Dennis Alvord
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dennis Alvord serves as EDA’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer and is responsible for enterprise-wide operations and program execution. Mr. Alvord concurrently performed the duties of the Assistant Secretary and the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Economic Development and Regional Affairs from April 2017 through March 2019 and, again, from January through August 2021. Active in the Department, he was elected as Co-Chair of the Department Management Council, comprised of senior executives from all of Commerce’s principal operating units. Previously, as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, he worked on a broad portfolio of department-wide management, operations, program and policy issues and co-chaired the Department of Commerce's 2016-17 Presidential Transition, coordinating efforts across the Department and with the White House and President Elect's Transition Team.
Marla Bilonick
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
Washington, DC

Marla Bilonick is the President and CEO of the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) and also serves as CEO of NALCAB’s subsidiary asset management company Escalera Community Investments. Ms. Bilonick brings over 20 years of expertise in small business development, community-based financial services and international aid with an emphasis on Latin America and the US Latino population. Prior to joining NALCAB, she served as the Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center. Ms. Bilonick is a board member of the Opportunity Finance Network, the National Housing Trust and a founding member of the National League of Minority Voters’ board. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Arts in international economics and Latin American studies from Johns Hopkins University.

David Glasser
President and CEO
MoFi
Missoula, MT

Dave Glaser is currently the President of MoFi, a position he has held since 2007. MoFi is a Community Development Financial Institution that provides loans to individuals and businesses across the Rocky Mountain West that are just outside the financial mainstream. Mr. Glasser formerly served on the board of the Opportunity Finance Network and is a member of the U.S. Bank Community Advisory Committee, the Columbia Bank Community Advisory Panel, and the Mission Lender Working Group Steering Committee.
Committee. He holds a Master of Science from the University of Montana and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Colorado. Dave lives with his family in Missoula, Montana.

James Arthur Jemison, II
Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

As Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Arthur Jemison is the leader of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), the policy lead and HUD partner for American cities, counties, states and other local units of government. To advance this partnership, CPD administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and CDBG - Disaster Recovery Funds, as well as the HOME Partnership program, Homelessness Assistance Grants and the Emergency Solutions Grant, among other funds.

Mr. Jemison joined HUD from the City of Detroit, where he was Group Executive for Planning, Housing & Development, leading the city’s efforts toward equitable growth, working in partnership with directors of the Housing & Revitalization Department, the Planning & Development Department, the Detroit Land Bank Authority, Detroit Housing Commission, and the Bridging Neighborhoods program.

In early 2014, he was recruited by Mayor Duggan to be the Director of the Housing & Revitalization Department for the City of Detroit to assist as the city recovered from bankruptcy. In that capacity, Mr. Jemison led strategy, deployment and management of the city’s housing policy and HUD entitlement funding.

Before coming to Detroit, Mr. Jemison served as Deputy Undersecretary and Deputy Director for the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Governor Deval Patrick. Prior to that, Mr. Jemison held a variety of public- and private-sector positions, all related to city planning and urban development, primarily in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. Locally, this includes his role in the Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development in the District of Columbia, as the City recovered from Control Board management during the first term of Mayor Anthony Williams.
Mr. Kelley serves as Associate Administrator for the Office of Capital Access (OCA) at the U.S. Small Business Administration. In this role, Mr. Kelley leads the OCA, which helps make capital available, through banks and other lending partners, to small businesses that would not be able to access credit conventionally.

Previously Mr. Kelley served as the Executive Vice President for Channel Partnerships at Live Oak Bank, as part of the Bank’s Corporate Strategy and Development team. Under his leadership, Live Oak Bank originated over $500 million in small business and asset-based loans to US federal Government Contractors including 8(a), HUBZone, Women-Owned, and SDVOSB small businesses. Prior to joining Live Oak Bank, Mr. Kelley previously held the positions of Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Associate Administrator and Senior Advisor for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) where he oversaw the agency’s $100 billion loan portfolio and the small business government contractor set aside programs.

Prior to joining the SBA, Kelley worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce providing guidance to the Under Secretary of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Mr. Kelley is a graduate of Colgate University and Boston College Law School.

Patrice Kunesh, of Standing Rock Lakota descent, is the founder and director of Peȟíŋ Haha Consulting, a social enterprise committed to fostering self-determined Native nations by expanding their access to economic opportunities and fostering social and economic capital. Previously, she established and led the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, a national initiative focused on activating financial, human, and social capital to facilitate economic growth and prosperity in
American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Ms. Kunesh began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund, where her work centered on jurisdiction and natural resources, nation building, and Indian child welfare matters. Ms. Kunesh previously served in various federal government roles including as the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Justin Maxson
Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Prior to being named Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, Justin served six years as Chief Executive Officer at the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. The Foundation works to support moving people and places out of poverty across the South. In this role, Justin managed strategy development, partnerships, organizational learning, board development and provided overall organizational leadership. Justin and his team worked to support a unique private-public partnership with USDA, Bank of America and seven foundations; developed a racial equity lens to inform their impact investing and tripled their 2020 grant-making in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before joining the Foundation, Justin spent 13 years as President of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (now Mountain Association), a multi-strategy sustainable economic development organization and CDFI working in eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia. In this role Justin managed strategy development, board development, fundraising and coordinated program development. Programs included small business development and entrepreneurial support solutions, energy efficiency and sustainable forestry strategies and targeted research and policy efforts. Justin and his team developed a unique “on-bill financing” energy efficiency program in partnership with five rural electric co-operatives, created a forest-based carbon sequestration program to generate income to reward good forest practices, and packaged innovative services to promote commercial energy efficiency, among other initiatives. At MACED, he was fortunate to regularly work with the KY Rural Development office and related financing and grant programs.

Justin was on the founding board of the Center for Rural Strategies, and a yearlong fellow at the Sustainability Institute and the Rockwood Leadership Institute. He served at the Kentucky Governor’s request on the Kentucky Climate Action Planning Committee and the planning committee for Shaping Our Appalachian region. He most recently served on Truist Bank’s Community Development Advisory board.

He has a master’s degree from Boston University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky, both in Anthropology.
Luis Pastor
President and CEO
Latino Community Credit Union
Durham, NC

Luis Pastor first joined Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU), a Community Development Financial Institution, in the year 2000 just weeks after its founding. He started working at the credit union as a volunteer, and soon thereafter the board of directors decided to bring him on as the Credit Union’s first President and CEO. Today, LCCU continues to advance its mission of providing ethical financial products and education to empower communities throughout North Carolina and surrounding states. Mr. Pastor, a native of Spain, has a degree in Economics and Business Administration from CUNEF (Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain), a master’s in human resources from CEF (Centros de Estudios Financieros, Madrid, Spain) and an MBA from Instituto de Empresa (Madrid, Spain).

Harold B. Pettigrew, Jr.,
Chief Executive Officer
Wacif
Washington, DC

Harold Pettigrew, Jr. currently serves as CEO of Wacif, one of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area’s leading Community Development Financial Institutions focused on access to capital products and services, and capacity building technical assistance to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs of color. Prior to joining Wacif, Mr. Pettigrew was the Director of Entrepreneurship at Prosperity Now, where he led the organization’s national efforts to advance policies
and programs that increase business success for low-and moderate-income microbusiness owners throughout the United States. In addition, Harold has served as an advisor to the World Bank, and served as an advisor to National League of Cities advising cities across the country on equitable development strategies. From 2011 to 2013, he served as the Director of Washington, D.C.’s Department of Small and Local Business Development. From 2009 through 2011, Mr. Pettigrew served as the city’s leading regulatory official for licensing and regulation as the Administrator for the Business and Professional Licensing Administration at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Harold has a Master of Urban Planning from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from North Carolina State University, where he has also served as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees.

Graham Steele
Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Graham Steele serves as the Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He is an expert on financial regulation and financial institutions, with more than a decade of experience working at the highest levels of law and policy in Washington, D.C.

Graham was previously the director of the Corporations and Society Initiative at Stanford Graduate School of Business, a research initiative that examines issues at the intersection of markets, business, and government to promote more accountable capitalism and governance.

Prior to joining Stanford GSB, Graham was a member of the staff of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. From 2015 to 2017, Graham was the Minority Chief Counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs. From 2010 to 2015 he was a Legislative Assistant for United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), handling the Senator’s work as a member of the Senate Banking Committee. During that time, he also spent four years as the staff director of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions & Consumer Protection. Prior to joining Senator Brown’s staff, Graham was a policy counsel at Public Citizen’s Congress Watch in Washington, D.C.

Graham received his bachelors degree in political science from the University of Rochester and his law degree from The George Washington University Law School. He is originally from Brookline, Massachusetts, and is a member of the Massachusetts State Bar.
Jennifer Sun is the Co-Executive Director of Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE), a 47-year-old community development organization in New York City. AAFE advances racial, social, and economic justice for Asian American, immigrant and other systematically disadvantaged communities through affordable housing development, small business lending and technical assistance, homeownership assistance, social services, advocacy, and neighborhood planning.

From 2008 to 2014, Jennifer served as Senior Vice President at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and in 2015 she was appointed Executive Director of Sunset Park at EDC, overseeing the modernization of 6 million square feet of industrial property along the Brooklyn waterfront to support urban manufacturing. From 2004 to 2008, Ms. Sun served as a policy advisor in the New York City Mayor’s Office, guiding public investment in affordable housing, commercial development and nonprofit cultural institutions in Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx. She holds dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in economics and east asian studies from UCLA and a Masters of Science in urban planning from Columbia University.

Michael Swack is a professor at the University of New Hampshire, where he has appointments at the Carsey School of Public Policy and at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. He directs
the Center for Impact Finance and the Master’s Program in Community Development, a program designed for adult practitioners. At Carsey, he is working on building scale in the community development finance sector, innovations in community development finance, microfinance, and sustainable energy financing. He also directs the Financial Innovations Roundtable a collaboration with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. Previously, Mr. Swack was the founder and former dean of the School of Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University. He was the first chairman and served for seventeen years as a board member of the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority. Mr. Swack also founded the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund and was a founding board member of the National Association of Community Development Loan Funds (now the Opportunity Finance Network), a trade association of Community Development Finance Institutions. Mr. Swack received his doctorate degree from Columbia University, his master’s degree from Harvard University, and his bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alan Thian
President and CEO
Royal Business Bank
Los Angeles, CA

Alan Thian serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Business Bank, a position he has held since the bank began operations in 2008. Royal Business Bank is a Community Development Financial Institution. Mr. Thian previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of First Continental Bank from 2000 to 2003. He also served as the Executive Vice President and Regional Director of United Commercial Bank from 2003 to 2007. Mr. Thian began his banking career at General Bank where he served as a director and also in various officer positions. He was appointed twice to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Community Bank Advisory Committee and previously served as a member on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Community Bank Advisory Committee. Mr. Thian holds an MBA from the University of Southern California.
Darrin Williams is a banker, securities and consumer protection attorney, former legislator and passionate advocate for financial inclusion. Currently serving as the CEO of Southern Bancorp, Inc., Williams oversees the strategic direction and operations of each of Southern Bancorp’s three Community Development Financial Institutions: Southern Bancorp, Inc., a bank holding company; Southern Bancorp Bank, one of America’s largest rural development banks; and Southern Bancorp Community Partners, a 501(c)(3) development finance and lending organization – collectively known as “Southern.” With $1.9 billion in assets, more than 65,000 customers and 52 locations, Southern Bancorp’s markets extend throughout the Mid-South. Focused on the net worth building strategies of homeownership, entrepreneurship and saving, Southern Bancorp believes that wealth building isn’t just for the wealthy; they seek to be wealth builders for everyone. Mr. Williams received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hendrix College, his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University School of Law, and his Master of Laws in securities and financial regulation from Georgetown University Law Center.