

**Dennis Alvord** was appointed Executive Director of BusinessUSA in March 2012. Launched by President Barack Obama in October 2011, BusinessUSA is a multi-agency customer service initiative designed to improve awareness of and streamline access to business assistance resources. As Executive Director, Mr. Alvord is charged to develop and deploy the initiative's operational infrastructure. He is a tireless advocate of small businesses and entrepreneurship and helping U.S. firms compete in the global economy.

Mr. Alvord previously served as Executive Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's CommerceConnect initiative. Started by Secretary Gary Locke in October 2009, CommerceConnect was a customer service initiative that simplified access to Commerce business solutions through a single entry point to programs, information, and services.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Alvord served in a variety of executive positions at the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) including as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretaries for Economic Development, Regional Affairs, and External Affairs. In these roles, Mr. Alvord managed the bureau's six regional offices, directed all EDA program operations and oversaw nearly \$900 million in appropriations.

In addition to his management experience, Mr. Alvord spent several years leading various intergovernmental and policy efforts at EDA. He served as Acting Director and Deputy Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs where he managed EDA's congressional relations activities. He also served as EDA's National Brownfields Coordinator where he provided policy expertise on a wide range of economic development issues. Mr. Alvord also led the bureau's work with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development where he served as Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas.

Before joining the federal government, Mr. Alvord was a Project Manager in the Infrastructure Finance Group of the Bethesda, Maryland-based environmental and transportation consulting firm Apogee Research, Inc. Mr. Alvord holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from the George Washington University School of Business and Public Management in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the State University of New York College at Cortland.