

### **Grace Fricks, President and CEO**

Fricks founded award-winning Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, Inc. (ACE), a Georgia nonprofit organization that helps underserved business owners grow their businesses through capital, coaching and connections. In 2018, Bank of America and SunTrust Foundation honored ACE for outstanding impact of providing more than \$60 million in loans, assisting more than 900 small businesses, and helping create or retain 7,700 jobs for Georgians.

Fricks is one of *Bizwomen's* 100 Women to Watch, a Women Who Mean Business Honoree by *Atlanta Business Chronicle* and one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians by *Georgia Trend Magazine*. She was honored with a Vision of Excellence Award by the Atlanta Business League and presented with the Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award by Startup Atlanta. SBA Georgia named Fricks as Financial Services Champion of the Year.

When asked what her greatest strength is, Grace 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 Advisory Board for Atlanta's Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI), the Board of Directors of Appalachian Community Capital, the Fifth Third Advisory Board and Invest Atlanta's New Market Tax Credit Board. She is a past member of the National Board of Directors of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) and Board of Trustees of North Georgia Technical College.

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.