



Thursday, May 5, 2016

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”

- Mark Twain

Emcee & Presenter Helen L. Callier, President of Bradlink, LLC



Helen Callier, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Six Sigma Black Belt, bestselling Author of “Your Money is in the Follow-up”, and a national speaker, is President of Bradlink LLC, a go-to Technical Services Firm providing Program Management, Buildings Design, Facilities Support services primarily serving government agencies and Fortune 500 firms. Some of Bradlink’s clients include the Houston Airport System, AECOM, JACOBS, CH2MHill, and XEROX.

Headquartered in Kingwood, Texas with offices in Dallas, Texas and Omaha, Nebraska, Helen has led Bradlink to work on several high profile projects such as Houston METRO’s Light Rail Corridor Expansion, DFW Airport Terminal Improvement Project, Houston Hobby Airport International Terminal and on other infrastructure related projects including serving as Program Management Team Prime via a Joint Venture with AECOM.

She is a contributing small business blogger on www.huffingtonpost.com. She is a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program. This national program is funded by The Goldman Sachs Foundation and supported by Warren Buffet to help small businesses to grow and create jobs. She was recently approved as a member of the Mayor's International Trade and Development Council covering Central America, Cuba, South America, and the Caribbean, and serves as the Emerging and Procurement Chair of Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce.

Opening Session Keynotes

Douglas J. Kramer, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration



Douglas J. Kramer was confirmed as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on June 11, 2015. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing the agency and ensuring the efficient operation of its programs. He works to make sure the Agency fulfills its promise to support U.S. Small Businesses.

For more than four years, Mr. Kramer held leadership positions at the White House. From March 2012 to November 2013, Mr. Kramer worked as Deputy Assistant to the President and White House Staff Secretary. From 2009 to 2012, he served in the Office of the White House Counsel, first as Deputy Associate Counsel for Presidential Personnel, and then as Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel to the President.

Prior to joining the White House, Mr. Kramer served as Counsel in the Antitrust Division at the Department of Justice. From 2006 to 2009, he

worked as an Associate and then Shareholder at the law firm Polsinelli PC. From 2001 to 2006, he was an Associate at the law firm Covington & Burling. Earlier, Mr. Kramer served as a Judicial Clerk in the Chambers of the Hon. Walter L. Carpeneti of the Alaska Supreme Court.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller



Sid Miller is an eighth generation farmer and rancher, and the 12th Texas Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Miller has devoted his life to the agriculture industry, and has worked diligently to support the men and women who provide our food and fiber, and the communities they call home. He is a small businessman, community leader, former school teacher, rancher and former school board member. He is passionate about ensuring rural communities have access to the infrastructure they need to thrive.

Commissioner Miller works to promote growth, job creation and innovation in the agriculture industry through domestic and international market development efforts, and partnerships with Texas universities and research facilities. He also oversees the dynamic GO TEXAN program, which showcases the best of the products, culture and communities that call Texas home.

Brad Napp, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism



Brad Napp joined the Office of the Governor in November 2015 and serves as the Small Business Advocate. In this role, he leads the Small Business Assistance team which provides resources and services to small, midsize, Women-owned, minority-owned, disability-owned, and veteran-owned businesses as well as small business service providers such as chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and private sector stakeholders.

Prior to coming onboard the Governor's Office, Brad served as Ambassador at the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Vice President – Strategic Partnerships at the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President – Corporate Development at the Texas Association of Business (TAB).

Brad is a graduate of Texas A&M University – College Station with continuing education at the University of Texas – Arlington, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the International Economic Development Council.

The Honorable Borris L. Miles, Texas House of Representatives



Borris L. Miles was first elected to serve as the State Representative for District 146 in November of 2006. He was re-elected in November 2010, and was sworn back into the House of Representatives in January 2011.

He is a lifelong resident of Houston; growing up in Sunnyside where he attended Jack Yates High School, "Home of the Mighty LIONS!" After high school, he received the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Criminal Science from Sam Houston State University.

A former law enforcement officer, Mr. Miles is a successful entrepreneur and businessman, owning and operating the third largest (and most successful) African-

American independent insurance agency in the United States and the #1 African-American owned agency in Texas. Mr. Miles believes that by investing in his community, he is having a positive impact on the business and economic base of the area.

Program Highlights and Acknowledgements

Dinita Caldwell, Director of HUB/MWBE Programs



Dinita Caldwell is a senior advisor to the Deputy Commissioner Jason Fearneyhough, as the Director of the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) and Minority Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Programs for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). As part of TDA's senior leadership team, she directs the Department's supplier diversity activities, including fostering relationships with sub-consultants and prime contractors on local and federal government projects. Caldwell leads the Department's business units to establish supplier diversity-related goals and objectives and trains employees on how to achieve these goals through better business and procurement practices.

Karen Reichek, Director for Contracts and Grants

Karen Reichek, Director of the Grants Office within the Trade and Business Development Division of the Texas Department of Agriculture, is responsible for the outreach, administration and monitoring of more than thirty programs valued at nearly \$150 million and funded through federal grants, state appropriations, donations and collected fees.

Ms. Reichek oversees staff through each of the programs' lifecycles including development, solicitation, recipient evaluation and selection, contract execution, performance reporting and monitoring, payment (advance or reimbursement), compliance review, matching confirmation (if applicable), and close out. Ms. Reichek places a high value on best practices, compliance and communication.

Capital for Texas Panel Session Presentation

Raquel Valdez, Chief Operating Officer of Business & Community Lenders of Texas



Raquel Valdez is a corporate strategist, marketing guru and housing and small business advocate. She is currently responsible for the growth and development of the non-profit economic development organization Business & Community Lenders of Texas (BCL) as the Chief Operating Officer. Raquel holds a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Management and Marketing and has 10 years of experience in the field of community & economic development.

She has a passion for product development, implementation and service delivery. As Chief Operating Officer, Raquel has developed the BCL's Homeownership, Community Development and Entrepreneurship programs in the Austin and Dallas markets. She is responsible for generating over 75% of the operating budget for the organization and continues to share her passion and knowledge through several hundred hours per year of direct services to expanding businesses, start-ups, non-profits, homeowners and low-income families. A graduate of Leadership Texas's Power Pipeline, Raquel served as

Chair of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Accessing Capital Committee, Treasurer of the Young Hispanic Professionals Association of Austin and currently serves as President of the I-10 Corridor Association, which promotes economic development in rural towns along interstate 10 in Texas. Ms. Valdez is a 5th generation Austinite and volunteers her time to a variety of charities.

Gary L. Lindner, President & CEO of PeopleFund



Gary Lindner has achieved exceptional results in military, corporate, and non-profit senior positions. Under his leadership, PeopleFund made systematic improvements and evolved into a statewide business lending organization with great positive social and economic impact.

Previously, he was Chief Operating Officer at ACCION Texas for six years where he quadrupled the outstanding loan portfolio to over \$30 million. Over the past decade, he has been directly responsible for over 6,000 business loans.

Gary has also headed a major division of a private company and set profitability records. A retired Air Force Colonel and Command Pilot, he has extensive air combat, staff and CEO experience. Gary Lindner graduated from the Air Force Academy and earned a master's degree from Auburn University. He has served on numerous local, regional and national non-profit boards.

Adriana H. Biggs, Chief Strategy Officer of LiftFund, Inc.



Adriana Biggs is Chief Strategy Officer of LiftFund. She is responsible for leading LiftFund’s strategic growth, with an eye on opportunities for expansion and projections of future growth. She also oversees LiftFund’s development and communications teams. Biggs is responsible for all aspects of public relations, marketing and other outreach that enhance the public image and brand of the organization. In addition, she is charged with developing and maintaining long-lasting strategic relationships throughout a thirteen-state footprint.

Biggs joined LiftFund in March 2014. A former prosecutor for more than 21 years, Biggs served as the chief of the white collar crime and public integrity division in Bexar County for eight years. Under her leadership, the division prosecuted financial crimes, including misapplication of funds by a fiduciary, theft, bribery, Medicare fraud, and security code violations. Originally from Laredo, Texas, Biggs obtained a bachelor’s degree in marketing from St. Mary’s University and received her Juris Doctorate degree from St. Mary’s School of Law. She has been licensed by the State Bar of Texas since 1990.

Certification Program Presenters

Don C. Owens, Business Opportunity Specialist U.S. Small Business Administration San Antonio District Office



Don C. Owens currently serves as a Business Opportunity Specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration, San Antonio District Office. Don started his civil service career in 2015 with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As a Business Opportunity Specialist, Don is responsible for the 8 (a) Business Development programs and compliance to include completing all assigned 8 (a) Annual Reviews and Mentor Protege/Joint Venture agreements and other programmatic support activities, (e.g. offer letters, change of ownership requests, waivers, and resolving contracting issues).

Don is an energetic and committed professional with a proven track record for helping to enhance and promulgate entrepreneurship and assist tomorrows emerging entrepreneurs understand the necessary steps required to build and launch their businesses.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he retired from active duty after 26 years of service.

Ricky E. Allen, B.S., M.Ed., D.Min., Ph.D.,

City of Austin's Small and Minority Business Resources Business Development Counselor



Mr. Ricky E. Allen has over 25 years of experience working in the public sector. Mr. Allen has a unique forte of customer service as he works for the City of Austin's Small and Minority Business Resources Department (SMBR) as a Business Development Counselor. Mr. Allen meets with vendors to discuss the City's Minority-Owned, Women-Owned & Disadvantaged Business Enterprise procurement programs (MBE/WBE/DBE).

He continues to effectively work providing community support of the program by making oral presentations to business owners who are interested in becoming a certified vendor with SMBR.

State Agencies in Attendance

Health and Human Services Commission

HUB Contact	Sherice Williams, Manager, HHS HUB Operations (512) 406-2542 sherice.williams@hhsc.state.tx.us
HUB Contact	John Wesley Smith, HUB Coordinator/Administrator (512) 406-2536 johnwesley.smith@hhsc.state.tx.us
HUB Contact	Jerry L. Johnson II, EA, HUB RFP Report Analyst (512) 406-2569 jerry.johnsonii@hhsc.state.tx.us
HUB Contact	Robert Hall, Director, Procurement and Contracting Services RFP/HUB (512) 406-2521 robert.hall@hhsc.state.tx.us

Office of the Attorney General

HUB Contact	Shawn Constancio, HUB Coordinator (512) 475-4411 shawn.constancio@texasattorneygeneral.gov
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Office of the Governor

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Statewide HUB Program

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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Texas Department of Agriculture

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Bradlink, LLC

Business & Community Lenders of Texas

City of Austin Small and Minority Business Resources

Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council

Houston Minority Supplier Development Council

LiftFund, Inc.

Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism

PeopleFund

Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council

The Honorable Boris Miles Texas House of Representative

The Honorable Royce West Texas Senate

Tri-County Regional Black Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Small Business Administration



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