



AfrICANDO 2018

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Brian Abbott
Founder and Partner of AVSEC, LLC

Brian Abbott is the founder and Partner of AVSEC, LLC which offers quality products and services to keep the cargo supply chain safe and secure. Brian have more than thirty-three years of experience in aviation security and logistics field with the United States (U.S.) Air Force as a Colonel, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration as a Special Agent, the U.S Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a Special Agent and Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security Manager, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as Cargo Manager and a Senior International Aviation Security Auditor. He is also serving on the Board of Directors for Florida Customs Brokers and Forwarders (FCBF) Association. Brian Abbott was certified as an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Auditor, IATA Cargo Agent, and is listed in the European Union (EU) Database EU Database as an Accredited Independent Validators Database, and in the IATA CEIV - Accredited Independent Validators database. Brian is a professional Instructor for both dangerous goods and air cargo security and was one of the original instructors at the FAA and TSA Academies to teach new FAA Dangerous Goods Special Agents and TSA Cargo Security Inspectors on the principles of dangerous goods safety and air cargo security. Mr. Abbott is a magna cum laude graduate of Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California with a Master of Public Administration degree in Organization and Management.



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Otunba Toyin Akomolafe
National President, Nigerian -American Chamber of Commerce (NACC)

Otunba Toyin Akomolafe is the National President of the Nigerian - American Chamber of Commerce (NACC), and the Chairman of Index Brook Limited, a fully owned Nigerian company. Since 1989, Index Brook has provided a variety of technical support services to the Nigerian oil and gas industry. From being primarily been primarily recognized as an engineering, construction and procurement service provider, Index Brook is metamorphosing in to a full fledge provider of integrated operations, and maintenance services to clients in the Nigerian market. In recognition of opportunities emerging in the oil, gas, ports, power, and public utilities, Index Brook has further broadened its strategic focus to include the development of fee-based project opportunities in these sectors and the ownership of assets through the establishment of subsidiaries. The company aims at growing a portfolio of viable operating assets through targeted investment in oil and gas, initially in the Niger Delta, and ultimately in Ghana, Angola, Mozambique and Guyana.



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Iliana Alvarez's
Assistant Vice President , Florida Customs Brokers, and Freight Forwarder
Association (FCBF)

Iliana Alvarez's insurance industry experience with Roanoke Trade began in 1980. She is an insurance broker for the Miami, FL office specializing in cargo insurance, bonds, marketing, sales support, management of quality procedures and customer service for Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island. Her extensive transportation-related insurance experience instilled in her the importance of having the right coverage and the knowledge necessary to deliver. Iliana's customers rely on her experience to help them easily navigate and expedite the cumbersome risk management and claims processes. She interfaces daily with her customers advising of new import and export regulations and the effects on their risk exposures. Iliana holds the professional designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), and in December 2003 graduated with honors with a degree in Business Administration from Barry University.

Iliana serves on the executive board of the Florida Customs Brokers Freight Forwarders Association as Treasurer and is the Chair of the Membership Committee.

Roanoke Trade is a division of Roanoke Insurance Group Inc., specializing in insurance and bond solutions for international trade and transportation. Established in Chicago in 1935, Roanoke became a subsidiary of Munich Re in 2008, and is the North American primary insurer of marine insurance and customs bonds for this worldwide organization. Roanoke Insurance Group employs approximately 200 employees across 10 U.S. locations with its focus on providing targeted insurance solutions backed by agile service and technology.

Offering top-notch customer service is my foremost priority. Customers value my years of experience and the special attention provided for all their needs. Being there when customers need us is what I believe makes Roanoke Trade different from anyone else in this industry. - Iliana Alvarez



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Jean-Robert D. Baguidy,
Senior Business Development Specialist, Access to Capital Team Lead, MBDA

Jean-Robert Baguidy is the Access to Capital Team Lead in the Office Business Development at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), United States Department of Commerce. Mr. Baguidy is Haitian-American and has over 30 years twenty years of experience in Commercial Banking, International Trade Finance and Venture Capital. He holds a BBA in Finance from Howard University and an MBA in International Finance and Banking from George Washington University. Prior to joining MBDA, Mr. Baguidy worked at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Investments, as an Investment Analyst for Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) engaged in Venture Capital, and his duties involved the review and approval of funding requests, evaluating financial performance and portfolio monitoring of private equity funds. Jean-Robert also worked for several years at the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank), as a Loan Officer in the following divisions: U.S. Small Business Credit, Structured Export Finance, and Export Credit Insurance. Jean-Robert also spent time in the private commercial banking sector working as a Commercial Loan Officer at Navy Federal Credit Union, Industrial Bank, NA, and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.



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Tim Bascombe
President & CEO
World Food Connection

Having been born in the United Kingdom and immigrating to the U.S.A. in his youth and traveling internationally both for business and pleasure throughout his career, Mr. Bascombe brings his worldwide business experiences to World Food Connection, Inc. Intent upon changing the landscape of the food industry by bringing world class quality to the healthy and clean food movement, Mr. Bascombe's background is a great asset to World Food Connection, Inc.

Mr. Bascombe is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Florida Atlantic University with a Master's degree in Urban Planning & Design and extensive course work in

Post Graduate Masters of Architecture studies. Mr. Bascombe has a wide base of knowledge to pull from when developing new and innovative products that meet the needs of the American consumer. His design acumen, honed after many years in marketing and design business industry, helps food producers gear their products to a specific target market successfully and efficiently.

After completing an important design project for the U.S. based healthy food grocery chain, Whole Foods Market, in 2014 along with attending a companywide five year planning season, Future Search, Mr. Bascombe has unique insight into Whole Foods Market and the healthy food phenomena that has turned main stream in the U.S. The American consumer is now demanding better quality, and more importantly, clean & healthy food and World Food Connection, Inc. helps producers translate what the American public wants into successful retail-ready products.

Mr. Bascombe orchestrates a group of highly regarded food related consultants in order to provide producers and manufacturers with a winning advantage in the U.S. market. Producers and manufacturers are then armed with the best information they can obtain regarding the U.S. market.



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Abdellatif Bedier

President-Co Founder HUBB and Managing Partner, HUBB-UCS:

He Currently serves in the capacity of SME (Small & Medium Enterprises) Business Development Advisor, investor, growth strategist, as well as, application software engineer.

His 12 years of experience partnering with Startups/Businesses Founders, Executives and Solo-entrepreneurs to grow their startups from Idea to Lab, then Market.

Servicing as an advisor in multiple boards and advisory Boards such as, Miami Dade Beacon Council Transportation and Logistics Committee, Miami Dade Community Business Partnership. Hispanic Commerce Coalition Board of Directors.

Abdellatif has helped various startups fundraising from business plans to pitch decks that explains the growth potential of these startups and developed a de-risked plan for investors to feel safe to invest in such startups."

He brings over 12 year of a diversified experience in Startup's and Information Technology Engineering Design, integration and implementation.

Abdellatif previously work in multiple sales engineering & business development positions in Palo Alto California, Florida, and Africa & The Middle East.

Abdellatif is involved in various civic, non-for profit, and Trade Association.

Proactive collaboration with CEE (Central & Eastern European) TRADE CENTER, "GO AMERICAS INICIATIVE. Enterprise Florida, Florida Department of Economic Development, Port of Miami, City of Miami, Miami Dade, Miami, Beacon Council Miami Dade Community College, and the SBDC with FIU.

Mr. Bedier conducts monthly products seminars, and networking events throughout the multiple Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and Economic Development Organizations, in the US, Latin America and Europe.



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Dr. Gershwin Blyden
Chairman The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

Gershwin T. Blyden, MD, PhD, FCP, FACP, a South Florida Bahamian-American physician who has contributed extensively to his community for decades, has a medical practice, specializing in internal medicine, hematology, oncology and sickle cell anemia. A past president of the James Wilson Bridges Medical Society, the black doctors' medical association, Dr. Blyden is a diplomate of the American Boards of Internal Medicine and Oncology, a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology and the American College of Physicians. He has trained many doctors with whom he still consults. He is a member of the Florida Memorial University Board of Trustees, board chair of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, and co-founder of Enhancers of Elderly Care. Recognizing the need for more black doctors and scientists, he led an initiative for black doctors to teach and mentor students at Holmes Elementary School and, with Leroy Smith, established the Blyden-Smith Scholar Program. He has won numerous awards and has a deep interest in the African Diaspora and tracing his Bahamian roots. He graduated from Government High School in Nassau, Bahamas, and Tuskegee (Institute) University before earning his doctoral degree in pharmacology and his medical degree at Yale University. He was the first African-American to receive the pharmacology doctorate from Yale. He did his internship and residency at prestigious Massachusetts General Hospital, where he also had fellowships in hematology and oncology.



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Carol G. Rodriguez Calderon
Závázok Marketing, Packaging & Brand Consultants, LLC
Závázok Group, LLC
CEO

Carol G. Rodriguez is a proactive, forward thinking business professional with a solid background with over 20 years in operations, manufacturing, distribution, e-commerce, marketing, traditional and digital advertising campaigns, promotional activities, fund-raising, client relations, social services, human and fiscal resources. Carol is a planner and negotiator, brand consultant, business developer and operational streamlining with a solid record of achievement developing product, packaging design, brand and service awareness, marketing strategies, image and strengthening market position.

Carol is pursuing doctorate in Business Administration and has master's in Global Management, master's in Marketing and bachelor's in Advertising. Carol is also a Certified Christian Chaplain. She served as advisor, speaker and board of director member for Professional Organizations as Consumer Radiography Committee of MIDA, Products of Puerto Rico Association and Brotherhood of Chaplains, among others. Carol has been recognized by important business magazines, newspapers and chambers; and has earned the respect and admiration in the food industry for its dedication, professionalism and results.

Carol is the founder and CEO of Závázok Group, LLC; Závázok Marketing, Packaging & Brand Consultants, LLC; and Závázok Ecclesia. ZÁVĀZOK means Commitment. Carol's unlimited passion is to be a history-maker as a blessing channel engaged in the utmost growth of each individual, entrepreneur, company, country, economy and society; through trust, respect, faith, integrity, ability, competence, character, intent, and results. Her business MOTTO: Commitment, Professionalism, Deep Knowledge and Growth.



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H.E. Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao
African Union Ambassador to the U.S.A

H.E. Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao is the African Union Ambassador to the United States of America since December 1st, 2016. She was nominated by H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to lead the African Union Mission to the USA, the first bilateral diplomatic Mission opened by the AU in 2007

As the African Union Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Chihombori-Quao is fully committed to reinforcing the longstanding and deep historic, cultural and economic relations between Africa and the U.S. She plays a key role in reinforcing the African Union strategic partnerships with the United States, grounded on shared values and mutual interests. Ambassador Chihombori-Quao is a strong believer in the promise that the African Union-U.S. partnership holds and that a prosperous, peaceful and integrated Africa is a shared strategic interest.

Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Arikana Chihombori-Quao was a renowned family medicine doctor in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where she has been practicing medicine for the last 25 years. Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao is known internationally for her diligent efforts to improve healthcare systems, particularly in countries in Africa, and to promote women's rights around the globe. Nearly 20 years ago, at a conference organized by then Africa Resources, Presidents Nelson Mandela and Robert Mugabe presented the noted philanthropist with an Achievement Award. This was her first major distinction which she highly appreciates and cherishes.

In September 2013, Dr. Chihombori-Quao was one of four women who represented Africa at the International Conference on Women's Rights, hosted by the Government of Argentina in Mar Del Plata, Argentina. She delivered a moving speech on the topic, "Violence against Women and its Worldwide Effects." At this conference, Dr. Chihombori shared the stage with two Nobel Peace Prize winners: Rigoberto Menchu of Guatemala and Alfonso Perez Esquivel of Argentina.



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Ambassador Chihombori-Quao has also been actively involved in various programs and projects of the African Union. Since 2012, she was the Chair of the African Union-African Diaspora Health Initiative (AU-ADHI) where she was involved in mobilizing the African Diaspora health professionals to assist in addressing the healthcare crisis on the continent of Africa.

In 2015 at the 25th AU Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dr. Chihombori-Quao was one of the fifteen women who received the “Women of Excellence Award” alongside with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Mrs. Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi, and Mrs. Winnie Mandela, the former first lady of South Africa. And several other prominent and remarkable African women achievers.

It is worth indicating that upon graduating from Medical School in 1986, Ambassador Dr. Chihombori-Quao did three years General Surgery at State University of New York in Brooklyn, NY, USA, and another residency in Family Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. She is a member of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians and Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Chihombori-Quao’s Awards:

Ambassador Chihombori-Quao’s contributions to the cause of Africa have earned her many prestigious honors and awards with the most cherished one being an achievement award from the late South African President Nelson Mandela in 1996. Among the numerous awards, mention can be made of the:

- African Women of Excellence Award, African Union Diaspora Africa Forum Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2015.
- April 2014: Dr Chihombori-Quao was crowned “African Diaspora Queen”. The Coronation was Officiated by Chief Dasebre Kwebu Ewuusi, Chairman of the Central Region House of Chiefs in Ghana.
- Bridge Builders Award, African Communications Agency, Lilongwe, Malawi, June 2013.
- Renaissance Award, Planet Africa- Toronto Canada, November 2013.
- The Axel C Hansen, MD, Distinguished Physician Award, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, October 2013.
- Fisk University Society of Philanthropist Award, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, October 2013.



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- Gold Circle Plus Award, Meharry Medical College, July 2012.
- African Personality of the Year, December, 2011.
- April 2011: "Change Agent Award" from African Communications Agency, Durban South Africa.
- America's Top Family Doctor, Consumers Research Council of America, 2009.
- Outstanding Practitioner Award, Pan Africa, Nashville, Tennessee, 2004.
- Achievement Award, Bristol Myers Squibb Company (presented at the 1995 American Academy of Family Medicine Scientific Assembly).
- Excellence Award, Tennessee Managed Care Network, Nashville, Tennessee, November 1994.

Ambassador Dr. Chihombori-Quao is a native of Zimbabwe who immigrated to the USA in 1977. She is also Ghanian by marriage and a proud Mother of five children.



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Jennifer Diaz

**President, Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) International and
Founder, Diaz Trade Law**

Jennifer Diaz is the President of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) International (www.owit.org) and founder of Diaz Trade Law, a law firm specializing in Customs and International trade law.

Jennifer is a Board Certified International Attorney and professional speaker considered an expert in International law by the Florida Bar. She is results oriented and regularly assists clients with issues relating to the import and export of merchandise to and from the United States and expediting supply chains with robust pre-compliance programs. Ms. Diaz is an expert in working with the many Federal agencies that regulate trade, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Ms. Diaz is the editor of the prominent Customs and International Trade Law Blog, <http://www.customsandinternationaltradelaw.com> and author of the Top 10 Tips When Importing/Exporting. Email Jennifer (info@diaztradelaw) for your free copy today.



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Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson
Commissioner District 3, Miami Dade County

Audrey M. Edmonson has served on the Miami-Dade County Commission as District 3 commissioner since December 2005. She was re-elected in 2016 to a four-year term and elected to serve as Vice Chair of the County Commission from 2016 – 2018. Commissioner Edmonson previously served as Vice Chair from 2010 to 2012. She represents the communities of Liberty City, Little Haiti, Overtown, the Upper East Side, Edgewater, Buena Vista, Allapattah, Wynwood, San Marco Island and Watson Island, all located in the City of Miami; Brownsville, Biscayne Shores Park area, the Village of El Portal and the Village of Miami Shores.

Vice Chairwoman Edmonson currently is Chairwoman, Housing and Social Services Committee and the Building Safer Neighborhoods Sub-Committee. She also serves as Vice Chairwoman of the Transportation and Public Works Committee and the Chairman's Policy Council, and as a member of the Youth Crime Task Force. She serves as the Vice Chairwoman of the Miami Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) Board of Directors.

Vice Chairwoman Edmonson was appointed to the Miami-Dade County HIV/AIDS "Getting to Zero" Task Force and served as Chairwoman of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) I-395 Signature Bridge-Aesthetic Steering Committee. She also serves on the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust and the Public Health Trust nominating councils, the Public Health Trust/Miami-Dade Annual Operating Agreement Committee, the Jackson Health System Obligation Bond Citizens' Advisory Committee and the County Advisory Task Force for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Planning and Implementation Project which is referred locally as Project PEACE: People Engaged and Advocating for Community Empowerment. Vice



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Chairwoman Edmonson serves as the Vice Chair of the International Trade Consortium Board.

Vice Chairwoman Edmonson championed the establishment and is an Ex-Officio Member of the Miami Children's Initiative (MCI), a program modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, aimed at helping Liberty City children from cradle to adulthood. Joined by local pastors and community activists, Vice Chairwoman Edmonson leads "Operation Restoration," an anti-crime strategy group. She also serves as a member of the Lindsey Hopkins Educational Excellence School Advisory Council.

As a member of the National Association of Counties (NACO), Vice Chairwoman Edmonson serves as Sub-committee Vice-Chair on the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee and as a member of the Large Urban County Caucus.

She is a member of the Florida Association of Counties' (FAC) Board of Directors, serves as Co-Chair of the Urban Caucus and was selected as a 2017 Presidential Advocate in recognition of exceptional leadership in partnering with FAC to advance the counties' legislative agenda.

Born and raised in Liberty City, Vice Chairwoman Edmonson became active in local politics by first serving as Mayor of the Village of El Portal in 1999, was re-elected three successive terms and became the municipality's first mayor to be elected by residents rather than by the members of the Village Council. Under her leadership, the Village hired its first Village Manager.

Vice Chairwoman Edmonson received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Florida International University and a dual master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling from Barry University. Vice Chairwoman Edmonson is the mother of Dr. Ebony Nicole Dunn and Louis Ivory Edmonson and grandmother of Bianca Alexandria Casher and Louis, Jr. and Lorilay Edmonson.



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Ramon (Ray) Fernandez
Vice President/ Global Sales Director
Sealock Security Systems, Inc.

Married 38 years // 3 Daughters // 5 Grand Children SUNY at Farmingdale (1978).
Associates Degree.... Liberal Arts University of South Carolina (1980) Bachelor's
Degree.... Int'l Sales & Marketing

Originally spent 20 years in the Domestic & International Freight Forwarding Industry

Since 1997 as Vice President/ Global Sales Director & Company Principal for Miami
Based Sealock Security Systems Inc., manufacturers of supply chain and container
security products marketed as the "Sealock line of tamper indicative cargo security
products ".

My responsibilities entail the marketing and the development of our "Brand Name"
recognition along with developing sales initiatives both domestic & internationally. I have
brought the product line to the market forefront by developing relationships and
networking with industry professionals such as Insurance agents, underwriters, law
enforcement, government officials, logistic providers, carriers, other technology
providers, importers and exporters around the world.

Some notable companies are: Hewlett Packard, Dell, Motorola, JCPenney, Target,
Wal-Mart, Warnaco, Estee Lauder, L'Oreal, Elizabeth Arden, Limited Brands, APL LTD
& APL Logistics, Maersk Lines & Maersk Logistics, DHL/EXEL, EGL Companies,
Starbucks, Pfizer Corp., Perdue Pharma, Panalpina, RedBull, Acacia & African Barrick
Gold



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I am an active participant of various security organizations such as: MSC (Maritime Security Council) where I sit on the Board of Governors as Chairman of Emerging Technologies Committee. I am an active participant and member of Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA), Pharmaceutical Cargo Security Coalition (PCSC) & BASC (Business Alliance for Secure Commerce) Asociacion de Empresas Seguras (AES) Supply Chain Auditing Network (SCAN)

Purposely participating with these organizations to continuously increase my awareness of the needs and requirements of the general shipping public. Therefore, responding to these needs by developing products that provide realistic, low cost, common sense solutions to a market segment (Global Supply Chain Security) that has been identified by the US Government, as highly vulnerable and the most probable method of attack by our global enemies.



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Hon. Carlos A. Gimenez **Mayor Miami-Dade County**

Carlos A. Gimenez is the Mayor of Miami-Dade – Florida’s most populous county. He is Miami-Dade's highest-ranking elected official and chief administrator, who oversees a metropolitan government with 28,000 employees, an annual budget of approximately \$7.4 billion, and serving 2.7 million residents.

Since assuming office in 2011 after a special election, Mayor Gimenez has continued to consistently hold the line on tax increases and to date, the average homeowner has saved approximately \$1,400 in property taxes. He championed and secured approval for the largest tax cut in County history six years ago, and collectively Miami-Dade taxpayers have saved approximately \$2 billion during his tenure.

Gimenez was re-elected as Mayor in 2012 and again in 2016 for two consecutive four-year terms. He brings with him over 40 years of public service experience. Among the County's 25 departments are the two largest economic engines in South Florida – PortMiami and Miami International Airport – as well as the public safety departments, Miami-Dade Police, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Corrections, and the Medical Examiner's office. Collectively, between our airport and seaport, Miami-Dade welcomes over 50 million passengers a year, and the two facilities support either directly or indirectly approximately 600,000 jobs throughout South Florida.

Mayor Gimenez is currently overseeing a \$12.6 billion infrastructure project for the Water and Sewer Department – the largest in Miami-Dade history. The 20-yearlong project includes utilizing state-of-the-art technologies that will improve the reliability and sustainability of the water and sewer system. This project will also contribute over 16,000 new jobs to the community over the course of the next ten years. Prior to becoming Mayor, the Cuban-born Gimenez served on the Board of County Commissioners for seven years. He was first elected in 2004 and subsequently reelected for a second term without opposition in 2008. As Commissioner for District 7,



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he represented the City of Miami, the Village of Key Biscayne, the City of Coral Gables, the City of South Miami, the Village of Pinecrest, as well as unincorporated areas. He also served as Chairman of the Government Operations Committee and Chairman of the Regional Transportation Committee, which oversaw Miami-Dade County's transportation systems.

From May 2000 to January 2003, Mayor Gimenez was Manager of the City of Miami and was credited with helping restore financial stability and integrity to that organization. As Miami's chief administrative officer, he was responsible for an annual budget of \$500 million, a 4,000-employee workforce and provision of services to almost 400,000 residents. During his tenure as Manager, the City's bond rating went from "junk" to investment grade and the tax rate dropped to its lowest level in 50 years. At the same time, Miami was able to establish more than \$140 million in reserves.

Mayor Gimenez spent 25 years with the Miami Fire-Rescue Department before becoming City Manager. The last nine years with the department, he served as Chief, during which time he was credited with modernizing the department and overseeing the largest reorganization in the department's history.

Born in Cuba, Mayor Gimenez and his family moved to the United States in 1960. He has been a Miami-Dade County resident ever since. He graduated from Christopher Columbus High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Barry University. In 1993, he completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Mayor Gimenez is married to the former Lourdes Portela. They have three adult children – Carlos, Julio and Lourdes – and six grandchildren.



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Rt. Hon. (Barr.) Emmanuel Jime **Managing Director, Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority**

Rt. Hon. (Barr.) Emmanuel Jime was born on the 20th of June, 1962. He obtained a law degree (LL.B Hons) in 1983 from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He attended the Nigerian Law School, Lagos from 1983 – 1984, and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1984, as a solicitor and advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

He began his career as a legal practitioner at LUWA Chambers and thereafter started his own Law firm in Makurdi, Benue State where he served as Legal Counsel to Makurdi Local Government.

Hon. Emmanuel Jime contested and won a seat in the Benue State House of Assembly in 1992 and was subsequently sworn-in and elected the Speaker of that Assembly. In 2007 Hon. Jime contested and won the House of Representatives seat at the National Assembly to represent the Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency and was returned in again in 2011, the term expired on 29th May, 2015.

In April, 2017, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed Rt. Hon. (Barr.) Emmanuel Jime as the **Managing Director, Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority** with a mandate to restructure and reform the Country's Free Zones licensing and Regulatory Agency. A Position which he currently holds.



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Maria Lourdes Leon
Founder and CEO
Atlantic Overseas Express, Inc. (AOE)

Maria Lourdes Leon is the founder and CEO of Atlantic Overseas Express, Inc. (AOE), headquartered in Miami and with offices in Bogota, Colombia and Lima, Peru. She has actively represented her company and the South Florida freight forwarding and logistics community for over two decades and takes pride in her track record of full regulatory compliance and proactive accreditation.

Lourdes is civically engaged and takes active roles in the organizations and institutions that affect her business and family. She has served in local school boards and neighborhood associations prior to finding her comparative advantage and joy in teaching. Today, she is part of the Miami Dade College part-time faculty, and teaches bilingual classes covering Logistics Management, Freight Forwarding, Import & Export Compliance, among other topics helping others advance their education and enter the industry.

Lourdes earned her Masters of Public Administration at Barry University, where she further developed her management, research, and policy skills. At the state level currently serves as the President for the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders (FCBF), she is the Co-Chairman of the *2017 Conference of the Americas*. At a national level representing the freight forwarding community she is part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection User Fee Advisory Committee (UFAC) for a two-year period.



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Z. Joe Kulenovic
Vice President, International Operations
International Trade and Development
Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Z. Joe Kulenovic is a senior Miami-based economist with expertise in international trade and investment, economic competitiveness, urban and regional development, and strategic partnerships. With over 25 years of diverse professional experience around the world, he has worked on projects in more than 30 countries. Besides the United States, he has recent field experience in Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, and Vietnam.

Presently, Kulenovic serves as Enterprise Florida's Vice President of International Operations, responsible for managing Florida's network of trade and investment promotion offices outside the United States. He was previously Enterprise Florida's Chief Economist and head of its Research Department, leading analytical efforts on a variety of topical areas, ranging from the preparation of Florida's statewide strategic plan for economic development and industry cluster development, to free trade agreements and strategies to promote Florida's exports and foreign direct investment. He has been involved in most of Florida's seminal economic development initiatives

over the past two decades, partnering with a broad range of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

Other career highlights include working as the Research Director for public-private partnerships for the US Agency for International Development, and as a consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Union. Kulenovic spent nine years with the World Bank Group, in a variety of functional roles. He led work on detailed case studies of economically competitive cities around the world, seeking to understand their success in fostering broad-based economic growth and creating jobs. He also designed and/or implemented World Bank projects in urban transport, local and regional economic development, and building institutional capacity at economic development organizations. He has published numerous studies, working papers, articles, and blog posts, and has been quoted in various business and scientific publications worldwide.



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Kulenovic holds a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary International Studies from the University of Belgrade, and a Master's degree in Economics and International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University – The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC, and Bologna, Italy. Having lived in nine countries on four continents, he has a working knowledge of several languages.



Juan Kuryla, PPM
Director, PortMiami

Mr. Kuryla began his career with Miami-Dade County in the Parks and Recreation Department in 1987. He moved to the County's Finance Department in 1993 as an administrative officer, where he managed a grants program funded by tourist tax dollars. After approximately a year and a half in the Finance Department, Mr. Kuryla took the position of Section Head at the County's Public Works Department's Road, Bridge and Canal Maintenance Division.

In 1996, Mr. Kuryla was promoted to work in the County Manager's Office as an Assistant Administrator. He was promoted again in May 1998 to the Port of Miami as Assistant to the Port Director, where he oversaw the Department's local, state and federal legislative agenda. From February 2001 through February 2007 Mr. Kuryla held the positions of Assistant Port Director for Intergovernmental Affairs and Assistant Port Director for Intergovernmental Affairs and Promotions.

In 2007, Mr. Kuryla was promoted to Assistant Port Director for Maritime Services. In this capacity, he served as co-lead negotiator for the Port on all long term agreements executed with cruise and cargo customers as well as oversaw Port operations, facilities management, berthing, and property management, in addition to the customer service, business development, public information and media relations. In 2009, Mr. Kuryla was promoted to Deputy Port Director. In this capacity, he was responsible for directly



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overseeing the Port's five assistant port directors. In May 2013, Mr. Kuryla was promoted to Seaport Director Designee.

On April 1, 2014 Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez appointed Mr. Kuryla to the position of Director of Port Miami, where he oversees operations and capital development for the largest cruise port in the world. In 2013, 4.13 million passengers passed through Port Miami's terminals and berthed 2500 cargo and cruise vessels. Port Miami generates more than 207,000 jobs and has an economic impact of 27 billion.

Mr. Kuryla holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Florida International University. In 2010, Mr. Kuryla obtained his Professional Port Manager PPM® degree from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).



Chris Mangos
Marketing Division Director
Miami-Dade Aviation Department, which operates Miami International Airport (MIA).

Chris Mangos is the Director of Marketing for the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, which operates Miami International Airport (MIA). His duties include passenger and cargo development, including air service development. Mr. Mangos joined MIA in 1988 after nearly nine years at the Massachusetts Port Authority at Boston Logan



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International Airport. Mr. Mangos is a graduate of Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts. He later pursued courses & seminars at the air service development firm of ASM in Manchester, England, and at Airports Council International in Washington, DC, respectively. Mr. Mangos is a member of the International Affairs Committee of Airports Council International (ACI-NA) and is a trustee member of The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA). Locally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the World Trade Center-Miami and for the International Trade Consortium (ITC) of Miami-Dade County. From 2010 through 2016, he served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Trade and Transportation Advisory Council.



Jose Matto

President/Chairman of The Hispanic Commerce Coalition and Managing Partner of HUBB-UCS:

Served as the Executive Director CAMACOL Hemispheric Congress & Permanent Secretariat 2015-16. CAMACOL a establish initiative for international trade program over 37 years ago, in collaboration of the State of Florida, Enterprise Florida-EFI, Florida Ports, and City of Miami and Miami Dade County.

Jose Matto was a Business Development Executive for Host.net. He brings over 30 years of diversified experience in Telecommunication and Information Technology sales engineering, US and Latin American Business Development, and Executive Management.

Matto previously work in multiple sales engineering & business development positions for ATT, Bellsouth, EarthLink Business, HBS (Hotwire Business Solutions), State of Florida FTDC (Florida Trade Data Center).

Matto is involved in various civic, non-for profit, and Trade Association. He served as the vice-chairman of the Miami Museum of Science & Smithsonian Institution. Proactive collaboration with CEE (Central & Eastern European) TRADE CENTER, "GO AMERICAS INICIATIVE, Enterprise Florida, Florida Department of Economic Development, Port of Miami, City of Miami, Miami Dade, Miami, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, and The US Department of Commerce-Commercial Services.



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Mr. Matto conducts monthly products seminars, and networking events throughout the multiple Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and Economic Development Organizations, in the US, Latin America and Europe.



Emily McHugh
International Trade Consultant, Florida SBDC at Indian River State College,
School of Business

Emily McHugh is a dynamic entrepreneur, educator, and global strategic consultant. She is the founder of the award-winning travel and tech accessories design company Casauri and the author of the highly acclaimed book "The Little Girl's Guide to Entrepreneurship; What I Know Now That I Sure Wish I Knew Then" (available on Amazon.com and Casauri.com). She has been featured in Forbes and Fast Company and has written articles for Business Week and USA Today. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.B.A.). Emily has lived in six countries, speaks three languages, and resides in Florida.

Follow Emily on Facebook and Instagram @EmilyTheEntrepreneur and join her Entrepreneurial Mindset with Emily McHugh Facebook Group; also follow Casauri on Facebook and @CasauriDesign on Instagram



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**Honorable Dennis C. Moss,
Commissioner District 9, Miami Dade County**

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss was first elected in 1993 and has served on the Board of County Commissioners for over 23 years. On November 20, 2008, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners elected the then 15-year veteran, as its 2009-2010 Chairman. He was inducted on December 18, 2008 in an official ceremony hosted by the outgoing Chairman. The role became effective on January 1, 2009. Miami-Dade has 13 commissioners elected in non-partisan, single-district elections who serve four-year staggered terms, with elections scheduled every two years.

His 2008 election as Commission Chairman coincided with the beginning of his fifth consecutive term representing District 9. With his re-election in 2016, Commissioner Moss has been elected seven times by the residents of District 9, which is geographically the largest and most diverse in the county.

Commissioner Moss currently serves as Chairman of the Government Operations Committee, which is responsible for oversight of Miami-Dade County's financial, operational and planning functions. He was also appointed as Vice Chair of the Building Safer Neighborhoods Subcommittee and a member of the Transportation and Public Works Committee, the Economic Development and Tourism Committee and the Chairman's Policy Council.

Commissioner Moss is known, respected, and admired for making promises and keeping them. He was initially elected to the Board of County Commissioners shortly after Hurricane Andrew, the second worst natural disaster in the history of the United States; Commissioner Moss immediately focused his efforts on the recovery of South Miami-Dade. His tireless efforts resulted in a comprehensive plan to rebuild distressed and declining areas affected by Hurricane Andrew. Named in recognition of Commissioner Moss, the Moss Plan was approved on September 7, 1993 by the Board of County Commissioners.



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Some of his accomplishments include: saving Homestead Air Reserve Base and bringing to South Dade a public hospital, the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a winery, an extension of the busway to Florida City in addition to a proposed Zoo Miami theme park. Commissioner Moss was also instrumental in the creation of Team Metro, 311, and awarding more than 600 yearly grants to "Mom & Pop" businesses.



Anthony Okonmah

Executive Director, Africa Trade Development Center (ATDC)

Tony Okonmah is the Executive Director of The Africa Trade Development Center (ATDC), the first of its kind in the United States designed to expand US--Africa trade and to create demand for African imports to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); the Generalized Systems of Preferences (GSP) and to other lucrative markets in the Americas using the strategic location of the ATDC in the Miami Free Zone as a distribution hub to the America.

Tony has more than 15 years, experience working on US Africa trade and investment policy. He has travelled extensively in Africa promoting trade, investment and economic cooperation. Tony Okonmah has published more than thirty peer-review articles and abstracts in the scientific journals. Prior to this position he has worked with several drug companies as a research scientist and also taught doctor of pharmacy students – research methodology.

Mr. Okonmah serves on the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority and several other private sector organizations in the US and Africa. He received his Bachelor of Science (Honors), Animal and Poultry Science, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, June 1975, and his Master of Science, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida, April 1978.



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FRED OLADEINDE

President/Co-Founder, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

Fred Oladeinde is the President and Co-Founder of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1994 and focused on promoting participatory democracy, economic growth and sustainable development throughout Africa. Mr. Oladeinde also serves as the Chair of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network Secretariat, an FDA initiative consisting of a grouping of civil society organizations in AGOA-eligible countries throughout Sub Sahara Africa (SSA) and the United States that work to optimize the benefits of the AGOA legislation as related to trade and economic development. The Secretariat also works with CSOs in providing capacity building and technical assistance to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), NGOs, and civil society organizations. Prior to establishing the Network in 2003, Mr. Oladeinde testified before the U.S. Congress in 1999 in support of the AGOA Bill, and since 2001, he has worked closely with select US Government agencies in planning and facilitating the Civil Society Session of the AGOA Forum on US-Sub Saharan Trade and Economic Cooperation, also known as the AGOA Forum.



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Daisy Ramos-Winfield

Executive Vice President of the Florida Export Finance Corporation (FEFC)

Daisy Ramos-Winfield is the Executive Vice President of the Florida Export Finance Corporation (FEFC) which is a not-for-profit corporation formed, funded, and sponsored by the State of Florida. She has over 20 years of diversified experience in banking including trade finance starting with 10 years at Bank of America where she grew throughout the nationally acclaimed financial institution and managed a portfolio of over 125 business clients, both domestic and international companies and institutions with annual revenues from \$2.5MM to \$25MM. She later expanded her knowledge within her position to include, write and execute credit policies and Risk Management compliance. Mrs. Ramos-Winfield has acted as a consultant to both the U.S. and foreign companies within the trade finance spectrum. Her trade experience with both large and small companies and in both the public and private sectors has given her an extensively diverse background and proved to be a valuable asset to the FEFC with its primary purpose of financial support for Florida small and medium sized exporters. Daisy successfully completed the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship Nonprofit Executive Program at Florida State University College of Business in 2017. Under her leadership FEFC was awarded the 2017 EXIM Bank REPP of the year. In 2016 alone FEFC posted 43 EXIM Bank seminars and workshops that led to 69 Export Credit Insurance referrals and 20 applications. Her continuous support and wiliness to assist the small and medium sized exporters achieve success has been the driving force that has contributed to her great accomplishments.

Partnerships and Participations:

- JAX Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Commerce ITA – International Trade Administration
- Enterprise Florida
- Ex-Im Bank Regional Export Promotion Program Participant (REPPP)
- Small Business Administration
- Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council



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Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States Representative

I am proud to represent Florida's 27th Congressional District, a diverse area which includes Coral Gables, Cutler Bay, Key Biscayne, Little Havana, Miami, Miami Beach, Pinecrest, South Miami, and Westchester.

I was born in Havana, Cuba in July, 1952. At the age of eight, my family and I were forced to flee from the oppressive communist regime of Fidel Castro. We settled in Miami and put down permanent roots in our community. I attended Southside Elementary School in Little Havana, West Miami Junior High, and Southwest High School. In the years following, I earned an Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College in 1972, Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education from Florida International University in 1975 and 1985 respectively, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Miami in 2004. I consider education a lifelong journey.

I began my career as a Florida certified teacher. I also founded and served as the principal and teacher of a private bilingual elementary school in Hialeah. I was inspired to enter public service by many of the parents and students; to fight on their behalf for a stronger educational system, lower taxes, and a brighter economic future.

In 1982, I was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives and the Florida Senate in 1986, becoming the first Hispanic woman to serve in either body. In the state legislature, I sponsored the legislation for the Florida Pre Paid College Program, which



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is now the largest pre-paid college tuition program in the nation. More than one million Florida families have used this program to send their children to college.

I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989-- the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress--following a special election to fill the seat held by the late Claude Pepper. I have been strongly returned to Congress since.

I remain committed to improving the lives of my constituents and our beautiful South Florida community. As the economy remains a pressing issue for so many of South Florida's families, I support reducing taxes and cutting unnecessary government spending. I also support plans to balance the federal budget and increase tax incentives for small businesses and middle class families.

Given my background in education, I have worked to strengthen the Head Start program. I have also supported legislation to increase the availability to student financial aid and revise the cumbersome and complicated Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) process.

I am a strong advocate of programs that address the serious problem of domestic violence against women. I was a lead sponsor of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which increases resources towards the prosecution of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault. I also support legislation to increase criminal penalties for perpetrators of Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud is a deplorable practice which robs hardworking seniors of the benefits they spent a lifetime earning, while also wasting billions in taxpayer dollars.

As the wife of a Vietnam veteran and step-mother to Marine aviators, I am passionate about improving our nation's military, safeguarding veteran's health care, and ensuring that returning veterans have access to a college education. I also authored legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These women pioneers had been denied recognition for their service during World War II.

I am Chairman emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and am now Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa. In this role, I continue to voice my strong support for the state of Israel and human rights, including my opposition to Castro's dictatorial regime in Cuba. I have also led on pressing foreign policy issues including the fight against Islamist extremism, and support of free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. I was proud to lead the fight in the House of Representatives to impose sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela. I also proudly serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to help ensure our nation has the best intelligence gathering capabilities and processes to determine actionable threats.



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I am the proud wife to Dexter Lehtinen, mother and step-mother to 4 adult children, and grandmother to five beautiful grandchildren - Morgan Elizabeth, Caroline Grace, Killian Marie, Dustin Winslow, and Javier Enrique.



Ralph De La Rosa
CEO of Imperial Freight Brokers

Ralph De La Rosa is the CEO of Imperial Freight Brokers, a full-service supply chain, logistics, customs brokerage and transportation firm based in South Florida that has been serving the global marketplace for nearly 50 years. Following in his late father's pioneering legacy, Ralph has significantly expanded the company's global footprint and continues to find innovative solutions to the challenges faced by his clients in an ever-changing world. He received a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Florida International University and is a licensed customs broker.



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Patricia Secke

Founder and President “Africa Femmes Performantes, Inc..”

Patricia Secke is from Cameroon in Central Africa. After high school in Cameroon, Patricia Secke majored in a Business School in Paris (INSTITUT SUPERIEUR EUROPEEN DE GESTION), graduating with a Master degree in Marketing and business strategies in 1999. After graduating from the Business School, she has worked as a travel agent executive and marketing counselor in a travel agency in Paris “NDS VOYAGES”.

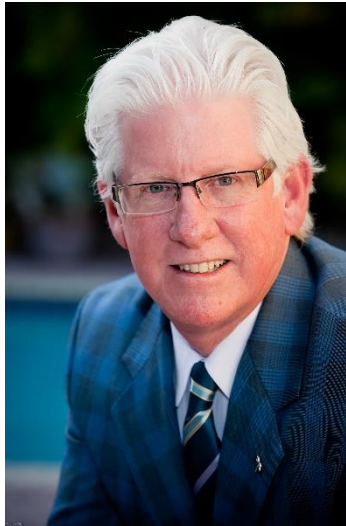
In 2003, Patricia Secke founded *Africa Femmes Performantes, Inc.* in France and she decided to promote African women skills in France and all over the world. Her goal was to build connection between every business woman in the world and especially woman from Africa.

In January 2007, she held the first International Congress of African Woman in Paris. It was a great success. This meeting opened doors to Mrs. Secke to develop her vision furthermore. Her organization had the opportunity to associate with the **African Union** during the Regional Consultative Conference on the African Diaspora in Paris in 2007. After holding 8 Congresses over the 3 Continents: Africa, America and Europa, Patricia Secke is now recognized as the Ambassador of the International Congress of African women, her mission today is to associate the voices of women of the Diaspora to the construction of specific economic bounds between America and Africa through Capacity Building, Market Place, investment projects and international partnerships. Patricia Secke has been nominated to the 2017-2018 AGOA Advisory Board as she has an extensive expertise in a demonstrated commitment to advancing US-AFRICA trade, investment, and cooperation.



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William D. Talbert, III, CDME

President & CEO Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB)

William D. Talbert, III, CDME has served as President & CEO of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) for the past eighteen years and Chief Operating Officer for the prior nine. His major accomplishments include assisting with the passage of the Travel Promotion Act of 2010; negotiating inter-local government funding agreements; preparing five successful Super Bowl bids, including the most recent bid for the NFL's centennial year 2020 Super Bowl; and three Pow Wow bids. Under Talbert's leadership, the GMCVB was awarded accreditation from the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program in November 2007.

In June 2016, Talbert was appointed to the United States Commerce Department's 2016-2018 Travel & Tourism Advisory Board. The Board serves as the advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the travel and tourism industry in the United States and offers recommendations on implementation of the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

On July 1, 2016, Talbert will become Chair of the VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors for FY 2016-17. In his role as Chair, he will continue to serve on the Board's Executive Committee. VISIT FLORIDA is the state's official tourism marketing corporation and serves as Florida's official source for travel planning to visitors across the globe.

He is a member of the U.S. Travel Association (USTA) Chairman's Circle and Brand USA Advisory Board member. He is also a board member of multiple Miami-based business and non-profit organizations.

Talbert's professional affiliations include past Chair of Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) Board of Directors, past Chair of DMAI Foundation Board of Trustees, and past Chair of the Florida Association of Destination Marketing Organizations (FADMO).

Talbert holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University and bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida. In



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2006, he earned the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) designation – the highest educational achievement in the destination marketing industry.