civil unrest, there has been a heightened search for an economic voice of reason. Black Chambers of Commerce must be positioned properly to serve as leaders in times of uncertainty. Learn what these business leaders have done in their regions to address the increased need for economic solutions.

PANELISTS: **Lance Lucas**, President, Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce; **LaRese Purnell**, CFO, The Word Church; and **Christal Watson**, President, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce

moderated by

ED GORDON

Emmy Award Winning Broadcaster



12:00PM – 2:00PM

LUNCHEON

[Capitol/Congress]



with special guests:

ROSALIND BREWER

CEO, Sam's Club

JAY WILLIAMS

Assistant Secretary, Economic
Development Administration



ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

CONGRESSMAN CHAKA FATTAH

Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District



2:30PM – 3:30PM

PLENARY SESSION #6: IMPORTING, EXPORTING AND THE ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

[Catholic University Room]

4% of the world's population lives in the United States. That tells us that 96% of the world's consumers are on foreign soil. Markets are emerging in all countries, especially developing countries that are generally untapped by Black entrepreneurs. Learn what relationships and resources exist for Black businesses to take their products and services internationally and compete on a global scale.

MODERATED BY: **Dr. William Spriggs**, Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

PANELISTS: **Antwaun Griffin**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Operations, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration; **Francis Ikome**, President, Cameroonian American Chamber of Commerce (CAMAM); and **Luis Jimenez**, Counselor, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)

teaming opportunities with other firms. But what are the steps to begin forming joint ventures and mergers? Learn best practices on partnerships for long-term growth and sustainability.

MODERATED BY: **Derek Dingle**, SVP/Editor-in-Chief, Black Enterprise

PANELISTS: **Rumia Ambrose-Burbank**, CEO, VMS365; **Eric Kelly**, CEO, Overland Storage; and **Clarence McAllister**, President, Fortis Networks

ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING



WORKSHOP SESSION #4: THE BUSINESS PLAN CLINIC PRESENTED BY WELLS FARGO

[Georgetown University Room]

Having a well-thought-out business plan can help a business owner stay focused on company goals and objectives, yet only about 33 percent of owners have a formal, written plan. The challenge for many business owners is getting started. Join this interactive session to see how you can get your business ideas out of your head and into a plan.

3:30PM – 5:00PM

PLENARY SESSION #7: "DATING BEFORE MARRIAGE" – THE STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL JOINT VENTURES, MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

[Catholic University Room]

Doing business with large corporations or government agencies can be challenging for a small business owner. Without the size or scale to compete with other firms, Black businesses must begin to look for

5:00PM – 6:00PM

PLENARY SESSION #8: CLOSING REMARKS

[Catholic University Room]



with special guest

DESIREE ROGERS

CEO, Johnson Publishing Company

FRIDAY | JULY 31

8:00AM – 9:00AM

Breakfast and Travel to the White House

WITH SPONSOR REMARKS BY:

TOYOTA

9:00AM - 3:00PM

USBC ADVOCACY DAY

6:00PM - 9:00PM

USBC SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS DINNER

USBC PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joe Coe, Board Member, Urban Chamber of Commerce

Natalie Cofield, President, Greater Austin Black Chamber

Christal Watson, President, Heartland Black Chamber

Antwanye Ford, President, Enlightened, Inc.

Michael Hill, President, Atlanta Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce

Tate Hill, President, Fresno Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce

Larry Holman, President, Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce

Sean Rugless, President, African American Chamber of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky

USBC PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

Rumia Ambrose-Burbank, CEO, VMS365

Wayne Davis, CEO, In-Touch Logistics

Antwanye Ford, President, Enlightened, Inc.

Andre Gist, CEO, Manufacturers Industrial Group

Clarence McAllister, CEO, Fortis Networks

Doyle Mitchell, CEO, Industrial Bank

Necole Parker, Principal, The Elocen Group

Keith Tillage, CEO, Tillage Construction

Paul Wiggins, CEO, NACC Services

Carol Williams, CEO, Carol H. Williams Advertising



BLACK DOLLARS ARE AN ECONOMIC FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

African Americans have a projected buying power of \$1.1 trillion by the end of 2015, and we take pride in our ability to influence policy at the local, state, and federal levels. It's simple, in order for there to be a strong America, you must have a strong Black America. For there to be a strong Black America, you must have strong Black businesses. For there to be strong Black businesses, you must have strong Black chambers.

The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. provides access and opportunities that grow Black chambers of commerce and the businesses we represent nationwide.



#BLACKDOLLARS MATTER

www.usblackchambers.org

USBC | SCHOLARSHIP & Awards Dinner

FRIDAY | JULY 31

6:00PM - 9:00PM

[Catholic University Room]

CHAired BY:



MARIE JOHNS
Managing Member
Leftwich LLC



VIVIAN PICKARD
President
GM Foundation



FROM: Bethesda, MD

ATTENDS: Columbia University

GPA: 3.2

MAJOR: Political Science /
Business Management

EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2017

2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

BRITTNEY WADE

"My drive and determination is to succeed, in academics, personally and professionally. Though I am proud of my many accomplishments thus far, there is much more to achieve. As a rising junior, I aim to hone my skills as a student and continue to prepare myself for life post-graduation. I look forward to rigorous coursework for my chosen major coupled with high marks and furthering my professional endeavors. Further, as a student-athlete, I anticipate my second year as captain of my training group and another successful season on the track. In addition to running track and focusing on my studies, I currently intern at the Carmen Group, a lobbying firm in Washington, DC. My responsibilities include but are not limited to, advising senior partners on current legislative issues, assisting in the assembly of federal grants for historically Black colleges and universities, and representing Carmen Group at various organization meetings to remain abreast of issues that pertain to the firm's interests.

I am so honored to have been selected to receive the USBC scholarship award. This is not only an achievement for me, but also for those who have contributed to my success. For the past two years, I have watched my family sacrifice to meet Columbia's ever-rising tuition fees. The phrase "knowledge is power" is not taken lightly in our household. It is understood that education is key to one's transcendence and must be attained at all costs. I am so grateful for the opportunity to ease my family's financial burden. I would not be where I am today without the love and support of my family and community, and I look forward to the day when I can give back all they have given to me and more."

Lifetime Legacy Award Winner

CATHY HUGHES

Founder and Chairperson, Radio One, Inc.



Radio One, Inc., is the largest African American owned and operated broadcast-company in the nation, and is the parent corporation of TV One, a partnership with Comcast, and Reach Media. The home of the Tom Joyner morning show, Rev. Al Sharpton, Yolanda Adams, Russ Parr, Rickey Smiley and James Fortune, as well as Interactive One, home of Black Planet, NewsOne and Hello Beautiful, Radio One is also the first African American company in radio history to dominate several major markets simultaneously and possesses the first woman-owned radio station to rank #1 in any major market.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, she moved to Washington, D.C. in 1971 and became a lecturer in the newly established School of Communications at Howard University. She entered radio in 1973 as the General Sales Manager at WHUR, Howard University Radio, increasing station revenue from \$250,000 to \$3 million in her first year. In 1975, Hughes became the first woman Vice President and General Manager of a station in the nation's capital and created the format known as the "Quiet Storm," which revolutionized urban radio and was aired on over 480 stations nationwide. Purchasing her first station in 1980, WOL-AM(D.C.), Cathy Hughes pioneered yet another innovative format -- "24 hour Talk from a Black Perspective." With the theme, "Information is Power," Hughes served as the stations Morning Show Host for 11 years. WOL is still the most listened to talk radio station in the nation's capital.

Hughes' dedication to minority communities, entrepreneurial spirit, and mentoring of women are manifested in every aspect of her work and life. As such, she was honored with the NAACP Chairman's Award, the Uncommon Height of Excellence Award, the Giant of Broadcasting Award, Ida B. Wells Living Legacy Award and the Congressional Black Caucus' Phoenix Award.

Radio One is now a public company, making Cathy Hughes the first, African American woman to chair a publicly held corporation.

As Radio One continues to expand its media presence; the foundation remains based on the spirit of family and commitment to the community.



MEET THE FACULTY



RUMIA AMBROSE-BURBANK

President, VMS365

As president and co-founder of Vendor Managed Solutions Inc. and VMS365, a leading technology –driven maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) company providing total maintenance solutions to an expanding client base of international corporations, Rumia Ambrose-Burbank sets the business strategy and directs operations for the North American and International Markets. She instituted the organization's proprietary integrated MRO and vendor management services programs, growing VMS to one of the nation's leading and comprehensive integrators. In 2006, she was single-handedly responsible for leading the successful acquisition of the industry's most sought after procurement practices from one of the nation's foremost consulting firms. This acquisition paved the way for entry



DR. CLAUD ANDERSON

President, PowerNomics Corporation of America, Inc. and The Harvest Institute

Dr. Claud Anderson is president of PowerNomics Corporation of America, Inc. and The Harvest Institute. PowerNomics is a company that publishes his books and produces multimedia presentations in which he explains his concept, PowerNomics7. PowerNomics is the package of principles and strategies he developed to explain the concept of race and to offer a guide for Black America to become a more economically and politically competitive group in America.

Dr. Anderson's books reflect his research and past experiences in business, as both an owner and capital provider, and the varied positions he has held at the highest levels of politics and federal, state government. He was State Coordinator of Education for Florida under Governor Reubin Askew during the tumultuous period of the 1970s and coordinated Jimmy Carter's historic win in Florida's presidential primary. Carter appointed Anderson Federal Co-Chairman for a U.S. Department of Commerce Commission of governors in the southeast states. He chaired the commission and funded economic development projects for the governors in those states. As executive director of two economic development corporations for the city of Miami, Florida, he funded more than 30 businesses. He was also a top planner and coordinator for the 1988 Democratic Convention in Atlanta and has taught at all levels of education.

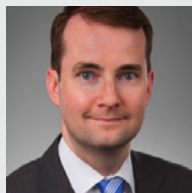


ALEX ARMOUR

PRESIDENT & CEO, OFFSPRING SOLUTIONS, INC.

Offspring Solutions, Inc. is a technology consulting firm specializing in systems integration and data analytics. Dr. Armour achieved the rank of Captain, and graduated from the Air Force Academy with a BS in Management and prior to separating from the military. He also received his MBA from Saint

Mary's University and an Executive Doctorate in Business from Georgia State University. In 2003, Alex co-founded Offspring Solutions where he currently manages visioning, strategy and business development. Offspring has done business with a myriad of federal, state, and private sector clients and brings considerable past performance in enterprise systems integration, cloud computing, data management/analytics, and Project Management Office (PMO) support services. Offspring also boasts a full-service recruiting and staffing division, called FullDesk, which specializes in information technology, health sciences, and business operations staffing.



MATTHEW W. BEARDALL

Managing Director & Market Manager, Chase

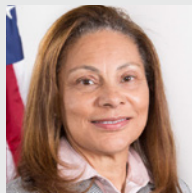
Matt Beardall is the managing director and market manager for Chase Middle Market Banking and is responsible for providing financial solutions to mid-sized companies located in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. Matt oversees teams of bankers in our Baltimore, MD, Washington, DC, McLean, VA, and Richmond, VA offices. Matt has a strong background in business development, client management, credit analysis, sales team leadership and banking fundamentals. Prior to joining Chase, Matt was with Bank of America and its predecessor organizations for over 16 years. There he spent time in Global Commercial Banking, Consumer Banking and Treasury Management serving clients from Maryland through the Carolinas. Most recently, Matt was a Senior Credit Products Manager in Bank of America's Global Commercial Banking Group, where he was responsible for leading the credit products officers, underwriters and analysts in North Carolina.



RANDALL KEITH BENJAMIN, JR.

Campaign Manager, Safe Routes to School

Keith Benjamin serves as the Street Scale Campaign Manager for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. In this role, he is responsible for initiating and coordinating public policy campaigns in 8 states and 40 cities to advance adoption of complete streets and Safe Routes to School policies, MAP-21 and TAP funds, bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning, and other active transportation improvements in underserved communities. Keith works with local and state leaders in to identify, develop and collaborate on advocacy campaigns, provide technical assistance, and increase leadership capacity to ensure communities are safer, healthier and more equitable for all. He currently sits on the National League of Cities Advisory Panel on Health Disparities, the Better Bike Share Partnership Equity Panel, and the National Working Group on Healthy Food access with the Food Trust and the National Urban League.



MELODEE BROOKS

Senior Deputy Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Melodee Brooks joined the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as the Senior Deputy Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Arlington, VA in 2012. In this position, she provides executive leadership to the FDIC's minority and women-owned business outreach and utilization, and diversity and inclusion programs; and, ensures that all employment programs and business activities

are inclusive. She was formerly employed with the Department of the Interior, Washington, DC, in the Office of the Secretary, as the Associate Director, Acquisition and Financial Assistance, where she was responsible for policy development and oversight for the Department's \$4 billion acquisition and \$5 billion financial assistance portfolios, and managed the largest integrated charge card program in the country.



RONALD BUSBY, JR.

Honor Student, Columbia University

Heading into his junior year at Columbia University, Ron juggles academics and athletics as a member of the Columbia University Track Team. In between practice and class he can be found tutoring and mentoring across New York City as part of multiple student organizations. Ron works as a mentor to local Harlem students as they consider college and the benefits of higher education. He takes that same passion for education to a local juvenile detention center where he acts as a resource for high school aged inmates interested in obtaining a diploma. In his past work experiences, Ron has worked as a volunteer for the 2012 Democratic National Convention. Additionally, he has interned for this current administration in the White House and on the 2012 Obama campaign as an organizing fellow. Ron is currently studying Human Rights and hopes to pursue a future in political activism.



EMMA CHRISTMAN

Community Outreach Manager, Mobile Future

Emma Christman is the Community Outreach Manager for Mobile Future, where she handles strategic partnerships, digital media, diversity and tech outreach. Prior to joining Mobile Future in 2014, Emma was an associate at a Washington, DC public affairs firm where she provided clients with coalition-building and stakeholder engagement strategies in a variety of policy areas including civil rights, education, the economy, health, and sports.



NATALIE COFIELD

President, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce

A millennial that found inspiration at the nexus of business, community and politics, Cofield has carved a niche for herself as an entrepreneur, advocate, and speaker on all things start-up and diversity. A converted management consultant, economic fellow, and economic development director she currently serves as the President & CEO of the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce where she is also the Founding President of the Austin Black Technology Council and as Founder of Walker's Legacy a national women in business collective. Her work has been featured in Forbes, BusinessInsider, Black Enterprise, Essence and Ebony among others.

Through her role, Cofield has established relationships between Austin and global markets such as Israel, Brazil, Kenya and South Africa, among others that have successfully led to formal partnership agreements and trade missions. Domestically, she has worked to establish Austin as a 'Mecca' for minorities in technology through aggressive national outreach campaigns and the cultivation of strong relationships within the Austin technology eco-system. Formerly,

Cofield also served as the founder of the District of Columbia's \$100,000 venture capital backed Business Plan competition which ran successfully for five-years. In 2013 Cofield was named the Technology Diversity Evangelist of the Year by Google and one of the Top 10 Black, Innovators by MVMT50, an initiative of South by Southwest. In 2012 she was named a 20 30 Something to Watch in Austin, Texas by Austin Monthly.



DR. KRISTAL CONNER

CEO, ENVIRO, AgScience, Inc.

Dr. Conner drives the strategic visions and goals for continued long-term growth. This includes spearheading the development of international joint ventures. Her travels have extended from Canada to Brazil and Ghana, as she works to expand the company's reach from domestic partnerships to global relationships. Before joining ENVIRO, Conner served as Grady Health System's chief of pharmacy. During her five-year tenure at Grady, the administrator was responsible for the health system's pharmaceutical program, including oversight of pharmaceutical staff and development of policies and procedures that enforced the quality and safety of pharmacy services. Dr. Conner graduated cum laude from Mercer University with a Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration degrees. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Fort Valley State University, in 1999. While at FVSU, Conner was a Cooperative Developmental Energy Program scholar, president of Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and volunteered for various campus initiatives, such as Habitat for Humanity.



THOMAS G. COOPER, SR.

Principal Relationship Manager and Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Business Banking Group.

Mr. Cooper has been with Wells Fargo Bank and its predecessors for the past twenty-three of his thirty-two years in banking. He has worked in several capacities at Wells including Loan Workouts, Underwriting and Commercial Lending. Mr. Cooper has also worked for the FDIC, National Bank of Washington, Sovran Bank D. C. National and Suburban Bank N.A. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park with a B. S. Degree in Finance (Class of '82).



DEREK DINGLE

Senior Vice President/Editor-in-Chief, BLACK ENTERPRISE

Derek T. Dingle is senior vice president/editor-in-chief of BLACK ENTERPRISE magazine. He is responsible for the strategic planning and editorial direction of the magazine and has executive oversight of both BLACK ENTERPRISE television shows: Black Enterprise Business Report and Our World with Black Enterprise. He also oversees content development for the Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Conference + Expo and other events related to the company. Dingle has authored countless BLACK ENTERPRISE cover stories throughout his tenure with the magazine and has appeared as a business expert on numerous television networks and radio programs, including CNN, CNBC, NBC's Weekend Today, and National Public Radio.



DENISE EVANS

Vice President, Market Development, IBM Corporation

Denise Evans leads an organization responsible for developing IBM's strategy for and marketing to Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and women owned businesses in North America as well as women owned, led and influenced businesses, globally. She has served in numerous global leadership and executive positions in IBM marketing and sales for 36+ years. She has vast global sales and marketing experience, most recently in B2B diversity marketing. Denise was named a Sequoyah Fellow by the American Indian Engineering and Science Society. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Native American Chamber of Commerce, the Women Presidents' Organization, the Center for Women's Business Research (also, Treasurer), the X Coalition, Enterprising Women Magazine, the International Planning Committee for the Global Summit of Women, and the advisory board of The S.O.L.V.E. Group, LLC. She was featured in Working Mother Magazine's Multicultural Women, July 2013 and will be featured as one of Corporate America's top Executives in the Fall Issue of Savoy Magazine 2014. Denise is a global citizen who has traveled across 5 continents. She is a mentor to many in marketing and sales and is a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts.



BRIDGETT GAGNE, CPA

Managing Partner, Gagne Associates CPAs

Bridgett is the Managing Partner of Gagné Associates, CPAs PLLC a Washington, DC based public accounting and management consulting firm. She has extensive experience as a chief financial officer, controller, financial management consultant and corporate associate; with industry expertise in real estate, banking, and nonprofit. She is a subject matter expert regarding various OMB Circulars including A-122 Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations and A-21 Cost Principles for Educational Institutions. Prior to co-founding Gagné Parker, Bridget served for years as a Senior Manager with a Washington, DC based certified public accounting firm, and was responsible for managing various accounting and business consulting engagements. She provided leadership and technical assistance on financial reviews for international award recipients of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program funds; and Financial Management Oversight, EEO, Title VI, and State Management Compliance Reviews for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).



ED GORDON

Emmy Award Winning Broadcaster

Hard hitting, inspiring, intelligent, honest, and direct. These are some of the words used to describe the style and approach of Emmy award winning broadcaster Ed Gordon. Known for his stellar interaction with newsmakers from the worlds of politics, entertainment, and sports his name is synonymous with the "big" interview. Gordon's knack for landing exclusives and his no-nonsense style make him one of television's most respected journalists. Gordon is host and executive producer of Conversations with Ed Gordon, a nationally syndicated quarterly 1-hour program featuring in-depth, one-on-one interviews with headline making celebrities and newsmakers. He is also the host of the nationally syndicated radio program WEEKEND WITH ED GORDON. The 2-hour program is a mix

of talk, information, entertainment and music. It's been called "a fun, smart radio show for grown folks." The list of impressive positions, Gordon has held over the years includes contributing correspondent for the CBS newsmagazine 60 Minutes II and contributor for NBC's Today Show and Dateline. His diverse style also makes him one of the most versatile people in broadcasting. He also hosted News and Notes with Ed Gordon, which aired on National Public Radio and the nationally syndicated television program, Our World and Weekly with Ed Gordon, a fast-paced roundtable talk show that highlighted the week's most important stories from politics to pop culture on BET.



ANTWAUN GRIFFIN

Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Operations, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

In May 2012, Antwaun Griffin was appointed by President Obama to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Operations at the International Trade Administration (ITA). In this role, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Commercial Service's network of 108 U.S. Export Assistance Centers whose trade specialists work closely with U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide to help American businesses develop or fine-tune their global growth strategies. Through this work, Antwaun and his organization helps to facilitate billions of dollars in export sales annually through trade counseling, international business matchmaking, market intelligence and commercial diplomacy. In addition, Antwaun plays a key role in shaping the Obama Administration's trade promotion and economic policy; helping U.S. businesses increase exports, expand into new markets and compete globally. He collaborated in the design and lead of all U.S. government-wide efforts to implement the President's National Export Initiative (NEI), leading to over \$700 billion in increased exports since its launch in 2010. In this capacity, he plans and conducts strategic outreach to public and private sector organizations and stakeholders nationwide, enhancing awareness of exporting and inward investment as economic development tools.



BRIAN HALL

Franchise Owner, All About People NEO, LLC

Brian Hall has served as the Executive Director of The Commission on Economic Inclusion for the Greater Cleveland Partnership since his appointment in 2013. In addition to his duties with the Commission, he is also the CEO and owner of Innogistics LLC, JIT Services LLC and franchise owner of All About People NEO LLC. Brian has served on civic boards and task forces in the areas of civil rights, economic development, youth education, arts, politics, and culture. He is a founding member of the Presidents' Council Foundation; is vice-chair of the governance committee and a trustee and member of the strategy and compensation committees of University Hospitals; is a trustee of the University of Cincinnati Foundation; and is Chairman of the R.E.A.L. Re-Entry committee at Mount Zion Church in Cleveland, Ohio.



DR. EVE HALL

President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

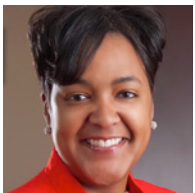
Dr. Eve M. Hall, a leader and advocate, experienced in education, non-profit, and government sectors, has established her imprint locally and nationally. She has earned a reputation as a "builder" and one who inspires and demonstrates the power of strong programs and partnerships to create change and opportunities that positively impact the lives of others. She presently serves as the President/CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, where she is leading the renewal of the organization located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hall is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin with work experiences in Wisconsin, Florida, and Washington DC. Prior to the chamber, she served as the Chief Innovation Officer for Thurgood Marshall College Fund, where she spent 10 years in various national leadership roles impacting students and university/school district/business partnerships in several states. Dr. Hall's professional career has consisted of high-level leadership roles and responsibilities in K-16 education, government, and non-profit, with a short stint in for-profit. Roles have included Vice President of Public Affairs and lobbyist for Family Service of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools' School to Work Director reporting to the Superintendent, and Director of Governor Tommy Thompson's Milwaukee Office.



LARRY HOLMAN

President, Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce

Larry Holman is responsible for growth and direction of the BCBCC which has resulted in a 140% growth in 12 years. Additionally, he manages a diverse workforce that consists of nine housing counselors, two vice presidents, and office manager, and a marketing person. He is tasked with budgeting and accounting of all funds that are received and allocated for expenses. Mr. Holman partnered with the city, county, and state with Atax funding to promote tourism to support our businesses. Also, he is responsible for the implementation of our micro loan program with USDA. Mr. Holman supports the South Carolina Housing Authority program which is a contract to help unemployed and underemployed citizens avoid foreclosure.



CARLA HUNTER-RAMSEY

Director of Supplier Diversity, National Grid

In 2009 Carla Hunter-Ramsey joined National Grid as the Director of Supplier Diversity. National Grid is one of the nation's largest electricity and gas delivery companies and one of the largest publicly owned energy companies in the world. She leads the coordination, integration and implementation of all diversity strategies with diverse suppliers across the U.S. footprint. Hunter Ramsey joined National Grid after more than 20 years in procurement, leading purchasing departments in higher education. Hunter Ramsey's background is a perfect match for supplier diversity. She understands the intricacies of being a supplier as well as a procurement professional and minority business owner. She is committed to helping change the landscape of the business world to level the playing field for diverse companies across the U.S. She

understands that National Grid's long-term growth objectives depend on the ability to effectively expand business opportunities through the creation of powerful partnerships with small and diverse companies.



FRANCIS IKOME

President, Cameroonian American Chamber of Commerce (CAMAM)

Francis Ikome is an Italian-Cameroonian international policy adviser, West Africa specialist, and the founder of the Cameroonian American Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ikome serves as president and CEO of the chamber, where he oversees strategic operations, while advising global and diaspora businesses on targeted investment opportunities. He is also a managing partner of the Africa Investment Agency, and a columnist with China Daily Africa. Having resided in Cameroon, Europe and North America, Ikome offers global insight and a solid grasp of the African context to effectively interface with issues concerning the continent. This has allowed him to develop successful partnerships and engage foreign investors and diasporas in private sector initiatives. Mr. Ikome holds a Master's degree in International Relations and International Economics from The Johns Hopkins University's Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He previously worked as a wealth manager in London where he advised high-net worth clients, and as a professional football player in Portugal, where he won a second division title.



ERIKA IRISH BROWN

Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Bloomberg LP

Erika Irish Brown is Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion at Bloomberg, LP. In this role she will collaborate with senior management to determine and drive the company's global strategy and approach to diversity and inclusion, ensuring alignment with business goals. Erika will also play a leadership role in developing, implementing and monitoring a comprehensive strategic plan that advances a common vision with respect to diversity and inclusion within Human Resources including a focus on recruitment, retention, talent review, succession planning, career development and training. Additionally, Erika will have oversight across Bloomberg Communities and external partnerships to promote an institutional culture and inclusive environment that supports diversity in all aspects of the business. Prior to Joining Bloomberg, Erika was Head of Diversity Recruiting and Program Management and Head of Executive Recruiting at Bank of America. Erika's background also includes over 15 years of investment banking and capital markets experience at organizations including Morgan Stanley, the U.S. Treasury and Lehman Brothers.



HOWARD JEAN

Principal & Co-Founder, S.E.I.L. LLC

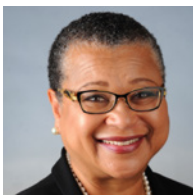
Howard Jean is a partner in Pioneers In Education org, which specializes in collaborating with organizations and institutions to develop programs, campaigns and marketing strategies to address multi-faceted issues targeted at niche communities. Jean is also a national representative for the nationally recognized Call Me MISTER Teacher Leadership program, which recruits, trains and certifies minority male teachers. Jean has been involved with COMTO

since 2009 as the Garrett A. Morgan Youth Symposium Speaker at the COMTO 2009 National Conference and with the Philadelphia COMTO Chapter as a community advocate supporting their scholarship initiatives. More recently, Jean has joined the national office providing support to such initiatives as the CLI program, CITY Intern program, national conference logistics and overall development, which include partnership outreach and fundraising. Over the years, Jean has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Tavis Smiley Radio Show, USA Today, Associated Press Articles, Jet Magazine, Essence Magazine, on the cover of ARETE Magazine and a plethora of online articles for his work in entrepreneurship, education with minority males and community service projects. Jean was recently featured in Black Enterprise Magazine where he shares insight to readers on becoming successful in a global society specifically for males of color. Jean regularly travels across the US speaking to youth groups, professionals, parents and related members in the areas of student development, teacher training, and community development.

LUIS JIMENEZ

Counselor, U.S Trade Representative (USTR)

Luis Jimenez serves as Counselor to the U.S Trade Representative (USTR). In that capacity, Jimenez spearheads key USTR initiatives, including leading the Obama Administration's efforts to secure Trade Promotion Authority. Prior to returning to USTR, Jimenez worked in the White House, serving as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. He advanced key legislative priorities of the President and coordinated White House work on Congressional oversight and investigations. Before the White House, Jimenez was Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs where he spearheaded the Administration's successful effort to pass trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama and renew the Generalized System of Preferences and Trade Adjustment Assistance. He first joined USTR in 2009 as the Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs. In 2008, Jimenez served as a member of the Presidential Transition Team in the office of Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. He also spent seven years working for Emanuel when he was a Member of Congress, most recently as the Legislative Director where he managed Democratic Caucus Chairman Emanuel's legislative agenda.



MARIE JOHNS

Managing Member, Leftwich LLC

The Honorable Marie C. Johns, the founder and President of L&L Consulting LLC, has been a leader in business, community and government service for more than 30 years. From 2010

through June 2013, Marie was the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); she was nominated by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As Deputy Administrator, Marie was responsible for management of the agency and development of SBA programs and policies. In 2011, as a result of her initiatives, the SBA supported more than \$30 billion in lending to more than 60,000 small businesses, the most capital going to small business in SBA history. In addition to other duties, Marie had the privilege of serving as the chair of the President's Interagency Task Force on Veterans' Small Business Development. She also was the force behind "Start Young," an SBA/Department of Labor initiative that provides entrepreneurial training to Job Corps students and encourages them to use their technical skills to start a business. Prior to government service, Marie held senior positions

in the telecommunications industry, including serving as President of Verizon Washington. Under Marie's leadership, the company developed and implemented a regulatory plan that eventually served as a model for the corporation. One example of her on-going efforts to leverage corporate resources for greater community good was the SEEDS program (Students Educated for Economic Development Success). SEEDS prepared high school drop outs to complete their high school requirements and receive technical training for jobs in the telecommunications industry. Over 200 students were employed as a result.



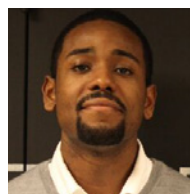
JEFF JOHNSON

Award-winning journalist, communications specialist, and thought leader. Partner and Chief of Strategy, Illume Communications

Jeff Johnson is an award-winning journalist, communications specialist, and thought leader.

Currently Johnson is a partner and Chief of Strategy for the Baltimore based branding firm Illume Communications. In this roll he provides strategic insight and messaging consulting to clients in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Johnson has maximized his expertise in communications, grassroots mobilization, political campaigns, youth engagement, and strategic consulting to create a unique career committed to developing solutions and systemic change.

Jeff works with clients to develop strategy, solutions, and content that merge effective tradition with innovative methodology for the purpose of positive transformative change and market impact. He has a gift of creating non-traditional partnerships and progressive eco-systems by utilizing meaningful relationships developed in the entertainment, non-profit, and government sectors. Johnson is the CEO and co-founder of Elite Voices Speakers Elite Voices Speakers, a premier bureau he founded with journalist Marc Lamont Hill. A former BET host and producer and MSNBC contributor, Jeff also served as National Director for the Youth & College Division of the NAACP and held an appointment by Russell Simmons as the Vice President of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN). He currently provides regular content on TheRoot.com and the nationally syndicated Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Most recently Jeff worked with Steve Harvey on his latest book, Act Like A Success, Think Like A Success.



STEVEN JUMPER

President of Strategy & Co-Founder, Ghost Note Agency (1776)

Steven Jumper serves as partner and President of Strategy at Ghost Note. In this role he is responsible for leading the development of

innovative and thoughtful integrated communications strategies. Steven has developed an expertise in strategy and client engagement after previously serving as an executive at some of the nation's leading boutique communications agencies. Before leaving to build Ghost Note, he served as director at The Walker Marchant Group, where he developed and executed comprehensive communications campaigns for leading companies and organizations including Walmart, Walgreens, Thompson Hospitality and Howard University. Prior, Steven served as account director at Bravery Corporation where he was responsible for business development and strategic development. At Bravery, Steven led accounts for clients including CSX Transportation, Douglas Development and Events DC. Steven began his career as account executive at Impact Strategies – the nationally renowned

agency that was the inspiration for ABC's hit show "Scandal." In this capacity he developed strategies and led campaigns for a range of clients including 20th Century Fox, Major League Baseball and VISA.



ERIC KELLY
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Sphere 3D Corp

Eric Kelly is a seasoned executive with over 30 years of experience in the technology industry and a synergistic balance of operational, marketing and sales management expertise. He has served as Sphere 3D Corporation's Chairman since July 2013 and Chief Executive Officer since the company's merger with Overland Storage in December 2014. Mr. Kelly served as Overland Storage's CEO since January 2009, its President & CEO since January 2010 and as a Board member since November 2007. Prior to joining Overland, Mr. Kelly was President of Silicon Valley Management Partners Inc., a management consulting and M&A advisory firm which he co-founded in 2007. Earlier, he held the positions of Vice President and General Manager of Storage Systems Solutions at Adaptec, Inc.; President and CEO of Snap Appliance, which was acquired by Adaptec; President of the Systems Division at Maxtor Corp.; and held various executive-level roles with Dell Computer Corp., Diamond Multimedia, Conner Peripherals and IBM. Mr. Kelly currently serves on the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Council and the White House's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, where he offers advice and counsel to the Obama administration on strategies and policy recommendations on ways to promote and advance U.S. manufacturing. He also participates on advisory boards for the University of San Francisco and San Francisco State University. Mr. Kelly earned an MBA from San Francisco State University and a B.S. in business from San Jose State University.



LASENTA LEWIS-ELLIS
President & CEO, LLE Construction Group, LLC.

Lasenta Lewis-Ellis, GC, CM, CQM-C, MAHRD, is the President/CEO of LLE Construction Group, LLC which provides General Contracting, Project and Construction Management, and Facility Maintenance and Management to School Districts, Charter Schools, Commercial Businesses, and she's expanding to the federal marketplace. She devises strategies, policies, and plans for the growth and sustainability of the organization. She directs and coordinates the day-to-day operational activities to ensure it meets its organizational goals. In addition, she oversees the management of the company's Business Development and Quality Control measures to ensure it is consistent with the company's goals and values. Lasenta earned an Associates of Engineering Technology in Architectural Engineering Technology from Midlands Technical College; a Bachelors of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Human Resources Management and Psychology from the University of South Carolina (Columbia, SC); and a Masters of Arts in Human Resources Development from Webster University. She completed one year of Law School at Concord University School of Law in California with an interest in Contracts and Construction Law. In September 2012, she completed all doctoral coursework in a Doctoral of Management in Organizational Leadership from the University Phoenix. Her dissertation focuses on "Enhancing the Use of Small Businesses in Federal Government Contracting." Her objective is to continue to encourage, motivate, mentor, and support small, women, and minority-owned businesses and help facilitate their growth.



AMANDA LITTLEJOHN
PR Strategist & Personal Branding Coach

Amanda Littlejohn is an idea oven, brand problem solver, and creative powerhouse working at the intersection of public relations, journalism, marketing and branding. As a former print journalist, and the founder of Washington, DC based social media powered PR firm Mopwater Social PR, Amanda has helped clients leverage mainstream media and publicity, blogs and social media campaigns to build buzz online and off for nearly a decade. She now leverages that foundation of both journalism and public relations as a coach to help you build your brand, pursue your passions and package your genius so you can share it with the world. Through her signature coaching programs and ground-breaking personal branding system The Branding Box, Amanda is a motivating business coach for individuals seeking to brand clarity and fresh ideas on how to emerge as experts in their chosen fields.



LANCE LUCAS
President, Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce

In 1998, Lance Lucas developed a business plan and established Digit All Systems, Inc. (DAS), a Baltimore, Maryland based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization created in 2002 as a direct response to a dire technology access need in Baltimore City. As CEO of DAS, Lance has dedicated himself to assisting youth, adults, and underserved populations to bridge the digital divide by establishing a pipeline for IT Cyber/STEM employment opportunities. Lucas' nonprofit trained more than 10,000 students in Cyber security certifications and computer programming through partnerships with 60 schools in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan area and has donated over 3,500 computers to churches, schools, community groups and other organizations in need. DAS students are employed at places such as Lockheed Martin, Dell, Boeing, Verizon, Cyber Point and a multitude of other IT industry leaders. Lucas also organized the United States' first-of-its-kind Computers for Guns Trade-In Program labeled Stop Shooting Start Coding on 13 of July, 2013; its success made international headlines, therefore enabling its 2nd Computers for Guns Trade-In Program in August, 2014. A true visionary, Lucas intends to continue DAS' efforts on both a national and international level in an effort to help educate and inspire people everywhere to discover and follow their dreams.



KURT MANGUM
Managing Partner, Performance Management Consulting Services LLC

Kurt Mangum is an entrepreneur that is dedicated to supporting and enhancing our country's economic landscape through local business economic development and new job creation. He has leveraged 25 years of corporate executive leadership and strategy building with Fortune 500 companies to develop new business enterprises and job creation. Mangum is the founder and CEO of The Mangum Group Enterprises (TMG). He is also the Managing Partner of Performance Management Consulting Services LLC, Owner Operator Press Coffee Food & Wine - Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and Managing Partner for Arizona Fitness LLC, and Owner SNAP Fitness 24/7 in Gilbert, AZ. He also owns, and has interests in other business entities

that support and expand his vision of increasing local economic development opportunities across the U.S. Mangum's unique business approach integrates his experiences from the Executive Suite with his vision to grow local economies by empowering and developing leaders in the community. Mangum's vision is to create viable businesses that will create jobs and sustain communities. Community-sustainability is a core value of Mangum's business approach.

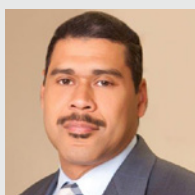


CLARENCE MCALLISTER

President, Fortis Networks

Clarence McAllister is the CEO of Fortis Networks, a Design Build General Contractor based in Phoenix, AZ with offices and projects worldwide. Fortis is certified as 8a and HUBZone. The

company has been recognized during MEDWeek as the Technology Firm of the Year in 2007, the Construction Firm of the Year in 2012 and the Minority Firm of the Year in 2013. Fortis federal customers include all branches of the Department of Defense, Department of State, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Homeland Security and General Services Administration. Fortis commercial customers include Sprint PCS, Alcatel Lucent, AT&T and Verizon. In the transportation industry, Fortis Networks has provided telecommunications construction services to the Phoenix Valley Metro Light Rail, Sky Harbor Skytrain and Utah Transit Authority Light Rail among other projects. Clarence McAllister holds a Bachelor Summa Cum Laude and a Master in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from Nova Southeastern University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and an airplane pilot.



DOYLE MITCHEL, JR.

President & CEO, Industrial Bank

B. Doyle Mitchell, Jr. is President and CEO of Industrial Bank. The Bank was founded on August 22, 1934. Industrial Bank is the largest minority-owned commercial bank in the Washington

Metropolitan area and the sixth largest African-American owned financial institution in the country. A native Washingtonian, Mr. Mitchell was born and raised in the Washington banking community that his grandfather, the Bank's founder, and father helped to create. After receiving his Bachelors degree in Economics from Rutgers University in 1984, he began a full-time career with Industrial Bank. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1990, and succeeded his father as President in 1993. Under his leadership, the Bank formed the IBW Financial Corporation (holding company) in 1994, to facilitate expansion into Prince George's County, Maryland. As one of the first banks to utilize the new interstate banking laws, he was recognized by the Secretary of Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen, as a pioneer in the banking industry at the signing of the Interstate Banking Bill enacted in September 1994. On October 26, 2013, Industrial Bank received the Lifetime Legacy Award from the DC Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mitchell has served two terms as Chairman of the National Bankers Association and currently serves as Chairman for the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable.

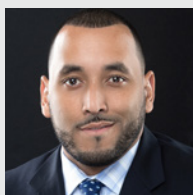


NECOLE PARKER

Founder & CEO, The Elocen Group

Necole Parker is the CEO and Founder of The ELOCEN Group, LLC, a work-flow process leader in providing innovative client solutions, with locations in Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, and

Bowie, MD. Since forming ELOCEN in 2007, Necole has expertly managed/overseen project lifecycles from start to finish, comprised primarily of new construction and renovation projects for both the government and commercial sectors. This has resulted in securing numerous notable clients, growing the company in both scale and capacity, and achieving significant revenue gains. With 22 years of comprehensive Program & Project Management and Information Technology experience, Necole continues to build synergistic relationships that create value for each of ELOCEN's respected customers. Professional excellence, integrity, and a willingness to go the extra mile every time defines who she is.



LARESE PURNELL

CFO, The Word Church

LaRese Purnell currently serves in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer and Chief of Staff at "THE WORD" Church in Cleveland, Ohio under the leadership of Dr. R. A. Vernon, a multi-million

dollar non-profit organization. He is also author of Financial Foundations and the founder of The Real Black Friday, an economic empowerment initiative conceived to increase solidarity and financial continuity within black communities, bring awareness to the number and types of black-owned businesses, and encourage consumers to financially support these businesses. No stranger to struggle, LaRese grew up in poverty, shuffled from shelter to shelter in lieu of a permanent home. Now, an exemplar of hard work, integrity, and financial responsibility, he's using his modest backdrop as the foreground of his message: a vocational injunction to teach the tools of financial literacy, fortitude, and success to build wealth. As the strategic planning committee chair of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, LaRese collaborates with team members to create meaningful alternatives to the appeal of street life and is responsible for the implementation of several youth leadership and entrepreneurship development programs. He is also an Advisory Board Member for South Pointe Cleveland Clinic Hospital.



THOMAS RANSOM

Market President, BB&T

Thomas L. Ransom currently serves as the Market President for BB&T bank. He is a sixteen year veteran of BB&T and has spent the majority of his time working with businesses in the Greater

Washington D.C. market. His current responsibilities include managing the Commercial Loans Department, integrating the various service lines and managing the financial performance for the 16 branches in Montgomery County. Mr. Ransom earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at Hampden-Sydney College, a Masters in Business Administration at the University of Baltimore, a fellowship in Public Policy and International Affairs at Princeton University and a Graduate Degree in Banking from Stonier held at the University of Pennsylvania.



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The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. is proud to announce the launch of the USBC App, which gives you the power to shop and support black business throughout the country at your fingertips. Whether at home or traveling, this app will connect you with black retail, service providers, entertainment options, and much more at the touch of a button. It's time to make a conscious effort to recycle our dollars in our community, and the USBC App provides you with the convenient access to.... "buy - any means necessary."



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www.usblackchambers.org



DEVERA REDMOND

Manager, Procurement Assistance, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, The U.S. Department of Transportation

DeVera Redmond is responsible for ensuring the Department of Transportation's compliance with Federal statutes and initiatives as they relate to small business development are implemented in a fair, efficient and effective manner to serve small businesses. She also serves as the advocate for Women-Owned Small Businesses, providing counseling and advising how to obtain procurement opportunities in the Federal government. Ms. Redmond responsibilities also include serving as Congressional Liaison for Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization which include advising the Office Director and other senior management regarding legislative and oversight activities of Congress that impact the small business program. Prior to Ms. Redmond joining DOT, she implemented the Small Business Program for the Agriculture Marketing Service Agency in the Department of Agriculture. During her tenure with the US Department of Agriculture, Ms. Redmond provided guidance and recommendation to businesses with regard to doing business with Agriculture.



SEAN RUGLESS

President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky

Sean is an accomplished executive that seeks balance between his passion for strategic business building with his commitment to the community. As President and C.E.O. for the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce, he is responsible for cultivating strategic partnerships for the purpose of strengthening minority businesses and growing the business community as a whole. He is alumnus of Leadership Cincinnati, and civically, Sean is the past Board Chairman of Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) and currently serves on the boards of the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, the American Red Cross, Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated, and various City of Cincinnati commissions. His is an appointee of Governor Kasich and an Executive Committee member of the Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council, a statewide roundtable for minority business. Nationally, Sean serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Black Chambers.



ERIK C. SMITH

Director, Cultural Competence and Inclusion, Valpak

Erik C. Smith is currently the Cultural Competence and Inclusion Director at Valpak where he has developed a cultural competency rubric to show how diversity coupled with inclusion creates opportunities for innovation, drives revenue and enhances recruitment, retention and professional development of employees, franchisees and suppliers channels. He has over 20 years of experience as a corporate finance and marketing professional. Erik is also the Managing Consultant and CEO Carlton Consulting, Inc., a cultural competence and marketing advisory firm with offices now based in Florida, specializing in strategic planning, capacity building and cross-cultural marketing for both for profit and not for profit enterprises. His most recent engagement was becoming the Executive

Director of The Jeff Johnson Institute for Urban Development whose focus is to train the young urban professionals for leadership. Additionally, he served as the COO of Jeff's Nation a consulting firm with offices in Maryland and Ohio whose specialty is media and message consulting. Moreover, he has consulted for numerous Fortune 100 advertising agencies, public relations firms and consumer product companies globally. Before founding Carlton Consulting, Inc., Erik led all marketing functions for, 216 Entertainment and Recording, LLC a small cutting edge agency specializing in youth and ethnic marketing where he explained how popular culture trends originate in urban culture. Additionally, his non-profit experience began at sixteen as an artist in residence for a small arts-in-education organization in Ct. Since then he has held roles in various small to large organizations as a Managing Director, Treasurer and Strategic Consultant.



DR. WILLIAM SPRIGGS

Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

William Spriggs serves as Chief Economist to the AFL-CIO, and is a professor in, and former Chair of, the Department of Economics at Howard University. Bill assumed these roles in August 2012 after leaving the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. Bill was appointed by President Barack Obama, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, in 2009 to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy at the United States Department of Labor, taking a leave of absence from Howard University to do so. At the time of his appointment, he also served as chairman for the Healthcare Trust for UAW Retirees of the Ford Motor Company and as chairman of the UAW Retirees of the Dana Corporation Health and Welfare Trust; and on the joint National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Public Administration's Committee on the Fiscal Future for the United States; and, as Senior Fellow of the Community Service Society of New York.



JUSTIN G. TANNER

Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

Justin G. Tanner was appointed by the White House in 2014 to serve as a Senior Advisor in the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Within SBA's Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, he works to assist thousands of small disadvantaged, women-owned, service-disabled veteran owned and Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small businesses as they compete annually for more than \$450 billion in federal prime contract awards. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Mr. Tanner worked in external affairs for Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, where he helped manage the City of Atlanta's relationships at the state, local and federal levels of government. In the first two years of the mayor's initial term, he worked as a communications aide in the Mayor's Office of Communications. Before joining City Hall, he served as Director of New Media on Mayor Reed's 2009 citywide campaign and 2010 Inaugural Planning Committee. He has also gained experience in the private sector working with corporate law firms, Fortune 100 companies and small/medium-sized businesses.



MICHELLE THOMPSON-DOLBERRY

American Express OPEN Advisor on Small Business Growth

Michelle is the President and Chief Fire Starter of EMDO Enterprises, a capacity building business consulting firm. EMDO specializes in providing non-profit, small and medium size organizations with the expertise and resources they need to solve business problems and achieve goals. The organization focuses on building capacity and teaming opportunities through strategic alignment, marketing initiatives and organizational design efforts. Its mission is to serve as an extension of a company's leadership team in order to help guide the company to the ultimate level of its potential. She has also been named the American Express OPEN Advisor on Small Business Growth. Prior to forming EMDO, Michelle was the Director of Customer Advocacy for American Express OPEN, where she spearheaded the strategic evolution of this influencer-based outreach initiative. The initiative was designed to elevate brand receptivity and awareness of small business products and services in targeted business segments. In this role, Michelle served as the face and voice of the brand, acting as a company media spokesperson and delivering varied speaking engagements.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAY WILLIAMS

Economic Development Administration

Jay Williams was appointed by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and was sworn into office on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. In this position Williams is charged with leading the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the global economy. Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Jay served as the executive director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. In this capacity, he worked directly with state and local stakeholders in areas affected by the changing American automotive industry to deliver federal support to ensure they returned to better economic condition. He also served in the White House as Deputy Director for the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this position, he led efforts to engage mayors, city council members, and county officials around the country. Williams served as the Mayor of Youngstown, Ohio from 2006 to August 1, 2011. During his tenure as Mayor of Youngstown, Williams led efforts that had a direct impact on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Youngstown.



NICOLE TURNER-LEE

VP & Chief Research & Policy Officer, Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet Council (MMTC)

Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee is Vice President and Chief Research and Policy Officer for MMTC. In this senior role, Dr. Turner-Lee designs and implements a research and policy agenda that supports MMTC's mission, and advocates for telecom and Internet policy reform through legislation, rule making, executive orders, public-private partnerships, and best practices. In 2011, she was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age by former FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski of the Federal Communications Commission, where she chairs the subcommittee on the use of unlicensed devices to increase minority innovation and entrepreneurship. Nicol graduated with honors from Colgate University and has a doctorate in Sociology from Northwestern University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois-Chicago.



NAVARROW WRIGHT

Founder, Close the Divide

Navarrow Wright has emerged as one of the distinctive and insightful voices in America and a premier expert on how the convergence of technology, the Internet, mass media and social media can change lives, businesses and society. A change agent in the digital space for 20 years, using his unique combination of technology acumen, business sense and understanding of how to address audiences has allowed him to create grow and new business opportunities in every position he's held. He's focused on helping organizations develop and implement their digital strategy. Wright has served as CTO of Radio One's online division Interactive One, CTO of Black Entertainment Television and as co-founder of GlobalGrind.com with Russell Simmons. Wright is also an advocate for increasing diversity within the technology industry and has been featured on CNN's black in America series. He was also picked By Black Enterprise Magazine for their "Next Steve Jobs list: The 10 people to watch in Technology" in 2012. Wright recently was selected to be a part of Verizon's "Celebrate Our Stories" Black History Month campaign where Verizon chooses influential African Americans to share their keys to success, elaborate their achievements and share how they are helping to create a better tomorrow.



CHRISTAL WATSON

President, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce

Christal E. Watson is President /CEO of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce (formerly known as the Kansas Black Chamber). A job tailor made for her outgoing personality, for the past eight years she has actively engaged members, stakeholders and community leaders to explore and cultivate opportunities for economic growth. Under her leadership, Heartland is becoming the fastest growing minority chamber in the Midwest region. Over the past five years membership has increased at a rate of 103%. Hard work and dedication is no stranger to this dynamo. Christal has provided leadership in management roles with companies such as Sprint, United Way, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, and Truman Medical Centers; contributing skills to business process improvement, resource development and human resource management.

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