African-American Women Leaders in New Jersey

Charlene Brown

As regional vice president of External Affairs, Charlene Brown is responsible for providing overall strategic direction for AT&T’s external relationships in New Jersey. In her capacity as the state advocate for AT&T, Brown serves as liaison with the governor’s office, the state legislature and other elected and appointed officials. She is also responsible for a range of communications policy issues and manages regulatory matters before the NJ Board of Public Utilities. Additionally, Brown determines whether local philanthropic opportunities are aligned with the objectives of the AT&T Foundation.

Before moving to External Affairs, Brown held various AT&T positions, including as AT&T’s eastern region public affairs director.

Brown began her career as a reporter for the Elizabeth Journal and the Asbury Park Press. From there, she moved on to New Jersey state government, serving for nearly 10 years as press secretary for the Department of Human Services, responsible for counseling the commissioner and the governor on a wide range of human services-related issues.

Brown earned her BA in Journalism and English at Douglass College and received a master’s in Public Administration from Rutgers University.

Brown is the board chair of a research organization, New Jersey PRO, a trustee of Felician University and secretary of the board of trustees of the Drumthwacket Foundation. She serves on the board of the New Jersey Technology Council, the NJ Society for Environmental, Economic Development (NJ SEED), the NJ Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, the NJ Council on Innovation and the NJ State League of Municipalities Educational Foundation.

A native of New Jersey, Brown lives with her husband in Somerset County. They have a daughter.

Dana L. Redd

Former mayor of Camden Dana Redd, is a proven and experienced leader with more than 20 years of service in the public sector. She is known as a forward-thinking professional with a demonstrated ability to lead organizational change. SJ Magazine recognized Redd as, “The woman warrior who just might change Camden,” touting her tough stance and decision to join the Camden County Police Department. The transition, not only led to more officers patrolling the city of Camden, but also, resulted in significant crime reduction within the first year of operation. A NJ Spotlight article entitled, “Upgrade in Troubled City’s Credit Rating Gives Camden New Hope,” chronicled the city’s progress under her leadership.

Redd has worked in various positions from local government to the New Jersey State Senate. As a former council representative, and chair of Camden’s Housing Authority, Redd secured the city’s third HOPE VI designation. The investment of $122 million transformed an entire community with new public housing, expanded access to healthcare, improved parks and open space, as well as, provided community supportive services for residents to reach self-sufficiency. As a former state senator, Redd was a member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, the Community and Urban Affairs Committee, and the Joint Committee on the Public Schools. She sponsored and negotiated passage of legislation creating the Homeless Trust Fund, and $3.9 billion in new school construction funding for New Jersey Abbott Districts.

As mayor of Camden, Redd successfully transitioned the city from state takeover to local control, and immediately launched a capacity building re-

Dear South Jersey Journal Family,

Welcome to the premiere issue of the reorganized South Jersey Journal. This month’s paper is packed with information about some of New Jersey’s most impressive African-American female leaders from all walks of life.

This edition also features the work of our new South Jersey Journal team, comprised of some of the area’s best and brightest journalists. They include our new editor-in-chief, award-winning sportswriter and editor, Edith L. Dixon; Calvin Rankin, our new creative and talented art director; and a new editorial advisory board, whose distinguished and award-winning members include, editor and columnist Linn Washington, and Paul Bennett, editor and publisher of The Spirit newspaper of Delaware County, PA and owner of The Spirit Media Group. Our gifted, existing columnists, Wilfredo Rojas and John Harmon, Sr., will be joined by popular entertainment writer, Yanina Carter. I am really proud of our team which brings unsurpassed experience to these positions.

Moving forward, we plan to give you the inside scoop on what transpires at our state Capitol in Trenton, as well as the U.S. Capitol in Washington, offering a perspective on news you cannot find elsewhere. Because we believe in building and celebrating community, we also plan to embark on an aggressive civic engagement program. As New Jersey’s largest African-American newspaper with more than 50,000 readers in the region, we intend to be the preeminent place for news in the black community.

I thank you for your continued support over the years and encourage you to join us as we grow.

Sincerely,

Al Thomas
Publisher/President

“Africa-american women leaders in New Jersey.”

Congratulations to all the honored African American Women Leaders in New Jersey. Thank you for all you do.

Atlantic Cape Community College
atlantic.edu

“Nothing will work unless you do.”

– Maya Angelou
treat for her executive staff and department heads focused on the “change model.” The initiative, not only, allowed her to set the vision, mission and goals for transforming the city, but also, fostered team-building to increase service delivery and improve customer satisfaction.

While 2012 began the transition to a Camden County Police Department for public safety, in 2013, Redd led a full state intervention into the public school system to improve academic outcomes for urban youth. The state and local partnership focused on creating the “cradle to college to career” pathways in education offering Camden parents choice through traditional, charter and Renaissance schools. Most notably, in 2014, Standard and Poor’s Rating Services (S&P) published an issuer credit rating of BBB+. S&P recognized the fiscal controls the Redd administration instituted to improve and stabilize the finances of the city. This was a great achievement since the city had not received an investment grade rating in more than 15 years.

Redd is the newly appointed CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers-Camden board of governors. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing board operations and the construction of a 95,000-square-foot, Joint Health Sciences Center that will be located at Broadway and Stevens Street in Camden. The building will deliver education and training opportunities to a new generation of health care providers and offer world-class research space for Rutgers, Rowan and Camden County College faculty to seek innovations in the biosciences and allied health. Additionally, Redd is charged with developing programmatic and policy initiatives which reflect the board’s mission and overarching objectives of education, economic development and civic engagement.

A graduate of Rutgers: The State University – Camden Campus with a B.S. degree in Business Studies, Redd also earned continuing education units at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning/Public Policy, as well as, at the Council of State Government/Eastern Regional Conference Robert J. Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy. She received her M.A. degree in Human Services Administration from Lincoln University.

In addition to her business acumen and volunteerism, Redd fosters and values the importance of civic engagement, grassroots organizing and responsible redevelopment. She said she strongly believes that a holistic approach must be undertaken to rebuild a city and to create a more vibrant, thriving urban core. She is a motivational speaker for interfaith organizations, nonprofit organizations, professional women’s groups and chambers of commerce.

As a results-driven leader, Redd has a unique ability to inspire hope, effect change and transform organizations. Dana Redd clearly understands the enormous responsibility that comes with leadership.

Leslie A. Anderson

Leslie A. Anderson is president and CEO of the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA), a multi-million dollar, independent financing authority, created by the state of New Jersey to transform urban communities through direct investment and technical support. Anderson is the first African-American woman to helm an independent financing authority in New Jersey and, thanks to her tenacity, effectiveness, and vision, she has been reappointed to this position by three consecutive governors.

Under her bold leadership, NJRA has used its financial resources to leverage more than $3.8 billion in new investments, helping to redevelop some of New Jersey’s most economically challenged neighborhoods. Moreover, the authority committed $418 million in direct investments in 44 eligible communities. This has led to the creation of 15,000 new housing units and 10 million square feet of commercial and retail space.

In 2014, NJRA applied for and received $20 million in New Market Tax Credits from the federal government. These tax credits provide subsidies for commercial and retail redevelopment projects in low income communities. Under Anderson’s stewardship, NJRA leveraged these subsidies to advance much needed economic development projects in Camden and Newark.

In 2006, Anderson created the NJRA Redevelopment Training Institute (RTI) to provide learning opportunities centered on the complexities of redevelopment and best practices for community revitalization. Since its inception, RTI has trained more than 2,000 attorneys, elected officials, developers and non-profits. It has also received certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Northeastern Economic Developers Association, and Continuing Legal Education through the NJ Supreme Court.
Prior to joining the staff of NJRA, Anderson served as a policy advisor to former New Jersey governor Christine Todd Whitman. In this capacity, she was responsible for working on economic, commerce and urban policy. She played an integral role in the creation of Governor Whitman’s urban economic strategy that was enacted into law in July 1996 through the passage of the New Jersey Urban Redevelopment Act.

Leslie began her career in her hometown of Plainfield, NJ, where she spent nearly a decade working in the city’s economic development office. She began her tenure as a planner, but after distinguishing herself, Leslie was promoted several times and ultimately selected by the mayor to serve as executive director of the Office of Economic Development. In this position, she was responsible for the overall creation, management, and day-to-day operation of the city’s programs to attract and retain businesses, revitalize disadvantaged neighborhoods, and spur economic growth. She was instrumental in helping the city to establish an Urban Enterprise Zone program, which focuses on attracting and retaining businesses through an array of financial incentives.

Anderson remains heavily involved in the Plainfield community. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service organization that strives to confront the problems facing disadvantaged African Americans. Anderson has served in various leadership positions in the organization including as president of the Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter. Currently, she serves her local chapter as a member of the Scholarship Committee and as chairperson of fundraising. In her role as fundraising chair, Anderson has spearheaded the chapter’s efforts to raise more than $200,000 to support community programming in Central New Jersey.

Anderson’s commitment to service has earned her numerous awards and recognition. In March, she had the distinction of being named one of NJBIZ’s Best 50 Women in Business. In 2016, she was recognized by the Black Alumni of Penn State University for her outstanding work in public service. Leslie is also the 2014 recipient of the Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award; the 2014 recipient of the Chris Kjeldsen Community Service Award; the 2014 recipient of the Garden State Bar Association’s Roger M. Yancey Award (one of three non-lawyers to receive this prestigious award); the 2004 recipient of the Girls Scouts of Delaware Raritan Women of Distinction Award, and a 2003 inductee to the Plainfield High School Hall of Fame.

Anderson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Pennsylvania State University.

Laura Mitnaul Wooten

Laura Mitnaul Wooten was born on December 19, 1920 in Goldsboro, NC, during the aftermath of the Women’s Suffrage Movement and the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. When she was 4-years-old, her family moved to Princeton, NJ, where she graduated from Princeton High School in 1939. Immediately after graduation, Laura was recruited to work the polls by her great uncle, Anderson Mitnaul, who was running for Justice of the Peace.

More than seven decades later, Wooten still works the polls. She has done so for 79 consecutive years. Under the administration of more than a dozen different presidents, including 20 presidential elections and five wars, Wooten has worked the polls for the local, primary and general elections in Mercer County, NJ. Officials at the Mercer County Board of Elections confirmed that she is the longest-working poll worker in Mercer County and the State of NJ. Indeed, Wooten is most likely the longest-living, continuing-serving poll worker in the United States.

Wooten’s dedication to community service is undeniable. Last November 7, the day of the gubernatorial election, just a day after the death of her beloved 90-year-old brother, Paul Mitnaul, she cancelled her ride to the polls. However, after learning she was still needed, Wooten walked more than a mile—at 5 a.m.—to reach her assigned location, working there until the polls closed later that evening.

For her distinguished commitment to civic service, Wooten has received numerous awards. She was recognized on the floor of the NJ General Assembly, at which time she was honored with a resolution in 2016; by the League of Women Voters of New Jersey at its 2015 annual conference; at Twitter’s National Voter Registration Day event in 2016 in Washington, D.C., and the same year was presented with the National Association of Secretaries of State’s Medallion Award at the NJ State Capitol during NJ Electoral College Voting Day. Wooten has earned community service awards from the South Jersey Journal at its annual “People Making A Difference,” dinner in 2017, and most recently from the African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ at its Eighth Annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala held this year.

One of Wooten’s daughters, Yvonne Hill, asked her mother about her long record of service and why she has worked so faithfully for so many years. Without hesitating, her mother emphatically responded, “Voting is important.”

Wooten celebrated her 97th birthday last year and turns 98 this December. She is eagerly looking forward to the next election when she will once again perform her duties at the local polling place with pride, grace and a smile.

Dr. Monika W. Shealey

Dr. Monika Williams Shealey is a professor and dean of the College of Education at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. Prior to her appointment as dean in 2013, making her the youngest dean in the school’s history, Dr. Shealey served as associate dean for Teacher Education at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Dr. Shealey began her career in education as a special education teacher in St. Petersburg, Florida. She received her B.S. in Specific Learning Disabilities and M.A. in Varying Exceptionalities from the University of South Florida. She received an Ed.S. in Reading and Learning Disabilities from the University of Miami and a Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Exceptional Student Education from the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Shealey is a member-at-large on the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) board of directors, and was recently elected president of the National Association of Holmes Scholars Alumni (NAHSA).
Dr. Shealey recently completed her fifth year as dean of the Rowan University College of Education. During her tenure, the college launched a new Ph.D. in Education program, Project Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers (IMPACT), a unique recruitment and retention program to support male teacher candidates of color, the Center for Access, Success, and Equity (CASE), a research and technical assistance center and three other new degree programs, a B.A. in Leadership and Social Innovation, B.A. in Inclusive Education, and M.A. in Urban Education and Community Studies.

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman, a long-time and influential advocate for the people of New Jersey, is currently serving her sophomore term in the United States Congress. Prior to her election as representative for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, Watson Coleman served eight consecutive terms in the New Jersey General Assembly.

The daughter of legendary state legislator John S. Watson, Watson Coleman has continued a family legacy of public service fighting for women, economically and socially disadvantaged populations, and other vulnerable groups in our society. Watson Coleman shattered racial and gender barriers to become the first Black woman to serve as majority leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, and as the chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. Her election to the House of Representatives makes her the first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress.

Watson Coleman has led the call for reforms to prisoner re-entry programs, fighting tirelessly to shut the revolving door of recidivism for individuals who have returned from incarceration. During her time as majority leader, Watson Coleman convened a year-long series of public hearings on the topic while shepherding legislation through the New Jersey Assembly that The New York Times called "a model for the rest of the nation," on prisoner rehabilitation and release.

For her second term, as a member of the 115th Congress, Watson Coleman was selected by her colleagues as the vice ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee, where she is also ranking member on both the Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security. She also serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Watson Coleman has championed legislation to protect vulnerable Americans and communities related to gun safety, environmental protection, and long-term unemployment. Watson Coleman is the author of the Healthy MOM Act, which would allow women to enroll in or change their health coverage if they become pregnant, the End For-Profit Prisons Act, which would prohibit the federal government from contracting with for-profit prison corporations and, the SAFER Pipelines Act that would reform the gas pipeline approval process overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In 2016, Watson Coleman, alongside two of her colleagues, founded the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, the first House caucus to study policy issues related to the continued success and accomplishments of that
Watson Coleman is an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Watson Coleman graduated from Thomas Edison State College and received honorary doctorate degrees from The College of New Jersey, Rider University and Stockton University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and co-chair of the Girl Scouts of America Capitol Hill Honorary Troop.

Watson Coleman and her husband William reside in Ewing Township and are blessed to have three sons; William, Troy, and Jared and three grandchildren; William, Kamryn and Ashanee.

Carolyn V. Chang

Carolyn V. Chang was born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies. She immigrated to the United States with her siblings in 1972 and resided in East Orange, NJ. Though she has a busy family law practice, Chang serves as mayor of Westampton Township, and has served as committee woman since January 2011 and mayor since January 2013.

Chang is proud of her public service to the residents of Westampton Township, where she has served as committee woman since January 2011 and mayor since January 2013.

Claire Riggs

Claire Riggs, a part-time professor at Rowan University’s College of Communication & Creative Arts’ Public Relations and Advertising Department, has been a part of the Gloucester County community for more than three decades. She currently finds great fulfillment in instructing and guiding our next generation of advertising, public relations and integrated marketing communication professionals in their quest to become strategic writers, ethical thinkers, and socially responsible leaders. Riggs also serves as a strategic communication partner at Graphics Solutions, an integrated marketing and design firm.

Prior to joining Rowan University in 2016, Riggs served as the public affairs director at Axeon Specialty Products, formerly NuStar Asphalt LLC, where she provided executive guidance and directed the strategic communication program for this 230-employee, multiple-location, petroleum-based specialty products company that markets its products throughout the East Coast. In this capacity, Riggs developed and managed stakeholder communication, including production of marketing materials, and led employee engagement and community outreach initiatives. She also managed crisis communication preparedness and execution, as well as government affairs and media relations, serving as spokesperson and representing the company’s interests on national, state and regional industry association boards and committees.

She fulfilled similar responsibilities as regional public affairs manager at NuStar Energy LP through 2012, and as public affairs manager at Valero’s Paulsboro Refinery (now PBF’s Paulsboro Refining Company) from 1999 through 2008. Throughout her career in the petrochemical industry, Riggs worked to develop and support community engagement through open communication, effective partnerships, philanthropic outreach and volunteer programs. In her external and government affairs capacities, she served on industry boards and committees for the American Highway Users Alliance, the National Asphalt
South Jersey Federal Credit Union

would like to congratulate our
Board of Directors,
Vice Chairperson,
Loretta Winters,
on being chosen as one of
“25 African American Women Leaders in New Jersey”

Congratulations Loretta!

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LEADERS - from page 6

Pavement Alliance, the New Jersey Large Energy Users, the Chemistry Council of New Jersey and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. Riggs holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Relations from Rowan University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Temple University and is also a Leadership New Jersey Fellow. She currently serves as vice chair of the Gloucester and Salem Counties Employer Legislative Committee through the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. Marketing Committee chair of the board of Appel Farm Arts and Music Center, on the United Way of Gloucester County’s Campaign Cabinet, and is a member of Citizens Diplomacy International of Philadelphia. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Riggs moved to Philadelphia, at the age of seven, along with her widowed mother and three siblings. She credits her mother’s tenacious focus on education, unwavering devotion to lifelong learning, and genuine spirit of hospitality for fueling her life’s course; and her faith in Christ as her motivation, strength and purpose for serving others. Married for 32 years to Steven Riggs, CEO and president of Graphics Solutions, she resides in Franklinville, NJ, with her husband and twins sons, Jared and Justin. She enjoys working in children’s ministry, singing in the choir and facilitating women’s bible studies at Clayton Baptist Church, and is energized by local, regional and international travels, regular lunch or dinner gatherings with friends, and daily health and wellness activities.

Dr. Diane Hill

Dr. Diane Hill is assistant chancellor at Rutgers University-Newark. She has been an integral member of the Rutgers University administration since 1988 and has served in key senior leadership positions during her tenure.

Dr. Hill received a Ph.D. in Urban Systems, a joint program administered by the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Her research has focused on advancing community engagement in higher education, with special emphasis on university-community partnerships in urban universities, school-based youth college and career development, engagement demonstration models, and community-based participatory research.

Dedicated to create and strengthen bridges between Rutgers University-Newark and the Greater Newark community, Hill brokers university-community partnerships that support research, teaching and scholarship initiatives that impact urban communities. She is the co-founding director of the Center for Pre-College Education and Outreach at Rutgers-Newark. In 2002, she founded and directed the Office of Campus and Conference Services, which evolved into the Office of Campus and Community Relations (OCCR) because of the department’s expanded role in executing and promoting community engagement initiatives.

In 2010, Dr. Hill collaborated with the Office of the Chancellor to expand the vision of OCCR and transformed it into the Office of University-Community Partnerships, the campus’ first institutionalized office to advance university-community partnerships. She is responsible for creating and promoting partnerships and research collaborations between the university and public, private and community-based organizations.

Renowned for her expertise in building community relations, Dr. Hill has more than 30 years of professional experience in education. A Newark native, she manifests a deep commitment and passion for collaborating with school systems to improve graduation rates and academic performance for youth. She was at the forefront of creating numerous academic enrichment “pipeline programs” for youth in the greater Newark area to make higher education opportunity an accessible reality for them. The “RU Ready for Work” program is a great example of Dr. Hill’s dedication to the Newark community.

She recruited and led a team in designing a school-based demonstration model for high school youth, supported by a university-community partnership among the Newark Public Schools, the City of Newark (NewarkWorks/Workforce Development), and several local foundations.

Her education and community engagement repertoire extends from early childhood to senior citizens. She has served as the principal and co-principal investigator for several grants, “Start Healthy Stay Healthy Early Childhood Education Program,” a partnership with Nestle Nutrition (Gerber) U.S. that provides early nutrition training to community members and encourages community residents to continue training. In collaboration with Rutgers Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, Dr. Hill and her colleague, Rutgers professor Dr. Mark Gluck, serve as co-principal investigators for the African-American Alzheimer’s Disease Health Literacy Program, which promotes research, memory health and a better understanding of Alzheimer’s among minority and economically disadvantaged seniors, who have a greater risk of developing the disease. In collaboration with the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, the Urban League of Essex County and the Newark Public Schools, the Newark Fairmount Promise Neighborhood Initiative (PNI) is another hallmark of Dr. Hill’s outstanding community engagement work. A university-community partnership, the PNI is one of the signature programs of the White House and the U.S. Department of Education. A collaboration among more than 25 community partners, which was unprecedented in the City of Newark, PNI brings public and private partners to...
Dorinda Walker

Dorinda Walker’s biography is unlike any of the others featured in this issue of the South Jersey Journal. Like all the women we highlighted, Walker has triumphed in her professional and community life and most likely faced an uphill battle as a woman—a black woman—while climbing to her current status. But that may be where the likeness ends between her and the other women profiled here. Walker’s background reads like a social ills disaster novel, with each dilemma characterizing a chapter in her early life.

Walker was born in Newark, NJ, to parents who became drug addicts, with her father eventually afflicted by A.I.D.S. Her parents’ dysfunction did what it often does, seeped into the next generation, taking control of their children’s lives. It led Dorinda Walker down a path of drug addiction, drug dealing, prison, dropping out of school, domestic abuse, mental health problems, homelessness, hopelessness and more. But Walker was a different breed. She was that person we wish all afflicted with these problems could be—one who uses a troubled past as a catalyst to insure a better future. In fact, Walker’s “future” has been stellar. She became an executive at Prudential, a Fortune 50 company.

After hitting rock bottom and attempting suicide twice, a young Walker woke up in a psych ward to a visit from her grandmother’s spirit which helped her reaffirm her purpose in life was to succeed. With parents unable to care for her, she went to live with an aunt who had a professional career and a stable home, allowing Walker stability as well. Soon, she fell in love, married and began having children, while working at a demanding job in the healthcare industry. Seeking more regular hours, she was hired as a temp in IT at Prudential Financial. She had no IT experience but was a fast learner—and great project manager—and someone noticed. Walker soon went from IT temp to IT consultant on a major project, building the infrastructure to provide company agents with laptops. She then was recommended for a job in medical underwriting, soon moved to disability claims, then to life insurance marketing, where she excelled and was put into a leadership development program. Walker was on her way. From the training she rotated into brokerage marketing, business development and finance, where she wrote a proposal suggesting the company should focus more on women and multi-cultural markets. That led to her current position—one she create—as vice president of Multi-cultural Marketing and Key Initiatives for U.S.-based Initiatives for Prudential Financial in Newark, NJ.

Looking further into Walker’s past, her rise was not all that unusual. Her great-grandfather at 16, came to America from St. Kitts in 1906 and became a self-made millionaire in Newark. He lived in a mansion on Bergen Street, owned two supper clubs, a music school attended by Sarah Vaughn, and property throughout New Jersey. Though he died years before Walker was born, some might say success was in her genes and apparently she found it.

Today, as Walker manages her division at Prudential and a 25-year marriage, she travels the country telling her story, hoping to inspire and motivate others facing a similar battle. She has also written about her life in a book called, “Protected by Purpose.”

Dr. Barbara Gaba

Dr. Barbara Gaba was appointed the ninth president of Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) in January 2017. Her vision is to make ACCC the region’s preferred choice for higher education and professional training and a leading catalyst for economic and workforce development. She works diligently with the school and its partners, to anticipate and fulfill the region’s educational needs, and strengthen the community’s economy by collaborating with K-12, nonprofit and higher education institutions. With extensive experience in higher education, Dr. Gaba is deeply committed to the community college providing educational pathways for student success. Recognizing the important role that education plays in transforming lives, she has embarked on an aggressive plan to strengthen student services and en-
Euletta Gordon began her career with New York Life in 2001. She was a financial advisor and financial planner affiliated with Eagle Strategies, LLC and earned multi-year membership in the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Prior to a career in financial services, Gordon spent 10 years in the social services sector.

In 2012, she joined the leadership team in the South Jersey General Office as a partner. This role provides the avenue to identify, develop and train the next generation of agents and advisors, who will continue the work of educating our communities on financial matters. Under her leadership, her team has perennially finished in the top five percent of all teams nationwide.

Gordon has been featured in “Garden State Woman,” “Women for Hire,” “NYLIC Review,” “South Jersey Journal,” “New York Life Annual Report to Policy Holders,” and “Burlington County Woman.” She has contributed to “Audio Edge,” a program produced by NYLIC to share business ideas with other agents. She has been a speaker/panelist at the 6th and 8th Conference of African American Financial Professionals (CAAFP) and has presented at numerous local church and community events.

Gordon is actively involved in her community and volunteers with established organizations including The South Jersey Food Bank; “Team Jamaica Bickle,” where she volunteers to help coordinate housing, meals and transportation to benefit Jamaican/Caribbean youths participating in the Penn Relays; Gloucester County Workforce Investment Board; the Hispanic Leadership Association Board and DOT Organization – Dreams of Tomorrow.

Gordon is a graduate of the University of Vermont, Rider University and The American College. She also holds the Series 6, 7, 63, 65, 24 licenses.

Phoebe A. Haddon

A nationally noted leader in issues related to access and equity, Phoebe A. Haddon became chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden on July 1, 2014. She has direct responsibility for the daily administration of a highly selective public research university with approximately 12,000 students and an annual budget of about $800 million.

Haddon’s experience as an elected official includes more than eight years in the New Jersey General Assembly. During her tenure in the legislature, Haddon worked on many initiatives, including changes to the state’s education funding formula, legislation to improve children’s health care, and major initiatives designed to reduce crime and violence.

Prior to her career in public service, Haddon was a partner with the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where she practiced in the areas of corporate governance and securities law. Haddon received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Prior to joining Atlantic Cape, Dr. Gaba was provost and associate vice president for Academic Affairs at Union County College, a position she held since 2002. She was responsible for the overall operation of the college’s urban Elizabeth Campus, serving as chief academic officer and administrator of the campus, where she provided leadership, vision and strategic direction to the campus, its faculty, students and programs. She also was dean of Academic and Student Support Services at Camden County College and associate director of the Office of Board Affairs and Government Relations at the New Jersey Department of Higher Education.

Dr. Gaba serves on the board of several organizations including the Atlantic County Economic Alliance; Greater Atlantic City Chamber; Atlantic County Workforce Development, and the NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.

On the national level, she is a member of the board at the Chair Academy for Leadership Development and a commissioner for the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Gaba is the first female and African-American president in the 50-year history of Atlantic Cape Community College. She earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Bayero University, an M.Ed. in Educational Psychology from Rutgers University and a B.A. in Education/Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Dr. Gaba resides in Mays Landing with her husband, Peter. They are the proud parents of Lanre Gaba Makolo and Ayorkor Gaba; and grandparents of Hudson and Hugo Makolo.
of a campus with more than 1,300 employ-
es and enrolls more than 7,000 students in 39 undergraduate programs and 28 graduate programs at the mas-
ter’s and doctoral levels. Under her leadership, Rutgers University–Camden has widened affordable access through its innovative Bridging the Gap program, which provides full or significant tuition coverage for New Jersey’s working families. She has expanded Rutgers–Cam-
den’s role as an anchor institution in Camden and the Delaware Valley by ex-
panding the institution’s nationally rec-
cognized civic engagement program.

In 2014, Haddon was an invited speaker at the 91st annual meeting of the Ameri-
can Law Institute, where other invited speakers included U.S. Supreme Court
Chief Justice John Roberts and U.S. Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer
and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Haddon currently is a member of the American Bar Association’s Commission
on the Future of Legal Services, as well as on the ABA’s Kutak Award Commit-
tee. She is on the board of trustees for the Cooper University Health System,
the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Camden Health & Athletic Association,
and HERS (Higher Education Resource Services). She is a member of the CEO
Council for Growth. Additionally, Haddon is a Class C director of the Federal Re-
serve Bank of Philadelphia’s board of di-
rectors, where she is that board’s deputy
chair.

She has served on the ABA’s Diversity
and Inclusion 360 Working Group and the ABA’s Commission on the Future of
Legal Services. Additionally, she has held membership on such boards as the
Delaware Valley Community Reinvest-
ment Fund, the Women’s Law Project, the William Penn Foundation, the
Samuel S. Fels Fund, the Philadelphia
Education Fund, and the Smith College
Board of Trustees.

Haddon previously served as dean of
the University of Maryland Francis King
Carey School of Law. In 2011, the school received a $30 million commit-
ment from the W.P. Carey Foundation.

Prior to joining UM Carey Law, Haddon
served for more than 25 years as a dis-
tinguished faculty member at the Temple
University Beasley School of Law. Dur-
ing her years at Temple, she fought
racial and gender bias on the Pennsyl-
vania bench and bar, serving on several state and city bodies, including the City of Philadelphia Board of Ethics. She has
written extensively on equality and ac-
cess in education issues as well as on
matters related to access to counsel for
civil litigants.

In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Haddon
was honored by The National Jurist as
one of the “25 Most Influential People in
Legal Education.” Haddon earned an
LL.M. from Yale Law School in 1985 and
a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from
Duquesne University School of Law in
1977. She received a bachelor’s degree
from Smith College in 1972 and served
as vice chair of the Smith College Board
of Trustees until 2009.

Jennifer Webb-McRae

Jennifer Webb-
McRae is a na-
tive of
Vineland, New
Jersey. She is
a proud gradu-
ate of the
Vineland Public
School System,
Glassboro
State University
and Rutgers –
Camden
School of Law, where she earned her
law degree in 1994.

She is also a graduate of the National
Association of Criminal Defense
Lawyers College in Macon, Georgia.
She is admitted to the bars of the State
of New Jersey, United States District
Court and the State of Pennsylvania.

Webb-McRae was an assistant deputy
public defender for the State of New Jer-
sy for six years.

In January of 2010, Webb-McRae was
nominated by Governor Jon S. Corzine,
to be prosecutor of Cumberland County,
making her the first African-American,
and first female in that position. In her
capacity as prosecutor, she is the chief
law enforcement officer of the county,
responsible for overseeing the 110-per-
son office, which prosecutes indictable
crimes throughout the county.

Prosecutor Webb-McRae preaches that
while prosecuting crimes and keeping
Cumberland County residents safe is
her primary responsibility, helping peo-
ple make positive choices is equally im-
portant. She has continued her work
with the community by launching an
annual back to school initiative, where the
office attends 30-plus back to school
events per year to let parents know that
the office has a Speaker’s Bureau that
can keep kids safe and educate them
about topics such as anti-bullying, inter-
et safety and gang and drug aware-
ness. Additionally, she oversaw the pro-
duction of videos on both healthy
choices for youth and domestic violence
and the creation of an anti-bullying edu-
cational curriculum. Finally, she has
hosted a Youth Outreach Symposium, an
Prescription Drug Abuse Symposium, an
Anti-Violence Summit, and Substance
Abuse and Gang Awareness confer-
ces for school professionals.

One of Prosecutor Webb-McRae’s
proudest accomplishments was steering
the move of the Cumberland County
Prosecutor’s Office to 115 Vine Street,
Bridgeton, New Jersey in August of
2014. The move consolidated more than
100 employees from five buildings to the
renovated, historical Vine Street School,
increasing productivity by consolidating
resources. She is also proud of facilitat-
ing the Cumberland County Law En-
forcement Community Engagement
Series, which hosted six public sessions
in 2016 covering topics such as, use of
force, use of force investigations, law
enforcement hiring practices, incarcera-
tion/re-entry/expungement, police-citi-
zen encounters, and internal affairs and
critical incidents. The series continued
in 2017.

In November of 2016, Governor Chris
Christie nominated Prosecutor Webb-
McRae for a second five year term as
Cumberland County Prosecutor, and in
January of 2017, she was sworn in, be-
coming the first full-time prosecutor in
Cumberland County to serve a second
term. Prosecutor Webb-McRae’s work
motto is “I will go anywhere, at any time
to help the citizens of Cumberland
County make healthy, positive choices.”

Prior to becoming prosecutor, Webb-
McRae ventured into private practice,
between 2002 and 2009, where she
concentrated in the areas of criminal
and municipal court defense, business
and real estate and wills and estates.
She has also served as child support at-
torney for the Cumberland County Wel-
fare Board, solicitor for the Fairfield
Township Land Use Board and public
defender for Maurice River Township.

Webb-McRae’s professional affiliations
have included: the Superior Court of NJ
-Vicinage XV Minority Concerns Advi-
sory Committee, serving as a trustee
and officer for the Cumberland County
Bar Association and being a member of
the County Prosecutor’s Association of
New Jersey and the Cumberland
County Human Relations Commission.

Prior to being appointed prosecutor, she
was active in the community, as a past
member of the Vineland Planning Board
and Vineland Board of Education.
Jennifer P. Young

Jennifer P. Young is the external affairs field director at Verizon in Woodbury, NJ. She is responsible for community relations, local government affairs, economic development, consumer, education relations, and local media relations for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties.

Young began working at Bell Atlantic-New Jersey in the Small Business Sales Group in Newark. In 1990, she was promoted to Bell Atlantic Pennsylvania for a challenging assignment in Outside Plant Operations. During the following decade, she led projects and teams in Operations, Project Management, Installation and Maintenance, Construction, Dispatch, and Workforce Development. She returned to New Jersey as Verizon New Jersey’s Southern External Affairs Field Director in February 2004.

She works with community and business organizations across the southern New Jersey region as well as statewide on behalf of Verizon. Young is a board member of the Southern New Jersey Development Council, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, the Camden County Workforce Investment Board, the Cooper’s Ferry Partnership Corp. board, the LEAP Academy Charter School board of trustees, the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Atlantic City Chamber. She is also a member of the Woodland Community Development Corp. Employer Advisory Board, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the NAACP, and the Consortium of Information and Telecommunication Executives.

Young graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Hampton University. She is a 2006 graduate of the Leadership New Jersey program that teaches leadership skills to public and private-sector officials.

Jill C. Cyrus

Jill C. Cyrus is currently the director of the Recreation and Parks Department for Willingboro Township, where she plans, organizes, directs and coordinates a variety of recreation and parks programs and events to meet the needs of the community. Prior to that, she held the title of recreation supervisor for 18 years.

Born and raised in Willingboro, New Jersey, Jill is proud to say that she is a product of the town, having graduated from Kennedy High School in 1984. That fall, she began her educational career at Fairleigh Dickinson University (Madison Campus) with the intention of seeking a degree in Radiology through the Allied Health Program. However, after her first semester, with a GPA of 1.11, Jill realized the health field was not her calling or passion. After many “talks with God,” and school counselors, she switched her major to recreation and leisure and later transferred to Montclair State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in May of 1989 and a 3.6 GPA.

Cyrus has always loved working with people and especially the youth. Prior to her full-time job with the Recreation and Parks Department, she worked part-time as a playground leader, tennis court attendant and youth drama coordinator. She was also a gate guard, synchronized swimming coordinator and in charge of getting pool tags out to the schools with the Willingboro Board of Education Pool Program.

During her time with the Recreation and Parks Department, Cyrus has constantly tried to bring new and innovative events and programs to the community. Some of her favorites include honoring local women and their work with the Phenomenal Awards Dinner; taking the Willingboro Jazz Festival to another level by adding various components including local and award-winning artists, and celebrating Black History Month by hosting events where local members of the community are recognized for their contributions in art, music, history and education.

Throughout her career, Cyrus has shown a passion for the youth and the community as a whole. She has been an Elder, a Deacon and a youth group leader with the Willingboro Presbyterian Church, as well as a leader for the Burlington County 4-H Club. Additionally, she has been a member of the Willingboro Emergency Squad and the Willingboro Rotary Club.

Jill is 2nd degree black belt in Tang Soo Do karate, and will be finishing up her last class with Strayer University in September to receive her MBA.

LEADERS - continued on page 17
Lifestyles

Some NJ Officials Lynch the Camden County Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Linn Washington, Jr.

Many across South Jersey see abundant evidence of governmental officials in Camden County, grossly abusing the little known yet historically significant legacy of civil rights luminary Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

That legacy includes Dr. King’s first sit-in protest against racial discrimination and King’s first lawsuit against racism.

That King protest and lawsuit occurred in 1950 during a time when King studied at a seminary located in Chester, PA.

When King protested at a café in Maple Shade, the owner used a gun to force King and three of his friends from the café. That denial of service incident produced King’s first lawsuit against racism.

Earlier this year Camden’s new mayor, Francisco ‘Frank’ Moran, withdrew $229,035 allocated to preserve a Camden property at 753 Walnut Street, where Dr. King plotted that Maple Shade sit-in protest against racism.

Moran shifted that $229,035 allocated for the King preservation project to Camden’s Fire Department to buy new equipment.

Earlier this year Camden’s new mayor, Francisco ‘Frank’ Moran, withdrew $229,035 allocated to preserve a Camden property at 753 Walnut Street, where Dr. King plotted that Maple Shade sit-in protest against racism. - LNN WASHINTON JR. PHOTO

The HPO never required a formal study for any of the other 51,000-plus items on New Jersey’s Historic Registry inclusive of nearly 100 Registry listings in the city of Camden.

New Jersey researcher Patrick Duff is the person who submitted the application to HPO for Registry placement and Duff led the campaign for the initial allocation of funding for the preservation of the Camden property.

Duff discovered the significance of the Walnut Street, Camden property while researching the 1950 Maple Shade incident. Relatives of King’s seminary colleague and close friend Walter McCall—who was with King during that Maple Shade protest—owned that Walnut Street property. King stayed at the Walnut Street home occasionally.

“African-American history doesn’t seem important to certain people,” Duff said.

Camden Mayor Moran “reprogramed,” the federal funds allocated to the King-related property because progress on that preservation project was allegedly moving too slowly, a spokesman for the mayor said.

Moran spokesman Vincent Basara said federal guidelines required either moving the money or returning that funding to the federal government.

Moran is a “strong advocate for preserving the rich history of Camden for future generations,” Basara said, noting the owner of 753 Walnut Street could apply for other funding from the city.

A document prepared by a Camden City official casts shadows on Moran’s rationale for defunding the preservation project and bolsters the claim by Francis that political shenanigans were a part of the decision to reprogram those federal funds.

That document states federal authorities contacted Camden officials regarding unspent federal funds “on or about February 22, 2018.” Camden officials then made “the determination to reprogram” funds to the Fire Department.

But that document also stated, inexplicably, that on February 19 and 20, the City of Camden published public notices in a local newspaper that “announced the repograming” of the money from the preservation project to the Fire Department.

Francis and others see shenanigans in the obvious conflict between the claim See LEGACY - continued on page 23
Let’s congratulate Michellene Davis together

On behalf of RWJBarnabas Health, we congratulate Michellene Davis, Esq., on being named one of the 25 African American Women Leaders in New Jersey.

Let’s celebrate Michellene’s vision and dedication to the communities served throughout New Jersey as she leads RWJBarnabas Health’s Social Impact and Community Investment initiative.

Michellene Davis, Esq.,
Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer
RWJBarnabas Health
Opinion
Our Republic is Safe

Through our campaign to increase awareness and foster relationships with leadership in the public and private sectors, every engaged member should benefit from the elevation of the mission of The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc. (AACCNJ).

I have witnessed first-hand members working hard with staff to complete their member profile and various certifications, all of which are prerequisites for positioning these members for opportunities. Moreover, the inquiries to our office, for membership and event information, are also on an upward trajectory. The elevation of the profile of AACCNJ is also having a residual impact on me as well. The number of inquiries for speaking engagements and meeting requests, has run the gambit from small business owners to senior government officials and corporate executives, all of which strengthen the brand of our organization while providing an opportunity to leverage resources, opportunities and information to benefit each investor in AACCNJ.

It is truly an exciting and rewarding time at AACCNJ. However, we do not take this time of personal gratification for granted. This only fuels the staff and me to dig deeper and work harder for each and every member and supporter of AACCNJ. On June 15, I celebrated 21 years as a chamber executive, and it still feels like yesterday. I love my job, service to each member and the State of New Jersey.

I am proud to announce I was selected to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) hosted by the Secretary of Defense. The JCOC program is the oldest and most prestigious public liaison program in the Department of Defense. I was the only applicant from the State of New Jersey selected to participate after the nomination process was completed.

As a JCOC participant, I spent several intense days from June 10-16, 2018 at military installations, engaging with senior military officials and U.S. Service members. In addition to participating in tactical training exercises, while at the various military bases, I participated in physical fitness activities, shot various weapons, was a passenger aboard a helicopter and a few cargo planes. In addition, I witnessed a number of military exercises involving hostages, tactical engagement of our enemies and rescue of military personnel on land and at sea. I gained a better understanding of the roles and mission of the U.S. Armed Forces, their skills, capabilities and the equipment employed in defense of our nation. The itinerary included the following:

Day 1 - Pentagon/U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston SC
Executive breakfast at the Pentagon, Question and Answer Session with Secretary of Defense Mattis

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston
Maritime K-9/Law Enforcement, Waterways Pursuit Demonstration, Hazard Material Handling Demonstration

Day 2 - Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, Parris Island, SC
Confidence Course, Obstacle Course, F-18 Simulations

Day 3 - 23d Air Wing, Moody AFB, GA
Military operations in urban terrain demonstration, MRAP Rollover, Combat Search and Rescue Training Observation

Day 4 - U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC
A full day scenario of JCOC participants as hostages, who are saved by Special Forces, Black Daggers Demonstration (Parachute Jumpers), Weapons Familiarization, MH-47 Chinook Rescue

Day 5 - Norfolk Naval Station/ Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Norfolk, VA
Tour of the USS George HW Bush, Landing Craft Air Cushion Flight

The new JCOC alums are:

Thomas Abraham, chairman, Abraham Foundation
Sean Allen, founder/managing partner, AXLE Development Group Design
Randy Anderson, former president and CEO, Cox Communications
Dave Aronberg, state attorney/15th Circuit Florida

Donald Brandt, chairman and president, Pinnacle West Capital/Arizona Public Service
Christine Candio, president and CEO, St. Luke’s Hospital
Michael Chersonsen, executive vice president, SCG Advertising and Public Relations
Jennifer Ciardelli, director, Civic and Defense Initiatives, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Robert Clark, president, Tampa Steel Erecting Company
Annette Clayton, president and CEO (NA Operations), Schneider Electric
Deborah DeLuca, director, Government and Environment Affairs, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Christine Duffy, president, Carnival Cruise Lines
Kenneth Dyer, superintendent, Dougherty County School System, North Carolina
Cassandra Franklin, mayor, City of Everett, Washington
John E. Harmon, Sr., founder, president and CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

John Harthorne, founder and CEO MassChallenge
Aminta Hawkins Breaux, president, Bowie State University
Chris Hogan, author, public speaker and leadership expert, Ramsey Solutions
Richard Kauffman, chairman Energy and Finance, New York State
Andrew Klaber, partner, Paulson and Company
Aylwin Lewis, board of directors, the Walt Disney Company
Victoria Neidigh, vice president, Strategic Initiatives, COMCAST/NBC Universal

Scott O’Neil, CEO, Philadelphia 76ers/New Jersey Devils
Hutch Parker, chairman, Hutch Parker Entertainment
Maria Pitre-Martin, deputy superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Kristine Sabat, executive producer, A&E Television Networks
Lynne Sangimino, market vice president, Cox Communications

Marko Silver, president, Bennington College
Martha Spanninger, independent producer, CBS
Henry Stawinski, chief of police, Prince George’s County Maryland
Matthew Swift, co-founder, chairman and CEO, Concordia Summit

William Tsutsui, president and professor of history, Hendrix College

AUGUST 2018 | Page 15
NAACP call for investigation spurs hate-filled comments

Following the period since the police-related shooting in Deptford Township, NJ, which resulted in the death of LaShanda Anderson, 38, of Philadelphia, it has come to the attention of the Gloucester County NAACP that many readers of our South Jersey newspapers have taken to the comment section to vent poisonous, racist and inappropriate comments directed at the deceased, the NAACP and persons of all backgrounds who are disenfranchised by social-economic conditions defined by neglect, exclusionary and divisive recurring tactics of our times.

I write this column to assure readers that the Gloucester County NAACP is committed to being a good neighbor in assisting Gloucester County police departments in making Gloucester County a safer and better place to live and visit. As a Gloucester County resident and as a Gloucester County NAACP official, I support the tireless efforts of Loretta Winters, president of the Gloucester County NAACP, whose motivation to assist in obtaining a fair and conclusive investigation into the shooting, is admirable and professional.

Even after the many personal attacks launched against her on social media for serving as a voice of reason, and continuing her drive to strengthen the ties between all communities in Gloucester County and our police departments, Winters remains committed to forging ahead and sharing the wisdom of the NAACP in repairing any harm this unfortunate incident may have in her unflinching dedication to NAACP work with law enforcement.

Loretta has been measured in responding to negative comments about the incident or personal attacks against her person because she would rather continue working with the Gloucester County prosecutor and her criminal justice team in the NAACP. While I find the scathing comments on social media personally insensitive and insulting of the fine work of the Gloucester County NAACP as it relates to its work with law enforcement, and I am sure every other resident concerned with police-community relations will as well.

It is disappointing, but not surprising, that many readers of white privilege persuasion find it necessary to jump on the negativity bandwagon without knowing the truth of what truly occurred that led to the police shooting. Until we get the full results of the investigations currently been conducted, we need to hold our comments.

While there is nothing that can be done to erase the tragic, first-time police shooting in Deptford, NJ, an exhaustive and credible investigation into what led to the police shooting needs to suffice. We, as residents of Gloucester County, cannot ignore what occurred no matter where are support lies. The actions of our police will remain relevant to all our residents as other communities continue to struggle with finding the right mechanisms to support police, but demand and expect accountability.

In working closely with Loretta Winters and members of the Gloucester County criminal justice team, I can personally say that the attacks against her are personal, not based on the facts of her work around issues that are contentious and need to be addressed professionally.

The comments I read on social media are not only disheartening, but seem to stem from lack of knowing what really happened on the day of the incident. Hopefully, the ongoing investigations will shed light on what actually occurred, not on the many angry comments submitted by readers.

Like my elementary school teacher once would often say, “There are always three sides to a story — your side, their side and what really happened.” Stay tuned for the results of the investigations.

Wilfredo “Wil” Rojas serves as special assistant to Loretta Winters, president of the Gloucester County NAACP. He can be reached at wil21252@aol.com.

Events Calendar  Visit Philly – Aug. Events

August 5, 2018

2nd STREET FESTIVAL — Northern Liberties, the neighborhood that helped launch Philly’s craft beer craze, closes down North 2nd Street for a family-friendly festival of beer gardens, food, workshops, art, street performances and two stages for live music. 2ndstreetfestival.org

August 11, 2018

PHILLY FREE STREETS — From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., pedestrians, cyclists and more can enjoy vehicle-free, free activity-choked passage along North Broad Street—an eight-mile round trip route—from City Hall to Erie Avenue. For more information, visit phillyfreestreets.com.

August 31-November 9, 2018

JOHN DOWELL: WHEN I SEE COTTON I SEE RED — Philadelphia artist John Dowell shares large-scale photographs, sculpture and an installation, all reflections of his pilgrimage to the rural South, his exploration of cotton’s far-reaching and often tragic history with African-Americans, in an exhibit at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. Call the African American Museum for further details at 215-574-0380, or go to its website at aamuseum.org.

August 2018 (TBD)

THE PHILADELPHIA BOURSE — The Historic District’s circa 1895 commodities exchange transforms into an artisan market in the style of Chelsea Market via a renovation befitting Philadelphia’s current and centuries-old reputation as a city of makers. Find more information at theboursephilly.com.
LEADERS - from page 12

Loretta Winters

Loretta Winters has a lengthy curriculum vitae of service to the community. She is the president of the Gloucester County NAACP Branch 2345 and vice chair of the board of directors for South Jersey Federal Credit Union.

Under her leadership, the first and only NJ NAACP Foundation was formed at Rowan College in Gloucester County, and the first New Jersey NAACP high school chapter was chartered in Deptford, NJ.

Winters constantly partners with local hospitals and businesses for the betterment of the community and civil rights for all. She has successfully reached out to the Gloucester County superintendents of schools to create an Equity Committee and the county’s police chiefs to close the gaps and work together harmoniously. Believing in building bridges not walls, Winters is also in the process of starting a cable television show called, “Issues,” to discuss hot topics.

She is a former councilwoman and vice president of council for Monroe Township, NJ. Because of Winters’ dedication and hard work, the township named an 8½-acre park called “Winters’ Cove,” in her honor. In addition, Congresswoman Robert Andrews named December 15, “Loretta Winters Day,” throughout the 1st Congressional District to honor her and her commitment to community.

For her work as a civil rights trailblazer and community leader, she has served as an electoral college voter in the 2016 presidential election, was on the 2016 NJ governor-elect’s transition team and was named Super Women of the year by NJ Magazine. Among other honors she has also been named one of New Jersey’s 25 most influential African American Leaders for two years straight in a row 2016 and 2017 by South Jersey Journal.

She studied Finance at Temple University and believes that education is the key to the future. She is married to Herman Winters, III, and the two have a blended family of seven beautiful children.

Michellene Davis

As the executive vice president and chief corporate affairs officer for RWJBarnabas Health, Michellene Davis leads Social Impact and Community Investment across the System. She oversees the areas of Policy Development and Governmental and External Affairs, Healthy Living and Community and Employee Wellness and Engagement, and Global Health. She is the creator of the RWJBarnabas Health Women’s Leadership Alliance and Institute for Corporate Internship. Davis helps to direct the strategic policy decisions of the system and strengthens the system’s position with state and federal elected officials and agencies.

She joined Barnabas Health in 2009, and soon after was named executive vice president of Corporate Affairs, the first woman and first person of color to serve as an executive vice president in the Barnabas Health system’s history.

In 2017, Davis was named to the top 10 on the NJBIZ Health Care Power 50, and to the 2017 Top 100 in Business, both lists on which she has been named previously. She has also been ranked by NJBIZ as the State of New Jersey’s top lobbyist in the healthcare industry and by PolitickerNJ as one of the most politically powerful people in the State of New Jersey. Prior to her current position, Davis served in several high-ranking statewide political appointment positions.

Before joining Barnabas Health, Davis served as chief policy counsel to former New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, the first African American to serve in the role, and Acting New Jersey State Treasurer. Prior to Treasury, Davis led the $2.4 billion New Jersey Lottery as executive director and CEO and served as a senior policy advisor in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Davis has a proven record of supporting women throughout her career and, while Acting New Jersey State Treasurer of New Jersey founded the New Jersey Department of the Treasury’s Office of Supplier Diversity and Division of Minority and Women Owned Businesses.

Davis is also active in her civic community. She serves as a member of the board of governors of Rowan University – Rutgers Camden; a member of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Women’s Board, a trustee of the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association; secretary to the board of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Foundation; and president of the Executive Women of New Jersey. She also serves on the board of directors of the Caucus Educational Trust, and is a member of the Seton Hall Law School Diversity Council, the Association of Black Women Lawyers, the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Garden State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Women’s Political Caucus of New Jersey. Formerly, she served on the corporate advisory board of the Boys and Girls Club of New Jersey, and the board of trustees of Essex County College and Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

Davis has received national and statewide recognition for her dedication and career accomplishments. Most recently, she received the 2016 Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award from U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, and was also the recipient of the 2016 Corporate Sector Award from the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association. Previously, she was named the 2015 LUPE Amiga of the Year, 2014 Business Advocate of the Year by the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and selected as one of The Network Journal’s 2014 Top 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business in the United States. She has been honored by numerous civic organizations.

She began her legal career as a trial litigator, is an honors graduate of Seton Hall University and holds a Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall School of Law.

Paula R. Glover

Paula R. Glover is president and CEO for the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), a national energy trade association that represents all sectors of the energy industry. Glover leads a 2000-member association with 40 chapters nationwide. The association’s focus is to represent the voice for African Americans and other minorities on energy policy, regulations and environmental issues.

Glover directs the association’s strategic plan, business development and policy positions. She represents the organization before energy industry executives and national and state policymakers.

She is an industry thought leader on issues around diversity and inclusion. Her work on international energy issues underscores the importance of energy to improve the quality of life for people throughout the African continent. The association under Glover’s leadership has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy on its Minorities in Energy Initiative as well as business development programming for minority entrepreneurs. She has also testified before Congress about the impact of policies on underserved communities.

Glover has more than 25 years of experience in the energy industry, including 15 years in both electric and natural gas distribution companies, where she has worked in government affairs, regulatory affairs and economic development.

In March 2014, Glover was appointed to the National Petroleum Council by U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz. In June of 2017, she was voted onto the board of directors for the Alliance to Save Energy.

Glover is also a member of the advisory board for the Maryland Energy and Sustainability Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Glover received her B.S. in Marketing Management from the University of Delaware. She is the recipient of the Bring It Home to Hartford Award; the Clarke Watson Chairman’s Cup and the Platinum Achievement Award from the Cooperative Development Energy Program at Fort Valley State University. She is a 2003 graduate of Leadership New Haven and has contributed to articles on work-life balance in “Take Pride” magazine.

Monique Chadband

Monique Chadband is an executive, entrepreneur, educator, advocate, mentor and scholar. Chadband is president and chief executive officer of United Way of Salem County as well as the founder of the Philanthropic Alliance for Community Enterprise (PACE), a consulting firm comprised of industry experts across sectors, who work to efficiently and effectively build communities.
A New Jersey native, Chadband earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Montclair State University, New Jersey. It was there that she tapped into her desire to serve the community and make a difference in the world by working as a student-leader and community advocate.

Upon graduation, Chadband returned to her native South Jersey and worked in the corporate banking industry before answering her call to community and public service. She attained a Master of Science degree in Administration of Human Services, from Wilmington University in Delaware, where she has also taught as an adjunct professor for the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences since 2009.

Chadband is a mentor to many young people. She said that faith, education and hard work are the keys to unlock one’s greatest potential. Monique is completing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University in Minnesota. Though she has several career recognitions, Chadband attributes her success to the grace of God and the incredible love and support of her parents, Carl H. and the late Marie D. Chadband.

Rita Mack

Rita Mack’s dream of becoming a business owner came true in 1986 when she and her husband, Tony, purchased their first McDonald’s Restaurant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mack is an active and passionate volunteer in the McDonald’s system. She has contributed tremendously to the brand in a number of leadership roles. Mack is a past chair and CEO of the National Black McDonald’s Operators Association (NBMOA), a 46-year-old organization.

Today, the NBMOA is one of the largest and most successful African-American, business organizations in the nation. In addition, Mack, and nine other female owner/operators, launched the McDonald’s Women Operator Network (WON), which now has a membership of more than 500 female McDonald’s owner/operators.

Mack is a Diamond Life member of the NAACP and a tireless community servant. She strongly believes in giving back by providing scholarships, donating time and money to community projects, hiring minority youth and much more. She counts herself blessed to be able to serve her community and adhere to the scripture of Luke 12:48, “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”

Mack has served on numerous boards. Currently, she serves as a member of the board of trustees for AtlantiCare Health System, and as a member of the Foundation board of directors at Richard Stockton University of New Jersey.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Mack holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Tennessee State University.

Reva Foster

Reva Foster graduated cum laude from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She went on to pursue graduate work in Microbiology at Miami University where she received a graduate assistantship teaching Microbiology to freshmen and sophomore college students. She is a certified master trainer for the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. Foster also holds several certificates in Business Management, Senior Health, Quality Administration, Deming Quality Circle and International Group and Personal Fitness Certifications. She received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force.

Foster has held several positions of responsibility throughout her professional career. Some of her past employers include; Park Davis Pharmaceutical, Warner Lambert, Johnson & Johnson Eastern Surgical Dressing Plant, where she served as quality assurance supervisor, Domestic Operating Company, served as a scientist, technical assurance. Throughout her career with Johnson & Johnson, she climbed the corporate ladder with increasing responsibilities, which included manufacturing manager, quality assurance coordinator, manager of Specification Department and international auditor for North America, Central America and South America.

Foster started AVER Designs, a professional artistic company. Her company provided business plans, sales strategies and sample products for new businesses using a personalized template. In 1993, she was hired as the director of the Willingboro Township Senior Citizen Center. She now serves as executive director of the Department on Aging, where she is the chief administrator responsible for the day-to-day operation of the senior center programs; coordinates community resources with federal, state and local organizations concerned with elderly issues.

Her goal was to establish a state-of-the-art senior citizen center and program that would be continually recognized statewide, and a welcoming home away from home for our senior population. In 2007, her responsibilities for the Willingboro Township were expanded when she was chosen to head Community Affairs and subsequently Veterans Affairs Departments.

Foster has been deeply involved with her community and several community service organizations. Those affiliations include being chairwoman and strategist for the United States Savings Bond Campaign; a member of the Advancement of Women, where she chairs the advisory council; the Eastern Star; South Jersey Red Hatters; Willingboro Advocates; Willingboro Committee Women for District 13; New Jersey Association of Senior Directors; a life-time member of the NAACP; serving as president of the Willingboro and Vicinity NAACP; a board member and/or trustee of several local and state organizations and foundations, and a life-time member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has served nine years as chairwoman of the New Jersey Black Issues Senior Symposium—four years as first vice chairwoman—and is currently state chairman of the New Jersey Black Issues Convention. She was selected as the 2012 New Jersey State Delegate for former President Barack Obama.

Foster has received many awards for her service to the community including the New Jersey Women of Achievement Awards, Outstanding African American Women, New Jersey Certificate of Honor, New Jersey Community Service Award, Outstanding Woman of Burlington County Award, Rotary Club Recognition Employee of the Year, Burlington County Times Making a Difference in Burlington County Award, several sorority and fraternity community service awards, the Veteran of Foreign Wars Service Recognition Awards, Buffalo Soldiers Service Award, Notable Woman Award, Interfaith Community Service Award, Commendation from New York City Council, Who’s Who in Universities and Colleges, Who’s Who in the East, and twice recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award.

Foster is passionate and enthusiastic about life. She never misses an opportunity to help someone. Her generosity is unparalleled. She strongly believes that if you can help one person along the way, then your living will not be in vain. She is the proud mother of three sons and three grandchildren.

Sarah E. Jones

Sarah E. Jones is a strategic political and public affairs advisor with more than a decade of experience. With a proven track record of operational excellence and community outreach, Sarah is dedicated to implementing positive changes for communities throughout the State of New Jersey.

Jones currently serves as director of Government Affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. In this role, she represents Horizon BCBSNJ before the New Jersey Legislature and various federal departments and agencies, and provides senior executives with policy analyses and position papers on healthcare reform.

Prior to joining Horizon BCBSNJ, Jones served as director of Government Affairs for Cablevision, district director for Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., and held leadership roles with Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr., and the late Congressman Donald Payne, Sr. She has also practiced law as an associate for the law firm of Hunt, Hamlin and Ridley, served as senior counsel for the Newark Housing Authority, and as counsel to the City of Newark council president.

Jones earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Richard Stockton University, and received her J.D. from Nova Southeastern University. She
is a member of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey and the Garden State Bar Association.

In 2016, Jones was the recipient of the Essex County Women of Excellence Award and has been recognized by the New Jersey Labor Advisory Board. She has also been named to PolitickerNJ’s “2016 Power List,” the “40 Under 40 List,” and named one of 50 Powerful Young Democrats in New Jersey by the state’s Young Democrats Black Caucus. In 2017, Jones was named one of America’s Top 100 emerging and executive leaders by DiversityMBA Magazine.

Sandra Bolden Cunningham

On November 6, 2007, Sandra B. Cunningham was elected to the New Jersey State Senate by the people of the 31st Legislative District, which is comprised of Bayonne and a portion of Jersey City. State Senator Sandra Cunningham holds the distinction of becoming the first woman elected to the State House from the 31st Legislative District. St. Sen. Sandra Cunningham is the widow of the late Glenn D. Cunningham, a distinguished statesman who was the mayor of Jersey City and the state senator of the 31st Legislative District. For nearly a decade, Sandra and Glenn Cunningham were visible community activists, who fought together courageously for their beloved community until his untimely death in 2004.

Today, St. Senator Cunningham continues the legacy she began with her husband. Cunningham is a vocal advocate of children and working families. She believes that quality education is the passport to achieving social equity. Furthermore, she believes that working families have a right to affordable health care, a fair and safe workplace, and property tax relief.

In addition, St. Sen. Cunningham champions for a typically forgotten population — ex-offenders. She wholeheartedly believes in providing recently released offenders with a “second chance” to become contributing members of our society. She believes that removing obstacles to employment for people with criminal records provides economic and social opportunities to a large group of people living in New Jersey. To that point, she worked tirelessly with re-entry advocates and the business community to draft and introduce “The Opportunity to Compete” legislation, best known as “Ban the Box.” This legislation protects employers from doing criminal background checks on prospective employees before giving them an interview and hopefully an opportunity to tell their story. “Ban the Box” in New Jersey received national attention after President Barack Obama mentioned it when he announced implementation of a similar program sponsored for the United States government. In her quest to offer opportunities to released offenders, St. Sen. Cunningham and Governor Chris Christie, collaborated on new expungement legislation that will make it easier for offenders to clean their criminal records.

Cunningham is a member of the Senate Leadership, serving as deputy Majority Leader. She is the chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, and she is a member of the esteemed Budget and Appropriations Committee. She also sits on the Labor Committee. Additionally, Senator Cunningham serves on the Ellis Island Commission and the Pretrial Services Review Commission.

In addition to public service, Senator Cunningham was board president of the Sandra and Glenn D. Cunningham Foundation, which closed its doors on August 4, 2017. The foundation, over an 11-year period, rose upwards of $250,000 to provide college scholarships for over 200 at risk young people from Jersey City and Bayonne. The foundation was designed to help precisely “C” students, who didn’t have the financial resources or the “A” and “B” grades to attend college. Each student was paired with a mentor to help guide them through their college workload. The students would keep the same mentor for all four years, in which time they were encouraged to graduate.

Prior to serving in the State Senate, Senator Cunningham was the former executive director of the Hudson County Bar Association. Previously, she was a community and public relations coordinator for Essex-Newark Legal Services. She was also the deputy director of the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry, where she initiated programs to expand the role of the church in the community.

State Senator Cunningham is a native of Newark, New Jersey, and is a graduate of Bloomfield College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She currently resides in Jersey City.

Tawanda “Wawa” Jones

Tawanda “Wawa” Jones is the president and founder of Camden Sophisticated Sisters, a nonprofit step dancing, drum line and drill team program that has been called lifesaving by its admirers. The mission is to provide youngsters and their families with discipline, purpose and positive accomplishments in a fun environment.

Growing up in Camden, Jones saw the need to keep young girls off the streets, out of trouble and involved in positive activities that promoted self-respect, something many of her girlfriends lacked when she was a teen. She founded CSS. Her late grandfather Walter “Dynamite” Green Jr., helped her get started by buying three drums and 80 uniforms. She chose the colors navy blue and orange, as a tribute to the colors worn by Green’s team when he started the first African-American women’s baseball league in the area in North Camden. In the early days, the members practiced in downtown Camden at the Camden Youth Activity Center, once the site of the women’s prison. That was 32-years ago, and today, nearly 4,500 children have come through CSS, which Jones still funds with her own money and donations from family members, friends and community partners. Her step team has performed at events, conferences and sadly, sometimes at the funerals for its members’ brothers killed in the streets of Camden.

While the organization’s cornerstone programs have remained the same, Jones now insists those who participate maintain at least a “C” average at school, do 200 hours of community service, and write an essay entitled, “How Can I Improve Where I Live.” She also monitors students’ Facebook pages for inappropriate content. Using tough love, positivity and discipline, Jones has fostered pride in these youngsters, which they in turn now have in Camden.

Over the years, Jones who began dancing at age 3, added boys to her program by way of the Distinguished Brothers of CSS and The Almighty Percussion Sound Drum Line (T.A.P.S.). Her members have a 100 percent graduation rate, with a mighty 80 percent headed on to college or trade school. One deserving student is helped each year by a scholarship Jones gives in her grandfather’s name. They have purchased an old 25,000 square foot factory, which they hope to turn into a first class community center, with plans to call it “The Dynamite Center.”

Jones and CSS have been featured in numerous articles, she was nominated for an award by CNN Heroes and CSS has received national acclaim. Thanks to a grant from entertainer Steve Harvey, Jones now runs CSS full time and is studying business management at Strayer University.

Shanté D. Palmer

Shanté D. Palmer is a public affairs executive, community advocate and college professor. Her tenure in government, community relations, higher education and grassroots campaigns spans over a decade. Palmer is an advocate for those she represents. She works to provide a voice in the marketplace of ideas, facts, and viewpoints that aid informed public debate and decision-making. Her work has proved her dedication to public, community and political organizations.

As senior vice president of business development at Capital Impact Group (CIG), Palmer manages policy issues by leveraging top-tier government and public affairs resources, specializing in corporate community relations and helping her clients develop corporate responsibility programs. She works with organizations to design and implement community programs that include training, philanthropy, partnerships and donations to improve the quality of community life and establish a legacy of trust with the public where clients are located.

Prior to joining CIG, Palmer served as senior projects specialist for U.S. Senator Cory Booker, where she acted as a liaison to federal, state and local agencies, represented the senator at public events throughout the state, maintained networks of contacts with organizations, legislators, and community leaders, hosted events, and formed effective relationships on behalf of the
Toni Proffitt Brown

Toni Proffitt Brown is chief administrative officer of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), a regional transportation agency that connects millions of people and businesses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The DRPA owns and operates the PATCO commuter rail line and the Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, Commodore Barry and Betsy Ross toll bridges.

Brown has more than 25 years of experience in senior and executive level management positions. She is a proven business leader, skilled at mastering new substantive areas and multi-tasking. She has exceptional organizational skills, and has been described as accessible, a good listener, and a consensus builder. Brown is forward thinking and a strong problem-solver.

Her expertise is in executive management/administration, human resources, benefits, customer service, risk management, EEO and other non-discrimination issues. During her long tenure at DRPA, Brown has held several positions, including manager, affirmative action director, Office of Business Development & Equal Opportunity, deputy chief, Business Development, EEO & Personnel, and, her current position, chief administrative officer (CAO). As CAO, Brown reports directly to the CEO and helps shape policy. She interacts with the board chairman, vice chairman and commissioners, and regularly makes presentations at Committee and Board meetings.

Recently, Brown took the lead in shaping the Authority’s new “stewardship” mission and vision. She created the Authority’s new tagline: “Stewardship, Service, Community.” Leading a multi-departmental team, Brown developed and implemented a rebranding initiative Authority-wide.

Today, as a result of the Committee’s efforts, the new stewardship vision and shared values are an integral part of the Authority’s culture.

Through a number of innovative and collaborative initiatives, Brown’s division is the model of what it means to be committed “World-Class Stewards”. Brown created and implemented a Cultural Integration Program for employees new to the Administration Division. This successful pilot program is now a significant part of the Authority’s new hire orientation process. Through a new training module for supervisors, Brown has linked the stewardship vision and shared values to the core competencies in the Authority’s performance management system.

In 1994, Brown created the Authority’s award-winning MBE & WBE Program. To date, the Authority has paid more than $338 million to certified minority, women, disadvantaged, small and veteran-owned businesses. In December 2015, the Women in Transportation Society’s Philadelphia Chapter honored DRPA with its Diversity Award.

Prior to DRPA, Brown served as assistant counsel to New Jersey Governor Jim Florio. She also worked as a litigation associate at Hoyle, Morris & Kerr, in Philadelphia.

From 2011 to July 2016, Brown served on the board of Moorestown Friends School. For that board, she served as treasurer, chaired the Assets Committee, and served on the search committee for the new head of school. She previously served on that board’s special Louis Freeh sub-committee where a comprehensive review of key school policies took place, and appropriate changes were presented to the board and later enacted. She also served on the board of the African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ.

She is an active member of the St. John Baptist Church where she chairs a risk management committee, focusing on legal and insurance matters, and she also serves on its scholarship committee.

Brown is the recipient of the African American Women Achiever’s Award in Corporate & Business Affairs, the Camden County Freedom Medal, the YWCA Tribute to Women and Industry Award for Excellence and the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.’s Gold Star Award for Outstanding Achievement in Field of Law.

Brown received her Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers, School of Law - Camden, where she was a published member of the Law Journal. Brown remains a member in good standing of both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bars. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Brown resides in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, with her husband, Michael. They have two children, Matthew and Rachel.

Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis

Zakiya Smith Ellis is New Jersey’s Secretary of Higher Education, where she is responsible for policy development and coordination of other higher education activities for the state.

Smith Ellis previously worked at Lumina Foundation, the nation’s largest foundation focused solely on higher education, to advance federal policy to increase attainment and to develop new postsecondary finance models, focusing on issues of affordability.

Prior to her work in philanthropy, Zakiya served as a senior advisor for Education at the White House Domestic Policy Council, where she was tasked with developing, informing, and promoting President Barack Obama’s higher education policy. She also served in the Obama administration as a senior adviser at the U.S. Department of Education, where she developed programmatic, policy and budget solutions to respond to pressing challenges in college access, affordability, and completion.

Before transitioning to work as a political appointee, Dr. Ellis served as director of Government Relations for the advisory committee on Student Financial Assistance, where she authored reports on the efficacy of financial advising in college access programs, on community college transfer and articulation, and on the ability of low- and moderate-income families to afford college more broadly.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Ellis worked directly with students in various capacities across the K-12 system, and her goal is to always bring those insights to her current work. She worked on staff in various capacities for Teach For America, helping to train new teachers, and for the federal GEAR UP program in East Boston, Massachusetts, providing college preparation and financial aid information to high school students. Ellis was introduced to federal policy as an intern on Capitol Hill with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, working for her former hometown Congresswoman.

Dr. Ellis has been featured on C-SPAN and Fox Business News, profiled in the Chronicle of Higher Education and Diverse Issues in Higher Education and was twice named to Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30. She recently completed a three-year term as an appointed member on the board of directors for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). Dr. Ellis holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and secondary education from Vanderbilt University, a master’s degree in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.
It has been a hot summer and most people are running to the beach for relief. But on June 27, people headed to the quaint, shore town of Cape May for a different reason. This time, the motivation was to commemorate a visit there by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hundreds joined in a joyous celebration filled with spiritual and patriotic song, the stirring words of Martin Luther King, Jr., and a presentation entitled, “Take Me to the Water,” during “Martin Luther King, Jr. in Cape May: A 60th Anniversary Celebration,” held at Cape May Convention Hall. What occurred was an important community gathering, to elevate a previously unheralded moment in local and national history.

This special evening of remembrance, music and fellowship, presented by the City of Cape May, in association with the Center for Community Arts, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, Macedonia Baptist Church and the Greater Cape May Historical Society, feted King’s speech, “Nonviolence and Racial Justice.” Dr. King presented the speech 60-years-ago on June 27, 1958, during the Friends General Conference in Cape May, held that week from June 23-30, 1958. Given in the midst of the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968), King’s speech was part of the biennial Quakers’ Friends General Conference. These Friends General Conferences have been held since 1868, with Cape May as host for more than 30 years, from 1928 until 1962. It was a moving call to non-violence and resistance.

This important moment in local and national history might have been forgotten had it not been for a communication in January of this year, from Anna Wright, via her nephew, James TerBush, of Elverson, PA, sent to the mayor’s office of the City of Cape May. Wright had attended the original Friends Conference in 1958 and heard Dr. King speak. TerBush suggested to Cape May mayor, Chuck Lear, that the city commemorate this year’s 60th anniversary of Dr. King’s visit. The mayor thanked him for bringing the information to his attention and assured TerBush the city would look into ways to remember and honor Dr. King’s visit. A committee was formed from various members of several community organizations, and a celebration was in the making. However, the committee soon realized that too little was known about this historic event.

The program featured the Cape May Community Choir, a gospel choir led by Lois Smith, comprised of choir members from Cape May Lutheran Church, Cape May United Methodist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church and Tabernacle Methodist Church, and opening remarks by the master of ceremonies, the Rev. Harold Harris of Cape May’s Macedonia Baptist Church. Mayor Lear gave welcoming remarks and there was a video message from U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker (D-NJ), and a reading of excerpts from Dr. King’s speech by the Rev. Dr. Derrick McQueen. The featured speaker, the Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, brought Dr. King’s words into context for those in attendance, with his speech titled, “Take Me to the Water.” The event seemed complete when Anna Wright shared her memory of the evening 60-years-ago that brought the experience to fruition.

Now, a plaque will commemorate the event at (the new) Cape May Convention Hall, the same site where Dr. King delivered his speech in 1958.
At the movies — Philly’s own M. Night Shyamalan brings together the narratives of two of his standout origina ls, 2000’s “Unbreakable,” from Touchstone, and 2016’s “Split,” from Universal, in one explosive, all-new comic book thriller — “Glass.” Recently wrapping up filming in Philadelphia, on the long awaited film “Unbreakable,” Bruce Willis returns as David Dunn as does Samuel L. Jackson as Elijah Price, known also by his pseudonym, “Mr. Glass.” Joining from “Split,” are James McAvoy, reprising his role as Kevin Wendell Crumb, and the multiple identities who reside within him, and Anya Taylor-Joy as Casey Cooke, the only captive to survive an encounter with “The Beast.” Following the conclusion of “Split,” Glass finds Dunn pursuing Crumb’s superhuman figure of The Beast in a series of escalating encounters, while the shadowy presence of Price emerges as an orchestrator who holds secrets critical to both men. Shyamalan explained, “This was always part of the “Unbreakable” world. Kevin Wendell Crumb was a part of the original, original script for ‘Unbreakable.’ I pulled him out because it just wasn’t balancing right. But a bunch of the scenes that are in this movie, I wrote 15-years-ago. They were as is. Patricia opening the door; Hedwig’s first scene, those were all written already. And it’s literally from the same moment that I created all the characters — all three of those characters. But I knew I wanted to do a movie about him because I just loved him so much, and I thought it’s a rich world for storytelling, so I was super, super excited to finally make it. And if you are looking for an ‘Unbreakable’ sequel,” Shyamalan said, “My hope is to make one final movie that combines the two, and “Glass” does just that.”

Joining the all-star cast are “Unbreakable’s” Spencer Treat Clark and Charlize Theron, who reprise their roles as Dunn’s son, and Price’s mother, as well as Golden Globe Award-winner Sarah Paulson (of the American Horror Story series). “Glass,” will be released by Universal Pictures in North America on January 18, 2019, and by Buena Vista International abroad.

Spike Lee Does it Again — From visionary filmmaker Spike Lee, comes the incredible true story of an American hero, in his new soon-to-be released film, “BlackKkKlansman.” It’s the early 1970s, a time of great social upheaval, as the struggle for civil rights rages on. Ron Stallworth (John David Washington) becomes the first African-American detective on the Colorado Springs Police Department, but his arrival is greeted with skepticism and open hostility by the department’s rank and file. Undaunted, Stallworth resolves to make a name for himself and a difference in his community. He bravely sets out on a dangerous mission — infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan.

Posing as a racist extremist, Stallworth contacts the group and soon finds himself invited into its inner circle. He even cultivates a relationship with the Klan’s grand wizard, David Duke (Topher Grace), who praises Ron’s commitment to the advancement of White America. With the undercover investigation growing ever more complex, Stallworth’s colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), poses as Ron in face-to-face meetings with members of the hate group, gaining insider’s knowledge of a deadly plot. Together, Stallworth and Zimmerman team up to takedown the organization whose real aim is to sanitize its violent rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream. Produced by the team behind the Academy-Award-winning “Get Out,” “BlackKkKlansman” offers an unflinching, true-life examination of race relations in 1970s America that is just as braceingly relevant in today’s tumultuous world. The movie will hit theaters in August 2018.

In other parts of the world — The much anticipated Tina Turner musical received its world premiere in London in April 2018 at the Aldwych Theatre in the West End, opening to terrific reviews. “Tina – The Tina Turner Musical,” chronicles the life of the rock ‘n’ roll legend who brought us hit songs such as “What’s Love Got To Do With It,” “Proud Mary,” “The Best,” “River Deep Mountain High” and “Better Be Good To Me.”

Tina Turner was born Anna Mae Bullock on November 26, 1939 in Nutbush, Tennessee. She obtained Swiss citizenship in 2013 and currently lives in Küssnacht, Switzerland. She shot to fame in the mid-1950s singing with Ike Turner’s Kings of Rhythm, originally under the name “Little Ann.” She became Tina Turner in 1960 and began the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, securing the string of aforementioned hits. She has since spoken openly about being a victim of domestic abuse, and split from Ike in 1976.

“Tina - The Tina Turner Musical,” began previews at the Aldwych Theatre on March 21, 2018, and officially opened on April 17, 2018 with Tina Turner in attendance.

Turner is being played in the musical by American actress Adrienne Warren. Warren made her Broadway debut in 2012 when she appeared in the Lin-Manuel Miranda musical “Bring It On,” at the St. James Theatre. She then went on to star in “Hustle & Flow,” and the “Black and Blue” Sensation of 1921,” and “All That Followed,” for which she was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. She made her West End debut in “Tina,” and was described as an “exceptional talent,” when announced by Turner.
by Camden officials that their decision to reprogram funds did not occur until after February 22, yet the city ran a public notice about their intent to reprogram days earlier.

That study commissioned by the HPO is another example of shenanigans critics contend.

NAACP State Conference president Richard T. Smith, in a letter to HPO, strongly criticized the recommendations of that study and the “very formation” of that study conducted by a team of researchers from Stockton University in New Jersey. (That research team did not include any African Americans, a red flag for researcher Patrick Duff.)

Richard Smith’s letter, on behalf of the NAACP Conference composed of 41 branches in 21 counties, “strongly” urged HPO to reject the study that discounted King’s first lawsuit as virtually insignificant. That lawsuit, the NAACP letter stated, was a salient event in King’s development as a civil rights activist. The NAACP letter characterized events surrounding that lawsuit as “very significant to American and New Jersey history…”

Spokespersons for the HPO rebuff charges of engagement in improper procedures. HPO is awaiting a review of the Stockton study by the King Center in Atlanta.

Lloyd Henderson, head of the Camden County East NAACP branch, dismissed the Stockton study as an exercise done “with pre-conceived notions” about what the HPO wanted the study to conclude.

Henderson said, “This whole process is diminishing the history of black folks.”

A document prepared by a Camden City official stated, inexplicably, that on February 19 and 20, the City of Camden published public notices in a local newspaper that “announced the reprogramming” of the money from the preservation project to the Fire Department. Kelly Francis of the Camden City NAACP is shown holding papers.

LEGACY - from page 13

Don’t forget to attend the Larry Gaines Stop the Violence organization’s (LGSTV) annual basketball tournament on August 17-19 at the courts at 4th and Washington streets in Camden. Organized in Larry’s memory by his brother Reggie Gaines, it’s the place to see all area basketball stars in action for free. Play starts at 4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with six games per night. Local entertainment performs between games.

The LGSTV tournament features area boys’ and girls’ youth and college players and culminates with a championship game on Sunday followed by an Alumni Game. Past South Jersey hoop stars who played in the tourney include Dajuan Wagner, Ernest Turner, Mike Myers, Charron Fisher, Vincent Walls, Chanelle Perry and Crystal Langhorne.

To donate to the LGSTV, call 609-254-0974, or go to Larry Gaines Stop the Violence on Paypal. Visit and like them on Facebook at Larry Gaines Stop the Violence.

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Visionary Leadership

AT&T salutes the women who lead the way by always seeing beyond tomorrow - in leadership and in life. When we welcome everyone’s ideas, innovation shines through.

That's why we're proud to support the South Jersey Journal and congratulate our own Charlene Brown, one of New Jersey's 25 African American Women Leaders!