

## **BIO**

### **Lenwood V. Long, Sr.**

Lenwood V. Long, Sr., is the founder and current president of BV&L Associates Inc., a firm providing organizations with consulting and technical assistance in the areas of community economic development, project management, human resources, strategic planning, organizational assessment, and business management.

Lenwood is also the former president/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF), a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and statewide nonprofit organization. In his role as president/CEO of CSBDF, Lenwood led the organization through a period of transformational growth. In 2009, under his leadership, the organization went through a strategic shift and rebranding and established its successful direct small business lending program. In 2016, the organization rebranded again as the Carolina Small Business Development Fund, ushering in a renewed phase of growth and expansion. He is especially noted for his passion for programs related to African-American small businesses, women entrepreneurship, veterans, and the Latino/Hispanic community. His work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities within the state has been mentioned as a national model.

Lenwood has more than 30 years of experience in community economic development, human resources, and business management. He has held leadership positions in a variety of organizations, including statewide economic and community development agencies, national consulting firms, and nonprofit organizations. Lenwood also served as the Minority Affairs Assistant in the office of former North Carolina Governor James E. Holshouser and as the Chief of Staff for former congresswoman Eva M. Clayton.

Lenwood received his Bachelor of Science in Sociology from St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, and a Master of Science in Urban Administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. He received specialized training from several programs including Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's Executive Education Program, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Kenan Flagler Business School's Government Executive Institute, Georgetown University's New Strategies, the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, Opportunity Finance Network's Citi Leadership Program for Executive Leaders in the CDFI industry, and Shaw University's Divinity School.

Lenwood served on the North Carolina State Veterans Affairs Commission for over 12 years and currently serves on the North Carolina Governor's Advisory Council for Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses as well as the boards of Reinvestment Partners, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, and the NC Association of Community Development Corporations.

In June 2016, Lenwood was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor of North Carolina. This is among the most prestigious honors, awarded to North Carolinians who have made a significant impact through their exemplary service to the state and to their communities.

Lenwood also recently retired after 23 years as Senior Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Rolesville, NC, upon which he received the honor of Senior Pastor Emeritus. Lenwood served in the United States Army (Vietnam Combat Infantry Paratrooper) and received an Honorable Discharge as Sergeant (E-5). He served his country further in the North Carolina Army National Guard from 1973 to 1996, retiring as a Master Sergeant.