Sustaining and Investing in the Infrastructure of Opportunity Networking for Southern Mobility Virtual Learning Series Speaker Biographies

Darrin Goss, Sr. President & CEO, Coastal Community Foundation, MDC Board Chair

Veteran nonprofit leader Darrin Goss Sr. has served as president and CEO of Coastal Community Foundation since 2015. The foundation empowers individuals, families, and organizations to make a lasting impact through permanent, endowed funds for charitable giving. It serves the Lowcountry South Carolina counties of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry and Jasper.

Mr. Goss brings years of professional experience in higher education, government, and industry to this work. He previously served as head of the Capital Area United Way in Baton Rouge, La., led community impact at the United Way of Greenville County, and directed multicultural affairs at Wofford College. Prior to that, he implemented training programs for Sunoco Inc.

Raised on James Island, S.C., Mr. Goss is a graduate of Wofford College and North Greenville University, and a U.S. Army veteran. He is a graduate of The Riley Institute’s Diversity Leadership Initiative and Clemson University at the Falls Leadership Summit. He is a Class of 2018 Liberty Fellow.

Christopher Nanni, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham

Chris and his family are excited to make the Birmingham area their home. He believes that philanthropy is an essential tool in addressing critical issues. He is interested in evolving the Community Foundation’s grant making to be proactive in resolving community problems. Given the incredible generosity of our community and manageability of our issues, Chris believes the Foundation is strategically poised to help build a more just, prosperous and equitable community.

Chris joined the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham as President and CEO in February 2014. As the largest foundation in the state with assets of more than $230 million, the Community Foundation connects philanthropists, nonprofits and engaged leaders to build a stronger more vibrant future for the five-county Greater Birmingham area. The Foundation’s mission is to, “ignite passion for transformational change.”

Chris has over 30 years of experience in nonprofit and community work and a deep-seated passion for philanthropy. Contributing to his effectiveness in the foundation realm are the many years he has spent in the nonprofit sector running organizations and programs dealing with such issues as addictions, homelessness, poverty, and education. One of the most impactful experiences was the two-and-a-half years he spent in the Dominican Republic doing mission work along the Haitian border.
Chris has a Master’s Degree in social work from the University of Chicago and a Master’s in cross-cultural theology from Catholic Theological Union. He earned his bachelor’s degree in theology and Computer Applications from the University of Notre Dame where he was a walk-on for the men’s basketball team.

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Chris met his wife, Allison, while at Notre Dame. They have three children: Marcello, Louie and Maria. They reside in Homewood and are excited to live and work in the Birmingham area.

**Justin Maxson, CEO, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation**

Justin Maxson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, a 67-year-old foundation that seeks to move people and places out of poverty in the South. The Foundation supports organizations and networks that work across race, ethnic, economic and political differences to make possible a brighter future for all. For 13 years, Justin was President of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, a multi-strategy community economic development organization serving Central Appalachia. He holds a master’s degree in anthropology from Boston University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky.