



## Speaker Biographies

### LABOR, EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

#### MODERATORS:

**Delegate Darryl Barnes**, *District 25, Prince George's County*



In 2014, Darryl ran for the House of Delegates and won in the 25th District. Since being sworn into office in January 2015, Delegate Barnes is the Chairman of The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland which under his leadership has crafted the 2030 Black Agenda seeking resources and policy changes that directly impact all black Marylanders. Delegate Barnes serves on the Ways & Means Committee which handles issue areas such as gaming, taxes, and education. As a small business owner who founded a non-profit that embodies his view that success can only come if you help others along the way; Delegate Barnes is committed to working on issues related to education, economic development, human rights, reentry and criminal justice reform.

Darryl is a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and Army lives in Prince Georges County, MD and is married; with two sons, Dylan and Drew.

**Jules Dunham Howie**, *President, Maryland Black Caucus Foundation*



Jules Dunham Howie has worked on organizational development issues for over 20 years. Through her consultancy firm, Jul Enterprise, she has provided facilitation, training, and capacity building supports including fund development, strategic planning and board development to for-profits and non-profits all across the United States. Over 2000 people have been trained by Jules on organizational capacity building, and grantsmanship issues.

She is a strong community activist and serves as on the board of the Historic Marble Hill Community Association and as Director of the UPC Westside CDC. Jules is the President of the Maryland Black Caucus Foundation and enjoys using her policy development skills honed in her United Nations work. Jules received her BS in Communications and Theatre from James Madison University, and she received her Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary. She is an Itinerate Elder in the AME Church and is married to Rev. Myron D. Howie. Together they have two children Ollie and Grace Marie and reside in Baltimore, Maryland.



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#### PANELISTS:

**Kelly Ann DeCurtis**, *Director of Talent Management for Pepco Holding*



Kelly DeCurtis is the Director of Talent Management for PHI, Kelly is a part of the Human Resources team and she and her team are responsible for the talent management, leadership development, employee and team engagement, DEI engagement, workforce development and cultural strategies for PHI.

Kelly started her career with Vanguard Mutual Fund Company starting in Recruiting and then progressing through various roles finally ending her career at Vanguard as a Six Sigma Green Belt focused on large scale HR cost saving projects and process improvements.

Kelly left Vanguard in 2003 to join Exelon Corp in HR originally supporting the Power organization. After leaving the company for a couple of years, Kelly returned to Exelon in 2010 and went on to have roles in BSC HR and Nuclear. She joined the PHI team in February 2018.

Kelly was a founding board member of the Okehocking Nature Center in Newtown Square, PA and continues to be an active member of the preservation and conservation efforts in her community. Kelly has two fabulous children and one great dog and they can mostly be found outdoors!

**Heather Gramm**, *Senior Director of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship, MD Department of Commerce*



Heather Gramm joined the Maryland Department of Commerce as Senior Director of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship in June 2019. In this role, she oversees the development and implementation of the state's efforts to grow the state's strategic industry sectors. In addition, she oversees Commerce's strategic initiatives for entrepreneurship, small business, and workforce development.

Prior to this role, she served as Deputy Director for the Frederick County Office of Economic Development overseeing the county's business development efforts, including business attraction, retention and expansion, small and minority business development strategies, as well as industry-sector development in the county's targeted sectors.

Heather has more than 19 years of experience in municipal, county and state economic development in a variety of roles including business development, community development and downtown revitalization. She earned a B.A. in Business Administration from Hood College and the Certified Economic Developer (CEd) certification through IEDC. She currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) Board of Directors.



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#### PANELISTS:

**Tanya Jones Terrell**, *Director of Corporate Community Impact, BGE*



Tanya Jones Terrell is director of corporate community impact and oversees BGE's existing workforce development and corporate relations efforts throughout central Maryland with a focus on enhancing the company's impact on underserved communities. She is integral in the further development and execution of BGE's key external partnerships, such as those with middle and high schools, historically Black colleges and universities, and other anchor institutions in Baltimore and central Maryland. Terrell is instrumental in supporting BGE's racial equity initiatives and uses data analytics and key performance indicators to ensure BGE's outreach strategy aligns with the needs and concerns of the communities they serve.

Terrell has a wealth of experience in the nonprofit sector and was most recently chief operating officer of The Leadership. Additionally, she served as executive director of South Baltimore Learning Center and in leadership roles with Associated Black Charities, Empower Baltimore Management Corp., and other nonprofit organizations focused on workforce development. She serves on the boards of directors for Baltimore's Promise, Open Works, and Creative Alliance. She is also a member of the advisory boards of the UMBC School of Public Policy and My Brother's Keeper – Baltimore.

Terrell has a Master of Science in Counseling and Development from Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Framingham State University. She lives in Baltimore County with her husband and son.