



Alabama Department of Commerce



ALABAMA MICROENTERPRISE NETWORK

microenterpriselabama.org

PO Box 1882 | Birmingham, Alabama 35201

AMEN is a 501(c)3 organization formed in 2002 to speak with one voice to serve, educate and empower microenterprise service providers in Alabama and the entrepreneurs they represent.

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ALABAMA MICROENTERPRISE NETWORK

2017 ALABAMA MICROENTERPRISE NETWORK FORUM

BUILDING WEALTH & ITS IMPACT ON MICROBUSINESS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA BUILDING 524 LIBERTY PARKWAY BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Jeremie Greer



Ken Walker



Melvin Carrington Smith



John Thornton

FORUM AGENDA

8:30 -9 a.m. Registration

9 – 9:30 a.m. | **Opening Remarks, Introductions**

Gaynelle Jackson, President, AMEN

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Bridging the Gap between Wealth Building and Entrepreneurship

Introduction: *Trudy M. Phillips*, Small Business Coach & Entrepreneur Presenter: *Jeremie Greer*, Vice President-Policy & Research, Prosperity Now (formerly CFED)

As wealth inequality (particularly racial wealth inequality) continues to rise, policy makers and frontline practitioners are searching to solutions to stem the tide. Entrepreneurship has proven to be a viable solution to help working class individuals increase their financial stability, wealth and prosperity. This session will seek to establish the scale and scope of racial wealth inequality in the United States, and connect the struggle of entrepreneurs to the problem and identify potential policy solutions that help them get ahead.

10:25 - 11:10 a.m.

Panel Presentation: What is Wealth Building?

While *income* is necessary to meet daily expenses, *wealth* helps families get through lean times and empowers them to climb the economic ladder. *Wealth* is money in the bank, a first home, a college degree and retirement security — it's the countless opportunities afforded by having savings and investments.

Wealth is things like savings, property, and investments. It's resources you can use to create and take advantage of opportunities in life.

Components of wealth building:

- Asset building (home, business ownership)
- Financial education
 - Managing finances (budgeting, savings)
 - Investments

Introduction: *Donald Burback*, Community Development Specialist, BB&T Bank

Panelists: *Ken Walker*, Executive Director, Alabama Asset Building Coalition; *Melvin Carrington Smith Sr.*, Life Leaders Institute Trustee and co-author of the *Financial Fitness Planbook*; *John Thornton*, Loan Fund Manager, Neighborhood Concepts, Inc.



Karen Leone de Nie



Mary Taylor



Sam Addy

11: 15 a.m. – 12 noon

2016 Small Business Credit Survey: Report on Employer Firms – Federal Reserve Bank

Introduction: *John Olsen*, Community Affairs Specialist, FDIC
Presenter: *Karen Leone de Nie*, Assistant Vice President - Community and Economic Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Despite the significance of small businesses to the U.S. economy and to local communities, information on small business financing conditions is limited, leaving important knowledge gaps for policymakers and service providers. To fill those gaps, the Small Business Credit Survey, offers insight about business owners' financing experiences, including how personal credit impacts business financing experiences.

12 – 12:45 p.m. | **Lunch
Microbusiness Success Story**

Introduction: *Danette Richards*, Director, Small Business Develop Department, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Presenter: *Mary Taylor*, Owner, Elegant Knights Transportation Group, Mobile, Alabama

1 – 1:55 p.m.

Panel Presentation: How Does Wealth Building Impact Microbusinesses

Components: Banking; credit; home ownership; cultural norms / expectation; lack of business education

Introductions: *Shirley Sessions*, Vice President, Community Affairs Manager, Regions Bank

Moderator: *Ivan Holloway*, Executive Director, Urban Impact, Inc.
Panelists: *Lisa Riley*, President, LiftFund; *Kathryn O'Day*, CEO, Gateway; *Donald Mills*, Director, University of West Alabama SBDC

2 – 2:30 p.m.

Report on the State of Microbusiness in Alabama

Introduction: *John Bentley*, Community President Alabama/Florida Region, Renasant Bank

Presenter: *Sam Addy*, Director, Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, Center for Business Research, University of Alabama

2:30 – 3 p.m. | **Wrap Up & Closing Remarks**



Lisa Riley



Kate O'Day



Donald Mills