

HOPE Deep South Economic Mobility Forecast – Speaker Biographies

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Karen Gordon Mills is a Senior Fellow at Harvard Business School and a leading authority on U.S. competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and innovation. She served in President Barack Obama’s Cabinet as the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) from 2009 until 2013, and was a member of the President’s National Economic Council. At SBA, she led a team of more than 3,000 employees and managed a loan guarantee portfolio of over \$100 billion. At the height of the Great Recession, she took steps that led to record-breaking years for SBA lending and investments in growth capital. Additionally, Mills’ efforts helped small businesses create regional economic clusters, gain access to early-stage capital, boost exports, and tap into government and commercial supply chains. She is the author of the book *Fintech, Small*

Business & the American Dream: How Technology is Transforming Lending and Shaping a New Era of Small Business Opportunity, as well as numerous other publications on fintech, innovation policy, and the supply chain economy.

Mills is a venture capitalist and the President of MMP Group. She is the Vice Chair of Envoy, an immigration services provider, and a Director of several Churchill Capital entities. She is also a Director of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Private Capital Research Institute (PCRI). Mills is a Member of the Harvard Corporation and a past Vice Chair of the Harvard Overseers.

Mills earned an AB in economics from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School, where she was a Baker Scholar. She received the U.S. Department of the Navy’s Distinguished Public Service Award for her work in innovation, and is a frequent guest on radio and news outlets, including SiriusXM, Bloomberg TV, Yahoo Finance and CNBC, with recent articles in *American Banker*, *Fortune*, *Inc.*, and the *Harvard Business Review*.



For nearly four decades, **Bill Bynum** has worked to advance economic opportunity for disenfranchised populations. He began his career in North Carolina establishing nationally recognized programs at Self-Help and at the NC Rural Center. In 1994, he moved to Mississippi to launch Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, and in 1995 organized Hope Community Credit Union. Today, HOPE is a family of organizations (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union and Hope Policy Institute) that provides financial services; aggregates resources; and engages in advocacy to combat the extent to which factors such as race, gender, birthplace and wealth limit one’s ability to prosper.

Since 1994, HOPE has generated more than \$2.9 billion in financing and benefitted more than 1.7 million people in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Bynum's board service includes the Aspen Institute, Bank of America National Community Advisory Council, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Prosperity Now, and William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. Bynum previously chaired the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Consumer Advisory Board, the Treasury Department's Community Development Advisory Board and served on the US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty. Bynum is an Emerson Collective Dial Fellow, Salzburg Seminar Fellow and recipient of the University of North Carolina Distinguished Alumnus Award. Honors and recognition include the Aspen Global Leadership Network McNulty Prize, National Housing Conference Visionary Award, Opportunity Finance Network Gramlich Award, Inclusiv Annie Vamper Award, National Credit Union Foundation Wegner Award, Ernst & Young/Kauffman Foundation Entrepreneur of the Year, National Rural Assembly Rural Hero, African American Credit Union Coalition Pete Crear Lifetime Achievement Award and Wall St. Journal/Met Life Foundation Financial Inclusion Challenge.



Diane Standaert is the Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy for Hope Enterprise Corporation/Hope Credit Union (HOPE). In this role, she directs the Hope Policy Institute and provides leadership on the development and execution of HOPE's policy and advocacy strategy. Through independent analysis grounded in the experiences of HOPE's programs and its members, the Policy Institute influences policies that affect the allocation of resources and facilitates an environment to ensure that all people prosper. Financial inclusion, development financing, and affordable housing are among the Policy Institute's areas of interest,

Diane brings more than 16 years of experience in policy deployment and expertise on a range of financial services issues such as small dollar lending, fair housing, student loans, and others along with a legal background in civil rights. She most recently served as Director of State Policy and Executive Vice President at the Center for Responsible Lending in Durham, N.C., where she worked with bi-partisan coalitions and policymakers at the state and federal level to advance consumer protections against predatory lending practices. Diane began her legal career as a fellow at the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights, where she worked in partnership with rural communities in North Carolina for access to basic services like sewer and water. For several years, Diane served on the national governing committee for the American Bar Association's Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development.

Diane has presented testimony on issues of fair financial services in several state legislatures and in Congress, and worked with media such as the New York Times, NPR, Los Angeles Times, to bring attention to market and regulatory developments that put the financial security of low-income people and communities of color at risk. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Florida State University and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.



Kiyadh Burt is a policy analyst at Hope Policy Institute (HOPE). In this position, he uses quantitative and qualitative methods to understand and demonstrate the impact of social policy across the Deep South. He is responsible for producing blog posts and policy briefs, providing credible analysis on HOPE's programmatic issues, and raising awareness on the challenges and successes in the Deep South. His primary areas of research include community and economic development, consumer protections, small business relief, and financial inclusion.

During his time at HOPE, Kiyadh has met with numerous community stakeholders and national organizations, such as the Mississippi Black Legislative Caucus, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau and the Department of Treasury, to amplify the solutions needed in the Deep South. Notably, he discussed ways to increase Black homeownership to the Mississippi Black Legislative Caucus, the importance of CDFIs in rural communities for NeighborWorks America, why interest rates caps are a necessity for low-income borrowers to Mississippi legislators, and how CDFIs are vital to increasing financial inclusion and small business relief to underserved markets with the Department of Treasury. His work serves to further HOPE's goal of fostering opportunities that enhance the ability of vulnerable people and places to fully participate in the American economy.