

DISTINCTION

# The Digest

April 5, 2022 - [www.distinctionllc.com](http://www.distinctionllc.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS VISITS GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Community leaders throughout the Mississippi Delta and across the state were proud to welcome the Vice President of the United States. **Distinction President & CEO, Korey Adams**, was thrilled to accept a **White House invitation** to hear Vice President Kamala Harris speak on the importance of investing in small businesses and small communities. The event took place at Greenville's **E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center** on Friday, April 1, 2022, with a small crowd of current and former elected officials, civil servants, community leaders, higher education officials, and business leaders in attendance. Greenville is Distinction's corporate headquarters.

**Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons, Chairman Bennie Thompson (Congressman for Mississippi's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District), HOPE Credit Union CEO Bill Bynum, and small business owner Joycee Johnson**, preceded the Vice President's remarks by outlining the significance of small businesses' equitable access to financial capital and the challenges under-represented entrepreneurs face with obtaining support from traditional financial institutions. Vice President Harris reminded attendees that small business owners are often the lifeline of their communities. According to Vice President Harris, small business owners help build communities as civic leaders, sponsor local sports teams, mentor and hire young people, and serve as role models. The Vice President stated, "Mississippi has one of the highest concentrations of community lenders in the nation, with more than 100 CDFIs (community development financial institutions), holding assets of over \$35 billion. Those institutions, CDFIs that have helped so many small businesses, deserve more support."

The Biden-Harris Administration has been intentional. Last year, the Administration issued an executive order requiring federal agencies to assess and improve the participation of minority groups in federal contracting and services. Last week, Distinction's corporate team participated in the **Department of Labor's Job Corps Industry Day**. One highlight included the Operator's Q&A Panel, where experienced industry leaders like Distinction's President & CEO, shared stories of their journey into the Job Corps market, along with the myriad of lessons learned, challenges, and risks.

As Distinction celebrates its first year of corporate oversight at the **Roswell Job Corps Center in New Mexico**, the company recounts its early struggle as a small business start-up. As a small business advocate and experienced business professional, Distinction's President & CEO shares that the company he formed years ago is the poster child for individuals who dream, possess the business acumen and skills, and seek equitable access to opportunities and resources to achieve those dreams. The training and support provided by agencies like the **United States Small Business Administration** and CDFIs like **Communities Unlimited** and **HOPE Credit Union** are immeasurable, and aligned with the Vice President's speech.

After navigating the challenges of the pandemic, Distinction's corporate leadership team is focused on continuing our efforts to establish the Roswell Center as the first-choice program for Eastern and Southern New Mexico youth. By working in tandem with the **Roswell Job Corps Center Director, Natasha Mackey**, enrollees can look forward to *high-quality training programs, soft skills development, a safe community environment, staff who care, and career opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency*—all provided by a small business.



IN THE PICTURES: Congressman Bennie Thompson and Vice President Harris provide remarks at the E.E. Bass Cultural Center in Greenville in support of small businesses. (Several images taken by *The Clarion Ledger Newspaper*.)



DISTINCTION

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DISTINCTION, LLC

Formed – April 5, 2017

Today, we express our gratitude and appreciation for all involved in our journey, as we plan for bigger, better, and greater!

DISTINCTION PRESIDENT & CEO KOREY ADAMS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI.



**MAYOR ERRICK SIMMONS WELCOMES VP HARRIS.**



**GREENVILLE COUNCILWOMAN LURANN THOMAS-KINGDOM AND MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATOR AND MINORITY LEADER DERRICK SIMMONS.**



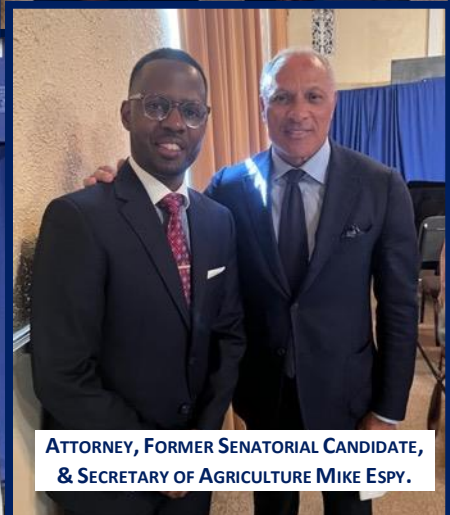
**SMALL BUSINESS OWNER AND PROFESSIONAL SEAMSTRESS JOYCEE JOHNSON.**



**CO-FOUNDER & CEO OF HIGHER PURPOSE CO. TIM LAMPKIN, ADVOCATE FOR MISSISSIPPI'S BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES.**



**BILL BYNUM, CEO OF HOPE CREDIT UNION, A CDFI TITAN, TELLS THE AUDIENCE THAT HOPE OPENED ITS FIRST OFFICE IN GREENVILLE.**



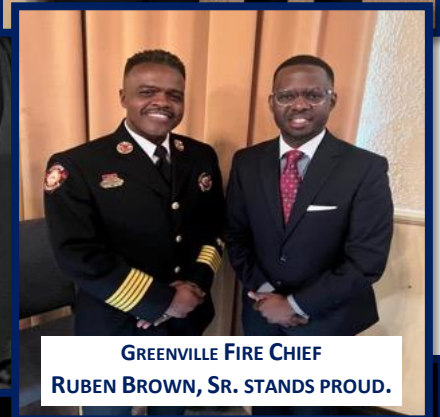
**ATTORNEY, FORMER SENATORIAL CANDIDATE, & SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE MIKE ESPY.**



**GREENVILLE'S FIRST LADY AND DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT DELTA STATE UNIV., DR. TEMIKA SIMMONS.**



**DELTA HEALTH CENTER CEO JOHN FAIRMAN (LEFT) AND STATE SENATOR SIMMONS.**



**GREENVILLE FIRE CHIEF RUBEN BROWN, SR. STANDS PROUD.**



**KOREY RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS DURING JOB CORPS INDUSTRY DAY.**