



**Soraida M. Vigil**  
Branch Supervisor  
Brundage Management/  
Sun Loan Company  
Albuquerque, NM

Soraida Vigil has been with Sun Loan Company for 22 years. She joined the team July 1997 in Farmington, New Mexico, where she spent 14 years as the Branch Manager.

As a Branch Manager, Soraida built her office to a \$2 million ledger. She was awarded New Mexico Manager of the Year in 2007, 2011, and 2013. She regularly finished in the top 10 money makers in the company, including hitting the #1 spot in 2011.

Soraida was promoted to Branch Supervisor in June of 2014. Since her promotion, she has been able to maintain DQ while growing each of her 8 offices. She has built and developed a strong energetic team that has won numerous state awards. She recently received the company Supervisor of the Year award for 2020.

In her free time, Soraida and her husband Alvino, enjoy following her kids around to baseball and softball tournaments. She has 3 kids - Jascell 24, Chris 19, and Nadya 15.

## 38th Independents Conference & Expo OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARDS



**Britt Escobedo,**  
CFO  
Sol Acceptance LLC  
Orange, CA



**Brandon Wayne Frierson**  
Branch Manager  
Republic Finance, LLC  
Murfreesboro, TN



**Aida Gonzalez**  
Accounting Specialist  
Turner Acceptance Corp.  
Chicago, IL



**Teresa Grantham**  
Branch Manager  
1st Franklin Financial Corporation  
Meridian, MS



**Teresa Rish**  
Branch Manager  
1st Franklin Financial Corporation  
Fitzgerald, GA



**Joanna Shaffer**  
Vice President of Knowledge  
Southern Auto Finance Company, LLC  
Fort Lauderdale, FL



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# Congratulations to the 2021 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARDEES



**Britt Escobedo,**  
CFO, Sol Acceptance LLC  
Orange, CA

Britt Escobedo has been with SOL Acceptance since it opened in 2014. She has a history of working alongside Brandon Ogden, President of SOL Acceptance and has worked with him since 2010 at a prior company. They have made a great team and decided that branching out and opening a new finance company was just the right fit for them. Britt started working in collections back in 1999 and has continued to progress her experience and knowledge ever since.

Britt lives in Orange County, California with her husband Ron, celebrating 23 years of being together and their 2 amazing children and 3 spectacular dogs.

When not busy as a bee in the office, she enjoys spending time with family and friends exploring the Colorado river, working on puzzle books, and playing pool.



**Brandon Wayne Frierson**  
Branch Manager  
Republic Finance, LLC  
Murfreesboro, TN

Brandon started his career with Republic Finance in 2010 as an Assistant Manager at the Columbia, TN branch and was later promoted to Branch Manager in 2013. At the Columbia branch, he was able to train and promote several Assistant Managers while continuing to expand Republic Finance. In 2017, Brandon was offered the Branch Manager position in Murfreesboro, TN where he led his team to 1st place in Tennessee for 2018, as well as, earning the Star Performer Award. In 2019, he led his team once again to 1st place in Tennessee while also achieving Republic Finance's highest award of Overall Branch of the Year. Brandon believes that success is based on the relationships you build with your customers and that the branch's goal is to have a positive impact on its customers every day. "Strive for Perfection and Settle for Excellence."

Brandon resides in Spring Hill, TN with his wife Ali, and their two daughters, Madelyn, and Avery. He enjoys traveling with family and spending time with friends. Brandon is a huge BBQ enthusiast and competes in BBQ competitions with close friends, often winning 1st place. Brandon has a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Middle Tennessee State University.



**Aida Gonzalez**  
Accounting Specialist  
Turner Acceptance Corp.  
Chicago, IL

Turner Acceptance is proud to select and award Aida Gonzalez "The 2021 AFSA Outstanding Employee Award." Aida is an accounting specialist and has been working at Turner Acceptance in various roles for over 21 years. She is an expert at resolving complicated issues and works well with vendors and associates alike. Aida is a true expert in her area. Whether there is a complex insurance-related issue or a payment posting issue, she leaves no problem unresolved and takes ownership to ensure customers are well taken care of. Furthermore, Aida works across the entire organization and with all teams to train associates and help make them more successful. Her energetic and straight talk style bring a welcomed attitude to the team. Additionally, Aida is an exceptionally hard worker and sets forward the true definition of loyalty. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her family, participate in crafts, and binge watch documentaries.

Aida has had many positive contributions at Turner Acceptance and this year she is celebrating her 20th anniversary at the company. She deserves this great honor, "The 2021 AFSA Outstanding Employee Award."



**Teresa Grantham**  
Branch Manager  
1st Franklin Financial Corporation  
Meridian, MS

Teresa has worked in the finance industry for 15 years and has worked in the Meridian, MS branch for the last three years as Branch Manager. The Meridian branch and Teresa were presented with the company's Blazing Diamond Award for 2020 and were #1 in Company Composite for the year. This was their first year in the Circle of Diamonds.

In her spare time, Teresa loves spending time with her children. Her son, Hunter, is 20 years old. He is currently serving in the US Army and was deployed to the Middle East in August 2020. She is impatiently awaiting his return home for a month-long visit in June. Her daughter, Elliot, is 6 years old. She plays soccer, softball and participates in gymnastics, all while maintaining Honor Roll status throughout her 1st Grade year. Teresa is a true definition of a busy mom.

Teresa and her family are members of All Seasons Worship Center. She enjoys helping with all her daughter's sports teams, walking/jogging, hanging at the beach, shopping, and being with her family. We are very proud of Teresa and all her accomplishments. She is a huge asset to 1st Franklin.



**Teresa Rish**  
Branch Manager  
1st Franklin Financial Corporation  
Fitzgerald, GA

Teresa has worked in the finance industry for approximately 36 years and will have worked with 1st Franklin Financial for 29 years, as of June 2nd. She was promoted to Branch Manager in 2002 and is currently the Branch Manager of the Fitzgerald, GA office. Prior to that, Teresa was Manager in our Douglas II Branch. Teresa and her team in Fitzgerald, GA received 1st Franklin's most prestigious company award for 2019, as they were named the Ben F. Cheek, Jr. Office of the Year. This adds to the many awards that Teresa and her team have received over the years.

Teresa is a mother of 2; Jordan, 23 and Jessica, 22. She is an only child, so her parents and her children are her world and all of Teresa's spare time is spent with them. She has been a member of Eastside Baptist Church for 40 years and is active in her local community in many areas. Teresa has acted as Team Captain of the local "Relay for Life" team for 13 years. She has also been invited, on several occasions, to speak to young parents at the public-school system's Head Start Program on the topic of "Credit Management." We appreciate all that Teresa has done for 1st Franklin and her community.



**Joanna Shaffer**  
Vice President of Knowledge  
Southern Auto Finance Company, LLC  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

As our Vice President of Knowledge, Joanna Shaffer has been a transformational agent for SAFCO. With several years of industry experience under her belt, she was able to hit the ground running, knowing the critical role technology has in staying competitive and agile in our space.

Within short order, she re-defined the scope of internal data abilities allowing for stream-lined automation and the adoption of an intuitive platform that helps guide impactful decisions. In addition to leading the charge on data management, Joanna has also made an impact in other key areas of our organization such as Originations and Servicing. These enhancements have improved overall dealer participation while giving customer service representatives increased ability to connect with our customer base.

On top of it all, Joanna never forgets the humanity behind the technology. She's the kind of leader you want on your side: Smart, professional, a great listener and problem-solver, and a consummate team player who's willing to roll up her sleeves when her team needs a hand.