

Governor's Advisory Council on Historically Underutilized Businesses Appointees:



Stephanie Pignes

Director of Public Engagement at Office of Governor Roy Cooper

Stephanie Pignes (*p-geese*) is a Florida native and the daughter of immigrants. Stephanie was raised to believe in fairness, equality, and the American way. These beliefs have fueled her leadership and determination in her professional career. Stephanie served as the first minority affairs director for the North Carolina Democratic Party and went on to serve as political director for Governor Roy Cooper's 2020 re-election campaign. In January of 2021 Stephanie was appointed by Governor Cooper to serve as Director of the Office of Public Engagement. She is honored to serve the people of North Carolina by advocating for a safer, healthier, more equitable NC. She holds a bachelor's degree from Ball State University, a Juris Doctor from Florida Coastal School of Law and a LL.M from Emory University School of Law. When not advocating for social justice, and civic engagement, Stephanie catches up on episodes of The Golden Girls, cheers on the Tar Heels with her husband Terrance, and gives back to the community with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc

Katherine C. Lynn

(no picture)

Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Capital Planning

Katherine is responsible for the facility, construction, and capital planning programs within the University System and serves as a resource for the constituent institutions regarding facilities maintenance and operations. Other responsibilities include capital planning; budget development and execution; design and

construction of capital facilities; real estate and property matters; sustainability and HUB initiatives; and energy management



Denisha Harris

Financial Services Key Staff, Purchasing, City of Greenville, NC

Denisha serves as the Financial Services Manager of the City of Greenville, managing the procurement and contracting functions of the City. She also oversees the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program for which she developed and served as Coordinator for over eight years. Her acumen in economic inclusion and MWBE programs earned her the opportunity to teach various courses at the UNC School of Government, the NC Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, and the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing. She has served with the NC MWBE Coordinators' Network for over a decade in various capacities, including member of the Programs Committee, Scholarship Chair, Vice-President, and currently as President.

Denisha is a proud graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and a Master's in Public Administration. She began her pursuit of public service as a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow at Princeton University during her undergraduate career. Upon graduation, she received the Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award, the most prestigious award presented by the University given to students who live up to Wright's legacy of using leadership to influence positive change. Following undergrad, she continued her education at East Carolina University as a Housing and Urban Development Fellow, working to build the capacity of local nonprofits through business plan development, grant writing and administration. Denisha is also a 2018 40 under 40 Leadership Award recipient for her work in the Business sector. In 2014, Denisha earned credentials as a Certified Professional in Supplier Diversity (CPSD) by the Institute of Supply Management and received her Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer (CLGPO) certification in 2017. In 2019, she earned her Executive Certification in Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Management from Georgetown University.



Jose Coker

Senior Counsel; The Charleston Group

Jose A. Coker is senior counsel and a shareholder with The Charleston Group. Founded in 2002, The Charleston Group is one of North Carolina’s leading minority-owned law firms providing result-driven legal counsel to public and private companies, government agencies, national service organizations, and individuals. Attorney Coker’s areas of practice include civil litigation, public housing, corporate, administrative, and healthcare law. He represents clients in federal and state courts in a wide spectrum of cases. Attorney Coker successfully assists clients in investigations and multi-million-dollar claims brought by federal and state regulatory agencies. He also has considerable experience representing clients in complex issues involving discovery, information law, records management, and litigation readiness solutions. As a leading minority-owned law firm, The Charleston Group believes that by maintaining and promoting an inclusive environment, it is able to offer clients the best possible legal services.



Latif Kaid

PE Director – State Construction Office North Carolina, N.C. Dept. of Administration

Latif Kaid is the Director of the State Construction Office in the North Carolina Department of Administration. The purpose of the State Construction Office is to provide professional architectural and engineering services, management, and leadership to state agencies, universities, and community colleges, and provide advice and counsel to decision makers. This work is performed through reviews, inspections, and construction management in order to ensure that the state buildings are safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, aesthetic and economical.

A North Carolina State University graduate, Mr. Kaid started his career as an engineering manager for 10 years with a NC Manufacturer firm and then served as the Facility Plant Engineer with NCDOT for 9 years and then moved to the State Construction Office with the Department of Administration for the past 15 years where eventually he became the Division Director. He was instrumental in establishing the electronic system for project management with the State which included plan reviews, contract administrations, inspections, and final acceptance. He is a recent recipient of the prestigious Frank B. Turner Award, presented to him at the 36th Annual State Construction Conference by the Design Professionals of North Carolina.



Gregory "Greg" A. Richardson (Greg)

Executive Director, North Carolina Department of Administration, Commission of Indian Affairs

Greg has thirty-four years of work experience in administration, management and planning of Indian programs at the

state and federal government levels. He has extensive work experience in the development of collaborations and partnerships with Indian tribes and Indian Associations, non-profit community-based organizations; oversees the management of 4.0 million dollars annually in state and federally funded programs and services administered by the Division of Indian Affairs. He is responsible for recruitment of staff, contractors, and vendors required to support commission programs and services administered by the Division of Indian Affairs. Greg supervises staff of 18 employees covering eight tribal communities and four Urban Indian tribes and organizations throughout the State of North Carolina. He also plans quarterly and annual meetings of the Commission, public hearings, and other state and local meetings; provides written and oral testimonies before the state legislative and congressional committees to address issues associated with the needs and concerns of North Carolina's American Indian population; serves as State's Chief Advocate on Indian Affairs through public presentations, the media, local and state level meetings, etc. He previously served on the Governor's Complete County

Committee for the 2010 US Census; he also served on the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census Advisory Committee on American Indians and Alaska Native Populations, 1997- 2007.



Valerie D. Jordan

N.C. Department of Transportation Board Member

Valerie is an award-winning Cisco Sales leader and NC DOT Board Member whose passion is to create a continuous improvement lifecycle for government entities, such as NCDOT, through new technology models like Cloud computing which enables agility, flexibility, and creation of new service offerings to help the state's citizens. Valerie utilizes her passion for technology to help transform corporations, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations to achieve their goals.



Dorrine Fokes

Community College System

Although she has been with NCCCS for over ten years now, her earlier experience was steeped in manufacturing, inventory control, software, supervision, human resources, accounting, and payroll for a variety of private enterprises, including AutoLite, PrestoLite, The Torrington Company (a division of Ingersoll Rand), IHS (Integrated Health Services) and SpectraSite, in Georgia and North Carolina. She brings a passion for detail and systems analysis to her position as Associate Director, where she serves primarily to coordinate and assist the community colleges in daily construction issues. She is also directly involved in facilitating the system-wide implementation of project tracking software.



Cornelious "CC" D. Lamberth

C2 Contractors, LLC

Mr. Lamberth is currently a member of the executive Board of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and past Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Greensboro Branch NAACP and is a past charter member of the NC A&T State University Board of Visitors. Mr. Lamberth is the past Chairman of the Advisory Board for the School of Technology at NCA&T State University and a proud member of the Omega Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Mr. Lamberth belongs to several business and other community organizations. He is a member of the Building Industry Consulting Services International (BICSI), Co-Founder of The Black Contractors Guild, a member of The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). Mr. Lamberth has also been a member of Micro Computers of North Carolina (MCNC) and a member of the Board of Directors for the Greensboro Community Foundation. His leadership service also extends to the One Hundred Black Men of the Triad, where served as President and Charter Member and past Chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee Greensboro Branch NAACP. Mr. Lamberth is also the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service and Achievement Award presented by United Way of Greater Greensboro's African American Leadership Group. Mr. Lamberth is the proud owner, and CEO of C2 Contractors, LLC (unlimited licensed commercial General Contractor and telecommunications firm).



Dr. Vinod "Vinnie" Goel

CEO & President, A1 Consulting Group, Inc.

Vinnie is also the Chairman and CEO of Goel's Plaza, LLC. – Banquet and Conference Center; Principal-in-Charge managing projects in several states within USA and Overseas. He has expertise in Engineering, Environmental solutions, and Construction Management, including zoning, project design, site assessment, field investigations, project management, quality assurance and quality control monitoring.



Kristen M. Hess

President, HH Architecture

Kristen M. Hess is founder and CEO of HH Architecture, a full-service design firm focused on creating spaces that promote discovery, wellness, recreation, and civic service. Kristen's passion for sustainable design is a driving force in HH Architecture's continued growth and success including the design of the North Carolina Agricultural Sciences Center for the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the State Farmers Market Master Plan for the Dix Park Conservancy, and the expansion and ongoing renovations of the North Carolina Zoological Park. In 2018, HH Architecture was honored with the Firm of the Year award from AIA Triangle.

Kristen began her Girl Scout career as a young girl in western North Carolina, earning her Gold Award in 1992. She has also served as a troop leader and says her love of Girl Scouts and her belief in its tenets have guided her throughout her life. An active volunteer, she has donated countless hours to non-profits, helping students, mentoring entrepreneurs, and serving as a role model to young women. She is an annual guest lecturer at the NCSU College of Design.

Kristen was awarded the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship by the German Marshall Fund of the United States in 2011 and the Zhi-Xing China Eisenhower Fellowship in 2016, through which she continues to forge global connections around the world.

Annette Stevenson



President & CEO, Stevenson Consulting Group (SCG)

SCG is a minority, woman, service-disabled veteran owned small business that provides professional consulting services to corporations, government agencies and diverse businesses. Customized consulting services include advocacy (removal of business barriers and inclusion to procurement opportunities), connection (to customers and supply chain opportunities) and empowerment (economic success and wealth

creation). She is a U.S. Army Officer veteran, has over 30 years' experience in the personnel/administrative management and procurement profession.



Iris Ramirez Reese

President, Fusion

Iris developed long-range corporate strategy and business plan for the development and acquisition of new clientele and new services to successfully execute and achieve client's marketing goals with an added focus on niche marketing to Hispanics.



Kimberly G. Leazer

CEO, Forms and Supply (FSI)

Kimberly is an experienced professional with more than thirty-four years of experience emphasizing outside sales and business development in the office supply industry. She is highly customer focused with excellent business acumen as evidenced by consistent growth and achievement of personal and company defined goals for the office products division.

Russell Parker

President, Clean Touch Pressure Washing

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Elected the President of the Minority Business Roundtable in Greenville, NC since 2010. Clean Touch Pressure Washing has provided twenty-one years of guaranteed service to Eastern North Carolina.



Lenwood Long, Sr.

President of BV&L Associates, Inc.

Founder and current president of BV&L Associates, Inc., a service-disabled veteran-owned firm providing organizations with consulting and technical assistance in the areas of community economic development, project management, human resources, strategic planning, organizational assessment, and business management. More than 30 years of experience in community economic development, human resource, and business management. Former president/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF), a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and statewide nonprofit organization.



Terrence Holt

Holt Brothers

Terrence's six years in the NFL and his college career with NC State football have prepared him well for managing Holt Brothers Construction. In his role, he is focused on creating and communicating the mission and vision of the company, executing the game plan, and building a great team. Under his leadership, the company has tripled in size, and revenue has consistently grown. The firm's project portfolio now includes the \$65 million Critical Public Safety Center in Raleigh and the \$35 million Reynolds Coliseum Renovation and Walk of Fame project at NC State. Terrence serves as vice chair of the Holt Brothers Foundation, on the Board of Directors at the Durham Chamber of Commerce, and on the Durham Sports Commission.



Calvin Stevens

President of Bernard Irby

Calvin Stevens Jr is the President of Bernard Irby. Bernard Irby is a certified minority owned, service-connected disabled veteran owned business providing

full service electrical and construction services in the Southeast.

Known as innovative business development strategist and diverse business analysis, Calvin challenges people to do things in a more innovative manner, Calvin's talents are well-aligned with the company's culture, which encourages equality and community development.

Bernard Irby Electric employees over 50+ employees in the North Carolina and 20+ in South Carolina working on iconic projects such as the Carolina Panthers New Practice Facility and Headquarters in Rock Hill, SC, the New Atrium Hospital Bed Tower in Charlotte, Claude Bowers National Guard Facility, and UNCSA New Residence Hall.

Over his career with large corporate commercial contractors, Calvin has constructed over \$500 million in construction including iconic projects such as the North Carolina Department of Correction Close Security Prototypes, North Carolina A&T State University Student Union, Winston-Salem State University Residence Facility, Cumberland County Detention Center, Guilford County Detention Center, Wake Technical Community College, Wake County, and Guilford County Schools.

Calvin Stevens Jr is a National Board member of the NAMC, the National Association of Minority Contractors and well as a board member of the UMCNC and has served the minority business community for over 20+ years. He has assured that MWBE contractors have received their share of opportunities for all the projects he has been part of with awarding over \$1.2 billion to MWBE firms during his time working with global construction firms.

Calvin is 3rd generation graduate of North Carolina A&T State University serves on the North Carolina A&T State University Board of Visitors. He is also served his country with four years of military service in the United States Air Force.

Calvin is a proud native of North Carolina. He and his wife Andrea have 2 children, Erika and Trey.



Tiffany Peguise-Powers

Resident Superior Court Judge for Robeson County

Mrs. Powers was born in Lumberton, North Carolina. She was educated at St. Francis De Sales Catholic School and the public Schools of Robeson County. Afterwards, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia in 1992 and a Juris Doctorate degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1996. Prior to the practice of law, Mrs. Powers worked as a reporter at the Robesonian newspaper. From 1996 until 1999, Mrs. Powers worked as an associate attorney with the law firm of Bowen and Berry in Lumberton, North Carolina. She tried numerous cases, including representing parents in Juvenile Court, criminal matters, personal injury, Family Law cases and Social Security. Thereafter, she became a partner with the law firm of Bowen, Berry, and Powers. She opened her own law firm in August of 2006, where she had a general trial practice, including capital murder. She worked as an attorney for the Robeson County Department of Social Services from 2015-2020. Tiffany was named the Robesonian Reader's Choice Best Attorney in Robeson County in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2019. In 2020, Ms. Powers mounted an unprecedented campaign for election to the Robeson County Superior Court seat #1, previously held by Judge Joe Freeman Britt. Her election made her the first woman and first African American to be elected to the Superior Court in Judicial District 16- B. Mrs. Powers is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., President of Sisters with Pearls Serving Society, Inc, a member of the American Bar Association, the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, Inc., and the Robeson County Bar Association, the North Carolina State Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. Governor Roy Cooper appointed Tiffany to the North Carolina Historically Underutilized Business Board in 2017 and again in 2020. She sits on the United Way Board and numerous Boards of Directors in Robeson County and is the immediate past Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Elections. Mrs. Powers previously served as the Seventh Congressional District Representative to the N.C. Democratic Party Council of Review and was elected Delegate to the 2008 and 2012 Democratic National Conventions. She and her husband, Kim, have two children, Raven and Geoffrey Saiid. The Powers are members

of the St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Lumberton, where Mrs. Powers serves as an Eucharistic Minister, Lector and on the Finance Council.