

National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board

Adjoa Asamoah



Adjoa B. Asamoah is a serial entrepreneur, seasoned executive, and founder of the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) certified leading edge impact strategy firm, ABA Consulting LLC. She is a lifelong racial and gender equity champion, award-winning social impact strategist, and longtime advisor to several local, state, and federal officials. She wears multiple hats daily, and debunks the myth—you can't master multiple trades.

She was entrusted to serve as the *Biden-Harris Campaign's National Advisor for Black Engagement* and was then tapped to serve as the *Black Engagement Director* for the historic *59th Presidential Inaugural Committee*. She developed the strategy for and leads the groundbreaking nationwide *CROWN Act* movement, in addition to having spearhead the legislative victory to codify the nation's first *Office on African American Affairs*. A former adjunct psychology professor, Adjoa leverages cultural intelligence and behavioral insights to create meaningful systems change and develop winning campaigns.

She has provided subject matter expertise as an appointee to numerous commissions, committees, and boards for notable entities including Temple University, DC Commission for Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Commission on African American Affairs, and the federally mandated State Title I Committee of Practitioners she has chaired for six consecutive years.

Adjoa holds degrees in African American Studies, Psychology, Educational Psychology,

and Applied Behavior Analysis. She studied abroad in Africa and is currently a doctoral candidate. She also earned licenses as a behavior specialist and psychometrist.

Kristen Bailey



Kristen Bailey is the Co-Founder & CEO of Sweets & Meats BBQ, which launched as a road side BBQ pit stop in 2014 and has grown into a brick & mortar carry out restaurant, 2 food trucks, and full service caterer in under 5 years. Prior to launching her business, Kristen spent 15 years working in the financial services industry and has worked for a diverse range of organizations, including US Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Vantiv, OMEGA Processing Solutions, Key Bank and BB&T. Kristen worked a full-time job while building her business and transitioned to working as the Catering & Events Director at Sweets & Meats BBQ in 2018.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Wittenberg University, where she graduated in 2003. Kristen lives in Mt. Washington (Cincinnati's east side), where she has been a resident nearly thirty years. It is also where she and her partner, Anton Gaffney, chose to reinvest and open their business. Kristen graduated from MORTAR, a business accelerator in Cincinnati, in 2015 and serves as a mentor to several of her peers. She is the Co-Chair of the Mt. Washington Elementary School LSDMC and President of the Tri-State Food Truck Coalition, a non-profit she launched this year. She was the 2018 SCORE Cincinnati Client of the Year & Ohio SBDC Client with Most Growth. In 2019, Kristen was recognized as the Ohio SBA Business Person of the Year.

Karen Barbour



Karen's career is underscored by a fierce commitment to enabling the competitive positioning and growth of client companies - a leader willing to go to Capitol Hill to drive legislation for the benefit of start-ups, small businesses and Fortune 1000 firms alike. Karen has received numerous awards and distinctions for her contributions to the success of contractors in the building industry. In addition to being named a 2013 Distinguished Woman by the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Karen was recognized

for her passion for change and awarded the US SBA Small Business Person (for MD) in 2008 and later inducted into the SBA's Hall of Fame. She was also one of nine women nationally chosen in 2009 to win the Ernst & Young's Entrepreneurial Winning Women



Award®.

Barbour is a published writer on the topics of construction, finance, and surety. Her articles appear in *Forbes*, *American DBE*, and various trade journals. She has also aided in drafting and lobbying for successful passage of many procurement bills involving Maryland and VA, as well as initiated and successfully lobbied U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin to sponsor an amendment to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (2008) that removed prohibitive federal surety-bond program eligibility criteria with the SBA's Office of Surety Guarantees, paving the way for start-up, small, veteran, and minority-owned businesses around the country to compete for stimulus-funded contracts.

Barbour has community impact. She is on several boards including the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Party For A Cure Corporation, The Alliance for Hispanic Commercial Contractors, and Montessori School of Westminster, MD. She is also a board member of several trade organizations and has served on government task forces/advisory boards, such as the Co-Chair of the Governor Commission for Small Business (Gov. O'Malley). She recently gained appointment to the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board and Maryland Aviation Administration's Small & Minority Business Advisory Council.

Barbour holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola College of Maryland and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Baltimore. In 2010, she earned certification as an Associate in Fidelity and Surety Bonding (ASFB) from the American Institute for Chartered Maryland Property Casualty Underwriters.

The Barbour Group, LLC is certified as a WBENC, WOSB, DBE, and MBE firm.

Louis Foreman



Louis Foreman is founder and Chief Executive of Enventys (www.enventys.com), an integrated product design and engineering firm. He is also the founder of Edison Nation (www.EdisonNation.com).

Louis graduated from The University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. His interest in starting businesses and developing innovative products began while a sophomore with his first company founded in his fraternity room. Over the past 34 years Louis has created 10 successful startups and has been directly responsible for the creation of over 20 others. A prolific inventor, he is the inventor of 10 registered US Patents, and his firm is responsible for the

development and filing of well over 700 more.

The recipient of numerous awards for entrepreneurial achievement, his passion for small business extends beyond his own companies. Louis is an adjunct professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, at Queens University. He received the Instructor Achievement Award for his teaching at Central Piedmont Community College and was recognized by the National Museum of Education for his *Distinguished Contributions to Education*. Louis is an adjunct professor and the *Entrepreneur in Residence* at The McColl School of Business and was the 2013 Distinguished Visiting Professor at Johnson & Wales University, where he continues to teach. He also teaches IP for Entrepreneurs at Central Michigan University. He is a frequent lecturer and radio / TV guest on the topics of small business creation and innovation and is frequently invited by universities and national trade associations to be a featured speaker on the topic of entrepreneurship and innovation.

In addition to being an inventor, Louis is also committed to inspiring others to be innovative. Louis was the creator of the Emmy® Award winning PBS TV show, *Everyday Edisons*, and served as the Executive Producer and lead judge. The show won 2 Emmys in 4 seasons and appeared nationally on PBS. In 2007, Louis became the publisher of *Inventors Digest*, a 35-year-old publication devoted to the topic of American Innovation. In 2009, his first book, *The Independent Inventor's Handbook*, was published by Workman Publishing. In 2015, Louis was awarded the IP Champion Award by the US Chamber of Commerce.

Joseph Guzman



Joseph Guzman is Director of the Economic Policy Institute and a member of the faculty at the Franke College of Business. Dr. Guzman previously served in faculty and administrative roles at Michigan State University, as a senior economist at the Center for Naval Analyses and analyst at RAND, both federally funded think tanks. Dr. Guzman has a record of distinguished civilian service in the Department of Defense, where he served as Director of Biometrics, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and performed the duties of the Assistance Secretary of the Navy. Dr. Guzman received his PhD from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, along with Masters degrees economic and statistics. Dr. Guzman holds MBA and engineering degrees from the University of Arizona. Dr. Guzman is co-founder of the

Benjamin Kwitek



Benjamin Kwitek is an inventor, serial entrepreneur, and angel investor from Colorado. Benjamin has founded a dozen companies and currently helps lead Gellyfish Technology, Roundabout Signs and InterForm. Many global corporations including Acer, Dell, Fujitsu, Herman Miller, Lenovo, Pentel and Sony have licensed his patents – generating in excess of \$500M in product sales.

Benjamin is the Director of Innovation at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs. He teaches Entrepreneurship and Strategic Innovation. In addition, he serves on the Advisory Board of IP2 (Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Prosperity) at Stanford University. Benjamin has appeared in *BMW Magazine*, *Digital Trends*, *Entrepreneur*, *Forbes*, *Rhapsody*, *Robb Report* and newspapers across America. He frequently lectures on patents and innovation. Recently, he has been a global speaker and mentor for the US State Department and its Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative.

Benjamin holds three degrees and multiple honors from Colorado State University and the University of Colorado. In 2005, he completed his Ph.D. at Colorado State University where his research, entitled *Driving Economic Development*, looked at partnerships between colleges and high-tech businesses. He has since studied innovation and intellectual property at Harvard Business School in Boston.

Bertica Cabrera Morris



Ms. Cabrera Morris was born in Havana, Cuba. She is the daughter of the presidents of Massey-Ferguson Company, a heavy equipment firm. She attended elementary school in Ciego de Avila, Cuba and, after fleeing to escape Castro's communist regime, attended middle school in Madrid, Spain. She graduated from Hoover High School in Glendale, California where she learned English as her second language. Ms. Cabrera Morris attended the UCLA Banking Academy of Los Angeles and made the transition to the financial world through

employment with the First Interstate Bank of Los Angeles, followed by employment with the Independence Bank of Encino.

Ms. Cabrera Morris moved to Orlando in 1979, where she was employed at Sun Bank and AmeriFirst Federal. A change in career direction led her to become the first Hispanic female administrator with the Orange County Public School system, where she was involved with planning and research as it relates to growth management within the school district. From 1991 to 1993, she served as Assistant to the Chairman of Orange County, in the capacity of Assistant for Community Affairs. She left her position in 1993 to open BCM Consulting – a public relations and governmental affairs consulting firm of which she is the principal and sole proprietor. The firm is located in downtown Orlando.

Morris represents Fortune 100 and 500 companies in the area of business relations and governmental affairs helping them develop winning and political strategies. Her track record of strategic business planning and political savvy and her Rolodex has made her the “go to” Consultant in Florida.

Ms. Cabrera Morris serves in various private Boards and is involved in running 3 different companies in which she has partial ownership. Planning and winning mega projects has made her one of the top business consultants in the country. Ms. Cabrera Morris has been Nationally and Internationally feature.

Ms. Cabrera Morris was appointed, as directed by Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, to the Central Florida Transit Authority (LYNX), where she served from 2001 - 2003.

Morris is immediate past Chairman of the Valencia College Board of Trustees; she was appointed to Valencia by former Governor Bush and re-appointed by Governor Crist and Scott. She served as Commissioner to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, appointed by then Speaker of the House, Marco Rubio. Ms. Cabrera Morris has served in many Boards throughout her career because of the believe “you must pay it forward”. Ms. Cabrera Morris serves as the Chairwoman for the SBA National Advisory Board.

Lea Márquez Peterson



Lea was appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission by Governor Doug Ducey in May of 2019. The Corporation Commission regulates the state's utility services and the incorporation of businesses. She is the first Latina to serve in a statewide seat in the state of Arizona.

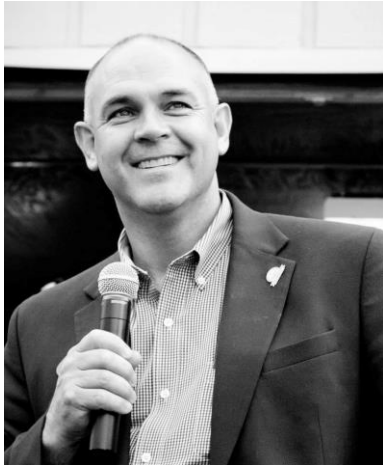
Lea has been an entrepreneur in our community for many years and served as the President/ CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber from 2009 until November of 2018. The Tucson Hispanic Chamber serves the business community in the bilingual, bi-cultural region of the Arizona- Sonora border and was recognized as the Hispanic Chamber of the Year in 2013 by the U.S Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The chamber represents over 1800-member businesses and in partnership with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the largest chambers in the State of Arizona.

She ran for Congress in Arizona Congressional District 2 in 2018 and won a competitive primary race though lost the general election. She previously served as the Executive Director for Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) from 2005 to 2009 and owned and operated a Business Brokerage Firm from 2005 to 2009 and a chain of six gasoline stations / convenience stores with fifty employees from 1998 to 2005 in the Tucson region.

She has been appointed to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council which advises the Arizona Supreme Court, and the Arizona Finance Authority, the state's bonding authority. She chairs the Board of Directors of Carondelet's St Mary's and St Joseph's Hospitals in Tucson and is the former Chair of the Pima Association of Governments Economic Vitality Committee. She serves on the Boards of the University of Arizona Foundation and the Pima County Workforce Investment Board and is the President of the National Association of Women Business Owners in Tucson. She also formally served on the national board for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Women's Business Council.

She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her master's in business administration from Pepperdine University. She is married with two children.

Bruce Thompson



Senator Bruce Thompson represents Senate District 14 encompassing areas of Bartow, Cherokee and Cobb counties. The district footprint stretches from highway 140 to highway 92, and from highway 1 to Interstate 575.

Senator Thompson was elected to the Senate on December 03, 2013 filling the seat vacated by Congressman Barry Loudermilk.

He immediately started working with ACCG on property tax reform, and successfully ushered HB 202 through the Senate. In 2015, he was recognized as the **2015 Legislative Service** recipient by the Association of City & County Government. That same year, the Senator was appointed Chairman of the Science and Technology committee, and aggressively initiated work related to cyber security. Senator Thompson chaired SR 360 “Senate Data Security and Privacy study committee” during that summer which was instrumental in the development of the new GBI cyber-crime lab in Augusta. He also worked diligently with GTA to ensure Georgia agencies secured Cyber Insurance to protect our government agencies. His unwavering drive to protect Georgians and the assets of the state were rewarded in 2016 when he received the 2016 Legislator of the Year award by the Technology of Georgia (TAG) industry.

Bruce often finds himself fighting for those unable to fight for themselves. At times, this is out front, but the Senator is most comfortable leading unnoticed from behind. In 2018 though, his efforts to protect faith and the unborn did not go unnoticed and he was recognized as the 2018 Georgia Baptist Legislator of the Year.