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Business Appreciation Summit

May 2, 2024



Presented by



Economic Development
and Tourism

Economic Development Commission

CHRIS PILKERTON



The former acting administrator and general legal counsel for the U.S. Small Business Administration, Chris served as the executive director of the White House Opportunity Now initiative, a government-wide program to support economic initiatives for underserved communities. While at the White House, he also served as a senior policy advisor, leading the Jobs & Economy Pillar of the Domestic Policy Council.

Chris began his career as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan and went on to become senior counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, a compliance director at JP Morgan Chase, and an executive at Accion Opportunity Fund, the leading community development financial institution focused exclusively on support for small businesses. He has been a senior fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and an executive in residence at both Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University Business Schools, where he co-founded the Small Business Corps Program to provide hands-on support to entrepreneurs.

Today, Chris is on the adjunct faculty of JHU and is the former associate director of the Law and Public Policy Program at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. He was a Fulbright Teaching Scholar at Jagiellonian University in Poland and holds an MPA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, a JD from CUA, a BA from Fairfield University, and a certificate in data analytics from Cornell University's College of Business.

Now a resident of Tilghman Island, Chris was named to Fortune's List of the 50 Heroes of the Fortune 500 and is the author of *UNDERSERVED: Harnessing the Principles of Lincoln's Reconstruction for Today's Forgotten Communities*. He also penned *COURSES: A Menu for Public Policy with Chef James Beard and Senator J. William Fulbright*. He is working on an upcoming book on pandemic economic stimulus programs to be released later this year.

Presiding

Cassandra Vanhooser

Director, Economic Development and Tourism

Debbie Walsworth

Chairman, Economic Development Commission

Judy Bixler

Chairman, Tourism Board

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Invocation

Pete Leshner

Vice President, Talbot County Council

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Introduction of Guests and Sponsors

Debbie Walsworth

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Welcome

Keasha Haythe

Talbot County Council

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Guest Speaker

Chris Pilkerton

Author, *UNDERSERVED: Harnessing the Principles of Lincoln's Vision for Reconstruction for Today's Forgotten Communities*

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Community Impact Award Presentations

Judy Bixler, Cassandra Vanhooser, Debbie Walsworth

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Final Remarks