

Venessa Harrison

President, AT&T Southeast Coastal States

Board Expertise: Strategy; Public Policy & Regulatory Governance



Venessa Harrison is President of the Southeast Coastal States at AT&T (NYSE: T), a Fortune 15 company, where she leads transformational wireless and wireline deployment efforts for AT&T's critical infrastructure across Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. She brings to board service a strategic perspective along with significant expertise in public policy and regulatory governance that improves bottom-line results and brings diverse partners to the table. She oversees nearly \$3 billion in network spend annually that has supported the expansion of AT&T Georgia's fiber and wireless network. Venessa's career has reflected a proven track record of leading the strategic direction of AT&T's network investment, public policy, economic development, and community engagement activities throughout the southeast region.

Venessa is a respected voice in the telecommunications industry. She represented AT&T before legislatures and public service commissions regarding infrastructure matters and successfully shaped public policy in the areas of telecommunications and tax reform. She spearheaded the groundbreaking development of the North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN). This innovative collaboration among diverse community leaders and governments resulted in the NCNGN partnership serving as a template for other states to accelerate broadband success. With a relentless focus on maximizing value creation, Venessa successfully navigated mergers and introduced technologies, delivered results in service, network infrastructure, business development, and regulatory affairs as she worked her way through AT&T from operator to President.

Venessa currently serves on the executive boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and on the boards of the Atlanta Committee for Progress, the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Research Alliance. She served as Trustee Chair of North Carolina A&T, the largest historically black university in the country.

Venessa was named "CEO of the Year" by the *North Carolina Triangle Business Journal* and received the "Most Influential Atlantans Award" from *Atlanta Magazine*. She was also inducted into the "Academy of Women Achievers" by the YWCA of Greater Atlanta and was recognized as "Most Influential Georgian" by *Georgia Trend Magazine*.

Venessa is a sought-after public speaker on corporate strategy, women's leadership, and diversity, equity and inclusion. She earned a Business Administration degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Phoenix. She is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother.