



Grace Fricks Bio

Grace Fricks is the Founding President & CEO for ACE | Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs – the largest exclusively small business focused CDFI in the state of Georgia, providing capital, coaching, and connections to underserved entrepreneurs.



Fricks founded award-winning ACE | Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, Inc., a Georgia CDFI that helps under-resourced business owners grow their businesses whom other institutions can't – or won't – serve. Fricks launched the organization in the small Northeast Georgia town of Cleveland, and her ambitions for ACE soon led to an expansion into the Atlanta area and it's only grown since then. ACE has now provided more than \$200 million in loans, assisted more than 2,600 small businesses, and impacted over 21,000 jobs throughout the state.

In 2019 Fricks was recognized as a Corporate Diversity Champion at the Atlanta Business Chronicle's Diversity and Inclusion Awards. She was honored with a Vision of Excellence Award by the Atlanta Business League and named Financial Services Champion of the Year by the SBA Georgia District Office.

While she is identified as one the 100 Most Influential Leaders of 2023 by Georgia Trend Magazine, when asked what her greatest strength is, she will tell you that it is her ability to empower others to fulfill their dreams. That's what she's good at, and that is what excites her.

Fricks currently serves on the Boards of Appalachian Community Capital, Atlanta Emerging Markets Inc., Village Micro Fund, and the Veteran Loan Fund. She also serves on The Carter Center Board of Councilors. Fricks, a small business owner for more than 15 years, is also a former Board Member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Atlanta chapter. Her undergraduate is in social work from University of Tennessee at Martin and her MBA is from the University of Memphis.

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