

From: [Doug Minter](#)
To: [BankMergerApplication](#)
Cc: [Doug Minter](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE]Community Partnership and Merger Support Letter
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:57:10 PM

On behalf of the Knoxville Chamber's Propel Mentor Protégé Program and the Diversity Champions Resource Group we offer our humble support of SunTrust and BB&T merger.

Simply put, we could not have been successful without the tireless support of Angela Connor and her team. Since 2008 SunTrust has been a leader in advancing diversity within the East Tennessee community. Through those efforts the Knoxville Chamber was able to create the Diversity Champions Resource Group which has a group of over 90 executives focused on moving the needle of diversity within the region. SunTrust's financial and staff support helped to create the first of its kind Diversity Forum with Scripps, a CEO Summits program focused on CEO led diversity discussions, and a new program for diverse newcomers called Welcome865.

Relative to the development of small business, SunTrust has provided funding for the Propel Mentor Protégé Program which has created over \$91 million in economic impact and 872 jobs. This year marks the tenth year anniversary of this program which is the largest and longest standing business to business mentoring program in the country. SunTrust gave not only financial resources but also staff time. Bruce Duncan has been embedded in our programs and is at each of the monthly Propel Protégé meetings giving his mentorship, advice, and lending wisdom to the group.

We support this merger and value SunTrust and BB&T in their efforts.

Respectfully,

Doug Minter
Director, Small Business Development
Knoxville Chamber/Innovation Valley