



HORIZONS 2015: Uniting Energy, Technology and Consumers *A Consumer Education Symposium*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



The Honorable LaDoris Harris

The Honorable La Doris “Dot” Harris brings over 30 years of management and leadership experience as the Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). She ensures that minorities and historically underrepresented communities are afforded opportunities to fully participate in the Department’s programs.

Nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 29, 2012, Director Harris serves in an Assistant

Secretary level position at the Department of Energy. She leads the agency’s offices of Minority Economic Impact, Minority Education and Community Development, Minority Business and Economic Development, Diversity and Inclusion, and Civil Rights. Director Harris also leads the Department’s Minorities in Energy Initiative, serves on the White House Council on Women and Girls, oversees a corporate funding strategy for minority institutions, works closely to develop minority business contracting opportunities at the Department, and protects the civil rights of employees and recipients of multi-billion dollar funding from DOE. Additionally, Director Harris and her staff have participated in over 250 events across the country focused on promoting public participation in energy economic development, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and research and development programs. Through publications and community outreach, she has reached over 50 million people on the topic of diversity, economic development, and engagement in the STEM workforce.

Director Harris recently received the 2014 Diversity Journal “Women Worth Watching” Award, 2014 EmpowHer Institute PathMaker Award, the 2014 Fort Valley State University Platinum Achievement Award, and the 2013 Black Business Association Chairperson’s Award. Director Harris is also featured in Essence Magazine's 2014 Game Changers: The Power List.

Prior to her appointment, Director Harris was co-founder, President and CEO of Jabo Industries, LLC, a successful minority-woman owned management consulting firm concentrated primarily in the energy, information technology and healthcare industries. Director Harris’ leadership in Corporate America ranged from engineer to corporate officer. She served as an executive at General Electric Company (GE) and held a number of leadership positions in GE’s Energy and Industrial Systems businesses. Before joining GE, Director Harris was the first African American female officer, Vice President of Operations & Production at ABB, Inc., the world’s largest electrical engineering firm. She also spent twelve years as a Field Services Engineer and Services Manager with Westinghouse Electric Company where she was the named youngest manager in the history of the Nuclear Services Division of Westinghouse.

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Director Harris holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and a M.S. in Technology Management from Southern Polytechnic State University.

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