



## **Sharon R. Pinder**

President and CEO

**Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council**

(Serving the DMV – District of Columbia/Maryland and Northern Virginia)

**Sharon R. Pinder** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC). -- a non-profit corporation whose mission is to link corporations and government agencies with competitively viable Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). A renowned expert in entrepreneurial diversity and inclusion, Pinder has transformed the landscape for minority and women owned businesses, leveling the playing field and creating increased opportunities for these businesses to succeed.

Pinder may be best known as Maryland's first appointed cabinet Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs and for her work as the architect of Maryland's minority and small business reform movement. During her first three years in this position, the number of contracts awarded to Maryland's women and minority businesses increased from 15% to 22% and payments to them increased by \$1 billion. She was also responsible for the creation of the Small Business Reserve Program – the country's first state level set aside for small businesses. Her work has served as a model for other states.

At CRMSDC, Pinder continues to bring change and innovation. In the first 18 months of her tenure, CRMSDC won \$4 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency for a new MBDA Business Center, Capital Region, and the nation's only Federal Procurement Center solely dedicated to helping MBEs obtain federal contracts. She also has implemented several signature programs significantly enhancing services to both corporate members and MBE suppliers.

Prior to taking the helm at CRMSDC, Pinder served three years as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development (MWBD) for the City of Baltimore. As a member of the Mayor's cabinet, Ms. Pinder was responsible for the management of the City's minority and women business programs. During Ms. Pinder's three-year tenure she developed and implemented the supplier diversity and inclusion strategy for the City. Prior to her appointment with the City, Ms. Pinder was Chief Executive Officer of **The Pinder Group**, and the founder of the **Center for Business Inclusion and Diversity**.

Prior to her tenure in diversity and inclusion, Pinder spent over twenty-five years in the information technology sector in organizations such as USF&G (now Traveler's Insurance) Equitable Trust Bank (now Bank of America) and General Electric Information Systems where she played a significant role in leading GE onto the Internet.

A 21 year resident of Howard County, Pinder has a Masters of Science Degree in Technology Management from the University of Maryland University College where she has the honor of serving as *Professor of Practice in the School of Graduate Studies and is the 2004 Alumnae of the Year*. In 2014, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore named a scholarship, *the Sharon Pinder Award for Entrepreneurship*, in her honor.

#### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

- *Top 25 Women in Diversity* – Diversity Plus Magazine (2016)
- *50 Women to Watch* – Baltimore Sun Newspapers (2014)
- *Advocate of the Year* – MD/DC Minority Supplier Development Council (2013)
- *Induction into the Business Hall of Fame Award*, Baltimore/Washington Chamber (2013)
- *Women History Makers* – DC, MD & VA – For this Cause – (2012)
- *Raymond V. Haysbert Business Award* – MD Small Business Summit & Expo 2012
- *Business Diversity Achievement*– Howard County (2010)
- *Distinguished Women Award* – Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (2009)
- *Macy's Salute to African American Entrepreneurship* –national ad campaign (2009)
- *Business Advocate Award*, Women of Influence –Career Communications (2009 &2007)
- *Bravo! Top 25 Female Executives* – SmartCEO (2008)
- *Maryland Top 100 Women 2007, 2005 and 2002*, (Inducted into Circle of Excellence)
- 1st recipient of the *Senator Carol Mosby Award*, National Black Chamber of Commerce (2006)
- *Congressman Parren J. Mitchell Leadership Award*, MAOEP (2006)
- *Small Business Advocate Award*, Asian American Business Roundtable (2005)
- *Top 50 Influential Minorities in Business*, Minority Business & Professional Network
- *Distinguished Alumna of the Year*, University of Maryland, University College, (2004)
- *Outstanding Leader of the Year*, Leadership Maryland, Inc. (2004)
- *Distinguished Service Award*, Black Professional Women (2004),

#### **BOARDS AND VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**

- 2018 Mayoral Appointment – Baltimore City Charter Review Commission
- 2018 Gubernatorial Appointment – Maryland Small Business Financing Authority
- Past Chairperson and Director – Leadership Maryland, Inc.
- Director – Greater Baltimore Committee Leadership Program
- Board of Visitors – University of Maryland University College
- Director – Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
- Member - The Columbia Maryland Chapter of The Links, Inc.
- Founding Chair – State of Maryland / Republic of Liberia Sisters States Program

#### **Leadership Program Experience**

- Leadership Maryland, 1998
- The Leadership – Greater Baltimore Committee, 2014