



2020 National AAPI Business Summit
Thursday, May 14, 2020, 3 PM ET

As Co-Chair of WHIAAPI, Secretary Wilbur L. Ross caps off this series of webinars with his remarks for the 2020 National AAPI Business Summit. The National Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Business Summit is a signature event of the Minority Business Development Agency to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. The summit, held annually since 2014, convenes AAPI entrepreneurs, policymakers, and advocates from across the country. Secretary Ross will be followed by senior officials from the Department of Commerce. We will then turn the program over to a panel discussion with an inspiring and innovative group of AAPI entrepreneurs to share their experiences and successes.

AGENDA

Welcome Remarks

Tina Wei Smith, Executive Director, White House Initiative on AAPIs

Introduction of Secretary Ross

Prem Parameswaran, Group Chief Financial Officer and President, Eros International Plc

Keynote Remarks

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Updates from the Department of Commerce

- David J. Byrd, National Deputy Director, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce
- W. Patrick Wilson, Director, Office of Business Liaison, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Harry Kumar, Associate Director, Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

Panel: Rising to the Challenge—Scaling Your Business in Changing Times

The business environment is constantly changing, whether from planned innovations or from unplanned disasters. These entrepreneurs will discuss how they adjusted their business models to quickly adapt to changing conditions. Every challenge is an opportunity in disguise.

- Moderator: Jan-le Low, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Catalyst LLC
- Allison DeVane, Founder, TEASPRESSA and Tea & Toast Co.
- Tam Nguyen, President, Advance Beauty College
- Duke Pham, Founder, Pho'nomenal Bowls

Followed by Q&A

SELECTED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce

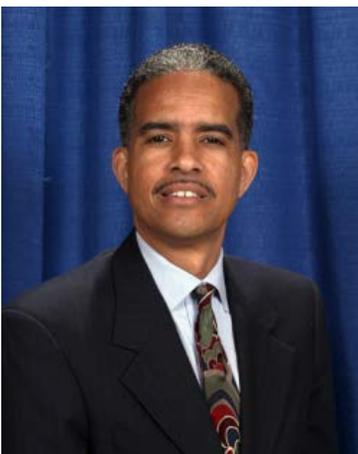
Wilbur L. Ross, Jr. was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence as the 39th Secretary of Commerce on February 28, 2017. Secretary Ross is the principal voice of business in the Trump Administration, ensuring that U.S. entrepreneurs and businesses have the tools they need to create jobs and economic opportunity.

Secretary Ross is the former Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co. LLC and has over 55 years of investment banking and private equity experience. He has restructured over \$400 billion of assets in the airline, apparel, auto parts, banking, beverage, chemical, credit card, electric utility, food service, furniture, gypsum, homebuilding, insurance, marine transport, mortgage origination and servicing, oil and gas, railcar manufacturing and leasing, real estate, restaurant, shipyard, steel, textile and trucking industries. Secretary Ross has been chairman or lead director of more than 100 companies operating in more than 20 different countries.

Named by Bloomberg Markets as one of the 50 most influential people in global finance, Secretary Ross is the only person elected to both the Private Equity Hall of Fame and the Turnaround Management Hall of Fame. He previously served as privatization adviser to New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the board of the U.S.-Russia Investment Fund. President Kim Dae-jung awarded Secretary Ross a medal for helping South Korea during its financial crisis and, in November 2014, the Emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

As a philanthropist, Secretary Ross has served as Chairman of the Japan Society, Trustee of the Brookings Institution and Chairman of its Economic Studies Council, International Counsel Member of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Trustee of the Blenheim Foundation, President of the American Friends of the Rene Magritte Museum in Brussels and Director of the Palm Beach Civic Association. He also was an Advisory Board Member of Yale University School of Management.

Secretary Ross is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Business School (with distinction). He and his wife Hilary Geary Ross have four children, Jessica Ross, Amanda Ross, Ted Geary and Jack Geary.



David J. Byrd
National Deputy Director, Minority Business Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce

David J. Byrd is currently National Deputy Director of the Minority Business Development Agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Prior to this, Mr. Byrd served as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development, at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Byrd served as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, MD, from April 2006 to January 2011. Mr. Byrd's responsibilities included governmental operations and public infrastructure, environmental services, economic development, and internal support services. In this position, he was the county's principal to DCWater, the region's world class water utility serving as Vice Chair.

Prior to his county government service, he served as Chief of Staff to the Maryland Lt. Governor. As Chief of Staff, Mr. Byrd directed the day-to-day operations of the Lt. Governor's office and championed the Lt. Governor's political, policy, and personnel agenda.

Earlier in his career, he worked at: the Republican National Committee, recruiting and training candidates for county, state, and federal elective office; the U.S. Department of Education, advising the assistant secretary on postsecondary education issues; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, implementing policy on children and family issues; and the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, as a researcher.

David John Byrd was born in East Orange, NJ, and grew up in Jackson Township, NJ. He completed his bachelor's degree in English at Ohio Wesleyan University and completed his master's degree in Corporate Public Relations at Rowan University (formerly known as Glassboro State College).

He is a former member of Toastmasters International and the Public Relations Society of America. He and his wife, Jacque, live in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.



W. Patrick Wilson
Director, Office of Business Liaison
U.S. Department of Commerce

Patrick Wilson was appointed as Director of the Office of Business Liaison in November 2018. The primary mission of the office is to represent private sector interests through strategic engagement on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. The office also liaises with the leadership of the 12 bureaus of DOC to keep a pulse on business engagement across the Department.

Prior to joining OBL, Wilson led corporate government relations for U.S. headquartered manufacturing companies Cummins Inc. Babcock and Wilcox Company (now BWE) and for the Semiconductor Industry Association. The SIA is a high-tech trade association representing America's largest chip makers.

He also previously served in the U.S. Congress (House & Senate) last as Director of Coalitions and Senior Counsel for the House Small Business Committee. He also formerly served as Legislative Counsel for then Kansas Senator (now Ambassador) Sam Brownback and as Legislative Director for then Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana. A veteran of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, Wilson has served as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army and Virginia National Guard since 2004 and is currently a Civil Affairs Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies & Economics from the University of Denver Korbel School and at the Denver Sturm College of Law. Combining his interests in national security and industrial policy, he has since 2006 been a guest lecturer at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Wilson serves on the Board of Directors of the National Capital Area Salvation Army and as a volunteer for the National Archives Foundation. A native of Independence, Missouri, Wilson and his husband Jason (a Congressional staffer) reside in Old Town Alexandria, VA.



Harry Kumar
Associate Director, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Commerce

Harry Kumar has been the Associate Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Commerce since November 2019. He grew up in Beaumont, Texas and went to Texas A&M University for his undergraduate degree and Texas Tech for law school. After law school, he passed the Texas State Bar Exam and became a licensed attorney in the State of Texas in 2013. Prior to his time at the Department of Commerce, he served as Legislative Counsel to Congressman Randy Weber and as a Legislative Assistant who was the primary policy advisor on commerce portfolio and disaster relief issues for Senator Marco Rubio. He is also an Eagle Scout Award recipient.



Tina Wei Smith
Executive Director
White House Initiative on AAPIs

Tina Wei Smith was appointed as the eighth Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) on December 9, 2019. In this capacity, Ms. Smith is responsible for directing the efforts of the Initiative and of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), including overseeing an Interagency Working Group.

Prior to joining the Initiative, Ms. Smith spent over 5 years at Asbury University as the first director of the Global Engagement Office. In this role, Ms. Smith created new international education initiatives and curriculum to increase cross-cultural understanding and prepare students for an increasingly global economy. Ms. Smith previously worked at The Heritage Foundation in the Office of Distinguished Fellow, Elaine L. Chao. She previously served at the U.S. Department of Labor in the Office of the Secretary and the Office of Public Liaison. She also served in the U.S. House of Representatives and staffed Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (NJ-11).

Ms. Smith immigrated to the United States with her parents at a very young age, and she acquired her U.S. citizenship in high school. Despite her family's humble beginnings and the challenges of being newcomers, she witnessed first-hand how she and her family have been blessed by the many opportunities here in America. As a result, Ms. Smith has committed herself to public service and giving back to help others access opportunities to improve their lives and their future.

Ms. Smith is a 2015 Fulbright grant recipient, where she spent time supporting international education and bridging partnerships between universities. Ms. Smith is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (B.A.) and the University of Michigan (Master of Public Policy and M.A. in Higher Education). Ms. Smith and her husband, Kevin, call Kentucky home and they are proud parents to three young children.



Prem Parameswaran
Group Chief Financial Officer and President for North America
Eros International Plc

Mr. Parameswaran is an Executive Director and the Group Chief Financial Officer and President of North America at Eros International Plc, a leading Global Media and Technology company in the Indian Film Entertainment Industry. Previously, he was Global Head of Media & Telecommunications investment banking at Jefferies & Company, Inc. Prior to joining Jefferies, he was a managing director at Deutsche Bank and prior to that he was with Goldman Sachs where he was a Vice President in the Investment Banking Division.

Mr. Parameswaran had been advising clients in the global telecommunications and media sector for over 23 years including mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, and public and private equity and debt financings. Throughout his career, he has executed over 300 transactions and played a leading role in selected assignments for AT&T, Comcast, SBC Communications, RCN, Vonage, Time Warner Telecom, and others. In addition, he recently advised John Henry, Tom Werner, and Larry Lucchino in their acquisition of the Boston Red Sox.

Mr. Parameswaran received an MBA with Honors from Columbia Business School and a BA from Columbia University. He sits on the Boards of the Columbia University Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee and the Program for Financial studies at Columbia Business School. In addition, he has also established the Prem Parameswaran Family Scholarship at Columbia Business School. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of KARE Partners, a healthcare and hospital company with operations in US and India.



Jan-le Low
Chief Executive Officer
Golden Catalyst, LLC

Jan-le Low held multiple strategic and senior-level positions in human resources for 12 years with Fortune 500 companies AT&T Wireless & T-Mobile USA. With a passion to take the entrepreneurial plunge, Jan-le left corporate America in 2005 and now owns two restaurants and a consulting business. Her signature event, CNY in the Desert™, recently celebrated its 9th year and is a city-wide celebration; Forbes Magazine has named it “one of the Top 8 places in the United States to celebrate Chinese New Year.”

Jan-le is committed to serving her community, donating her time to organizations such as Chefs for Kids, Nevada Small Business Council, and Las Vegas China Town Lions Club. She was recognized by the Asian American Group Las Vegas as one of the “Community Achievement Award” honorees in 2017 and Vegas Inc. as one of the “Women to Watch in 2012”. She is a member of the International Festivals & Events Association and Women’s Chamber of Commerce (NV), which honored one of her restaurants, SATAY Thai Bistro, as “2011 Minority Business of the Year.”



Allison DeVane
Founder
TEASPRESSA and Tea & Toast Co.

Founded by Allison DeVane, Teaspressa is a leading gourmet beverage company and producer of the only coffee and tea hybrid beverage available in the U.S. DeVane started as a coffee lover but experienced frequent headaches and side effects from drinking coffee, which inspired her to create a solution. With more than ten years of experience in the tea and coffee industry, DeVane launched Arizona-based Teaspressa in 2015 and created specific tea blends designed for her proprietary brewing process to make Teaspressa tea – a new tea profile that embodies the rituals and characteristics of coffee that everyone loves, but with all natural, quality, healthy loose leaf tea. Using DeVane’s

patented Tea Concentrate Technology, Teaspressa’s handcrafted loose leaf tea blends have the same caffeine content as a traditional espresso shot, while also providing consumers the health benefits of traditional tea leaves. Teaspressa’s signature tea blends not only have the same consistency of coffee, but can be brewed at-home like coffee, too, so consumers don’t lose their morning coffee ritual. Launched with her mission to find a healthy alternative to coffee, DeVane handcrafted the first and only gourmet beverage that combines the best of both the coffee and tea worlds. Teaspressa’s “coffee inspired tea” has created the next generation of innovation in the beverage industry, earning DeVane recognition as a pioneer in artisan tea preparation.

Featured on Shark Tank in 2016, DeVane’s revolutionizing entrepreneurial vision, passion and ingenuity have continued to earn her national recognition, including being named one of Arizona’s Most Influential Women. She was also featured in VOGUE as one of “the new girl bosses” for her innovation and forward thinking, and selected as a member of The Tory Burch Foundation’s Business Fellows Program. She was also selected as an inaugural member of Intuit’s Small Business Council where she works with Capitol Hill leaders for small business legislation reform. She is actively involved with business organizations such as the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders and the Cabinet for Arizona State University’s Barrett The Honors College and the Arizona State Alumni Association’s business programs. She is passionate about creating a positive business communitEA, working with fellow female business owners and mentoring young entrepreneurs to follow their dreams.

DeVane graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the W.P Carey Business School, with a minor in design studies.

You can find her at home, carefully tending to her plants on the porch with a hot Manhattan Black Teaspressa tea-americano in hand.



Tam Nguyen
President
Advance Beauty College

Tam Nguyen is the president of Advance Beauty College with campuses in Garden Grove and Laguna Hills, Calif. More than 40,000 graduates have gone through the innovative program in its 33-year history with training that includes educators who speak English, Farsi, Spanish and Vietnamese. The vast majority of graduates are proudly employed in the beauty-care industry with many becoming businesses owners.

Despite his parents' adamant opposition, Tam followed his heart and returned to operate his family's beauty school. After earning a bachelor's degree in biology from UC Irvine, he completed medical school at the Florida--based American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine in 2000, fulfilling the family's dream for Tam to become a doctor. Instead, he made the gut---wrenching personal decision to do what his heart always tugged at him to do – to continue the legacy of the family business but bring it into the modern era and train legions more to help transform the overall beauty industry.

Ranking among the largest beauty school in Southern California, Advance Beauty College's two campuses were teaming with students being trained as manicurists, estheticians, hair stylists and massage therapists.

Tam serves on numerous executive boards and advisory councils, including the Orange County United Way, the Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation, the Garden Grove Community Foundation, Project Vietnam Foundation, Steven and Lois Mihaylo Foundation, US Bank, Professional Nail Association, Cal State Fullerton Center for Family Business, Southern California Small Business Committee, the Orange County Transportation Authority Diverse Community Leaders Group, the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce, National Resource Center for Asian Languages and other business and nonprofit groups. Tam also teaches management at Cal State Fullerton.

Tam was just 1 when he and his parents fled as refugees after the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. They were among 125,000 refugees who arrived in America immediately after the Vietnam War.

He and his wife, Christine, live in Fountain Valley, Calif. with their three young children.



Duke Pham
Founder
Pho'nomenal Bowls

Founder of Pho'nomenal, Inc, Duke (Duc) Pham came to America as an infant with his family and a generational recipe for Pho soup. Duke graduated from Whitman College and in 2004 started a successful Pho restaurant chain in Seattle/Bellevue, Washington. The chain was voted "Best Pho" in Seattle twice.

Duke saw an opportunity to create a higher quality, more authentic, healthier option in the instant Pho and overall packaged soup category. He took the award-winning family Pho-broth recipe to create an instant, shelf-stable Vietnamese bowl made with Pho-real ingredients. After having sold out his first line of Pho'nomenal bowls at Costco, Duke assembled a world class Board of Directors and Operational Management Team to strategically grow the company with an annual sales objective of over \$25M.