Nominating Committee Report
Member-Elected Directors

Lenwood Long

Lenwood Long is the President, CEO, and Co-Founder of the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs. He is co-founder and visionary rebrander and the former president/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund, a CDFI and statewide nonprofit organization known for programs related to African-American small businesses, women entrepreneurship, veterans, and the Latino/Hispanic community. His work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities within North Carolina has been mentioned as a national model. Lenwood has more than 30 years of experience in community economic development, human resources, and business management. He has held leadership positions in a variety of organizations, including statewide economic and community development agencies, national consulting firms, and nonprofit organizations. Lenwood also served as the Chief of Staff for former congresswoman Eva M. Clayton. He is a Senior Pastor Emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church and a retired Army Viet-Nam Combat Veteran.

Wendy Gessner

Wendy Gessner is the Executive Director of Commonwealth Cornerstone Group (CCG). CCG is a Pennsylvania based CDE affiliated with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) and has received 8 NMTC allocations totaling $406M. CCG's activities focus on stimulating economic opportunity for PA's low-income residents through the creation of jobs, the enhancement of wealth-creating opportunities, and the provision of healthcare services within low-income communities.

After joining PHFA housing management division in 2013, Ms. Gessner's role shortly transitioned to NMTC asset and compliance management for CCG which she held for 6 years before becoming the Executive Director in 2020. Ms. Gessner has over twenty years of accounting, audit and budgeting, project underwriting and administrative experience and has dedicated her career to supporting disadvantaged businesses and communities in both the Governmental and Not for Profit sectors.