



## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**[washingtonheadsofoffice.org](http://washingtonheadsofoffice.org)**

## 2021 - A Year of Building

Greetings,

On behalf of the membership of the Washington Heads of Office Leadership Council (WHOOLC), we are pleased to release our 2021 Annual Report.

2021 was a year of building new ways to continue to grow and engage with our membership, partners, and sponsors. The 2021 Annual Report reflects that in the theme, **“Building A Solid Foundation for Impactful and Sustainable Success.”**

Our mission continues to be clear and our drive to achieve it is resolute – to curate and deliver leadership development and networking opportunities that create, support, and advance diversity in the government affairs industry.

Within this year’s report, you will find highlights including a snapshot of our programs throughout the year and a recap of our signature events, including our third annual Leadership Boot Camp. You will also find member updates, a list of our membership, and notable accomplishments that were achieved during the year.

We are proud of all that WHOOLC accomplished as we continue to find ways to thrive in this ever-changing climate. As you read this report, we hope that you consider ways that you can work with us in 2022 as we continue to uplift our network and transform the face of government affairs.

Regards,

Molly Ryan, Brad Knox, Clifton J. Porter  
**WHOOLC Board of Directors**



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## Message from the Board of Directors

Greetings,

It is safe to say that 2021 was a year filled with new beginnings with several carryovers from 2020. What began as a year of promise, provided more of the same as we continued to live, work and recreate during a pandemic that continued to define most aspects of our lives.

Even so, WHOOLC continued to grow and thrive as we welcomed in a new Presidential administration. We felt a greater sense of connection and purpose to protect our democracy as we watched in shock and horror the attack on the Capitol on January 6. The aftermath revealing the deep divides that exist in our country.

In 2021, we continued with our commitment to increasing and enhancing the diversification of our industry as DEI became more than a talking point, it became a fundamental principle that organizations should embrace wholeheartedly. In 2022, WHOOLC is moving forward to present itself as a space for government officials of color to connect and collaborate; as an organization that is cultivating the next generation of senior-level government affairs professionals through an impactful and successfully curated leadership development boot camp; and as a resource for members of the media who looking for subject matter experts from diverse backgrounds, both professionally and personally.

We look forward to building greater connections and expanding our reach in 2022. We are excited to invite you to partner with us as we elevate to new heights this year.



Molly Ryan, Co-Founder  
President



Brad Knox, Co-Founder  
Chairman and Treasurer



Clifton J. Porter, II  
Secretary

## Letter from the Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the Washington Heads of Office Leadership Council (WHOOLC) has had an extremely successful year. Even during a pandemic, we have created informative programming that has kept our membership engaged and established our reputation and brand as the premier organization to be affiliated with. We took this year to continue building a strong organization with the hope of returning to a full, in-person schedule in 2022. In all, eight virtual and two in-person events were held in 2021.



### Solidifying the Organization's Structure

In 2021, we completed the process to make the Washington Heads of Office Leadership Council (WHOOLC) a 501(c)3 organization. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for your dedication to seeing this arduous process through to its fruition. We have now ensured the long-term sustainability of WHOOLC.

### Membership and Sponsorship Overview

As we near the end of 2021, our membership is strong with 28 paid WHOOLC members. In addition, we have six new sponsors for the 2021 program year: AFLAC, Alexion, FedEx Corporation, the National Journal, WESTFIELD Property, and Russell Reynolds and Associates. To date, our sponsorship and fundraising revenue is \$184,500 and we have exceeded our sponsorship goal of \$100,000.

### Looking Forward

We look forward to continuing to grow the organization and its brand in 2022 with a goal of increasing the number of paid and active WHOOLC Members, expanding the Leadership Boot Camp, and enhancing our sponsor relationships. Our signature programs will move to an in-person format as we seek to engage safely in the ever-evolving environment that we find ourselves in. With WHOOLC set on a strong foundation, we are now poised to elevate the organization to new heights in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mariko Bennett*

Mariko Bennett  
Executive Director  
Washington Heads of Office Leadership Council

## 2021 - A Look Back at Our Programs

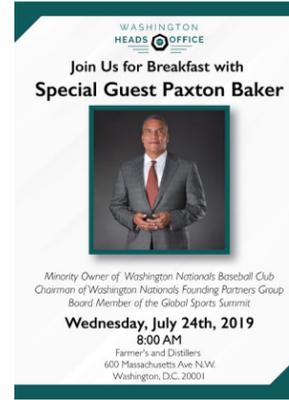
In 2021, WHOOLC had an exciting year of programs that featured dynamic presenters from a variety of industries and sectors. We began the year with a discussion on the incoming Presidential Administration and what impacts we may see from the new Executive and Legislative branches.

### February 21: “Just Us” Conversation

For February, WHOOLC members got together to discuss what’s happening with them, their industries and to reconnect and share. We also discussed what it would take for the country to reconcile after a Trump administration, the stimulus bill, and the impact of January 6.

### March 21: Cynt Marshall - “From Government Relations to CDO to CEO: Tips & Tricks, Dos & Don’ts”

In March, longtime WHOOLC supporter Cynt Marshall, the herstory-making Chief Executive Officer of the Dallas Mavericks joined us to share her journey of success in an industry where few of us lead.



### May 20: Paxton Baker - “Establishing a Personal Brand”

In May, Paxton Baker provided a detailed and engaging presentation on developing an impactful personal and professional brand. Baker shared several key thoughts and strategies that have been successful in his career.

### June 24: A Conversation with Earl “Butch” Graves, Jr.

A riveting presentation was provided by Black Enterprise CEO Butch Graves that had participants on the edge of their seats. Butch shared lessons gleaned from his father that has served him well in his business career and some trends he has seen develop in the media industry.



### July 15 – The Keys to Success with Corporate Boards

with Clif Porter, Jocelyn Moore, Tamar Thompson, and Howard Woolley Elevating service to corporate boards is a theme that our members are passionate about. In July, a panel discussion was held featuring Board Treasurer Clif Porter, Jocelyn Moore, Tamar Thompson, and Howard Woolley, who each discussed how they obtained their corporate board seats and shared tips to help other WHOOLC members in their endeavors.

### April 8: “Leadership, Equity, and Community Conversation with The Economic Club”

April’s meeting featured a discussion with David Rubenstein and Mary Brady from The Economic Club. The presentation provided a deeper background of the organization with some avenues on how WHOOLC members can partner with them.



### September 16: Keith Meyer - “Corporate Board Selection & Placement”

This meeting was a continuation of the Success with Corporate Board topic. Keith Meyer, Global Practice Leader, shared some tangible thoughts with our members on how to elevate their profile to gain the attention of corporate board recruiters.



# Virtual Leadership Boot Camp October 15-16, 2021

The 2021 Leadership Boot Camp welcomed seven new Boot Campers into the WHOOLC family. The virtual Boot Camp was received extremely well by the Boot Campers and WHOOLC Members and OGs in attendance. We received rave reviews in the post-event survey, and everyone is looking forward to next year. The 2022 recruitment phase will open in early 2022.

## 2021 BOOT CAMP COHORT



**Mayealie Adams**  
Managing Director of Government and External Affairs for Philips North America



**Susie Feliz**  
Vice President for Policy and Legislative Affairs, National Urban League



**Jackie Kelly**  
Senior Federal Affairs Representative, FedEx Corporation



**Miguel Martinez**  
Government, Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy Group, Price Waterhouse Cooper



**Michelle Persuad**  
Director & Chief Policy Counsel for Strategic Alliances & External Affairs, T-Mobile



**Theresa Peterson**  
Senior Director, Government Affairs & Technology Programs, GE



**Amena Ross**  
Managing Director, Federal Government Affairs, Securities Industries & Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)

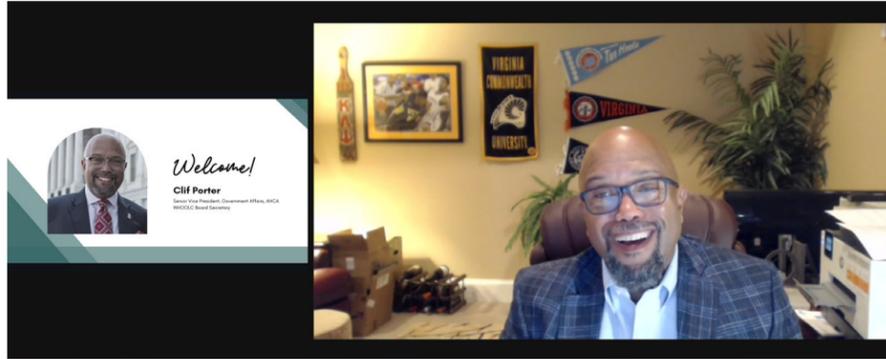
# Boot Camp Highlights



### Supporting Black vendors and entertainers.

<p><b>CHEF HUDA MU'MIN</b> The Just Savor Group</p> <p>Executive Chef, TV Personality, Fashionista, Global Citizen. Her mission is to educate, empower, and inspire people through food.</p>		<p><b>CHAMPAGNE</b></p> <p>Let's Toast!</p> <p>Tonight we are making the "Stuyvesant Pink Fizz".</p>
<p><b>SARAH-MARI</b> Always Aspiring Hoping to Inspire</p> <p>"I am unique because I use my talent to encourage others."</p> <p><b>Your Reception Entertainment</b></p>		

# Boot Camp Highlights



*Boot Campers & WHOOLC Members*



*OG Chat*

*Fireside Chat with Tamar Thompson, Brad Knox and Toni Bush*



*Molly Ryan with Michael Hyter, ELC*



*Robert Greene, NAIC*

*Julian Ha, Heidrick & Struggles*



*Kevin Turpin & Luke Hartig, National Journal & National Journal Research*



## Eyes on WHOO

In 2021, we created the “Eyes on WHOO” Youtube series and introduced it during the 2021 Leadership Boot Camp. WHOOLC had the honor of sitting down for an interview with the Honorable Majority Whip James Clyburn for an in-depth discussion on the state of our democracy as part of the series. With four episodes created, we will move forward with the official launch of Eyes on WHOO and the new WHOOLC YouTube channel. Stay tuned for new episodes.



## Our 2021 Sponsors



## Our Mission

To curate and deliver leadership development and networking opportunities that creates, supports, and advances diversity in the government affairs industry.

## Our Membership

Gina Adams, FedEx Corporation

Tiffany Atwell, EcoLab

Laricke Blanchard, USAA

Andy Blocker, Invesco, Ltd

Roslyn Brooks, PwC

Antoinette Bush, News Corp

Khary Cauthen, Cheniere

Senator William “Mo” Cowan, Devoted Health, Inc.

James Hayes, Tenable

Fred Humphries, Microsoft

Alethia Jackson, Walgreens

Jake Jones, Daimler

Brad Knox, Aflac

Lance Mangum, FedEx Corporation

Tiffany Moore, CTA

Stan Pierre-Louis, ESA

Clif Porter, AHCA

Angela Reimer, Pfizer

Marcus Reese, WESTFIELD Property

Manan Shah, Leo Pharma

Janine Smith, Hersheys

Molly Ryan, Global Blood Therapeutics

Lauren Scott, Global Atlantic Financial Company

Tamar Thompson, Alexion