

National Institute of Minority Economic Development presents

ENC | 2024

EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

AUGUST 5-7, 2024 » AT PINEHURST

TechShift: Bridging the Digital Divide
in a Global Economy



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What does it take for a bank to stand the test of time? Strength, stability and a lasting commitment to helping customers. This year, we celebrate our 125th anniversary of supporting the countless families, businesses and communities we serve, but we'd like to think it's just the beginning. If our past is any guide, tomorrow we will offer our customers the same long-term thinking, service excellence and powerful results we deliver today. **First Citizens Bank. Forever First.®**

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125
YEARS

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Greetings Friends,

Welcome to the **National Institute of Minority Economic Development** (the Institute) **Executive Networking Conference** (ENC 2024). This year's theme: **"TechShift: Bridging the Digital Divide in a Global Economy"** recognizes that technology and artificial intelligence can be an inclusive catalyst for growth and innovation, or simultaneously widen the equitable access gap.



Our speakers this year will be laser-focused on digital equity and the broader impact on the economy. Attendees can expect high-level discussions on emerging infrastructures, social innovations, and private capital investment opportunities to fuel business development.

For the first time in ENC history we are hosting a representative from the Federal Reserve Bank – Tom Barkin, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. A fireside chat with Tom Barkin and Secretary James Weaver, North Carolina's Chief Information Officer, will examine the headwinds of technology, the impact on the economy, and the price of not keeping pace.

The Institute continues to positively impact small businesses. In 2023, Institute Capital (our CDFI) disbursed more than \$9 million in small business loans and our technical assistance program clients tracked more than \$85 million in bonding and contract opportunities and retained more than 17,000 jobs.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without our sponsors. Thank you, **DUKE ENERGY**, for being the **ENC 2024 Title Sponsor!**

This year the Institute successfully launched our community development corporation– **Institute Community Development Initiative** (the Initiative or ICDI). The Initiative will focus on supporting existing CDCs to build capacity and providing technical and operating support. The CDC completes the trifecta in the Institute's offerings of services to advance our mission to strengthen the asset base of diverse populations through policy, education, and economic opportunities.

Thank you for attending ENC 2024!

All the Best,



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.





Connecting communities to greater possibility

In North Carolina, we invested more than \$3.1 billion in our network infrastructure from 2019-2023 to connect more people to greater possibility. We also recently announced we're committing an additional \$3 billion by 2030 to help close the digital divide, bringing the company's total commitment to \$5 billion since 2021.

Learn more about how we're investing in connection and community across North Carolina.

attconnects.com/North-Carolina



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY - AUGUST 5, 2024

7:00 AM	Registration	Cardinal South Foyer
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet	Cardinal Ballroom
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks & Welcome	Cardinal Ballroom
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Digital Equity in NC: Improving Access to Technology in All Sectors	Cardinal Ballroom
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Fireside Chat - Current Economic Headwinds: Technology & Beyond	Cardinal Ballroom
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS I	
	Farmers & Technology	Olmstead Ballroom
	Health Equity: An Economic Strategy For Business	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
	Fueling Small Business Growth With SBA & USDOT	Calloway Ballroom
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch with Keynote Speaker	Cardinal Ballroom
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Business Expo Open	Carolina Hall
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Speed Networking	Carolina Hall
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS II	
	Empowering Tomorrow: Intergenerational Insights in Tech	Olmstead Ballroom
	SBA & Divine Nine MOU	Calloway Ballroom
	Small Business Contracting Opportunities	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Welcome Reception	Cardinal Ballroom

TUESDAY - AUGUST 6, 2024

7:00 AM	Registration	Cardinal South Foyer
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet	Cardinal South Foyer
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Greetings Welcome	Cardinal Ballroom
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Big Tech and Artificial Intelligence 2.0	Cardinal Ballroom
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS I	
	Building a Culture of Security: Practical Steps For Your TechShift Journey	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
	Developing a Pipeline of New Professionals in Community Economic Development	Olmstead Ballroom
	Building Effective Partnerships: Collaborative Models For Success	Calloway Ballroom
	Capitalizing Your Business with Private Capital Investments	Oakley Ballroom
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS II	
	Technology to Advance Green Energy Initiatives	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
	Mayor's Forum - Technology Advancements and Access	Olmstead Ballroom
	Aligning Your Organization For Supplier Inclusion Success	Calloway Ballroom
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch With Keynote Speaker	Cardinal Ballroom
1:45 PM - 3:15 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS III	
	Access to Capital: Small Business Banking Forum	Calloway Ballroom
	North Carolina is First in Fiber	Olmstead Ballroom
	Tanzania Economic Development Summit Resource Session	Ross/Tufts Ballroom
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Reception Networking Silent Auction	Grand Ballroom Foyer
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Awards Gala Dinner	Grand Ballroom
8:30 PM - 11:00 PM	ENC Gala Networking Social	Grand Ballroom

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 7, 2024

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Golf Tournament <i>[Modified Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM]</i>	Course No. 8
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Fit Leaders: Finding Inspiration Together	North Room
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Shopping Excursions <i>(Shuttle service available to village)</i>	
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Golf Awards Luncheon	Course #8 Clubhouse
5:30 PM	ENC Finale Networking	Carolina Hall



We celebrate the people who make a world of difference.

Keeping our community strong takes an ongoing commitment from everyone who calls it home. We're proud to thank all of those who set the example and help lead the way forward.

pnc.com/communitydevelopmentbanking



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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2023 EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE**

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President & CEO

"BUILDING VISIONS, TRANSFORMING LIVES"



CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION OPEN

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST BUFFET

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME

Presenters: **Kevin J. Price**, President & CEO, National Institute of Minority Economic Development
Duke Energy Greetings

Elaine F. Marshall, North Carolina Secretary of State

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

DIGITAL EQUITY IN NC: IMPROVING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY IN ALL SECTORS

This plenary session will highlight the N.C. Digital Equity Plan and how it aims to improve access to technology for all N.C. residents. We will focus on impacts to minority groups and small business owners.

Presenters: **Lea Henry**, Vice President, Research, Policy & Impact Center

Marc Hoit, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology & CIO, NC State University

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

FIRESIDE CHAT – CURRENT ECONOMIC HEADWINDS: TECHNOLOGY & BEYOND

Join us for a fireside chat with Tom Barkin, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, where he'll discuss what he sees throughout the District and how it relates to the broader economy. Tom will be joined by Secretary James Weaver, North Carolina's Chief Information Officer (NCDIT) as they share their thoughts on some current "headwinds" the economy is facing, such as technology.

Moderator: **Chris William**, Executive Producer & Moderator, Carolina Business Review

Panelists: **Tom Barkin**, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

James Weaver, Secretary & State Chief Information Officer, NCDIT

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

■ **FARMERS & TECHNOLOGY**

This session provides insight on how the farming industry is using technology to address the continued concerns of food shortages and food deserts in our state and beyond.

Moderator: **TF Congleton**, VP - Chief Credit Officer, Institute Capital Inc.

Panelists: **Bob Etheridge**, NC Executive Director, USDA - NC Farm Service Agency

Marvin Frink, Briarwood Cattle Farm and Meat Butcher Shop

Dr. Isaac B. Horton III, Founder, Chairman & CEO, The Green Blue Marketplace

Isaac B. Horton IV, Founder & Visionary, The Green Blue Marketplace

Darrell Tennie, Chief Executive Officer, The Tennie Group, LLC

■ **HEALTH EQUITY: AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR BUSINESS**

This session will examine the intersection of innovation and healthcare as a business. Panelists will discuss strategies for sustainability while providing equal access to care and eliminating health disparities within marginalized communities.

Moderator: **Kelcy Walker Pope, DrPH**, Director of Health Equity Initiatives, Research Policy & Impact Center

Panelist: **Reuben Cooper Blackwell V**, Vice President of Innovations, OIC of Rocky Mount

Carolyn Mayo, Managing Partner & Co-Founder, United Providers of Health, LLC

Karen L. Smith, MD, PA, Family Physician, Private Practice

■ **FUELING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH WITH SBA AND USDOT**

Small businesses are considered the engine of our economy, creating the majority of new jobs, moving the country forward with innovation and supporting their local communities. To support the growth and sustainability of the small business community, the US Small Business Administration

(SBA) and US Department of Transportation (DOT) collaborate with resource partners that offer technical assistance and business consulting services.

Join us to engage with Women's Business Center programs in North Carolina and Virginia, and the Small Business Transportation Resource Center, which serves the regional footprint of Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and the DC metro region. Learn about the specialized programming available in your area, and network with local professionals who can help accelerate your business growth.

Moderator: **Aregnaz Mooradian**, Deputy District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

Panelists: **Zurilma Anuel**, Director, Western Women's Business Center

Lu-Ann Barry, Executive Director, The Women's Business Center of The Triad

Rocio Gonzalez, Executive Director, The Women's Business Center of Charlotte

Nicole Gye'Nyame, Project Director, South Atlantic SBTRC

Danice Langdon, Director, The Women's Business Center of Fayetteville

Nicole Salle, Executive Director, The Women's Business Center of Central Virginia

Erica Vazquez, Executive Director, The Women's Business Center of North Carolina

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keynote: **Congresswoman Valerie Foushee**, US House of Representatives
Vice President Kamala Harris (Invited)

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

BREAK

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

BUSINESS EXPO OPEN | RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY WITH DUKE ENERGY

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

■ EMPOWERING TOMORROW: INTERGENERATIONAL INSIGHTS IN TECH

For the first time in history, we have five generations working side-by-side, more than ever before. Overlayed with the diversities of each generation's work culture is their unique relationship to the fast-paced tech world. Millennials, at the heart of this dynamic, play a strategic role in bridging these generational and technological gaps. In this session, we'll explore how to wield these unique experiences, challenges, and innovations that can sometimes feel unruly. We'll hear from a diverse panel of entrepreneurs and professionals on how intergenerational collaboration will be essential in empowering tomorrow's leadership, with tech at the forefront.

Moderators: **Nicole Salle**, Executive Director, The Women's Business Center of Central Virginia

Amanda Alston, MSW, Program Manager, Research, Policy & Impact Center

Panelists: **James Fakunle**, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship, High Point University

Dre Richmond, Owner, dba marketing pros

Shirley Rijkse, Business & Human Resources Management Lead Instructor, Central Carolina Community College

Dan Stafford, National Institute of Minority Economic Development (Retired)

Angelica Thacker, Owner, PINAM Construction

■ SBA & Divine Nine MOU

In 2022, the SBA and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) began a formal MOU relationship designed to build and strengthen businesses owned by members of the Divine Nine. This session will explore the four pillars of the MOU (access to capital, government contracting, disaster recovery and resilience, and counseling/technical assistance for business development) and how the Institute can be a part of supporting this exciting initiative.

Moderator: **Corinne Goble**, CEO, Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC)

Panelists: **Christina Hale**, Assistant Administrator, Office of Women's Business Ownership, U.S. Small Business Administration

Sean McCaskill, Executive Director, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Chris Rey, J.D., President, Barber-Scotia College and International President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

■ SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

NCDOT spends over \$5 billion per year. In this panel discussion, subject matter experts from NCDOT will discuss opportunities in several areas including the Equity Plan for the Rail S Line, drone training

and how they use them to assess and monitor situations from above, and the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Phase II program.

Moderator: Tonya Marriott, Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights, NC Dept. of Transportation

Panelists: Becca Gallas, PE, Director of Aviation, NC Dept. of Transportation

Heather Hildebrandt, Statewide Initiatives Supervisor, NC Dept. of Transportation

Tunya Smith, Director, Office of Civil Rights, NC Dept. of Transportation

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

Music BINGO by DJ Shelay T.O. Casual networking and team spirit.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION OPEN

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

BREAKFAST BUFFET

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

GREETINGS / WELCOME

Councilmember Barb Ficklin, Village of Pinehurst

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

BIG TECH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 2.0

Presenter: Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, US House of Representatives

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

BREAK

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

■ BUILDING A CULTURE OF SECURITY: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR YOUR TECHSHIFT JOURNEY

In today's rapidly evolving tech landscape, security is no longer an afterthought - it's a core tenet of successful TechShift journeys. This session dives deep into fostering a culture of security within your organization/business, equipping you with practical steps to implement throughout your technology process.

Moderator: Linda Hughes, Technology & Innovation Manager, National Institute of Minority Economic Development

Panelists: Bina Hallman, Vice President, Technology Lifecycle Services, IBM

Jim Rappl, Senior Business Advisor, WorkSmart

Jesse Rhee, CEO & Co-Founder, Rapid Strategy

■ DEVELOPING A PIPELINE OF NEW PROFESSIONALS IN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Most community economic development activities, whether affordable housing development or small business assistance, are carried out at the local community level. Nonprofits and local governments are finding it increasingly difficult to find staff with knowledge and skills. How can we strengthen the pipeline of staff and leaders and plan for a generational change?

Presenters: Barbara Blackston, Executive Director, Wilson Community Improvement Association

Phillip Jones, Executive Director, Tar River Community Development Corporation

Christopher J. Paul, PhD, Associate Professor and MPA Program Director,

Department of Public Administration, North Carolina Central University

■ BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS: COLLABORATIVE MODELS FOR SUCCESS

In the session, we'll delve into the transformative power of partnerships for minority business owners. By exploring innovative collaborative models, we'll unlock new avenues for growth and sustainability. Together, we'll navigate strategies to forge meaningful connections, leverage resources, and foster inclusive ecosystems that propel our businesses forward in North Carolina and beyond.

Presenter: Thomas Hubbard, Owner, Amani Enterprises

■ CAPITALIZING YOUR BUSINESS WITH PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

A panel discussion on the vast landscape of Private Equity--what is it, what are the different types of investment funds, how does it work, who are the investors, and most importantly—why does it matter to small businesses.

Moderator: Samuel J. Boyd, Jr., Program Manager, Access to Capital Initiative, OSDBU – US DOT

Panelists: **Whit Edwards**, Managing Partner, Five Points Capital
Michael Painter, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Plexus Capital
Spalding White, Founding Partner, Route 2 Capital

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

■ TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE GREEN ENERGY INITIATIVES

Join us for an insightful discussion on the pivotal role of technology in advancing green energy initiatives, backed by funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). This panel will discuss innovative opportunities supported by the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF), the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA), and the Solar for All program. Learn how these initiatives are driving sustainable energy solutions, reducing carbon emissions, and fostering economic growth in communities nationwide. Discover the latest advancements and challenges in the quest for a greener future.

Moderator: **Roberta McCullough**, Sr. Vice President, Institute Capital

Panelists: **Carl Brown**, Interim Director of Climate Community Engagement, Self-Help
Donna Gambrell, President & CEO, Appalachian Community Capital

■ MAYOR'S FORUM – TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS AND ACCESS

While digital access, artificial intelligence, and technology advancements can help local communities, more often than not technology offers a host of challenges. Often, local governments are most vulnerable to riding the wave of technological advancements. This panel of local mayors representing small, medium, and large communities will discuss how technology and AI impact their economy, business recruiting, workforce development, future growth plans, and the challenges and obstacles they face to provide equal access to their constituents.

Moderator: **Lori Ann Harris**, President, LA Harris & Associates, Inc.

Panelists: **Councilmember Barb Ficklin**, Village of Pinehurst (*Representing Mayor Patrick Pizzella*)
Mayor Pro Tem Danté Anderson, City of Charlotte
Mayor Sandy Roberson, City of Rocky Mount
Mayor Leonardo Williams, City of Durham

■ ALIGNING YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR SUPPLIER INCLUSION SUCCESS

For a supplier inclusion/diversity program to be successful, an organization must commit to the investment of time, resources and finances to implement it. This requires strong executive support, integration into sourcing practices, DE&I efforts and alignment on a sustainable long-term growth plan with clear goals and metrics. If your organization is committed to building a supplier inclusion/diversity program that will drive sustainable, long-term value, then this session is for you!

Moderator: **John Ham**, Vice President, Center for Strategic Partnerships

Panelists: **Denisha G. Harris**, Asst. Finance Director & Business Inclusion Officer, Town of Cary
Carmen Holmes, Director, Supplier Diversity & Sustainability, Duke Energy
Dionne McLean, Cert. Supplier Diversity Professional & Sr. Manager, RTI International

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keynote: **Sean M. Suggs**, President, Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina (TBMNC)
Governor Roy Cooper (*Invited*)

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM

BREAK

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

■ ACCESS TO CAPITAL: SMALL BUSINESS BANKING FORUM

An opportunity to meet with access to capital partners and find out what resources and investments can be made to strengthen wealth-building capabilities among small businesses.

Moderator: **Thurman "Tony" Smith**, SVP – Community Development, PNC Bank

Panelists: **Samuel J. Boyd, Jr.**, Program Manager, Access to Capital Initiative, OSDBU – US DOT
Maren Colon, Community Development Relationship Manager (NC NY PA VA), Woodforest National Bank

Roberta McCullough, Sr. Vice President, Institute Capital
Evan Sitton, Senior Vice President, CRA & Community Development, Banc of California

■ **NORTH CAROLINA IS FIRST IN FIBER**

The panelists will discuss the economic impact of broadband expansion on the state

Moderator: **Sarah Hall**, Director, Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI), NC State University

Panelists: **Trey Rabon**, President, AT&T North Carolina

Annette Taylor, Director, Office of Digital Equity & Literacy, NCDIT

James Weaver, Secretary & State Chief Information Officer, NCDIT

■ **TANZANIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT RESOURCE SESSION**

Representatives from U.S. Government Agencies discuss information and resources available to assist small businesses in competing globally. The focus will be on providing grant opportunities and other resources for small business owners interested in participating in the Tanzania Economic Development Summit in March 2025.

Greetings: **Dr. Elsie S. Kanza**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania

Moderator: **Emily Gereffi**, Int'l Trade Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Commerce/U.S. Commercial Service

Panelists: **Elizabeth Dougherty**, Eastern Regional Outreach Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Blake Jackman, Int'l Trade Manager, Economic Development Partnership of NC

Cathy Ma, Asst Director, Int'l Marketing, NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Alex Viva, **CGBP**, **EDFP**, Director, Int'l Business Development, SBTDC

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

RECEPTION | NETWORKING | SILENT AUCTION

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

AWARDS GALA DINNER – “Sneaker Ball”

Mistress of Ceremony: **Deborah Holt Noel**, Producer and Host, UNC-TV

8:30 PM – 11:00 PM

ENC GALA NETWORKING SOCIAL – Music by DJ Shejay T.O. & Dancing

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

GOLF TOURNAMENT – COURSE NO. 8

Registration at 7:00 AM; Modified Shotgun starts at 8:00 AM

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

FIT LEADERS: FINDING INSPIRATION TOGETHER

ENC attendees are invited to take part in a casual walking activity. A facilitator will guide participants in a series of short conversations through the beautiful, shaded grounds of the Carolina Inn. At the end of our “walk-and-talk” we will come back together to debrief. You will have time for networking and exchanging information. Some may even choose to extend your conversations over lunch in the Village!

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

SHOPPING EXCURSION (Shuttle service available to the village)

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

GOLF AWARDS LUNCHEON

5:30 PM – 10:30 PM

ENC FINALE NETWORKING RECEPTION – Music by DJ Shejay T.O. & Dancing



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



ANDREA HARRIS LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD

ROBERT J. BROWN

Inspired by the founders of the Institute, Andrea Harris and Lew Myers, the Andrea Harris Lifetime Legacy Award recognizes an individual who exhibits exceptional leadership and has achieved significant success in supporting diversity in the public and private sectors.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD
ANNETTE TAYLOR

The President's Award is presented to an individual for their outstanding minority business enterprise advocacy—and engages intrinsically in the creative, technical, or professional progress of minority business development.



MINORITY BUSINESS LEGACY AWARD

LUMBEE GUARANTY BANK

The Minority Business Legacy Award is presented to a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) exhibiting the talent and capacity necessary to grow a successful business venture, create jobs, and mentor other MBEs toward sustainability.



DIVERSE BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD
DONNA GAMBRELL

The Diverse Business Champion Award recognizes an individual or organization that actively advocates and promotes strong leadership within minority business communities.



DIVERSITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS

The Diversity Excellence Award is presented to a corporation that vigorously promotes and provides ethnic minority businesses assistance to eliminate barriers to opportunities, overcome obstacles to access capital markets, and lead by example—promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and the entrepreneurial spirit.



ABDUL SM RASHEED ECONOMIC JUSTICE AWARD

BISHOP
WILLIAM J. BARBER, II

The Abdul SM Rasheed Economic Justice Award is presented to an individual or organization that recognizes courage and demonstrates commitment to empowering, advocating, and investing in economic justice for African Americans and other ethnic Americans, disadvantaged businesses, and underserved communities.

PRESENTERS



MAYOR PRO TEM DANTÉ ANDERSON has worked and lived in various metropolitan areas. She has spent professional and personal time in several cities on Charlotte's Peer City list and has been a global citizen of the international business community. Her key priorities include community safety, affordable housing, and the right to a livable wage.

Anderson's education includes Massachusetts Institute of Technology, bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and bachelor's degree in cinema studies; New York University, master's degree in fine arts; Harvard University, master's degree in business administration.



ZURILMA ANUEL is originally from Caracas Venezuela; she is fluent in Spanish and English and she serves as Executive Director of the Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF) Western Women's Business Center (WWBC). In her position, she oversees the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the center, which seeks to promote entrepreneurship in the western region of North Carolina. She was previously Director of CSBDF's Latino Program. In that role, she directed the Latino program, provided one-on-one coaching, training, workshops, classes, loans, research, and maintained partner's relationships with non-profits, banks, government agencies, and other community partners.



TOM BARKIN is the president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. He has held this position since 2018.

Tom serves on the Fed's chief monetary policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee, and is also responsible for bank supervision and the Federal Reserve's technology organization. He is "on the ground" continually in the Fed's Fifth District, which covers South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, D.C., West Virginia and Maryland. His engagement in the region has brought real attention to areas facing economic challenges.

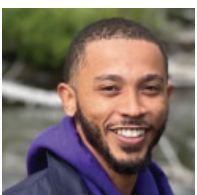


LU-ANN BARRY, a native New Yorker with proud Caribbean roots stemming from the beautiful island of Grenada, celebrates over a decade as an entrepreneur coaching, consulting, and teaching the importance of project management and strategic thinking as paramount elements in the formula for a success. As a highly sought-after business strategist to leaders and entrepreneurs at all levels, she empowers clients to strategize to monetize and execute pivotal moves in their business development.

Ms. Barry also celebrates an illustrious corporate career that spans over two decades. She has been a leader in various roles supporting companies such as McCann Erickson - Sony Pictures Group, Getty Images, UTC Aerospace and in her current role as Executive Director of the Women's Business Center of The Triad.



BARBARA BLACKSTON has served as executive director of Wilson Community Improvement Association, Inc. (WCIA) for the past 24 years; an organization that works to build and support stable, safe and economically viable neighborhoods across North Carolina. Barbara is described by one colleague as an "outstanding motivator and mentor" whose "employees are always inspired and prepared to meet new challenges because of her management and leadership style." Some of Barbara's work responsibilities include but are not limited to: managing the organization's finances, personnel administration and programs, as well as overseeing short- and long-term strategic planning. Barbara has worked in the North Carolina nonprofit sector for 56 years.



REUBEN COOPER BLACKWELL V is a transformational leader whose roots in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, have profoundly shaped his dedication to community service and racial equity. Known as "Cooper," he has played a pivotal role in transforming the Rocky Mount community through various initiatives. A champion for racial justice, Cooper co-founded the Rocky Mount Black Action Committee which organized marches that amassed 500 people, brought to life the "End Racism" mural downtown, and removed the confederate monument at Battle Park.

Presenters

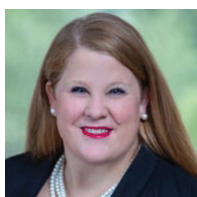


SAMUEL J. BOYD, JR. joined U.S. DOT's OSDBU team on September 20, 2022 as a detailee from the U.S. Small Business Administration's SBIC program to serve as the Director of the Access to Capital Initiative and joined the OSDBU team as a permanent member on February 27, 2023. In this capacity, Mr. Boyd is responsible for leading the effort to fulfill the White House's July 26, 2022 pronouncement to expand access to capital for small disadvantaged businesses working on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contracts through collaborative efforts with other capital providing U.S. government agencies i.e. SBA (SBIC), Treasury (CDFI, ECIP), Commerce (MBDA) and private sector financial institutions.



CARL S. BROWN is a cross-functional leader with over 25 years of experience in communications, strategic marketing, community engagement, and partnership and alliance management. He has been publicly recognized for his ability to align stakeholders and develop support programs for underserved communities and partners.

Brown joined Self-Help's Executive Staff in April 2021, where he reports to the CEO. He coordinates and leads initiatives focused on expanding and deepening Self-Help's community relationships nationally, partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and through technical assistance, preserving the legacy of African American financial institutions and organizations.



MAREN COLON is a Community Development Relationship Manager for Woodforest National Bank with a territory of New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. In her role, Maren is responsible for identifying community development needs for the low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and building relationships with community partners and resource providers to meet those needs through lending, investments, and service opportunities. Prior to joining Woodforest, Maren had a brief role as the CRA Business Operations Manager for KeyBank where she oversaw the CRA reporting and procedures schedule and lead discussions with lines of business on CRA performance.



TF CONGLETON is VP-Credit Officer for Institute Capital, Inc. a CDFI located in Durham NC that covers 5 states and Washington DC. He has more than 30 years as a commercial banking executive. The main areas of expertise are Agribusiness, Commercial Real Estate and Small Business lending and funding.

TF received his education from Hampton University with degrees in Management and Marketing. He has received several certificates in commercial lending, real estate lending and financial analysis. TF resides in Greenville NC and is a native of Martin County NC.



ELIZABETH DOUGHERTY, as the Eastern Regional Outreach Director for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders. Ms. Dougherty has more than 25 years of experience working at the USPTO. She began her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner after graduating from The Catholic University of America with a bachelor's degree in physics.



WHIT EDWARDS is a Managing Partner at Five Points Capital, which manages two private equity focused investment strategies: Reynolda Equity Partners ("Reynolda") and Five Points Capital ("Five Points"). Reynolda is a partnership-oriented private equity firm dedicated to providing patient, first institutional capital to support and supplement the vision of the owners and management teams. Five Points is an established private credit investor with over 25 years of experience providing successful flexible debt and equity solutions for the US lower middle market. For Reynolda and Five Points, Whit leads and manages investment and portfolio company efforts. In addition, Whit leads and manages the firm's investor relations, fund-raising activities and compliance requirements.



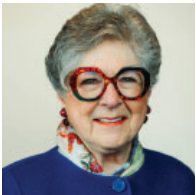
BOB ETHERIDGE was appointed by the Biden Administration to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in North Carolina in October 2021.

Etheridge is a dedicated public servant with a long history of service to his country, beginning with two years in the U.S. Army. First elected in 1996, he served 14 years in Congress, representing North Carolina's 2nd District. For 12 years, Etheridge served on the House Agriculture Committee and for two years as Chairman of the General Farm Commodity and Risk Management Subcommittee.



JAMES FAKUNLE is a business professional, consultant, educator and entrepreneur. Before becoming a full time educator in 2015, Mr. Fakunle spent the last 15 years working in marketing and management for AT&T, Disney, Sherwin Williams and Verizon Wireless.

He is currently Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina where he teaches Family Business, Strategic Entrepreneurship Management, and Venture Funding. He also provides business consulting services to dozens of clients in private industry. Professor Fakunle's consulting specialty consists primarily of assisting startup companies and business groups with their marketing research and private equity fund-raising.



COUNCILMEMBER BARB FICKLIN and her husband, Bill, moved to Pinehurst in 2004, having retired from corporate careers which took them from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta and just about every other major city in between. Barb's career path includes thirteen years experience in the telecommunications industry with C&P Telephone and AT&T, three years in the Office of Career Services at Meredith College in Raleigh, and fourteen years as Account Manager/Facilitator affiliated with Business Performance Solutions, an agency of Wilson Learning Corporation, a global learning solutions industry leader for the development of human resource skills. Her work involved working closely with corporate clients focusing on employee skill development in the areas of leadership & management, interpersonal skills, team building, and professional sales skills.

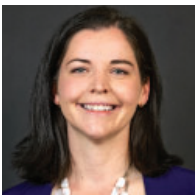


CONGRESSWOMAN VALERIE FOUSHEE represents North Carolina's Fourth District which includes Alamance, Durham, Granville, Orange, and Person Counties and parts of Caswell County. Before she began serving in Congress, Valerie worked as an administrator for the Chapel Hill police department and served 25 years as a local and state elected official. She went from serving on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board, to being the first African American woman elected to chair the Orange County Board of Commissioners, to serving in the North Carolina State House and the North Carolina State Senate.

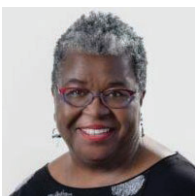


MARVIN FRINK joined the military after graduating high school to provide for his family and to help serve his country. Dedicating 15 years of service, including deployment to fight for his country, Marvin found himself dealing with anxiety. His father noticed he was suffering with PTSD and introduced him to farming. Using farming and working with the cattle on a daily basis helps with the transition from military life to civilian life. After the passing of his father, Marvin continued the dream his father had for him of becoming a cattleman.

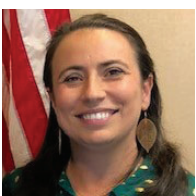
Briarwood Cattle Farm is a first-generation cattle farm owned and operated by veteran Marvin Frink and his wife Tanisha Frink.



BECCA GALLAS, P.E. serves as director of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation, leading initiatives that promote a safe and robust air transportation system and vibrant economy. Under her direction, the Division annually manages more than 350 state and federally funded airport development projects valued at more than \$680 million for infrastructure improvement projects at North Carolina's 72 public airports, operates a nationally acclaimed advanced air mobility/unmanned aircraft systems program and provides planning and engineering assistance for airports, professional development for airport personnel, and air transportation services for state agencies

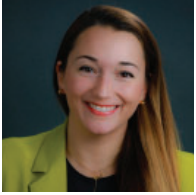


DONNA GAMBRELL, as President & CEO of Appalachian Community Capital, is responsible for attracting and directing investments to Community Development Financial Institutions (or CDFIs) and other mission-driven lenders in Appalachia. These lenders, in turn, use the investments to make loans to small business owners, including to minority- and women-owned businesses, in underserved communities throughout the region. Since it began lending in 2015, ACC has deployed over \$32 million to help finance renewable energy projects, manufacturing sites, elder care facilities, restaurants, ecotourism, and downtown redevelopment, among other projects.



EMILY GEREFFI is a Senior International Trade Specialist at the Greensboro U.S. Export Assistance Center. She is currently responsible for assisting U.S. companies located in central North Carolina to increase their exports. Mrs. Gereffi has served as a Senior Advisor to our nation's foreign policy leaders in the U.S. Government for over a decade and a half. From domestic offices in Washington D.C. and North Carolina to U.S. Embassies in countries including Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Tanzania, she has focused on protecting U.S. business interests.

Presenters



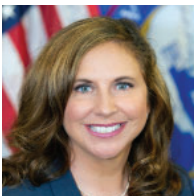
CORINNE GOBLE joined the Association of Women's Business Centers as CEO in January 2019 and is charged with bringing about enhanced sustainability and increased capacity to the association and its members. When AWBC and the national network of Women's Business Centers were confronted with effects of a global pandemic in early 2020, Goble and the advocacy team sprung into action. While Women's Business Centers responded tirelessly to small business concerns in their communities, Goble and the team championed their efforts to secure resources. Goble serves in a variety of collaborative efforts that directly support small businesses in their efforts to get started and grow, whether in procurement, digital skills, access to capital or international trade.



ROCIO GONZALEZ-ZORNOSA is a bilingual, bi-cultural US born first generation Latina, whose mission is to be the bridge of communication among cultures, with the intention of enhancing understanding, acceptance, and engagement of the underserved business community with the community at large. In her 20+ year career path, she has positioned herself as a servant leader providing education, empowerment, and equitable access to resources to level the playing field. She is currently the Executive Director of the Women's Business Center of Charlotte, a program of the National Institute of Minority Economic Development. She is excited to lead the Women's Business Center of Charlotte which covers 12 counties in the Charlotte Metro area as this allows her to continue to make a positive impact on minority and women owned businesses.

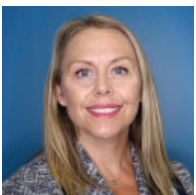


NICOLE GYE'NYAME, a native of Florida, graduated from Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida with a Bachelors degree in Speech Communication and has a Masters Degree from Bowling Green State University. Prior to joining the Institute team Nicole held a position in the North Carolina Department of Transportation Purchasing Unit, as a Program Analyst II and was responsible for program development, data analytics, building strategic partnerships, education and training. Nicole brings over 28 years of experience and a proven track record of success working with marginalized, underserved and disadvantaged populations in the transportation, minority supplier diversity, higher education, health and housing areas, which is invaluable.



CHRISTINA HALE is the bestselling author of the young adult book, *Why Not You? A Leadership Guide for the Change-Makers of Tomorrow*. In 2021 President Biden appointed her to work in his administration and she currently serves in senior executive leadership at the US Small Business Administration heading the Office of Women's Business Ownership.

Be Latina News called Christina Hale "a doer with the right intentions and the right goals to benefit all, not just the few at the top." That's because Christina understands the challenges that families face every day, as she learned first-hand working her way through college as a single mom with a young son, an experience that inspired her career in service to others.



SARAH HALL is a 23-year North Carolina public servant and Director of the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University, a nonpartisan organization that brings people together across sectors, regions, and perspectives to collaborate on finding solutions to the state's most critical policy issues. She provides insight and support for multi-sector, programs and engages key stakeholders on issues important to North Carolina's vibrancy and economic competitiveness. Prior to IEI, Sarah worked at the NC Division of Public Health, NC Department of Public Instruction and UNC Chapel Hill addressing adolescent health issues. Sarah received her Master of Public Health from the University at Albany.



BINA HALLMAN has more than 30 years of experience with broad range of responsibilities in a highly complex Technology industry. She is a Vice President at IBM and has a track record of leading transformations while spearheading operational improvements to drive productivity, reduce cost and improve product quality. Bina has been on IBM's Leadership Team of Top 300 IBM Executives for the past four years. She is experienced in building relationships with Fortune 500 C-level executives, internal teams, customers, partners, and suppliers. Bina nurtures trust in her organizations by personally coaching both individuals and teams to build a sustainable, high-performance culture and organization.



JOHN F. HAM is the Vice President of the Center for Strategic Partnerships with the National Institute of Minority Economic Development (the Institute). In this role, John is responsible for developing public and private collaborations that will benefit marginalized communities (including minority & women-owned businesses - MWBEs) and creating supplier inclusion & diversity programs that will benefit public agencies, private corporations, institutions and MWBEs. John also oversees the delivery of graduate level business education designed to help strengthen and grow MWBEs.



DENISHA G. HARRIS has over 15 years in local government finance and diversity program development. Currently, she serves as the Town of Cary Assistant Finance Director and Business Inclusion Officer, developing Cary's first business inclusion program. Prior to Cary, She served in various finance roles with the City of Greenville, also building its first full-service MWBE program, which surpassed its utilization goals within the first two years. Prior to leaving, the Program boasted capacity building assets such as a shared kitchen space, co-op retail space, a revolving loan fund, and financial back-office support all in cooperation with local minority business owners.



LORI ANN HARRIS is a native and current resident of Greensboro, NC with extensive experience in North Carolina public policy and politics. Currently in her twenty-eighth year as a government relations consultant and lobbyist, Ms. Harris has successfully represented numerous business and nonprofit clients. Prior to starting her own firm, she was a partner in the Sanford Holshouser Government Relations Group in Raleigh.

Ms. Harris entered the political arena as a Policy Analyst for the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, where she wrote publications related to the General Assembly and State Government. This is where her interest in politics peaked.



LEA D. HENRY is the president of Two Rivers Development Partners LLC, an economic development and real estate development firm that provides consulting and project management at the convergence of ideas and opportunities.

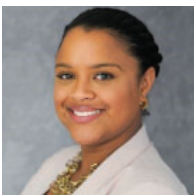
Lea's areas of expertise include affordable housing development, rural development, disaster recovery, and workforce development. She has worked with some of North Carolina's most successful and sector leading nonprofits, as well as local, regional, and state government entities.



HEATHER HILDEBRANDT has worked at the intersection of transportation and air quality since graduating with an MS in Civil Engineering/ Environmental Programs from NC State University. At the Division of Air Quality, she gained expertise with alternative fuels and emission controls. Heather currently works with NC DOT in the Transportation Planning Division where she supervises the Statewide Initiatives Group that oversees Transportation Conformity, the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program as well as statewide multi-modal planning through the Strategic Transportation Corridors, Statewide Long-range Transportation Plan, and the Statewide Freight Plan. She helped develop the NC ZEV Plan and co-leads the planning efforts in the development of the NC Clean Transportation and National Electric Vehicle (NEVI) Plans.



DR. MARC HOIT is the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and CIO at NC State University. Hoit held numerous administrative positions at the University of Florida including Interim CIO, Director of Student PeopleSoft Implementation, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Administration and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering. He is a Professor of Structural Engineering in the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department at NC State. Hoit received his B.S. from Purdue University, M.S. and Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley. He was the PI for DIGGS, an international standard XML schema for transferring transportation information and data, funded by the Federal Highway Association. His structural engineering research developed the computer program, FB-MultiPier, which performs non-linear analysis of bridge piers, superstructure and pile foundations subjected to dynamic loading.



CARMEN HOLMES serves as Director of Supplier Diversity and Supply Chain Sustainability, a team within the Supply Chain organization at Duke Energy. In this role, her team is responsible for supplier diversity, supplier relationship management, and sustainability efforts across the Supply Chain organization. The team works to ensure that ethical, environmental, and social performance factors play a critical role in purchasing strategies and decisions. Her team also manages the holistic engagement strategies for Duke Energy's supplier relationships. Carmen joined Duke Energy in 2015. She has more than thirteen years of Supply Chain experience across the electric utility and financial services industries, particularly in vendor management and strategic sourcing.



DR. ISAAC B. HORTON, III has 40 years of experience in technology, patents, international business and finance. He is currently Founder, Chairman and CEO of The Green Blue Marketplace, LLC. He has been CEO of Scientific Production Ventures, LLC, a consulting and finance group, for 24 years. After completing chemistry degrees at UNC Chapel Hill and Indiana University in Bloomington IN, he began his career at the DuPont Company as a drug designer. He then held positions in manufacturing, sales and marketing, strategic planning and business development at the Rohm and Haas Company. His first company designed, manufactured and installed more than \$20 million in Light Pumps.





North Carolina is growing.

*We're here for it with reliable,
affordable energy.*

We're supporting North Carolina's rapid growth with a balanced mix of energy sources. This helps keep electricity cleaner, reliable and affordable so North Carolina can thrive in a smarter energy future.

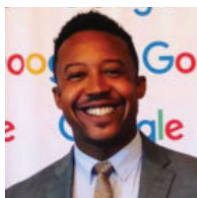
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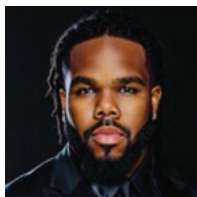
BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE®



Presenters



ISAAC B. HORTON, IV is a Founder and visionary of The Green Blue Marketplace. As a young degreed economist out of the Bryan School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Isaac has strived in the social justice and small business arenas for 12 years. His first company Oak City Fish and Chips has produced 4 Million dollars in sales, growing from one food truck to a statewide sensation with multiple food trucks and restaurants, with intentions to franchise nationally. Currently, he serves as a member of the board of directors for the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, the governing entity for all activity in Raleigh's downtown center.



THOMAS HUBBARD a seasoned business leader and the owner of Amani Enterprises, a multifaceted company dedicated to empowering businesses to grow, enhance their structure, and improve operational culture. Through interactive staff workshops, monthly professional coaching, and consultations, Amani Enterprises provides tailored solutions for organizational development. Thomas also spearheads Amani Virtual Staffing, a work-from-home call center, and Amani Productions, specializing in event planning and management. With a proven track record of success, Thomas Hubbard continues to drive innovation and growth in the realms of business development and organizational leadership and enjoys sharing knowledge and helping other business owners thrive.



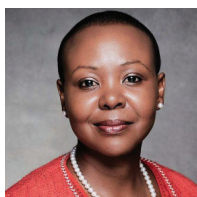
LINDA HUGHES, Technology & Innovation Manager for the National Institute of Minority Economic Development is an accomplished award-winning Air Force veteran, college professor, and information technology specialist. She started as a volunteer at the Women's Business Center of Charlotte program, transitioning from part-time in July 2018 to full-time as the Program Director in October 2021. In this position she provides overall programmatic support in the execution and delivery of programs, marketing, and technical operations for the Women's Business Center of Charlotte. Linda has a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems and Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Information Systems. She is a native of Alabama but moved to the Charlotte area in 2017 from Virginia. She enjoys spending time with her 17-year-old son.



BLAKE JACKMAN is an International Trade Manager with Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina and he provides export counseling to his client base in the Aerospace, Automotive, Boating and Marine, Energy, and Outdoor industries. With 14 years of international business experience and he has participated in over 100 different Trade Missions, Trade Shows and conferences including speaking engagements, both nationally and internationally. Blake is the past President of the North Carolina World Trade Association – Research Triangle Chapter and is on the board of the British-American Business Council Triangle Chapter. Blake came to EDPNC from Bass Industries Inc., where he was Vice President and in charge of operations, sales, and procurement.



PHILLIP JONES is no stranger to the issues that rural cities face, having been raised in Eastern North Carolina, specifically Rocky Mount, NC. Having graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science from UNC Charlotte in 2017, Phillip went on to become a Project Manager for a Food and Beverage SaaS company where he was able to travel to many states and countries delivering and managing the installation of technology solutions. Through this experience, Phillip gained a new level of insight on how economies thrive and saw how far behind his hometown was compared to other small and rural cities across the country. Making it his mission to be a light of change, Phillip moved back to his hometown in 2022 and founded Tar River Community Development Corporation, a non-profit focused on Developing Affordable Housing, Workforce and Entrepreneur Development, and Education.



DR. ELSIE S. KANZA is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United States of America and Mexico. Prior to taking on this role, she served as a member of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Executive Committee and Special Adviser to its President. From 2011 to 2020, as Head of the WEF's regional agenda on Africa she led numerous public-private collaboration initiatives to solve complex systemic challenges related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063. From 2006 to 2011, Ambassador Kanza served as economic advisor to the President of Tanzania. Between 1997 and 2006, she worked in various capacities in Tanzania's finance ministry and its central bank.



DANICE LANGDON became a member of The Women's Business Center of CEED in February 2022. She recently took advantage of an early retirement offer from BB&T and left Banking after 17 years. She worked with her clients and small business owners to help them achieve their financial goals and dreams. She is passionate about being involved in the community. She serves on the board at the Armed Forces YMCA, Fort Bragg and is a founding member of the local Non-Profit Community Heartbeats. She tries to live each day using the motto, "To Those Much Is Given, Much Is Expected."



CATHY MA joined the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) in 2006. She is the Assistant Director of International Marketing at NCDA&CS, focusing her efforts on the International Marketing Office's operation and exports of NC muscadine grapes and products. Previously, Cathy was an International Marketing Specialist at NCDA&CS for a variety of commodities and products. Before that, Cathy was the Marketing Specialist at Beswick Engineering Co., Inc., headquartered in New Hampshire. Earlier, Cathy was a Sales & Market Promotion Manager at R.R. Donnelly & Sons, an American Fortune 500 integrated communications company.



HONORABLE ELAINE F. MARSHALL, Secretary of State, became the first woman elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina in 1996 and has served as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State. A former teacher, small business owner, and private practice attorney, Secretary Marshall was elected to the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. Under Secretary Marshall's administration, more than 1.8 million businesses have been formed, she has pioneered e-commerce in government, protected investors and intellectual property owners, and promoted financial capital formation in North Carolina.



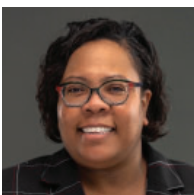
CAROLYN MAYO is the Managing Partner and Co-Founder of United Providers of Health, LLC. She was most recently the Co-Consultant (June 2018-June-2019) for the Minority Coalition of Behavioral Health Providers of Color(MCBHP) for its Community Reinvestment Initiative's that received funding from Cardinal Innovations for Integrated Care. Carolyn joined Crandell's Enterprises Inc. in 2007 with comprehensive experience in corporate management, network technology and process development. As CIO, Carolyn is responsible for cost-effective operations and strategic long-term success by implementing new technology, systems, protocols and quality measurements. Carolyn was certified as a trainer by the American Psychiatric Association in 2017 for integrated Care, Collaborative Care Model.



SEAN L. McCASKILL is one of America's latest emerging voices in the early years of the 21st century focused on saving our youth. He is a motivational speaker, educational consultant, leadership coach and entrepreneur. A product of the mean streets of the Pittsburgh Hill District, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was molded by his experiences and learned that suffering does not destroy an individual. Ironically, his suffering revived him whereas he was able to overcome several obstacles and survive through it. Sean believes that "Everyone is born with greatness; however, most people fail to discover it because of FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real)." Over time, he watched many of his friends fall victim to a lifestyle associated with FEAR. In his world, FEAR lead to the path of destruction; destruction lead to anger; anger lead to hate; and hate lead to suffering. In spite of experiencing all of the above, coupled with failed attempts in a variety of things early in life, he persevered to become successful.



ROBERTA McCULLOUGH currently serves as Senior Vice President of Operations for Institute Capital, a community development financial institution (CDFI) and an affiliate of the National Institute of Minority Economic Development (the Institute). She leads her team in providing investment capital for small businesses, affordable housing developers, and community-based organizations. McCullough has continually served the economic development industry in management and executive capacities for over 30 years. Her focus has been to alleviate systemic economic injustices by providing access to loan and grant capital for women- and minority-owned small businesses. McCullough currently serves as Board Chair for the Association of Women's Business Centers, Board Treasurer for Partner Community Capital, Councilmember & Chair of the Access to Capital & Opportunity for the National Women's Business Council.



DIONNE McLEAN is a certified supplier diversity professional and Senior Manager at RTI International, where she leads executive level initiatives designed to create equitable business and financial opportunities for Minority-owned businesses through subcontracting, procurement, and strategic business development. She also has experience supporting and managing data collection efforts for large scale education and social science research projects. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Concentration in Marketing and Management with a Minor in Communications. Her success lies in her ability to coach leaders at all levels through change, assessing their business unit opportunities at current state and co-creating the design of diversity partnering in thought, experience, and methodology.



AREGNAZ MOORADIAN (*ah-deg-nahz moore-aid-ee-yun, or, Ari*) has been serving as Deputy District Director with the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Carolina District Office in Charlotte since September 2021. In this capacity, Aregnaz is a partner to the District Director, and works for small businesses through expansion of SBA's programs and services. Prior to this role, she was Lead Business Opportunity Specialist with SBA, working to support a portfolio of 8(a) certified firms in navigating the federal small business procurement space.

Presenters



MICHAEL PAINTER is a co-founder and the Managing Partner at Plexus Capital. Michael leads the strategic direction of Plexus and heads the investment committee. He is also active in sourcing new investment opportunities and overseeing active portfolio companies. Michael began his career in 1995 and has spent his entire career in the banking and investment industries. He spent 6 years with RBC Bank (fka "Centura Bank") and worked for the bank's investment fund, Centura Capital, as well as serving on the acquisition team while he reported to Kel Landis. Michael also worked in the investment banking group at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette in New York where he worked in the financial institutions and leveraged finance groups. Before co-founding Plexus, Michael also spent time with Triangle Capital Partners in North Carolina and Endurance Capital Partners in New York.

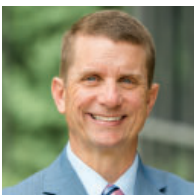


DR. CHRISTOPHER J. PAUL is a tenured Associate Professor of Public Administration and Chair of the Department of Public Administration (as of July 1, 2024) at North Carolina Central University. In 2019, Dr. Paul received the University Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Paul has published over 25 articles focusing on civic engagement, social capital, and environmental health.

The NCCU Master of Public Administration Program is accredited by NASPAA, the Global Standard in Public Service Education. It is the second largest MPA in North Carolina and the largest accredited program at an HBCU, training leaders in "Truth and Service."



KEVIN J. PRICE is the third president and chief executive officer of the National Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham, NC. The Institute, a 38-year-old award-winning 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. Under Kevin's leadership, the organization has tripled in size. In June 2020, The Institute successfully merged with the North Carolina Community Development Initiative and rebranded it as Institute Capital (ICAP), one of the oldest minority-led community development financial institutions in the state. In November 2023, The Institute launched Institute Community Development Initiative as a community development corporation (CDC) designed to support mature CDCs across the state of NC.



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. In addition to his responsibilities with AT&T, Rabon is a member of the Board of Directors of the NC Chamber of Commerce, the NC Business Committee for Education and the YMCA of the Triangle.



JIM RAPPL is the Senior Business Advisor for WorkSmart, which provides managed IT services to organizations in RDU, Charlotte, the NC Triad, Atlanta, and the greater Philadelphia area. WorkSmart's offerings combine support, security, and strategic advisement. They focus on simplifying IT with the right mix of people, process, and technology.

Jim's role at WorkSmart is to ensure that our client's business goals, and technology strategy are aligned. That often means helping develop plans that address needs such as cybersecurity, cloud consolidation, hybrid work strategies, backup & recovery planning, and IT budgeting.



CHRIS V. REY J.D. has worked as an executive in corporate America, and the nonprofit sector. As an entrepreneur he has created or helped create several companies. For over a decade he served as an adjunct professor for multiple universities where he taught classes on organizational leadership, constitutional law, criminal law, juvenile justice, criminal courts, and cyber-crimes. In 2023 Rey founded HBCU Internships Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit focused on helping HBCU students find summer internships.

In 2021 he was elected the 36th International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. In 2023 he was re-elected to a second term. On July 17, 2023, President Rey started his duties as the 20th President of Barber-Scotia College, one of the nation's oldest historical black colleges.



JESSE RHEE is the Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Rapid Strategy. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University with nearly 20 years of experience in IT management and solution delivery across healthcare, finance, and defense sectors, Jesse brings a wealth of expertise from his tenure at Fortune 100 companies. In his role at Rapid Strategy, Jesse is instrumental in developing the company's operational model, executing strategic initiatives, and ensuring the team is equipped for long-term success. His leadership has been pivotal in driving growth, optimizing processes, and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.



DRE RICHMOND, the founder of dba marketing pros, is a dynamic leader who transformed his humble beginnings into a thriving global digital marketing agency. Raised by his grandmother in Sanford, NC, Dre's entrepreneurial spirit was kindled during his education where he majored in business administration while juggling part-time jobs. His relentless pursuit of knowledge saw him devouring business and self-development books late into the night. In 2021, at just 26, Dre took a leap of faith, dedicating himself fully to dba marketing pros. His mission is now centered on fostering business growth, making sure that every business can make their mark in every community and spend their time doing the things they love the most.



SHIRLEY RIJKSE, with experience in economic development and strategic partnerships, has built a career focused on driving growth and fostering collaborative relationships. Known for exceptional account management and relationship-building skills, she has successfully managed large-scale projects and operating budgets exceeding \$10 million. Her ability to navigate complex environments and deliver impactful results has been key to their success. Shirley has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives that align business objectives with community needs, creating mutually beneficial outcomes for all stakeholders.



MAYOR SANDY ROBERSON, elected in late 2019, has taken a leadership role on top issues including safer neighborhoods, enhanced economic development, downtown development, stronger educational opportunities, affordable housing, and the community working together as One Rocky Mount.

Mayor Roberson has more than 30 years of professional experience in the healthcare industry and is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. He owned and operated one of the largest hospice and healthcare provider companies in the Carolinas - Community Home Care & Hospice - and was CEO of Carrolton Management Company. Mayor Roberson is president of HealthView Capital Partners, a private equity group that invests in healthcare companies.



NICOLE SALLE is affectionately described by her community as the "Mary Poppins of small business." As the Executive Director of the Women's Business Center of Richmond, Nicole draws on her background in art and entrepreneurship to empower women and minority-owned businesses. With a decade of experience in small business management, digital marketing, and e-commerce, she is dedicated to fostering an inclusive community and providing the essential, accessible tools that entrepreneurs need to thrive.



EVAN SITTON is Senior Vice President, CRA & Community Development for Banc of California ("BOC"), focused on community development investments and initiatives across North Carolina, Colorado, and California. Over his 20-year banking career he has held roles in commercial lending, credit analysis, regulatory compliance, and community development finance. Mr. Sitton serves on multiple Small Business Investment Company ("SBIC") advisory committees and is an active leader in the community, serving on the board of directors for The United Way of the Greater Triangle, Durham Children's Initiative, Institute Capital and Voyager Academy. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UNC Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School and is based out of Durham, NC.



DR. KAREN L. SMITH, native of rural Maryland, is a Family Physician with private solo practice in the rural community of Raeford, North Carolina. Upon completion of Duke University Bachelor of Science degree in biology, Hahnemann University School of Medicine, and Duke FAHEC Residency training she chose to start her professional practice of medicine in North Carolina. She has been part of the Hoke County community for twenty six years successfully implementing electronic health records as part of her delivery of care since 2003 allowing acute, chronic, and preventive services for her diverse patient population from birth to end of life. Recognizing the needs of her patient population reached beyond the exam room, Dr. Smith became involved with the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians as well as the North Carolina Medical Society where she served in all levels of the NCAFP with subsequently becoming president of the organization in 2005 and currently serves as the delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Presenters



THURMAN "TONY" SMITH has more than 30 years in banking and community development. Currently, Tony leads PNC's community lending and investing practice for the Midwestern USA. He has served on several CDFI boards, co-chaired the City of Chicago Inclusionary Housing Task Force, served as Treasurer of the Cook County Land Bank, and was named to the board of the National Institute of Economic Development. He graduated summa cum laude from Chicago State University and holds an MBA from the University of Southern California. Tony has authored a number of works on these topics, and as a Marine, was awarded the Presidential Service Medal for his role as a White House Liaison officer for the Presidential helicopter unit (HMX-1).



TUNYA SMITH is the director of the N.C. Department of Transportation's Office of Civil Rights. In this role, Smith aims to leverage best practices and resources to promote civil rights programming and build a culture of equity and inclusion across the department.

Smith has become a national voice in Transportation Equity! Her experience has led to economic impact, policy and program enhancements impacting NCDOT's multi-billion budget, contracting opportunities, diversity in hiring, policy and program development. Her range of experience spans all operations of transportation, multi-modal, highways, Department of Motor Vehicles, Global TransPark.



DAN STAFFORD retired from the National Institute of Minority Economic Development late 2023. He previously served as Director of Compliance and Resource Enrichment for the National Institute of Minority Economic Development. Before that position, within his 20-year term with the Institute, he was the Senior Client Counselor for the National Institute of Minority Economic Development's (the Institute) SBA Women's Business Center of North Carolina and Project Director for the Institute's MBDA Minority Business Center Raleigh. Within his 41-year tenure, Dan has twelve years' experience in managing minority business center offices and extensive knowledge of MBDA and SBA marketing and administrative operations, and over 39 years' experience in preparing comprehensive business plans, loan packages, market feasibility studies and small business diversity certifications.



SEAN SUGGS is president of Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina (TBMNC). In this role, Suggs directs Toyota's newest plant in North America, overseeing construction and start of production of the \$13.9 billion investment. Under his leadership, the plant will employ 5,100 North Carolinians and have 14 production lines delivering lithium-ion batteries for hybrid electric, plug-in hybrid electric and battery electric vehicles.

Previously, Suggs served as president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Mississippi in Blue Springs, where he was responsible for production of the Corolla. He was subsequently promoted to group vice president and chief social innovation officer for Toyota Motor North America, where he oversaw efforts to uplift communities, improve access to opportunities, build diverse and inclusive workforce, and foster an inclusive culture to drive and grow the business.



ANNETTE TAYLOR joined the N.C. Department of Information Technology's Division of Broadband and Digital Equity in May 2022 as the director of the Office of Digital Equity and Literacy. She is helping expand NCDIT initiatives to ensure all North Carolinians have equitable access to high-speed internet and digital literacy resources. Annette has more than 25 years of community service and civic engagement in both public and private sector roles and in the philanthropic arena directing resources to organizations across North Carolina.



DARRELL K. TENNIE serves as both the founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Tennie Group, LLC, a Tax & Accounting Firm specializing in Business Development. Operating across the U.S. including U.S. Territories. The Tennie Group, LLC strongly emphasizes sustainability while ensuring scalability while assisting the Minority Owned Businesses including Veterans focusing on business development, "Where you run the business...We take care of the company..."™.



ANGELICA THACKER, also known as Angie, is a trailblazer within the construction industry. Born in Mexico and raised in South Texas, in her early teenage years, Angelica traveled with her family to South Carolina as a seasonal migrant worker. She learned at a very young age that she had to break the culture chains of where she came from. After a few years and a lot of trial and error, she found her passion in the construction industry. As a female in a male dominated field, she started off as a labor, cleaning construction job sites and worked her way to the top by learning the industry and all the challenges that came with it. She is now the owner of PINAM Construction an unlimited general contractor in the state of North Carolina.



ERICA VAZQUEZ, a native of Mexico, graduated from Campbell University with a degree in International Business, BBA. Prior to joining the Institute team, Erica held positions in the banking and financial industries, most recently a Financial Inclusion Leader at Truist Bank, where she served as a business development officer for Emerging Markets segment, responsible for growing underserved communities through strategic relationships with businesses, organizations and non-profits providing consumer and business education workshops, tools, resources and coaching. Erica brings over 9 years of experience and a proven track record of success in banking and finances, which is invaluable as she is currently responsible for the development of training programs that address the needs of women and minority entrepreneurs.



ALEX VIVA, CGBP, EDFP leads the International Business team at the North Carolina Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) focused on counseling small & mid-size businesses in growth and resiliency strategies and supporting the state's economic development. He also held positions as the Capital Regional Center Director; Strategy, Growth and Sustainability Director as well as International Business Development Counselor in his 13 years at SBTDC. Prior to the SBTDC, he was actively engaged in global strategy for over 30 years. His corporate experience directing businesses in the most strategic growth positions in the high technology, consumer, and durable goods industries includes worldwide marketing, sales and business development, international operations, and general management.



JAMES "JIM" WEAVER joined the N.C. Department of Information Technology in March 2021, with more than 30 years of leadership and management in the IT industry. As secretary and state chief information officer, he leads the agency responsible for strategic IT planning and the procurement and delivery of IT services and solutions as well as cybersecurity and efforts to expand broadband access and affordability across North Carolina.

Prior to NCDIT, Weaver served as director and state CIO at Washington Technology Solutions. In that role, he strengthened the department and the state enterprise by focusing on efficiency, consistency and continuous improvement; driving business alignment; balancing operations and policy; and seeking quicker adoption of newer technology.



SPALDING WHITE is a Founding Partner of Route 2 Capital Partners, and possesses deep knowledge and experience in lower middle market lending and equity investing. Prior to Route 2 Mr. White served as Managing Partner/Founder of Salem Halifax Capital Partners, an SBIC mezzanine fund. While at Salem Halifax and its predecessor fund, Salem Capital Partners, Mr. White actively participated in over 30 mezzanine investments through sourcing, underwriting, monitoring, and managing all aspects of the investments, as well as on numerous portfolio companies' corporate boards. Mr. White has also worked at SunTrust Equity Partners and SunTrust Bank in both Atlanta and New York, where he held various credit and relationship management positions.



CHRIS WILLIAM has been Executive Producer of the long running and widely viewed PBS television program Carolina Business Review since 1991. Chris William relates to individuals and is a peer of corporate leaders, encouraging smart financial management, best practice dialogue, and corporate consciousness.

William's business acumen, financial insight and solid relationship with many of Carolina's top visionaries make him a sought after public speaker and frequent commentator on radio, television and in print. He's an annual guest on numerous panels and conferences throughout the Carolinas.



MAYOR LEONARDO (LEO) WILLIAMS is a former teacher and school administrator. He was elected to Durham City Council in December 2021 and sworn in as Mayor December 2023.

Mayor Williams was recognized twice by Durham Public Schools as Teacher of the Year and was also recognized by the Triangle Business Journal with a "40 Under 40" Award for producing innovative practices in education. He transitioned from full-time educator to full-time small business owner when he and his wife opened Zweli's, the only full-service authentic Zimbabwean restaurant in the United States.

While serving on City Council, Mayor Williams continues to apply his experience and passion in education, entrepreneurship, and commitment to addressing deep social issues to make Durham a united community that provides safety and prosperity for all.



A purpose for all people.

At the core of our purpose—to build better lives and communities—are the values that guide us to be intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We do the work every day to diversify our leadership, empower all teammates, and fight for the opportunities we all deserve. Because we believe a culture where we can live and contribute our authentic selves is a stronger one.



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You had the determination to turn your vision into a reality. At First Horizon, we're proud to support the innovative spirit of entrepreneurs, every step of the way.

Proud to support the National Institute of Minority Economic Development.

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A Gateway to Opportunity

Our Mission

To promote economic opportunities for historically underutilized businesses in state government contracting and procurement that will foster their growth and profitability.

HUB Qualifications:

- 51% ownership and daily management / control by individuals in HUB Certification categories.
- Employee Stock Ownership Plan Company (ESOP) with 51% minority ownership

ABOUT HUB

Established on April 20, 1999 through the signing of Executive Order 150, the NC HUB Office is a state agency that certifies companies as Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) and promotes the use of HUBs toward meeting the 10% minimum goal of spending by state agencies for both construction projects and goods and services purchases.

The North Carolina Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses has certified over 7100 businesses across the state.

Scan to
Learn more



 **NCSBE Certification**

The NC HUB Office also certifies companies as Small Business Enterprise (SBE) The North Carolina Small Business Enterprise Program is a race and gender neutral program.



MBDA Business Center North Carolina
600 Park Offices Dr, STE LL-50 | Durham, NC 27709
ncmbda@doa.nc.gov
T 919-294-3740



MBDA Business Centers provide socially and economically disadvantaged firms a platform to enhance growth through technical assistance and supportive services e.g. access to capital, navigating contract opportunities, identifying strategic partners and reaching global and domestic markets.

Target Market for the MBDA Program:

- Revenues of \$500,000 and above.
- Main business office location in the state of NC.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.NCMBDAcenter.nc.gov

Operated by NC Dept of Administration Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses

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Office - Healthcare - Education - Industrial - Adaptive Reuse - Mixed Use - HUD Housing - Senior Living - Religious - Municipal - Historic

WORK WITH US!

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Office of Civil Rights' mission is to level the playing field and help remove barriers for Minority Owned Businesses to participate in NCDOT contracts.

GET ACCESS TO:

- > EDUCATION
- > TRAINING
- > TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of Civil Rights

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Creating vibrant communities

When we come together to build stronger communities, we give our time, energy, and ideas to help influence positive change. And as we watch progress take root, we grow as well.

National Institute for Minority Economic Development, it's an honor to recognize your commitment and service to the community.

wellsfargo.com/impact





Dreams move us forward.

A dream has the power to do anything. It can change a life or our entire way of living. At the North Carolina Education Lottery, we strive to create a world of possibility not only for winners and students, but also for minority businesses. When we dream together, we grow together and create the partnerships that let our communities thrive.

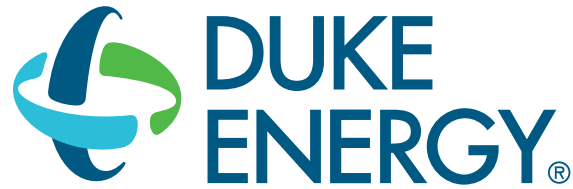


Visit [NCLottery.com/Business](https://www.nceducationlottery.com/Business) to learn more.

Director of Supplier Diversity and Outreach
Cheryl.Sutton@lotterync.net

MUST BE 18 TO PLAY. Problem Gambling Helpline: 877-718-5543.

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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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National
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Legacy Fund

**As we near our 40th Anniversary
The Institute Invites you to be a part of the
first circle of donors to our Legacy Fund.**



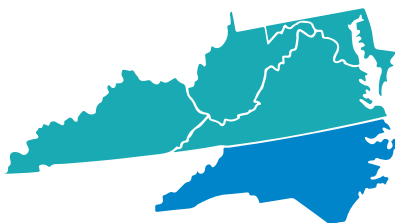
This special fund will ensure that the mission set forth by the late Andrea Harris will be carried forward by the Institute indefinitely - and that we will continue to be present, walking side-by-side with future women and minority leaders in small business pursuits across our growing circle of impact. Whether you contribute today or commit to a multi-year pledge, your gift helps us build that future now. We are grateful to have you be part of that.

TheInstituteNC.org/LegacyFund

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 Strategic Partnerships**, a consulting arm, offers uniquely customized professional development, supplier diversity strategies, and diversity, inclusion and equity education to corporations and governments.



We have grown into a five-state footprint including NC, VA, KY, WV, and the Metro DC area.

IMPACT DATA 2023

**National
INSTITUTE** 
Minority Economic Development



\$9,167,638

ICAP Direct Loans and Other
Access to Capital



\$860,614

Grant Funds Disbursed



\$85,059,448

Contracts/Bonding Awarded



3,515

Entrepreneurs
Trained

936

Clients Served



17,854

Employees Retained

940

Jobs Created

OUR PROGRAMS & AFFILIATES



www.TheInstituteNC.org



a program of **National INSTITUTE**
Minority Economic Development

PROGRAM DATES

April 7 - 11, 2025

PROGRAM LOCATION

Black Wall Street - Durham

114 W. Parrish Street, 4th Floor | Durham, NC 27701



The Institute's Minority Executive Education Institute (MEEI) delivers a comprehensive and robust graduate level business education program supporting the growth and development of minority businesses. MEEI business education builds the capacity and extends the capabilities of minority firms through the following features:

- Extensive Course Content
- Leading Business Experts
- Access to New Business Resources

For more information, contact:
John Ham at JHam@TheInstituteNC.org

TheInstituteNC.org/MEEI2025

MEEI programming utilizes the talents of graduate-level professors from universities across the state and leading business experts, creating a powerful learning experience that gives minority and women business owners concrete knowledge that can be used to grow revenue, expand into new markets, or launch new product ideas.



Tanzanian

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



Save the Dates

MARCH 10-14, 2025

Hyatt Regency - Dar es Salaam

An executive-led summit bringing together key government and business leaders from the U.S. and Tanzania.

The summit will provide opportunities to engage and develop relationships with Tanzania businesses and government executives, learn more about Tanzania government priorities, and present U.S. company products and solutions that can help the Tanzania government achieve its economic goals.

The summit will focus on the following priority sectors:

- Healthcare
- Technology
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Travel & Tourism



TheInstituteNC.org/Tanzania





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www.TheInstituteNC.org

Save the Dates

ENC|2025
EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

**Monday, August 11, 2025 -
Wednesday, August 13, 2025**
Golf Tournament 08/13/2025
Course No. 4

ENC|2026
EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

**Monday, July 13, 2026 -
Wednesday, July 15, 2026**
Golf Tournament 07/15/2026
Course No. 2

ENC|2027
EXECUTIVE NETWORKING CONFERENCE

**Monday, March 15, 2027 -
Wednesday, March 17, 2027**
Golf Tournament 03/17/2027
Course No. 2