



Patrice S. Harris
Center Director
Mississippi SBDC Network

Patrice S. Harris is a business and economic development professional who has worked to advance small businesses and communities in the mid-south for over 25 years. She has served in key leadership roles across private, public, and not-for-profit sectors facilitating significant gains for businesses in the areas of job creation and economic growth.

Patrice began her professional career in the banking industry specializing in consumer and commercial business development, lending, investments, and retirement planning. She quickly rose through the ranks to become Vice President, Group Sales Manager. Her achievements in this role earned her an impressive track record of developing and leading business professionals and diverse teams to elevated levels of success.

Later, Patrice joined the City of Memphis as the Manager of Economic Development where she provided direction and operational oversight of the Renaissance Business Center (RBC), the city's one-stop-shop business resource center for entrepreneurs, small, minority and women-owned businesses. Under her guidance, the RBC assisted over five thousand business owners annually with business planning, training and access to capital.

Thereafter, Patrice served as Core Development Director and Chief Loan Manager for The MMBC Continuum, the mid-south's foremost minority economic development agency. In addition to developing and providing oversight of the agency's business training, lending, and technical assistance programs, she served as key advisor and planning strategist to the company's CEO and President.

Patrice currently serves as Center Director for the MS Small Business Development Center at the University of Mississippi where she is responsible for the delivery of SBDC programs to communities, entrepreneurs, and business owners in 31 counties throughout north Mississippi.

Patrice is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College and holds various professional licensures including: Credit, Life and Health Insurance and Series 6 and 63 investment licensures. Patrice is also a certified Zumba instructor and volunteer fitness instruction at Brown Baptist Church in Southaven, MS.

Patrice lives in Hernando, MS with her husband James. They have two adult children, James III and Jasmine.