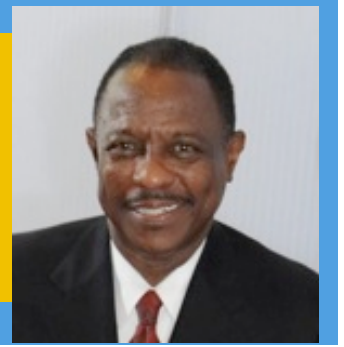


2014

Distinguished
Speaker

JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR.

Executive Director of Small Business Services,
Louisiana Economic Development



John W. Matthews, Jr., a native of New Orleans Louisiana, graduated from St. Augustine High School and matriculated at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree and went on to obtain his Master of Business Administration Degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

After graduating from Southern, John was employed by Texaco, Inc. in a number of challenging positions including, but not limited to, Plant Chemist, Supervisor of Contracts Administration, Manager of Natural Gas Sales and Purchases, and Assistant to the President of Texaco's Natural Gas Marketing Group.

After completing twenty successful years, John elected to retire his services to Texaco. He subsequently accepted an appointment and commission by the Governor of Louisiana to the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs and Development in August 1993. His duties included coordinating, directing and monitoring programs targeted for disadvantaged and urban residents of Louisiana and coordinating legislative initiatives and economic development programs.

In February 1997, John joined the Department of Economic Development as Manager of the Small Business Bonding Assistance Program. He was responsible for directing and managing all aspects of the Bonding Assistance Program on a daily basis. John developed and established the many components of the model currently being utilized by the Department of Economic Development to help contractors acquire the necessary levels of surety bonds at reasonable rates.

John was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Division of Small and Emerging Business Development in September of 1997. His responsibilities included developing, implementing and operating specific programs designed to help small businesses compete and grow in this economy. As of September 2003, John is currently Executive Director of Small Business Services which, among other objectives, provides sources of management, technical and financial assistance programs for small businesses throughout the State of Louisiana.

John serves on the boards of several professional groups in Louisiana and surrounding states in an effort to foster a proactive economic development climate for the many businesses in these communities.

