

# Past Chamber Presidents



## SEAN RUGLESS | 2007 - 2016

“Cincinnati is a growing and thriving diverse community and there has been decades of significant investments in job creation and economic development initiatives. Despite the momentum and growth of our market, African Americans continue to experience the largest disparities on record in the areas of income, wealth, education, and health. As one out of two residents in metro Cincinnati is an ethnic minority, the economic vibrancy of the region is intricately tied to the health of this business segment.

My tenure represented a time for access. From creating OPEN Cincinnati to address the low levels of minority contracting with City of Cincinnati, to architecting a high performing inclusion model for Cincinnati Casino, openly advocating for the only African American business interest in the history of the Riverfront Banks, to advancing policies that protected state funding for minority business development that ultimately led the state exceeding its 15% set-aside goal for the first time in history.

While progress has been made, the challenge with economic equity is far from over. The chamber provides a voice at the table that influences policies and decisions to create greater access for African American business owners.”