

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

BUSINESS ALLIANCE

A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021 | 8AM



February
is Black History Month.
In honor of this observance, the
Business Alliance at College of the
Canyons will celebrate African-
American entrepreneurs who live and
do business in the Santa Clarita Valley.
Please come out and join us and hear
from some of our area's entrepreneurs
as they share the advantages,
challenges and benefits of living and
doing business
in the valley.

MEET THE PANELISTS



Catherine Grooms

*Director - Small Business Development Center
College of the Canyons*

Catherine Grooms leads and manages the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons, a team of 25, including 20 Professional Business Advisors providing services to entrepreneurs and business owners in the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley, and Metro Los Angeles. Working with thousands of small business owners and entrepreneurs, and her broad experience prior to joining the SBDC working with public and private companies both small and large on the East Coast, Midwest, and California including a variety of industries both domestic and international helps clients positively impact the local economies. Catherine has a BBA in Accounting from Howard University and an MBA (Accounting/Management Concentration) from the University of Baltimore. She is a graduate of the Leadership Development Program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business Executive Education; and the Leadership Development Program at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.



Earnest Ross

*Founder
It's Your Q*

Earnest's passion and professional career in Food and Beverage started at an exceedingly early age. His grandparents owned BBQ restaurants in Shreveport, Louisiana which he was actively involved. After graduating from college, he attended culinary school in New Orleans. From there he came to Los Angeles and became a sous chef for Universal Studios Hollywood. After his tenure with Universal, he decided to launch his own catering business. The catering business was so successful, it turned into having a series of studio catering gigs and becoming a celebrity chef for Sugar Ray Leonard, Luther Vandross, Jimmy Smits, Steven Seals, and the Queens and Kings of comedy. Later on, he decided to go into management which led to AGM and GM positions, overseeing restaurants with sales exceeding 9 to 14 million. Having learned and acquired the necessary tools from various companies, allowed Earnest to further his entrepreneurship endeavors in different business ventures and capital investments.



Selina Thomas

*CEO and Founder
6 Degrees HR Consulting*

Selina Thomas is an 11 year resident of Santa Clarita. She is a busy mother of three teenage daughters, CEO and Founder of 6 Degrees HR Consulting, host of a podcast on the SCV Signal, and a recent candidate for Santa Clarita City Council. Ms. Thomas has a Masters in Human Resources and is a Nationally Certified Human Resource Specialist. She works closely with many local companies, employment attorneys, and insurance brokers to assure the compliance and infrastructure of small businesses. Her passion for people their companies and their success is the foundation of her company. Selina's focus now is to continue to highlight, advocate, support, and celebrate the businesses of SCV and the real people behind those businesses. Her plan is to continue to pursue public service, assist in the recovery of small businesses from the impact of Covid 19, and continue to franchise her company so that other communities have a 6 Degrees HR Consulting to assist them in their HR related needs.



Di Thompson

*Partner
Thompson Realty Advisors*

Di Thompson is a longtime Santa Clarita resident and is proud to serve all the areas within the Santa Clarita community, Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, and Los Angeles. Di has a combined 15 years of experience specializing in all facets of the Real Estate business, whether it is helping first-time buyers navigate through the home buying process, searching for that perfect investment property, new construction, or helping investors. After balancing real estate and a full-time property management job for several years, Di made the decision in 2020 to start her own company and pursue her endeavors in real estate full time. Di has previous experience in the commercial real estate space, having brokered deals with companies such as Panda Express, Verizon and Staples within SCV.

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AGENDA

I. Welcome – Jeffrey Forrest

II. Discussion: Celebrating African-American Entrepreneurs

- a. Di Thompson - Partner, Thompson Realty Advisors
- b. Selina Thomas - CEO, 6 Degrees HR Consulting
- c. Earnest Ross - Founder, It's Your Q!!
- d. Catherine Grooms - Director, SBDC

III. Q and A

IV. Final Remarks – Jeffrey Forrest

V. Next Meeting: *Wednesday, March 17, 2021*

ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID: 242342573

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/242342573>

Or

iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,242342573# or +13462487799,242342573#

Or

Telephone:

- +1669 900 6833 (US Toll)
- +1346 248 7799 (US Toll)
- +1646 876 9923 (US Toll)
- +1253 215 8782 (US Toll)
- +1301 715 8592 (US Toll)
- +1312 626 6799 (US Toll)

International numbers available: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/u/alJnivoZK>

Or Skype for Business (Lync): SIP:242342573@lync.zoom.us

