

The National Institute of Minority Economic Development

presents

# ENC | 2021

EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

*Enduring Strength &  
Legacy*

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**AUGUST 5-7, 2021**  
THE PINEHURST RESORT | PINEHURST, NC

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**National  
INSTITUTE** |   
Economic Development



## Building better lives

Our purpose is to inspire and build better lives and communities. And every day, the pursuit of better drives us—to empower you with more opportunities. The opportunity to own a home. To start a small business. To thrive. Because we boldly believe in the power of what we can achieve together.

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**TRUIST** 

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Greetings Friends,

**ENC is back!** Our theme this year: **“Enduring Strength & Legacy.”**

I am incredibly excited to welcome each of you back to the Institute’s Executive Networking Conference (ENC 2021). It has been five years since we last met at ENC and even longer since convening at Pinehurst. But the time is now for us to gather once again, celebrate, reflect, and discuss how we will emerge from a devastating pandemic and a recovering economy even more resilient and determined to succeed.



**The Institute has survived significant challenges** over the last few years, but is more vital than ever as we celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary! While navigating the pandemic and economic crises, we **merged with the North Carolina Community Development Initiative and Initiative Capital**, tripling our size. We changed our name to the **National Institute of Minority Economic Development** to reflect the reach and expansion of the organization, and we completed a 5-year strategic plan, re-establishing the Institute as a thought leader, advocate, and preeminent resource for minority populations throughout the region. **Our building and headquarters at 114 West Parrish Street** in Durham, North Carolina, located on what was known as **“Black Wall Street,” turns 100 years old in December**—representing strength, resolve, and what we can accomplish, even when times are tough.

We have deepened our relationships with community stakeholders, HBCUs, financial institutions, government agencies, and community leaders to enhance our influence and resources. In response to our Research, Policy & Impact Center report indicating a lack of grant funding for HUB and DBE businesses, the Institute **partnered with the North Carolina Department of Administration’s HUB office** and Carolina Small Business Development Fund to administer **\$13 million in grants to over 500 businesses**. Finally, we expanded our programs with our newest **Women’s Business Center of Richmond located on the campus of Virginia Union University**. This opportunity was made possible by securing a partnership with Virginia Union University and funding in part by the SBA.

While we experienced great successes, we also suffered some heartbreaking losses last year, particularly with the passing of one of our founders, **Ms. Andrea Harris**. Ms. Harris loved ENC and its ability to bring us together to address issues impacting minority populations. And so, we are here to carry on her legacy and vision and to celebrate other visionary trailblazers who continue to labor in the vineyard— **Abdul Rasheed and Lew Myers**.

So, I invite each of you to lean in, engage, learn from each other, strategize and plan how we **position our network of resources** for continued success in the communities we serve.

Best Regards,



Kevin J. Price  
President & CEO

# WHAT IS ENC?

The **Executive Networking Conference (ENC)** was established in the mid-1980s as a means of building relationships and supply chain opportunities for minority business executives. Over the years ENC evolved into the state's **premier professional development and business networking event**, convening established and aspiring minority and women-owned businesses, corporate executives, public-sector decision-makers, community leaders, business lenders, equity investors, and other stakeholders engaged in advancing a diverse economy.

ENC is the place for people to come together to learn about and share creative and innovative ideas, leadership principles, and equitable economic development strategies. It is an opportunity for corporate leaders and MWBEs to build stronger B2B and B2C relationships, for community development leaders to engage with other stakeholders, and to encourage emerging entrepreneurs to connect with mentors and resource opportunities. Also, it is an opportunity for government agencies and elected officials to better understand the dynamic economic growth opportunities that can come from reducing barriers to market participation for MWBEs and community developers.

Themes and content have varied from year to year, but always include professional development learning opportunities, multiple networking events, timely economic updates, engaging plenary sessions, B2B opportunity sessions, and recognitions on the dais.

After a five-year hiatus, ENC returns this year with the theme **"Enduring Strength & Legacy"** celebrating resilience in the face of adversity, and reflecting on the legacy of one of the Institute's founding leaders, Ms. Andrea Harris.



# PARTNERS IN EQUITY

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO OWN



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## EQUITY REQUIRES OWNERSHIP.

PIE provides patient capital via equity investments and downpayment assistance to businesses looking to acquire new or preserve existing commercial real estate holdings in North Carolina.

## OWNERSHIP REQUIRES EQUITY.

The PIE solution is a key component of the small business capital stack that provides small businesses with a way to own the spaces in which they operate.

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[www.resilnc.org](http://www.resilnc.org)



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# SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

## THURSDAY - AUGUST 5, 2021

8:30 AM	Registration	Cardinal/South Foyer
10:00 AM	Welcome   Opening Remarks	Carolina Hall
10:30 AM	State of Diverse North Carolina	Carolina Hall
12:00 PM	Lunch with Guest Speaker	Cardinal Ballroom
2:15 PM	Corporate Executive Round Table	Olmsted Ballroom
4:00 PM	Economic Development Champions Roundtable	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
6:00 PM	Welcome Reception ( <i>College &amp; Greek Night</i> )	Cardinal Ballroom
9:00 PM	Networking & Hospitality Suite	Villa #510

## FRIDAY - AUGUST 6, 2021

7:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast Buffet	Cardinal/South Foyer
8:00 AM	Supplier Diversity	Cardinal Ballroom
9:15 AM	Policy & Politics	Carolina Hall
10:45 AM	CDFI Roundtable Discussion	Olmsted Ballroom
12:45 PM	Luncheon: CDFI Leveraging & Funding	Cardinal Ballroom
2:15 PM	Black Led Organizations: Building A Stronger Ecosystem	Olmsted Ballroom
3:45 PM	Black Economics, Policy And A Pathway Forward	Carolina Hall
6:00 PM	Reception   Networking   Silent Auction	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
6:45 PM	Awards Gala Dinner	Grand Ballroom
8:30 PM - 10:30 PM	ENC Gala Networking Social	Grand Ballroom

## SATURDAY - AUGUST 7, 2021

8:00 AM	Golf Tournament [ <i>Reverse Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM</i> ]	Course No. 2
9:00 AM	Shopping Excursion   Spa Day ( <i>Optional</i> )	
12:30 PM	Golf Awards Luncheon	Donald Ross Room
5:30 PM	ENC Finale Networking & Silent Auction	West Lawn

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**Diversity, when coupled with inclusion, makes our world a better place. It brings innovation and intelligence that makes all of our businesses more profitable.**

Fifth Third Bank is passionate about our diversity work and engaging with our community partners to make deeper connections that positively impact inclusion across our footprint.

**We proudly support the National Institute  
Economic Development.**



**FIFTH THIRD BANK**

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# CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

**8:30 AM**    **REGISTRATION**

**10:00 AM**    **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**10:30 AM**    **STATE OF DIVERSE NORTH CAROLINA**

**James H. Johnson, Jr.**, *William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship and Director, Urban Investment Strategies Center*

A discussion on the economic impact of the pandemic on North Carolina's Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community compared with historic trends, recent disparity studies and the pivots made to thrive in an unprecedented time.

**12:00 PM**    **LUNCHEON**

**Keynote Speaker: Roy Cooper**, *Governor of North Carolina*

**2:15 PM**    **CORPORATE EXECUTIVE ROUND TABLE**

**Moderator: Derrick Davis, CEO**, *Informatic Concepts*

**Panelists:**

**Melody Birmingham**, *Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Duke Energy*

**Richard Bynum**, *Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, PNC Financial Services Group*

**Kinneil Coltman**, *Senior Vice President, Chief Community and External Affairs Officer, Atrium Health*

**Albert "Trey" Rabon**, *President, AT&T North Carolina*

A discussion of corporate investment strategies in the growth, capacity and sustainability of minority organizations as an embedded objective of corporate culture yielding a mutual ROI.

**4:00 PM**    **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS ROUNDTABLE**

**Moderator: Richard L. Williams**, *Chairman & CEO, Black Business Media LLC*

**Panelists:**

**Walter L. Davis**, *Founder, Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Co., LLC*

**Willie Deese**, *Fortune 200 Executive Leadership | Board Director*

**Hilda Pinnix-Ragland**, *Managing Partner and COO, AHK Global Resources*

A discussion on minority philanthropy leadership promoting minority business inclusion, capacity building and economic vitality within diverse communities.

**6:00 PM**    **WELCOME RECEPTION (College & Greek Night)**

**9:00 PM**    **NETWORKING & HOSPITALITY SUITE**

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021

### 7:00 AM REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST BUFFET

### 8:00 AM SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

**Moderator:**

**Tammie Hall**, *Assistant to the Secretary for HUB Outreach for the State of North Carolina; Director, Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB), NC Dept. of Administration*

**Panelists:**

**Dominique Milton**, *President & CEO, The Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council*

**Candis Parker**, *Manager of Integrated Processes, Balfour Beatty Carolinas*

**Jonathan Wilkins**, *Program Manager of Supplier Diversity and Co-lead of the North America Employee Resource Groups (NA ERG), Lenovo*

It takes intentional efforts to maximize supplier diversity. This panel will discuss contracting opportunities, the importance of a strong network of diverse suppliers for all procurement spend, and how supplier diversity can impact business resilience in 2021-22.

### 9:15 AM POLICY & POLITICS

**Moderator:**

**Machelle Baker Sanders**, *Secretary, NC Department of Commerce*

**Panelists:**

**Pamela B. Cashwell**, *Secretary, NC Department of Administration*

**Valerie P. Foushee**, *Senate Democratic Caucus Chair, North Carolina General Assembly - District 23*

**Gladys A. Robinson**, *State Senator (D), North Carolina General Assembly - District 28*

We will discuss how Congress, the NC congressional delegation and the NC General Assembly responded to the pandemic and economic downturn, and we will think strategically about government's role in close the growing wealth gap.

### 10:45 AM CDFI ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**Moderator:**

**Donna Gambrell**, *President & CEO, Appalachian Community Capital*

**Panelists:**

**Bill Bynum**, *CEO, HOPE*

**Lenwood V. Long, Sr.**, *President/CEO, African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs*

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) play an important role providing financial resources to low to moderate income and diverse communities. We'll explore their role and how they leverage their funding for a greater impact.

**12:45 PM**    **LUNCH – CDFI LEVERAGING & FUNDING**  
**Keynote Speaker: Robert F. Smith**, *Founder, Chairman and CEO*  
*Vista Equity Partners*

**2:15 PM**    **BLACK LED ORGANIZATIONS: BUILDING A STRONGER ECOSYSTEM**

**Moderator:**

**Valerie Jordan**, *NC Board of Transportation, Representing Division 5*

**Panelists:**

**Tim Catlett**, *President, Progressive Business Solutions*

**Cornelious “CC” Lamberth**, *President, C2 Contractors LLC*

**Vicki Lee Parker-High**, *Executive Director, North Carolina Business Council*

**Dr. Everett Ward**, *11th President (Ret.), St. Augustine’s University*

In an ever-increasing era of limited resources, black led organizations are experiencing increasing demands for services and the pressure of reduced resources. This session explores more ways of working together, while dispelling myths often associated with black led organizations.

**3:45 PM**    **BLACK ECONOMICS, POLICY AND A PATHWAY FORWARD**

**Rev. Dr. William Barber II**, *Minister and Social Activist*

The wealth gap continues to grow each year. Rev. Barber will put in context the dire effects of this unchecked growing disparity on our economy, race relations and the stability of our country.

**6:00 PM**    **RECEPTION | NETWORKING | SILENT AUCTION**

**6:45 PM**    **AWARDS GALA DINNER**

**Mistress of Ceremony:**

**Deborah Holt Noel**, *Producer and Host, UNC-TV*

**8:30 PM**    **ENC GALA NETWORKING SOCIAL**

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

**7:30 AM**    **GOLF TOURNAMENT – COURSE NO. 2**

**9:00 AM**    **SHOPPING EXCURSION | SPA DAY (Optional)**

**12:30 PM**    **GOLF AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**5:30 PM**    **ENC FINALE NETWORKING & SILENT AUCTION**

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# ENC | 2021

EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

## Awards

# Palta

*Paying tribute to extraordinary leaders making significant contributions to the achievement of economic prosperity for diverse populations.*

# AWARD RECIPIENTS



**ANDREA HARRIS LIFETIME  
LEGACY AWARD**

**LEWIS H. MYERS**

Inspired by founders of the Institute, recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional leadership and achieved significant success in supporting diversity in the public or private sector.



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**FARAD ALI**

Presented to an individual that has shown consistent and outstanding minority business enterprise advocacy and plays an integral role in the creative, technical, or professional progress of minority business development.



**MINORITY ENTREPRENEUR  
OF THE YEAR**

**DUDLEY**

A minority business owner who has exhibited the skills necessary to initiate and grow a successful business venture (e.g. visionary, risk taker, innovator, change agent, community leader).



**THE RESILIENCE AWARD**

**STELLA ADAMS**

Presented to a company or leader that responded to COVID-19 challenges and survived and thrived through unpredictable, changing, and unfavorable events. Resiliency is the key.



**DIVERSE SUPPLIER  
ADVOCATE AWARD**

**TAMMIE HALL**

Recognizes an individual that actively advocates and promotes strong leadership within minority business communities.



**ABDUL SM RASHEED  
ECONOMIC JUSTICE AWARD**

**Z. SMITH REYNOLDS  
FOUNDATION**

Recognizes courage and demonstrated commitment to empowering, advocating and investing in Economic Justice for African Americans and other ethnic Americans, disadvantaged businesses and underserved communities.



**CORPORATE DIVERSITY  
AWARD**

**JUAN AUSTIN &  
WELLS FARGO**

Presented to a financial institution that has promoted and provided ethnic minority businesses assistance in overcoming obstacles when attempting to access capital markets.

# PRESENTERS



## **MACHELLE BAKER SANDERS**

Governor Roy Cooper appointed Machelles Baker Sanders as Secretary of Commerce on February 12, 2021. A native of Belhaven, North Carolina, Sanders brings extensive experience in both management and leadership to her role at Commerce. A seasoned pharmaceutical and biotechnology executive, Secretary Sanders earlier in her career served as vice president of manufacturing and general manager of Biogen's largest and most advanced manufacturing facility in Research Triangle Park (RTP). She also held leadership positions overseeing manufacturing, global quality assurance and quality control functions at Biogen, Purdue Pharmaceuticals, and Diosynth-Akzo Nobel. Prior to joining the Department, Secretary Sanders led another cabinet-level agency, the North Carolina Department of Administration.



## **REV. DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II**

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is the President & Senior Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call For Moral Revival; Bishop with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary; Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and the author of four books: *We Are Called To Be A Movement*; *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*; *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and The Rise of a New Justice Movement*; and *Forward Together: A Moral Message For The Nation*.



## **MELODY BIRMINGHAM**

Melody Birmingham serves as Duke Energy's Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. In this role, she is responsible for the information technology, enterprise security, administrative services and supply chain organizations. She has more than 25 years of executive and leadership experience in the electric utility and automotive manufacturing industries. Before assuming her current position, Birmingham served as Senior Vice President, Supply Chain and Chief Procurement Officer for Duke Energy, where she had responsibility for the sourcing and supply chain functions for the enterprise's regulated and commercial operations.



## **ANGELA R. BRYANT**

Angela R. Bryant of Rocky Mount and Nash County was appointed to the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission by Governor Roy Cooper on March 19, 2018. Commissioner Bryant served six years in the NC House and over five years in the NC Senate in the seats previously occupied by then Rep. and Sen. Roy Cooper when he was her legislator from 1987-2001 representing Nash County. As a legislator, Bryant was the primary sponsor of fifty-three bills that were enacted into law, and she was a champion for minority economic development and the NC community development corporations that operated in collaboration with the Initiative. Bryant was also the first woman and first Black person from Nash County to represent Nash County in the legislature. Bryant served as the 2017-18 chair of the NC Legislative Black Caucus.



## **BILL BYNUM**

For more than three decades, Bill Bynum has worked to advance economic opportunity for disenfranchised populations. He began his professional career in North Carolina by helping to establish Self-Help, a pioneer in the development finance industry, and later built nationally recognized programs at the NC Rural Economic Development Center. In 1994, Bill moved to Mississippi to become the founding CEO of the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, and in 1995 organized Hope Community Credit Union. Since 1994, HOPE has generated more than \$2 billion in financing that has benefitted more than one million people in of the nation's most impoverished regions.



### **RICHARD K. BYNUM**

Richard K. Bynum is chief corporate responsibility officer for The PNC Financial Services Group. In this role, he leads the PNC Foundation; Community Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility; Community Development Banking; and Diversity and Inclusion. In addition, Bynum is leading the implementation of PNC's \$1 billion commitment to help end systemic racism and support the economic empowerment of African Americans and low- to moderate-income communities. Bynum is an accomplished executive with nearly 20 years of executive leadership experience. Prior to being named to his new role in July 2020, Bynum served as regional president for PNC's Greater Washington market from 2017-2020.



### **PAMELA B. CASHWELL**

Governor Roy Cooper named Pamela Brewington Cashwell Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration in April 2021. As DOA Secretary, Cashwell oversees the state agency whose mission is to serve as a business manager for the state of North Carolina and a voice for underserved communities through its advocacy programs and boards and commissions. DOA is a statewide administrator, managing government operations spanning from building construction, purchasing and contracting and state vehicles to mail services, surplus and state properties. The agency also provides facility maintenance services as well as programs for North Carolina's diverse populations. Cashwell is the first American Indian woman to head a state cabinet department in the state's history.



### **TIM CATLETT**

Tim Catlett, President of Progressive Business Solutions, has been in the printing industry for over 30 years. Tim graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a B.S. in accounting and started working with NCR Corporation as a district sales manager. In 1988, Tim and his wife Sonya, the proud parents of three children, started Progressive Business Solutions. At the onset the company dealt mainly with business forms, however it eventually developed into one of the largest minority owned suppliers providing business forms, commercial printing, promotional items, and computer and office supplies.



### **DR. KINNEIL COLTMAN**

Kinneil Coltman, DHA, is senior vice president and chief community & social impact officer for Atrium Health, one of the most comprehensive and highly integrated not-for-profit healthcare systems in the nation. As a member of the senior leadership team, Dr. Coltman is responsible for developing a unified social impact strategy to advance the well-being of communities that Atrium Health serves by improving healthcare access, addressing social determinants of health and advancing health equity. Dr. Coltman's areas of responsibility include Community Health, Community Engagement & Corporate Responsibility, the Career Development Center, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Health Equity and Social Strategy & Impact.



### **ROY COOPER**

Roy Cooper is a trusted leader and family man who is honored to serve as North Carolina's Governor. Roy Cooper has spent nearly three decades in public service protecting families, keeping communities safe, and working to create jobs and improve schools. The son of a school teacher, he knows that education creates opportunity and he has worked throughout his career to strengthen our schools and create a sound foundation for our state's children. In the NC House and Senate, Roy Cooper fought to increase teacher pay and reduce class sizes. He wrote North Carolina's first children's health insurance initiative. During his service in the legislature, Roy Cooper worked with members of both parties to get balanced budgets that raised teacher pay to the national average, grow the economy and cut taxes for middle class families.



## **DERRICK DAVIS**

Derrick Davis is Principal and founding partner of Informatic Concepts, a full-service staffing firm devoted to aligning the career goals of their talent with organizational goals of their clients. Prior to launching Informatic Concepts, he honed his skills by serving in various senior sales and leadership roles with AT&T Wireless, Randstad, and Astellas Pharma.

With a firm belief that three things are multipliers for success — a laser focus on talent, building strong relationships, and giving back to the community — Derrick currently serves on various non-profit, government and private enterprise boards. He is especially committed to making sure minority businesses always have a seat at the table.



## **WALTER L. DAVIS**

Walter Davis is a founding member of Atlanta, Georgia-based Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Company LLC, which specializes in financial solutions, commercial insurance brokerage, private equity investing, among other specialized services. Mr. Davis is the former Vice Chairman, CEO and founding member of CertusBank, which has more than 700 employees in 11 states, and operates more than 30 branches across the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia. In 2009, Mr. Davis co-founded and served as a Managing Partner of Integrated Capital Strategies, a distressed asset management and consulting company, which managed more than \$1 billion across several asset classes including mortgage, commercial and consumer. Additionally, Mr. Davis has been instrumental in advancing Opportunity Zones legislation and travels the U.S. to advise communities and municipalities on the intricacies of Opportunity Zones that was spearheaded by U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.



## **WILLIE DEESE**

Before retiring in 2016, Willie A. Deese rose to the rank of President of Merck's manufacturing division where he oversaw a network of more than 55 manufacturing and distribution sites with approximately 16,500 employees in 30 countries around the world and an annual operating budget of \$9 billion. Along the way, Mr. Deese has proudly supported his alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and is its single-largest alumni donor. Mr. Deese has committed more than \$10 million for campus needs and scholarships at his alma mater that have allowed hundreds of students to attend the college. On A&T's campus, an auditorium bears the name of his parents; the clock tower in the center of campus is named for him and his wife, Carol Chalmers Deese; and last year, A&T named the new Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics in his honor.



## **VALERIE FOUSHEE**

State Senator Foushee first joined the legislature after her 2012 campaign for the North Carolina House District 50. Representing rural Orange and Durham counties, Foushee built relationships in her first term, passing several local bills, and saving a correctional facility in Orange County. She was appointed to the North Carolina Senate following Senator Ellie Kinnaird's resignation from District 23 in 2013 and was elected to the Senate in 2014. She was re-elected in 2016, 2018 and 2020. Senate District 23 consists of Orange and Chatham counties. Valerie Foushee is a 2005 Leadership Triangle Goodman Fellow. She was elected to the Board of Education for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in 1997 and re-elected to a second term in 2001. She served as Chair from 2001-2003. In November 2004, Valerie was one of eight School Board members selected to the All-State School Board by the North Carolina School Boards Association.



### **DONNA GAMBRELL**

Ms. Gambrell was appointed as President & CEO of Appalachian Community Capital in May 2017, after serving several months as the organization's interim CEO. Prior to her current position, Ms. Gambrell served as the Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). She is the longest-serving and first African American woman to hold this position. During her tenure from 2007 to 2013, the CDFI Fund experienced significant growth, more than doubling funding under its flagship program, thus enabling a CDFI industry to provide affordable capital, credit, and financial services to low-income communities across the country. Ms. Gambrell retired from federal government service in December 2013.



### **TAMMIE HALL**

Tammie serves as Director for the Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Assistant to the Secretary for HUB Outreach for the State of North Carolina. Tammie is responsible for developing policy and guidelines for the State's HUB program and is the authority in the field of minority business development and public sector M/WBE and HUB Programs. Tammie previously worked in corporate America as the Senior Regional Supplier Diversity Manager for Lend Lease Construction, overseeing the HUB/MWBE program and compliance oversight for North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco. Tammie has over 25 years of experience in government and spent eight (8) of those years as a Congressional Policy Advisor.



### **DEBORAH HOLT NOEL**

Deborah Holt Noel is a senior producer and on-air talent for the statewide public media network PBS North Carolina. Deborah is the host and contributing producer for the network's weekly travel and leisure program *North Carolina Weekend*, which airs Thursday nights at 9 PM, and she is the host and senior producer of the long-running public affairs series *Black Issues Forum* which airs on Fridays at 7 PM. Deborah recently celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with PBS North Carolina.



### **JAMES H. JOHNSON, JR.**

James H. Johnson, Jr. is the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of strategy and entrepreneurship and director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center at the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. His research interests include community and economic development, the effects of demographic changes on the U.S. workplace, interethnic minority conflict in advanced industrial societies, urban poverty and public policy in urban America, and workforce diversity issues.

Dr. Johnson and Dr. John D. Kasarda coauthored "*The Economic Impact of the African American Population on the State of North Carolina*" and a study on the economic impact of North Carolina's Hispanic population.



### **VALERIE JORDAN**

Valerie Delorse Jordan is a native of Warren County, North Carolina. Her humble beginnings taught her firsthand that one person can make a difference. Valerie has been recognized for her innovative leadership style and commitment to leverage existing relationships with public and private stakeholders. In March 2016 North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper appointed her as the first African American woman to serve on the NC Department of Transportation Board. She currently serves on the Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming, FAST, Multi Modal (Vice Chairman), and DMV committees.



# The power of diversity

Diversity brings strength. Diversity creates solutions. Because we know that a diversity of perspectives, experiences and backgrounds is an incredibly powerful way to unlock new ideas and better understand the needs of others. AT&T is honored to support the NIED and the 2021 Executive Networking Conference.

Find more info at:  
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You've taken the lead. And today is better for it.



Thank you, NC Institute of Minority Economic Development, for all you do to move our community forward, day in and day out. That's why we're so proud to be a part of the 2021 Executive Networking Conference.

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Make today the day.®



### **CORNELIOUS “CC” LAMBERTH**

Cornelious D. Lamberth is a well-rounded leader and a successful business owner. He is currently a member of the executive Board of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce as well as the Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Historically Underutilized Businesses for North Carolina. He is the past Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Greensboro Branch NAACP, as well as a past charter member of the NC A&T State University Board of Visitors. Mr. Lamberth is the past Chairman of the Advisory Board for the School of Technology at NCA&T State University and a proud member of the Omega Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Mr. Lamberth belongs to several business and other community organizations.



### **LENWOOD V. LONG, SR.**

Lenwood V. Long, Sr., is the founder and current president of BV&L Associates Inc., a firm providing organizations with consulting and technical assistance in the areas of community economic development, project management, human resources, strategic planning, organizational assessment, and business management. He also currently serves as the Executive Administrator of the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs. The African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs (AAA) is a newly formed coalition committed to the support and growth of Black communities and the Black executives leading community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that serve those communities. Lenwood is also the former president/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF), a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and statewide nonprofit organization. In his role as president/CEO of CSBDF, Lenwood led the organization through a period of transformational growth.



### **DOMINIQUE SIMPSON MILTON**

Dominique Simpson Milton serves as the President & CEO of The Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council (CVMSDC.org also known as The Council – less of a tongue twister). As an Intentional Connector, Milton's goal is to create wealth by Certifying, Developing, Connecting and Advocating for Ethnic Minority Owned Businesses - MBEs Voted as a Top 25 Supplier Diversity Professional, Dominique is a specialist in new business development. Milton is a proud HBCU graduate of Spelman College and holds an MBA in Marketing from Penn State. She is currently working toward a Doctorate in Business Administration. Milton has received numerous awards for retail performance, business growth, and product expansions. Dominique and her husband William Milton Jr., CFP™ reside in Charleston, SC. and are the proud parents of three young adults.



### **LEWIS H. MYERS**

Lew served for eight years (1980-88) as Assistant Secretary for Small Business in the NC Department of Commerce. He was responsible for creating the M/WBE programs in state government. From 1988 – 1991, he was Vice President of Marketing for a black-owned Construction Management firm headquartered in Durham. He was the sole proprietor of LHM Associates, for 15 years. He was a Principal and the Director of Business Development for The Freelon Group architects which was acquired by Perkins+Will in 2014. Lew retired in April 2016 after 19 years. That same month, he accepted the position of Interim President and CEO of Downtown Durham, Inc. and served until February 2017. From January 2018 until March 2020, Lew served as President and CEO of the Institute in addition to board chair.



### **CANDIS PARKER**

Candis Parker is the Manager of Integrated Processes for Balfour Beatty Carolinas. She has been instrumental in bringing over 370 million sf of North Carolina projects within budget since 2013 and contributed in creating a system that has contributed over \$1.8 billion to the local MWBE community. Through her extensive experience in preconstruction and community initiatives Candis has fostered strong relationships with subcontractors, owners and leads her team in providing a unique and client driven preconstruction experience keeping participation goals at the forefront of all conversations. Candis has led Balfour Beatty to achieve outstanding M/WBE participation results on countless projects by cultivating collaborative relationships that further our team's commitment to diversity and the local community.



### **VICKI LEE PARKER-HIGH**

Vicki Lee Parker-High currently serves as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Business Council (NCBC), a statewide non-profit business association with a mission to connect, empower and influence business leaders to build a vibrant economy that protects our natural resources, sustains local communities and benefits all North Carolinians.

Prior to joining NCBC, Vicki served as the Development & Communications Director at the Carolina Small Business Development Fund that provides small business loans to companies in underutilized markets. She managed its marketing, communications and funding initiatives for five years. Through her fundraising activities, Vicki helped to secure more than \$11 million in funding that was used to provide loans to hundreds of small businesses in underserved communities across North Carolina.



### **HILDA PINNIX-RAGLAND**

Hilda Pinnix-Ragland's career in corporate America encompassed leadership roles in auditing, finance, operations, P&L management, regulatory and compliance and economic development. At Progress Energy, she served as Vice President/Northern Region with management of distribution of electric service for more than 600,000 customers and community relations with a budget of \$80 million. Following Progress Energy's merger with Duke Energy, Ms. Pinnix-Ragland served as Vice President of Corporate Public Affairs – making her the first African American woman to serve as a Vice President at the company. After her retirement in 2016, Ms. Pinnix-Ragland was appointed to a seat on the Duke Energy Board of Directors – the first African American woman board member. She currently serves as Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer at AHK Global Resources, a North Carolina-based energy consulting firm.



### **KEVIN J. PRICE**

Kevin is the third President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham, NC. The Institute, a 35-year old nonprofit management consulting and services firm, is focused on business diversity and inclusion. They are trusted advisors to businesses large and small, government agencies, policy makers and organizations that understand the key roles diversity and inclusion play in ensuring business and economic success. Their client services include customized one-on-one assistance, training, knowledge, networks and solutions that create diverse, globally competitive companies. The Institute is an award-winning organization and leading voice and constant advocate for public policies and business practices that promote marketplace diversity and inclusion. In June 2020, The Institute successfully merged with the North Carolina Community Development Initiative and rebranded it as Institute Capital (ICAP). ICAP is a community development financial institution, providing vital financing to diverse businesses, community development corporations and HBCUs throughout the state. Both organizations are headquartered in Durham, NC on Parrish Street, which was once known as the "Black Wall Street" of the south.



### **ALBERT "TREY" RABON**

Trey Rabon is currently state President, AT&T North Carolina, responsible for the company's regulatory, economic development, legislative and community affairs activities in the state. He works closely with state and community leaders to help encourage private investment in next-generation broadband infrastructure, bring new technology jobs to the state, and improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians. Trey brings a diverse background to the position, having joined AT&T's predecessor company, BellSouth, in 1999.



### **GLADYS ASHE ROBINSON, PH.D**

Now in her sixth term in the North Carolina Senate, Senator Robinson is the First Vice Chair of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and is a dedicated advocate for the people of North Carolina. Some of her Committees: Appropriations on Health and Human Services, Appropriations/Base Budget, Education/Higher Education, Finance, Health Care, Governmental Operations and Select Committee on Nominations and several Non-Standing Committees. Senator Robinson also serves as the North Carolina/South Carolina Co-Chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Region V. and the Governors State Health Coordinating Council.



### **GLORIA CARNEY SHEALEY**

Gloria is President & CEO of The Daniele Company, an African American, woman-owned commercial general contractor and construction manager located in downtown Durham, NC. Gloria has more than 25-years in the construction industry and leads the company in "*Building Visions, Transforming Lives*" for its clients. She has developed strategic relationships with select major construction companies, owners and Fortune 100 clients to deliver projects in education, aviation, automotive, pharmaceutical, life sciences and governmental markets that has resulted in a portfolio of over \$600 million in executed projects over the past 15 years. Her company operates in the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Maryland markets.



### **ROBERT F. SMITH**

Robert F. Smith is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Vista Equity Partners. Vista currently manages equity capital commitments of over \$75Bn and oversees a portfolio of over 70 enterprise software, data, and technology-enabled companies that have more than 200 million users and employ over 70,000 people worldwide. In 2017, Smith was named by Forbes as one of the 100 Greatest Living Business Minds. Smith is the founding director and President of the Fund II Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the African American experience, safeguarding human rights, providing music education, preserving the environment while promoting the benefits of the outdoors, and sustaining critical American values. In 2019, Smith made headlines by announcing that he would cover the student loans of nearly 400 Morehouse College 2019 graduates in a commencement address.



### **DR. EVERETT B. WARD**

From April 2015 to March 2019, Dr. Everett B. Ward served as the 11th president of Saint Augustine's University. He was the 3rd Saint Augustine's University alumnus to serve as its president, in its 151-year history. As president, Ward championed academic excellence and encouraged innovation in scholarship and teaching. He also launched initiatives to build interdisciplinary strength around global challenges, while supporting expanded opportunities for experiential learning. Prior to having the honor to serve his alma mater as its president, Dr. Ward served as the director of the Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU)/Minority Institutions of Higher Education (MIHE) Program for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).



### **JONATHAN WILKINS**

Jonathan Wilkins is the Program Manager of Supplier Diversity and Co-lead of the North America Employee Resource Groups (NA ERG) at Lenovo. Jonathan administers all of Lenovo's supplier diversity and US ERG efforts to support internal and external customer needs. He works closely with Lenovo's Procurement and Diversity and Inclusion groups to promote these efforts throughout the organization.

Passionate about helping others grow and developing businesses in order to strengthen the economic viability of the individual and communities in which we serve, Jonathan believes that "It's Business and It's Personal".



### **RICHARD L. WILLIAMS**

Richard L. Williams is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Black Business Media LLC, which publishes and serves as the parent company to HBCU Matters magazine and Black Business Ink magazine. Mr. Williams serves, respectively, as Publisher & Chairman and Publisher & Executive Editor of the two publications.

# SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the members of the Institute's Board of Directors for their direction, guidance and support. We recognize that without their leadership we would not have achieved our many milestones or succeeded in uplifting minority business, which are essential to the overall economic development of our state.

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The **National Institute of Minority Economic Development** strengthens the asset base of diverse populations through policy, education, and economic opportunities, creating an environment in which race, gender, and geography are no longer a barrier to prosperity. We do this by helping diverse small businesses to grow, compete, thrive, create jobs, become sustainable, and be valued partners within their local communities.

Our core competencies include business and entrepreneurial education, technical assistance, research and advocacy, affordable housing and community development (CDFI) financing, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Our work is organized into four synergistic centers to help emerging leaders, business owners, non-profit organizations, HBCUs, and our strategic partners to contribute to growth, sustainability, and economic justice in low-to-moderate income communities.

- The **Center for Entrepreneurship** provides meaningful education, training, growth strategies and technical assistance for diverse businesses. By focusing on those led and owned by Black, Latino, women, and other minorities, we support and grow key stakeholders in the small business ecosystem, stabilizing families through expanded economic opportunity and improved business value. Services include technical assistance to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs; workshops, seminars, and summits; strategic partnerships with HBCUs and other colleges and universities; corporate/executive education; and other capacity-building growth strategies.
- The **Research, Policy and Impact Center** addresses the root causes of economic disparities – income, wages, general economic opportunity, community access, and funding allocations – keeping our clients and stakeholders informed of shifts in the ecosystem and opportunities to participate in corporate and public policy dialogues and decision-making.
- Our **CDFI, Institute Capital**, provides access to capital for minority-owned small businesses, non-profit affordable housing developers, and HBCU ventures, improving the financing environment with fair and equitable lending practices.
- The **Center for Professional Services**, a consulting arm, offers uniquely customized professional development, supplier diversity strategies, and diversity, inclusion and equity education to corporations and governments.



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**Carolina Small Business Development Fund**

[www.carolinasmallbusiness.org](http://www.carolinasmallbusiness.org)

Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF) was established in 1990 to promote economic development in underserved communities. As a nonprofit and certified community development financial institution, we support entrepreneurs and small businesses through:

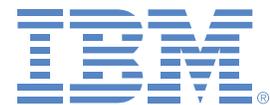
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