

# Colleen Finnegan, Director, OSDBU, U.S. Department of the Interior

Colleen Finnegan is the Executive Director for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). She is responsible for oversight of programs that promote small business participation in DOI procurements, with special emphasis on socio-economic programs including Small Disadvantaged Businesses, Women-Owned Small Businesses, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, and Businesses located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones).

Ms. Finnegan began her federal career at the Department of Interior in 2007, at the Minerals Management Service. Originally overseeing the management and use of offshore sediment resources for coastal restoration and resiliency projects. Prior to her position with OSDBU, Ms. Finnegan served as the Acting Executive Chief and Deputy Chief of the Office of Strategic Resources within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, responsible for managing and developing offshore energy and mineral resources.

Before joining DOI, Ms. Finnegan earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Coastal Carolina University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

# Jerome K. Maultsby, Assistant Director, USAMEDCOM OSBP, U.S. Army Medical Command

- ❖ Agency: Headquarters, USAMEDCOM OSBP
- ❖ Duty Position: Assistant Director
- ❖ Grade: GS15, Step 10
- ❖ Appointed: 2002
- ❖ Retired U.S. Army, LTC (2001)
- ❖ Bachelor's Degree: Rutgers University
- ❖ Master's Degree: Webster University
- ❖ Pursuing Doctorate in Education, Higher Education Leadership—Formal coursework completed; ABD 2022
- ❖ DAWIA Level III, Contracting & Army Acquisition Corps Member since 1998
- ❖ Member: National Contract Management Association (33 years)
- ❖ Certified Professional Contracts Manager (CPCM) since 1991 to 2022; recertified every 5 years

# Arveice M. Washington, Deputy Director, OSBP, U.S. Department of the Navy

Arveice M. Washington Deputy Director Office of Small Business Programs Arveice M. Washington has over 20 years of experience in multiple career fields including Small Business, Program Management and Business & Financial Management. In April 2018, Ms. Washington began serving as the Deputy Director for The Department of the Navy's Office of Small Business Programs. In this capacity, she is responsible for small business acquisition policy and strategic initiatives.

Ms. Washington's previous experience includes serving as the Director of Acquisition and Contracts for the Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA) Command Program Executive Office for Submarines. In this capacity, she was responsible for directing, prioritizing and coordinating all acquisition initiatives across Team Submarine.

From 2009 to 2016, Ms. Washington assumed the duties as the Team Submarine Enterprise Wide Contractor Support Services (EWCSS) Manager. She was the Subject Matter Expert for all matters pertaining to management responsibilities for five support services contracts totaling execution of over \$125 million annually and oversight of 600 contractors. As the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for the EWCSS contracts, Ms. Washington was responsible for cradle to grave requirements generation, contract award and post-award execution.

Prior to her position as the EWCSS Manager, Ms. Washington served as the Business and Financial Manager from 2007 to 2009 for the Undersea Warfare Defensive Systems Program Office. Responsible for the management and execution of over \$100 million Total Obligation Authority, Ms. Washington's expert knowledge of the DOD 5000 and Program Acquisition Life Cycle process led to a successful Milestone B for the Next Generation Countermeasure and successful Gate 3 review for the Anti-Torpedo Torpedo Defensive System.

From 2000 to 2007, Ms. Washington worked for industry supporting various NAVSEA organizations. Her financial management knowledge coupled with her program management expertise led her through various positions including Financial Manager, Acquisition Manager and ultimately Program Manager.

Ms. Washington has held various leadership roles in Team Submarine including serving as the Navy Enterprise Resource Planning Site Implementation Lead and the COR Certification Manager responsible for serving as the on-site Subject Matter Expert for all COR related responsibilities. In addition, Ms. Washington completed a nine-month career development opportunity in the Department of Navy's Office of Small Business Programs where she was responsible for developing Small Business Advocate training for Deputy Program Manager's (DPM). All DPM's across the Department were required to complete this training. As a result of her efforts, Ms. Washington was awarded the 2017 Oreta B. Stinson, Small Business Advocate, Department of the Navy Acquisition Excellence Award.

Ms. Washington's formal education and training include a Master's in Business Administration, a Master's in Financial Management, the Small Business Professional Credential, a DAWIA Level III certification in Program Management, and a DAWIA Level I certification in Financial Management.

# Debra Suarez, Program Manager, OSDBU, U.S.

## Department of Education

Debra Suarez joined the office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) in 2019 as Program Manager for strategic engagement initiatives. In this role, she serves as an adviser and advocate to the OSDBU Director on small business program strategy, policy, procedural matters, and continuous improvement of service delivery in support of mission-essential goals. Suarez is a nationally recognized expert in education and education business management. Prior to joining federal service, Debra was a university professor, designing and directing PhD and MA-TESOL programs. Prior to her professorships, she was a teacher educator and program director in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Suarez's international experience includes serving as Invited Specialist for the US. Department of State, designing and evaluating programs around the globe, including West Africa, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Mexico, the Middle East and South and Central America. Debra has a strong history of serving diverse populations via strategic program design and program management.

Immediately prior to joining OSDBU, Debra was Senior Adviser in the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She also served on MSDE's Committee on the Achievement Initiative for Minority Students and was awarded the 'Excellence Spirit Award' for Outstanding Efforts on behalf of Maryland's Minority Students. She has published two books; her research is published in internationally peer-reviewed journals, and she was recently awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Maryland TESOL. Debra holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction, an M.S. in Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages, and an MBA, concentrating in education business development and management. She earned the Project Management Professional (PMP) from PMI. Debra joined ED in 2012. In addition to her federal service, Debra continues as a leader in national and international professional associations, providing strategic direction.

# Leonardo San Roman, Manager, Procurement Assistance Division, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation

Leonardo San Roman currently serves as the Manager for the DOT Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization's Procurement Assistance Division. In this capacity, Mr. San Roman is responsible for ensuring the Department of Transportation's compliance with Federal statutes and initiatives as they relate to small business development and other disadvantaged groups.

Prior to joining DOT, Mr. San Roman served as Project Manager for the Plans, Policy, and Resources Directorate with the Naval Audit Service. Previously he served as the Finance Director for the Senate of Puerto Rico. He has also served as the Deputy Director for Administration, Budget and Finance for the Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico at the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington, D.C.

Mr. San Roman earned a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, and obtained a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

# Amber Blake, Procurement Analyst, Office of Small Business Programs-Aberdeen Proving Ground, U.S. Army Communication and Electronics Command

Ms. Amber T. Blake is a procurement analyst (small business professional) with the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command (CECOM) Office of Small Business Programs at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. In her current role, Ms. Blake supports the Responsive Strategic Sourcing for Services (RS3) contract: an Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG) Multiple Award, Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (MA IDIQ) performance-based services contract with a ceiling of \$37.4 Billion. Ms. Blake also serves as the subcontracting and the mentor-protégé program focal point within the CECOM Office of Small Business Programs.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Blake served as a contract specialist on two separate occasions with ACC-APG. Additionally, Ms. Blake served as a supervisory small business specialist at Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (VA OSDBU), a lead communications specialist with VA Learning University (VALU), a Business Opportunity Specialist with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Baltimore District Office, and a Wage Specialist with Department of Defense's Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service Wage and Salary Division (DoD DCPAS). Before her return to Government service, Ms. Blake served in various marketing roles within private industry culminating in her serving as a marketing program manager with SiriusXM Radio.

Ms. Blake obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from University of Maryland, College Park, and her Master of Business Administration degree from Loyola University Maryland. Ms. Blake is an "Army Brat" but considers Havre de Grace, MD her home.

# Nicola Ohaegbu, Procurement Analyst, OSDBU, Department of Energy

Nicola Ohaegbu is a Procurement Analyst with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. As a Procurement Analyst, she analyzes and interprets contracting policies and directives and provides guidance and assistance to program offices across the Department of Energy (DOE). One of Nicola's principal duties is to advocate and negotiate for maximum prime and subcontract procurement opportunities for all small businesses

Prior to DOE, Nicola worked for the U.S. Army Medical Research Material Command-Office of Small Business Programs for over three years. Her dedication earned her the Army's FY 2015 Small Business Specialist of the Year Award for Exceptional Service. Nicola has a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counselling from Liberty University, a Master of Business Administration from Mount St. Mary's University, and a Bachelor of Science in General Studies from Northwestern University. Nicola is Level III certified in the Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Program. Finally, Nicola served honorably in the U.S. Navy.

# Doan Ly Nguyen, Small Business Utilization Specialist, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Doan Ly Nguyen is a Small Business Utilization Specialist in the Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She assumed the role in February of 2022. In this capacity, she assists the Department on its small business outreach, education, and advocacy to help HUD meet its small business and socioeconomic goals.

Prior to joining HUD, she worked at Chemonics International for 16 years in various roles. Most notable was her role as the Small Business Liaison Officer for five years from July 2014 to June 2019. Through this position she created Chemonics' formal corporate Small Business Department. She was responsible for managing Chemonics' small business program to help the company meet its small business goals and three core small business objectives: internal policy, outreach, and reporting.

Melanie Carter, OIG/ASPR Small Business  
Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services

# Nicole Woods, CGBP, Lead Business Development Specialist of Minority & Women-Owned Business Outreach + Team TBD, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Nicole Woods is a global business development specialist at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). EXIM provides U.S. businesses with competitive financing tools that mitigate the challenges and risks of selling goods and services abroad.

Ms. Woods specifically works with small businesses that have been traditionally underserved, both economically and financially, to assist them with qualifying for and accessing EXIM financing.

She also manages the Bank's Client Care Unit which works with existing clients as well as new exporters on how to maximize the benefits of an EXIM policy once they get approved.

Ms. Woods is a graduate of Hampton University and a former public affairs specialist for the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

Nicole also holds a Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) designation administered by NASBITE International, which is the leading authority and industry standard for global business education, trade credentialing and training.

# Samira Zewari, Small Business Specialist, OSDBU, U.S. Department of Education

Samira Zewari became Small Business Specialist at the US Department of Education's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) in 2020. Samira is in charge of initiating, developing, and defining policies, procedures, regulations, and guidance for administering and implementing the Department's small business programs and responsibilities on a Department-wide basis. She works as an adviser and procurement analyst, assisting the Director in the development and coordination of programs assigned to OSDBU. Ms. Zewari worked as a procurement specialist at the Department of Navy before joining the Department. Served as a policy analyst for all matters pertaining to the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), as well as other Federal policies and procedures pertaining to Acquisition and Assistance awards. She maintains her FAC-COR Certification in Contracting Officer Representative, Level II, Level III, and Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting, Level I. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer information assurance from the University of Mary Washington.