

State of Connecticut
AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT



2013



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS:

Chairperson

Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis

Vice Chair

Darryl A. Hugley

Secretary

Donna Campbell

Treasurer

Rosetta Jones

Commissioners:

Dr. Dennis Canterbury

Kristen M. Clark

Brenda DeIGado

Donald Harris

Derrick McBride

Kathy Thompson

Diana Washington

Alphonse Wright

Executive Director

Glenn A. Cassis

Legislative Analyst

Subira Gordon

Senior Legislative Secretary

Denise Drummond

Mission Statement / Legislative Mandates.....4

Legislative Overview / Highlights / Activities / Programs / Issues.....5

Snapshot of African-Americans in Connecticut.....6

AAAC Results Based Accountability.....8-17

AAAC Activities / Programs / Issues.....18

Racial Profiling.....19

AAAC Events.....20-25

AAAC 2013 Classic Awards.....26-27

AAAC Commissioners.....28-30

AAAC Staff.....31

AAAC Talent Bank.....32-33

AAAC Friends.....34-35

Mission Statement

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut through advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, community networking and influencing legislation.

Legislative Mandates

Focus efforts to improve quality of life outcomes in educational achievement, health equity, economic prosperity, social justice and political well-being for the African-American population of the state;

- Make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor for new or enhanced policies, programs and services that will foster progress in achieving quality of life outcomes.
- Review and comment on any proposed state legislation or recommendations that may affect the African-American population of the state and provide copies of any such comments to members of the General Assembly.
- Advise the General Assembly and Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs that affect the African-American population of the state.
- Gather and maintain current information regarding the African-American population of the state that can be used to better understand the status, condition and contributions of such African-American population and shall be made available to legislators and other interested parties upon request.
- Maintain a liaison between the African-American population of the state and government agencies, including the General Assembly.
- Conduct educational and outreach activities intended to raise awareness of critical issues for the African-American population of the state.

2013 Legislative Overview

A majority of the Commission's attention focused on repositioning itself and maintaining its influence on core issues. The Commission provided testimony on education bills, health concerns and civil rights issues. The Commission was responsible for securing grants from national foundations and agencies that were used to provide funding support for college access and success initiatives for first generation and low income students.

2013 Legislative Highlights

A majority of the Commission's attention focused on repositioning itself and maintaining its influence on core issues. The Commission provided testimony on education bills, health concerns and civil rights issues. The Commission was responsible for securing grants from national foundations and agencies that were used to provide funding support for college access and success initiatives for first generation and low income students.

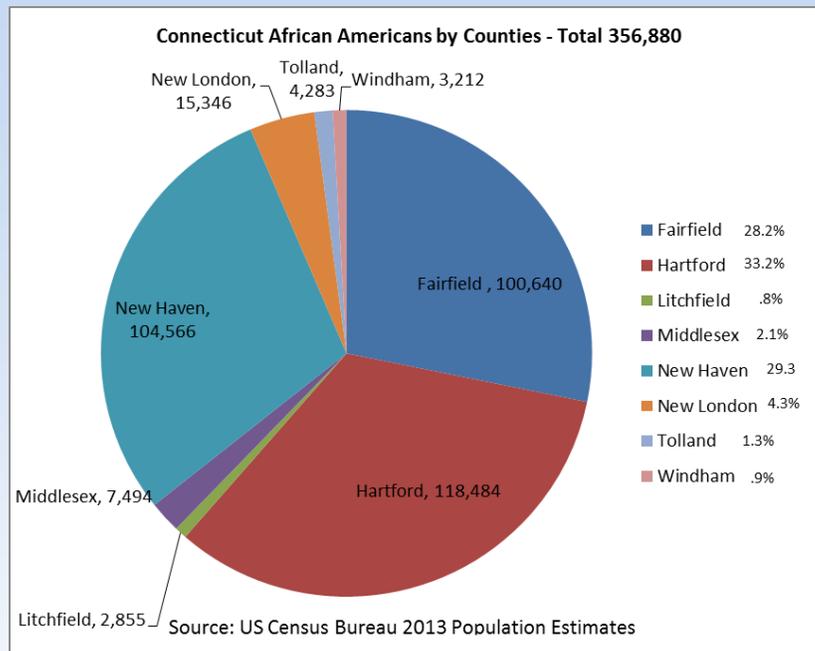
2013 Activities - Programs - Issues

The African-American Affairs Commission continues to influence legislation, share critical information with the community, organize and participate in health and educational events, and encourage cultural awareness.

The Commission partners with various organizations in the State that support issues that affect our communities. We recognize, however, that more work needs to be done in order to not only improve our health and educational systems, but to also raise the level of awareness of the value of health and education issues.

Although many challenges remain for our community to overcome, with the continued support of the Connecticut General Assembly, the Commission will continue to strive to improve the lives of all Connecticut residents of African descent.

SNAPSHOT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN CONNECTICUT - 2013



Total Population - 356,880

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 18 years	59,654	63,091	122,782
18 and Over	158,351	136,530	294,845
65 years and over	21,240	13,184	34,245

Households - 141,122

<u>Family Households</u>	<u>90,600</u>	<u>Nonfamily Households</u>	<u>50,522</u>
With own children under 18	31,801	Male householder	8,033
Married-couple family	25,730	Living alone	6,922
With own children under 18	3,525	Not Living alone	1,111
Female head householder no present husband	27,271	Female householder	10,054
With own children under 18	5,127	Living alone	9,144
		Not Living alone	909

Marital Status

<u>Population 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>316,825</u>	<u>Male 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>147,385</u>	<u>Female 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>169,440</u>
Now married, except separated	90,295	Now married, except separated	48,048	Now married, except separated	42,191
Widowed	12,673	Widowed	2,211	Widowed	10,336
Divorced	34,534	Divorced	12,675	Divorced	22,027
Separated	9,505	Separated	3,979	Separated	5,422
Never married	169,818	Never married	80,472	Never Married	89,464

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2012 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates

SNAPSHOT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN CONNECTICUT – 2013

School Enrollment

<u>Population 3 Years & Enrolled in School</u>	<u>146,608</u>
Nursery and Preschool	13,341
Kindergarten	8,210
Elementary (grades 1-8)	53,659
High School (9-12)	31,521
College or graduate school	39,877

<u>Male 3 Years & over enrolled in school</u>	<u>69,067</u>
--	----------------------

Enrolled in Kindergarten to grade 12	48,140
Enrolled in College or Graduate School	14,573

<u>Females 3 Years & over enrolled in school</u>	<u>77,541</u>
---	----------------------

Enrolled in Kindergarten to grade 12	45,284
Enrolled in College or Graduate School	25,278

Educational Attainment

Population 25 years and older	239,528
Less than High School Diploma	35,450
High School Graduate (includes GED)	83,835
Some College or Associates Degree	73,535
Bachelor's Degree	28,264
Graduate or Professional Degree	18,444

<u>High school graduate or higher</u>	<u>85.2%</u>
--	---------------------

Male high school graduate or higher	83.1%
Female high school graduate or higher	86.9%

<u>Bachelor's degree or higher</u>	<u>18.9%</u>
---	---------------------

Male bachelor's degree or higher	18.3%
Female bachelor's degree or higher	20.4%

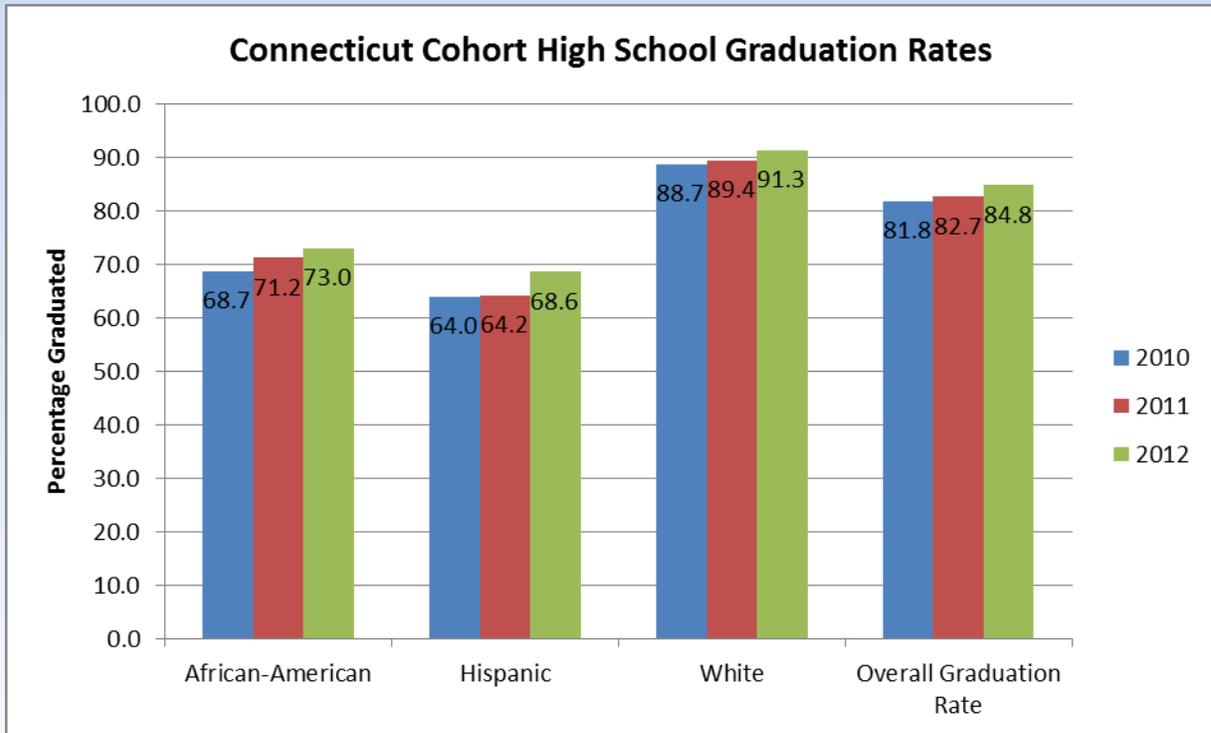
Employment Status

Population 16 Years and Over	310,119
In Labor Force	68.3%
Civilian Labor Force	68.0%
Employed	54.8%
Unemployed	13.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2012 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates

**Result 1:
All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Achieve Educational Success**

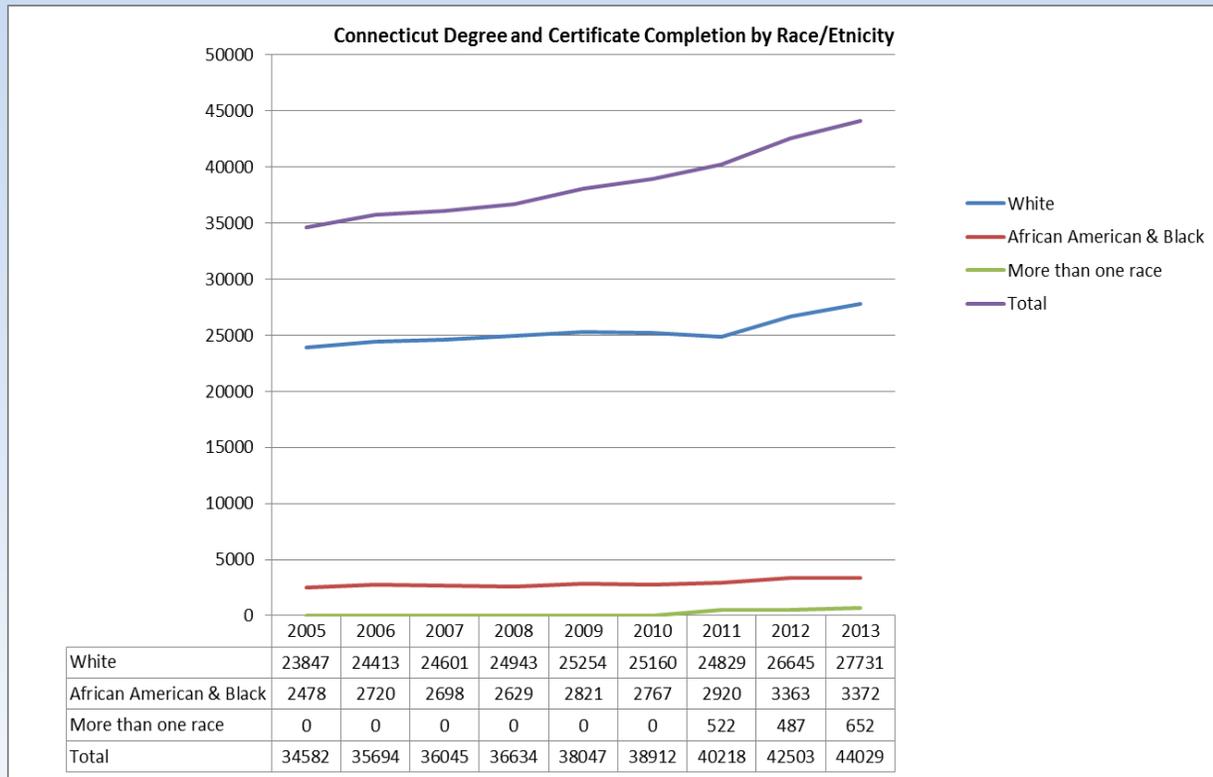
Indicator 1: African-American Dropout Rate



Story behind the baseline: The State Department of Education implemented a more accurate method for calculating dropout rates. The current method calculates the dropout rate based on the cohort number in the freshman high school class as a baseline and follows that cohort for four years when graduation is expected. The dropout rate for African-American students from high school remains twice the rate of overall population. The causes include lack of adequate preparation, enabling social determinates, insufficient professional development and lack of resources. The latest report shows that the rate is beginning to trend down at a steeper rate than the overall population. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support steps outlined with the passage of Senate Bill 458 – An Act Concerning Educational Reform 2) Assist with the implementation of individual student success program 3) Partner with Minority Teacher Recruitment Programs and the Greater New England Alliance of Black School Educators to encourage mentorship programs for students of color and 4) Maintain and update the KnowHowToGo-CT website.

Source: CT Dept. of Education

Indicator 2: Number of African-American Certificate and College Degree Recipients Connecticut Higher Education Certificates and Degrees

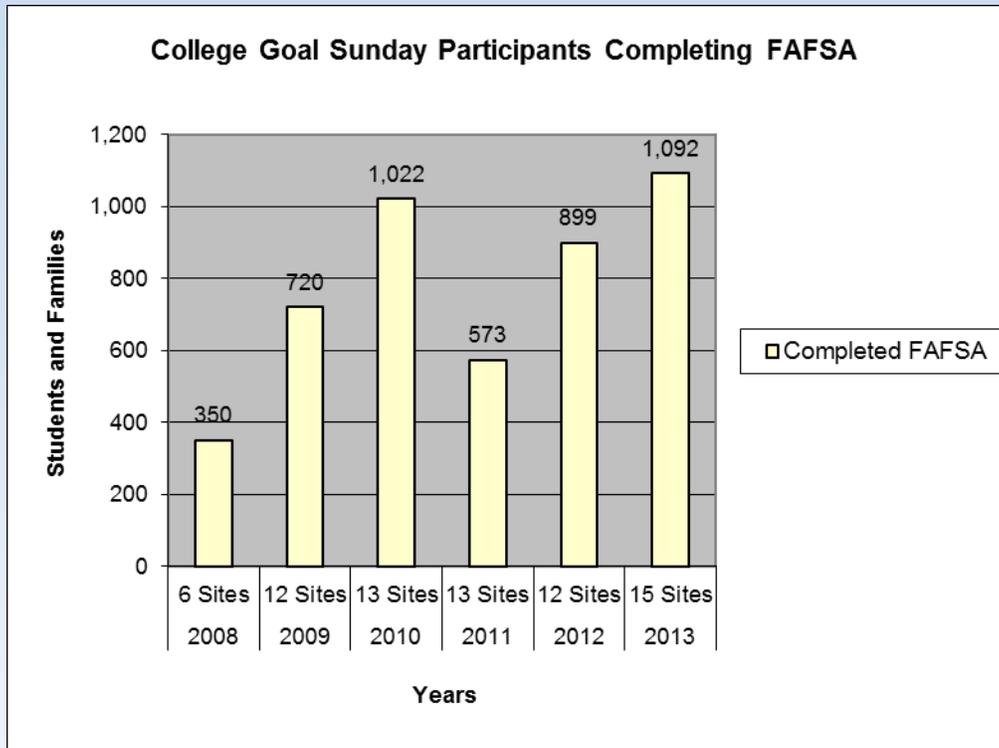


Story behind the baseline:

Reporting of completions conforms with definitions set forth for data collection through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Formal awards conferred as the result of completion of an academic or occupational/vocational program of study between July 1 and June 30 of each year. After experiencing significant gains in graduation rates for African-American students, the rate was flat in 2013. There was a net gain of only 9 degrees. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Monitor the implementation of SB-40 as it may be viewed as a barrier to access to the community and state university campuses. Institutions will need to implement support programs to ensure that high school graduates and returning older students are college ready and endure that embedded courses are available for students. 2) Continue to actively support College Goal Sunday-CT; 2) Submit testimony on legislation regarding educational reform; 3) Convene and host conference for higher education association student support services.

Indicator 3:

First Generation and Low Income Students completing FAFSA form for college financial aid

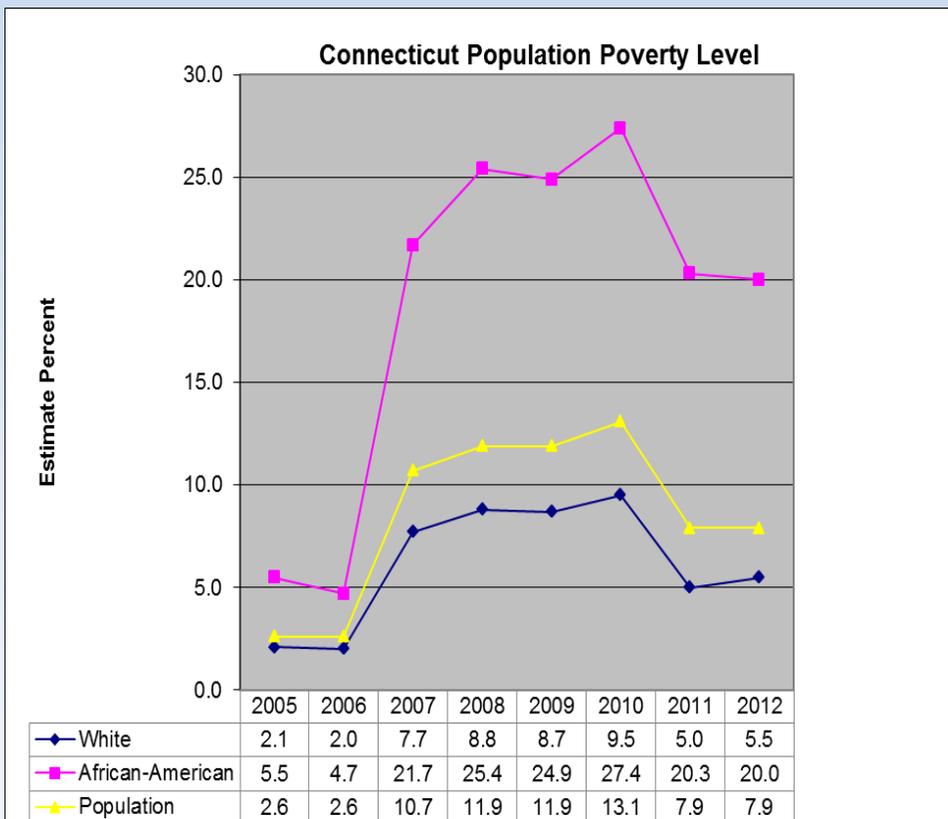


Story behind the baseline: Financial aid continues to be a barrier for first generation students considering attending post-secondary education. Financial aid is necessary for nearly all of these students. In order to be considered for financial aid students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The number of students and families participating increased in 2013 by 21.4% from the previous year. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Secure funding from national sources to support College Goal Sunday – CT (CGS); 2) Coordinate sites around the state to host CGS; 3) Increase the number of participants by purchasing advertisements in local community media; 4) Partner with educators, community based organizations, professional associations and parents to recruit high school seniors and volunteers; 5) Publish and distribute Scholarship Directory. AAAC coordinates and manage sites, write grants for funding CGS and serves on

Result 2:

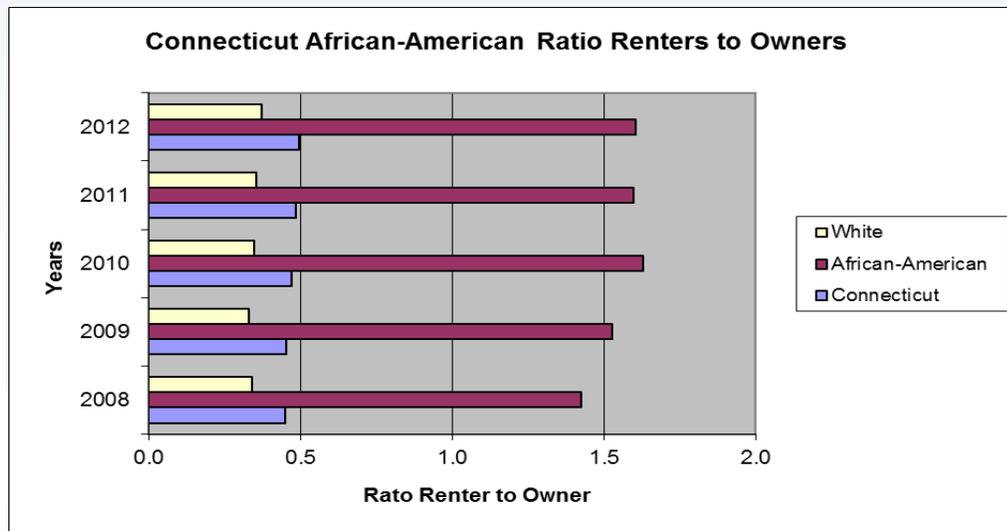
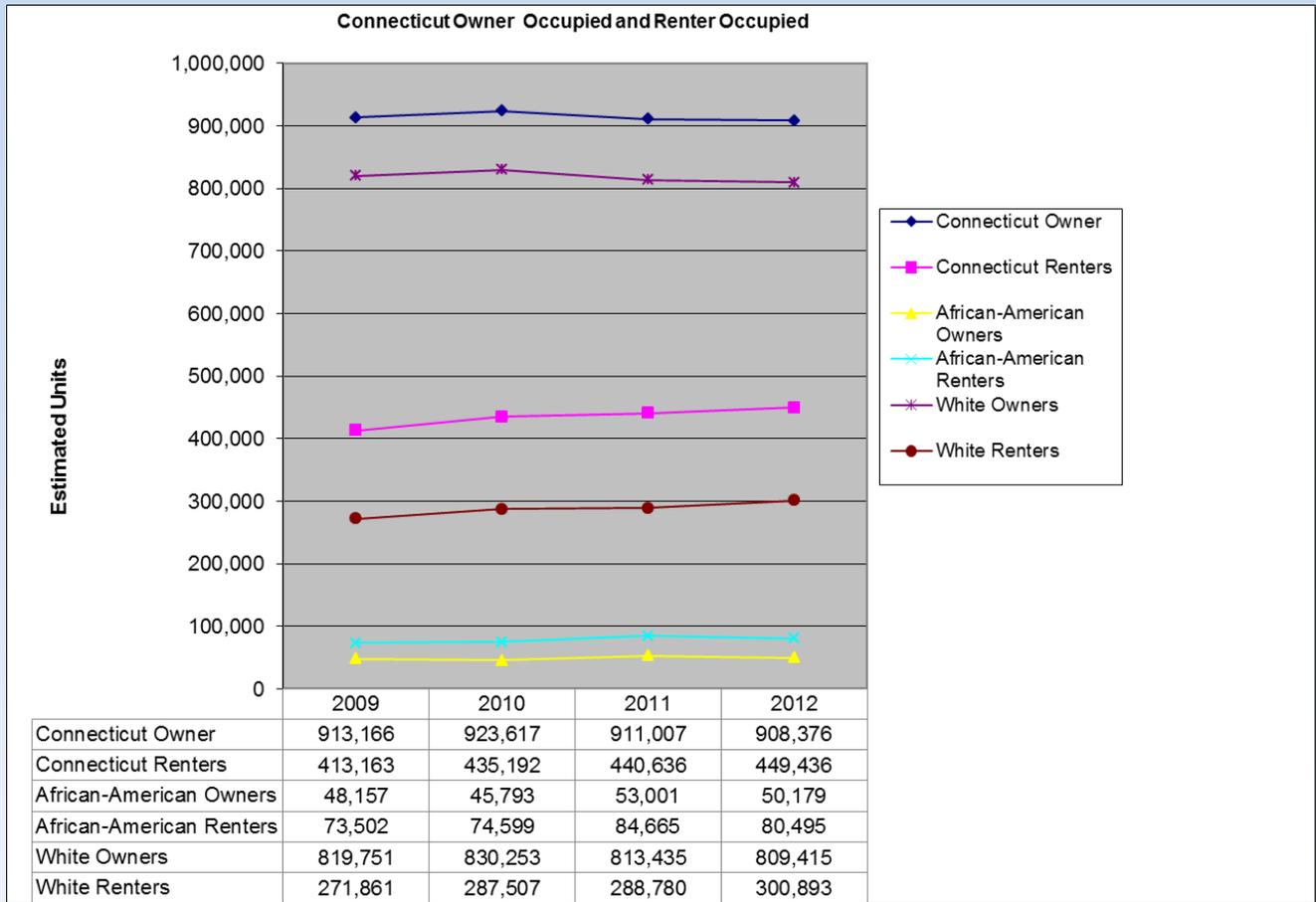
All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Achieve are Financially Self-Sufficient

Indicator 1: Percent of African-American households living below the poverty level

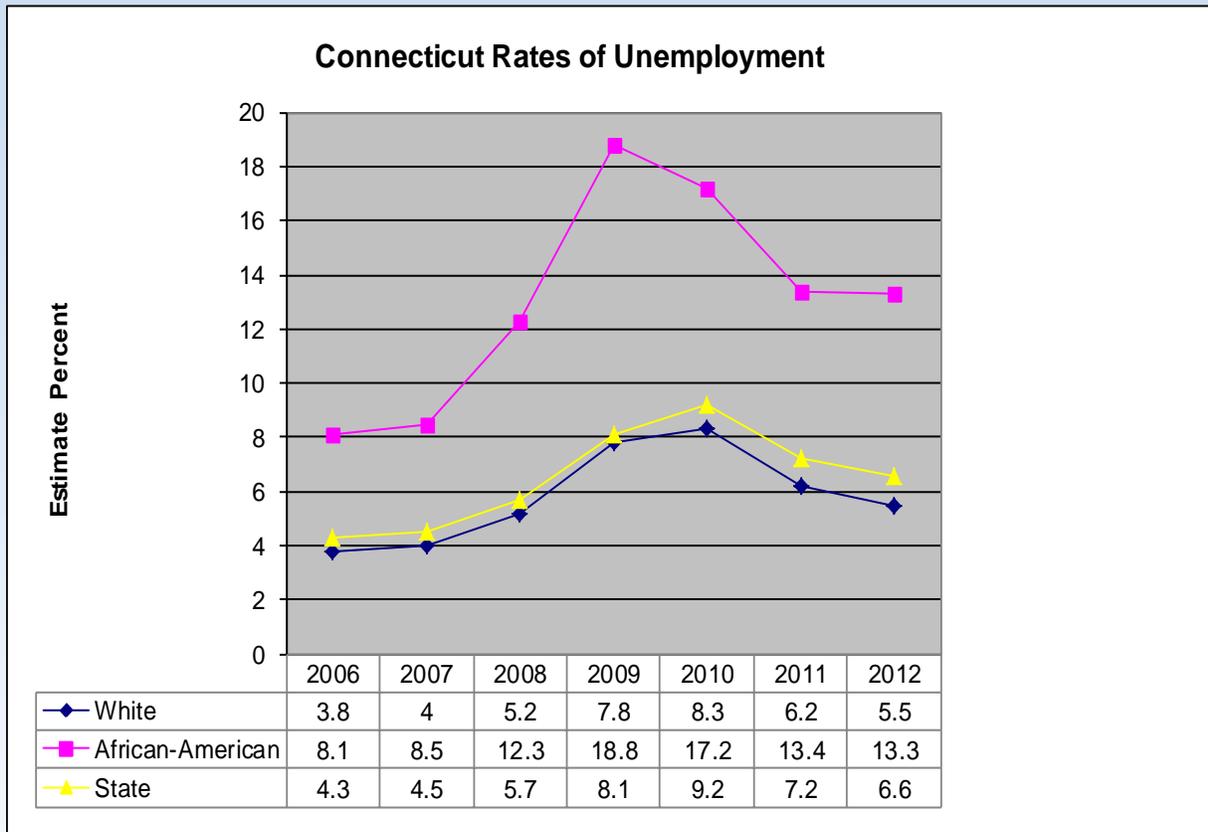


Story behind the baseline: In Connecticut since 2006 the rate of poverty for African-Americans has been no less than twice the rate of the general population. After peaking in 2010 the poverty rate has trended down however the poverty rate for African-Americans is nearly 3 times the rate of the general population. The rate of poverty is consistent to the unemployment rate. As the State recovers from the recession and employment improves, the poverty rate goes down. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Strengthen employment efforts that economically uplift working poor families from poverty, e.g. earned income tax credit and individual development accounts; 2) Increase the minimum wage to a level to livable wage for a family; 3) Invest in education to increase earnings potential

Indicator 2: Percent of African-Americans who own homes



Indicator 3: Percent of Unemployed African-Americans

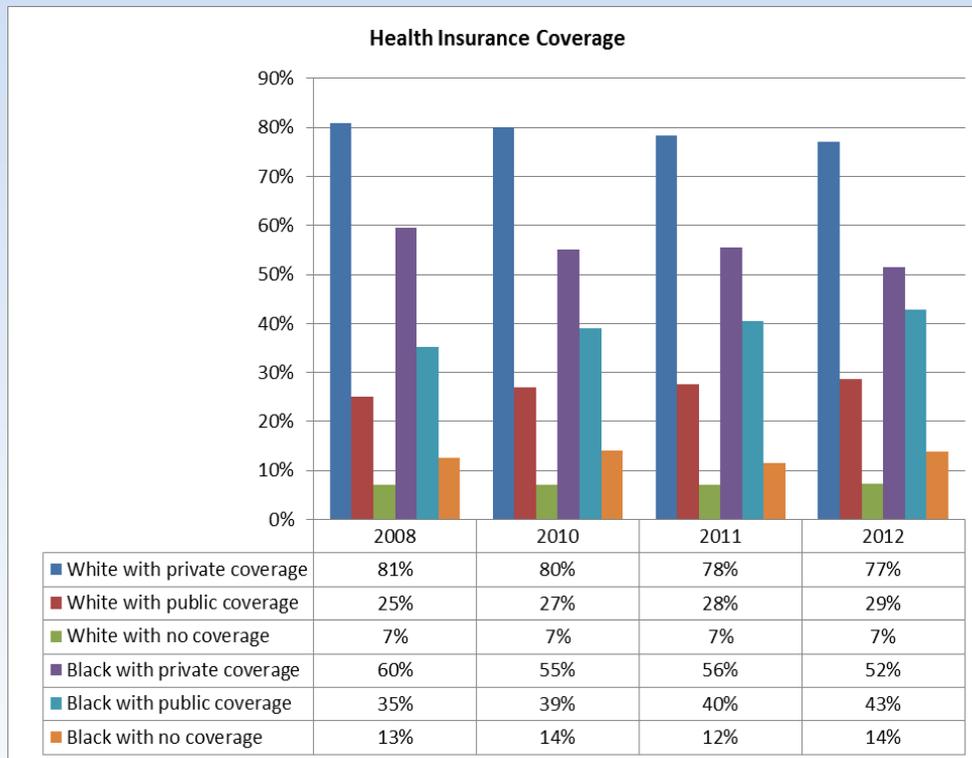


Story behind the baseline: The rate of unemployment for African-Americans has consistently been close to twice above the state average. Poor education outcomes, disparities in the rate of incarceration and employment discrimination based on race have contributed to the high rate. The rate of unemployment is reflects the rate of poverty. With the improved economy the rate of unemployment has trended down. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support and encourage cultural awareness and sensitivity training through workshops, forums, etc.; 2) Circulate announcements regarding employment opportunities on website and email blasts; 3) Improve the overall educational attainment for African-Americans. 4) Support legislative initiatives that support re-entry and training programs.

Result 3: All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Achieve are Healthy

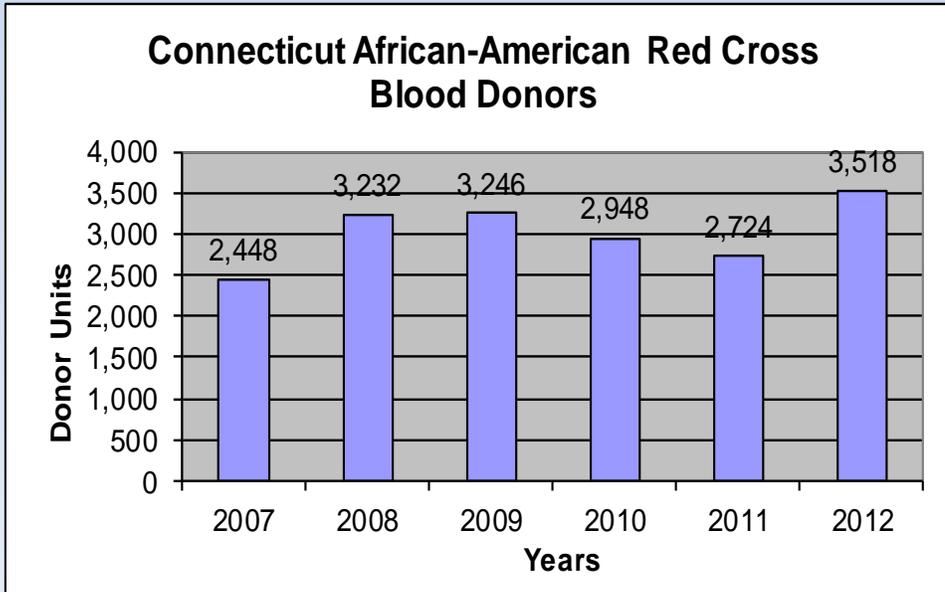
Indicator 1:

Percentage of African-Americans with public health coverage or no health coverage



Story behind the baseline: Based on data from the US Census, African-Americans in Connecticut continue to have less percentage with private health insurance and more on plans covered by the government than whites. The trend shows: 1) that after a few years of decline, there is slight decrease in the percentage of African-Americans with private coverage; 2) there is a growing percentage of African-Americans with public coverage and 3) the percent of African-Americans with no coverage has gone up this past year by 2%. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support state implementation of the Affordable Care Act; 2) Promote awareness of healthier living through proper nutrition, regular visits to physicians and free health screenings 3) Assist enrolling underinsured in health programs; 4) Support legislation that disproportionately affects African-Americans; and 5) Provide advocacy organizations with opportunities to inform legislators and the public. The AAAC is a member of the CT Commission on Health Equity and the City of Hartford Cancer Task Force. The Commission partners with the CT Lupus Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Southern Connecticut, Inc., and the Channel 30 Health Care Round Table.

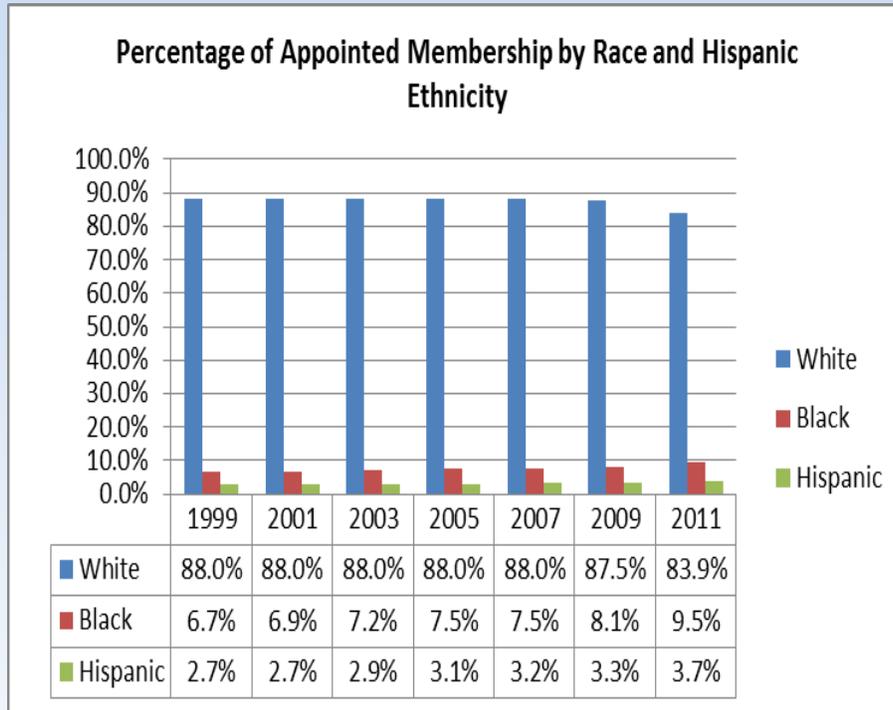
Indicator 2: Number of African-Americans blood donors



Story behind the baseline: Blood that closely matches a patient's blood type is less likely to be rejected the recipient and can result in fewer complications after transfusions. Donor and recipients from the same ethnic background the chance of rejection are significantly reduced. Increasing African-American donors is vital because blood types O and B are the blood types of about 70% of African-American and are most in demand. African-Americans afflicted with diseases like sickle cell anemia, lupus, kidney disease, heart disease and premature babies need many blood units. After a slight decline in the number of African-American donors since 2010 there was 29.1% increase in 2012. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Continue partnership with the American Red Cross Diversity and Inclusion Committee; 2) Utilize the AAAC website to publicize blood donor facts; 3) Work with faith based organizations to assist with organizing blood donor campaigns; and 4) Partner with the West Indian community to hold blood drives. The AAAC has assisted in 5 Red Cross Blood Donor Services campaigns and continues to support the Diversity and Inclusion Committee

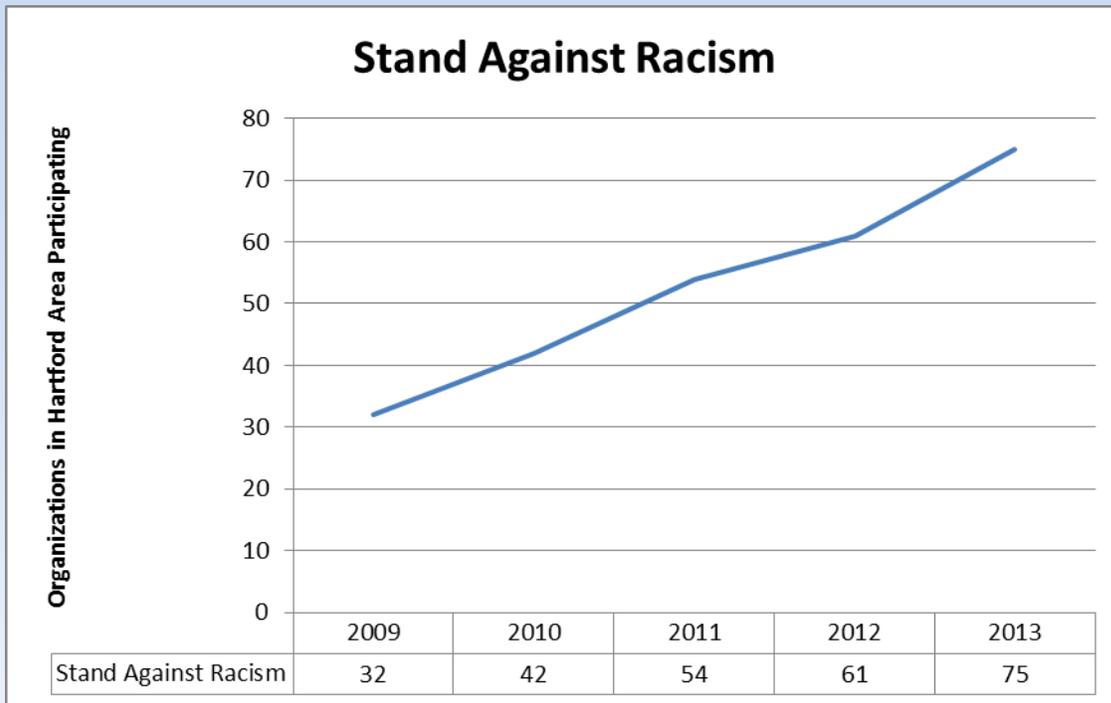
**Result 3:
All Connecticut Residents of African Descent are Free From Discrimination**

Indicator 1: Percent of African-Americans serving on State Boards and Commissions



Story behind the baseline: The Office of the Secretary of State has been reporting the racial and gender composition of State Boards and Commissions since every other year since 1999. For African-Americans there has been a steady increase in the percentage of African-Americans appointed to boards and commissions. The latest report for 2011 reported 9.5% African-Americans which is close to the 10.1% that African-Americans represent in the overall population of the state. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Continue to partner with civic and community organizations and inform them of opportunities to serve on boards and commissions; 2) Serve on the SOS CT Civic Health Advisory Group and make recommendations to increase participation; 3) Post requests for filling positions on the AAAC website; 4) Provide supportive testimony for nominations to legislative positions and 4) Maintain and improve the Talent Bank as a vehicle for recruitment.

Indicator 2: Number of presentations that address resolving racial and ethnic biases



Story behind the baseline: Institutional racism remains a social ill in all of society. Organizations like the YWCA, the State Educational Resource Center and CHRO have provided public forums, programs, programs and administrative relief that help raise awareness and social consciousness. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Sponsor forums and events that address solutions and provides information on racism and bullying prevention; 2) Assist in the enforcement of penalties for discrimination by making referrals of incidents to CHRO and the Department of Civil Rights; 3) Assist with legislative relief for bullying and racial iniquities. The AAAC continues to participate in the Stand Against Racism (SAR) presentations. The AAAC is one of 61 organizations participating in the Greater Hartford area in April to bring awareness to the public on the need to understand the negative affect racism has on society.

ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS

ISSUES

The African-American Affairs Commission continues to influence legislation, share critical information with the community, organize and participate in health and educational events, and encourage cultural awareness.

The Commission partners with various organizations in the State that support issues that affect our communities. We recognize, however, that more work needs to be done in order to not only improve our health and educational systems, but to also raise the level of awareness of the value of health and education issues.

Although many challenges remain for our community to overcome, with the continued support of the Connecticut General Assembly, the Commission will continue to strive to improve the lives of all Connecticut residents of African descent.

RACIAL PROFILING



During the 2012 Session, Governor Malloy signed into law Public Act 12-74 – An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information. This was latest and most sweeping amendment to Public Act 03-160 the Alvin Penn Act. This act suspended on July 1, 2012 municipal police departments' and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESP) (which includes the State Police) duty to record and report traffic stop information. It requires them to resume (1) recording the information on July 1, 2013 and (2) annually reporting summary data on October 1, 2013, if new standardized methods are developed.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM), within available resources, to develop and implement these methods by July 1, 2013, in consultation with the (a) Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board, which the act creates, and (b) Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board.

It required police officers to record traffic stop information using this new method and any forms developed and implemented as part of it and give a copy of a notice to each motor vehicle operator stopped, starting July 1, 2013, if the standardized method and forms have been developed. Police departments are required to retain the traffic stop information using the new forms beginning on July 1, 2013, and annually report a summary of the data to OPM beginning October 1, 2013, if the standardized method has been developed. The act also requires departments to give copies of complaints about traffic stops and information on their review and disposition to OPM, retains the requirement for them to provide this information to the chief state's attorney, and eliminates the requirement to provide it to the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). It shifts from AAAC to OPM the responsibility to review the traffic stop data and complaints and issue annual reports with recommendations to the governor, General Assembly, and any other appropriate entity. OPM, within available resources, must begin issuing these annual reports by January 1, 2014.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Emancipation Proclamation

On January 1, 2013 the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was celebrated at the Connecticut State Capitol. Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman marked the 150th anniversary of the signing by President Abraham Lincoln, which signaled the abolition of slavery. The event was held in the north lobby of the state Capitol.

The celebration was sponsored by The Amistad Committee, the African-American Affairs Commission, the Connecticut Freedom Trail Committee and the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Former State Senator Toni Harp of New Haven served as the keynote speaker. The ceremony featured poetry readings, a performance by the Mass Choir, under the direction of Wayne Dixon and a drum calling by The Sankofa Kuumba Drum Ensemble. The commemoration concluded with the ringing of the Liberty Bell.



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman



Ringing of the Liberty Bell - Aniya Cassis



Kassidi Jones



Lauren Fadiman



Kaitlyn Bell



Chloe Thompson

POETRY CONTEST

"What Freedom Means to Me"

Kassidi Jones of Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, CT was chosen the first place winner in the "What Freedom Means to Me" poetry contest sponsored by the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration, the Amistad Center for Art & Culture, and the African -American Affairs Commission. A panel of five judges chose her poem out of more than 100 entries.

Other winners of the Poetry Contest were Kaitlyn Bell of Harwinton Consolidated School in Harwinton, Chloe Thompson of Brown Middle School in Madison and Lauren Fadiman from the Shelton Intermediate School in Shelton, CT.

2013 COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY



East Hartford High School



Norwalk Community College

For students who are the first in their family to attend college, the process of applying for college can seem complicated, especially finding financial resources and applying for aid to make the dream of attending college a reality. College Goal Sunday gives students and their families a great first step on the pathway to college. It gives students an opportunity to learn about preparing for college and financial aid in a comfortable setting.

College Goal Sunday provides expert service and attention in completing the FAFSA, the most important form needed to secure financial aid for college. College Goal Sunday was held at 15 locations throughout the state on January 27, 2013.

For more information about College Goal Sunday, contact the African-American Affairs Commission at 860-240-8555 or visit College Goal Sunday at www.collegegoalsundayct.org.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION Visits Connecticut

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission hosted a Meet and Greet on January 29, 2013 in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol.

Visiting members of the Nigerian National Assembly Service Commission, (NASC) visited the state January 28th through February 1, 2013. The Nigerian National Assembly Service Commission provides the administrative support for Nigeria's Senate and House of Representatives, similar to the US Congress.

The visit afforded members of the delegation the opportunity to interact with top officials in government, especially those that share similar functions to theirs. State Representative Penny Bacchiochi helped to welcome the group.



*State Representative Penny Bacchiochi
Welcomes the Commission*



*Nigeria's National Assembly Service
Commission, (NASC)*

2013 BLACK HISTORY MONTH - ART EXHIBIT

During the month of February, in celebration of Black History Month, the state of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission hosted its annual art exhibit. The featured artist was Rory D.L. Moorer a Connecticut native and internationally known artist.

He has created over 100 original paintings and murals for commissions and multiple public and private organizations. Over the past decade many of his paintings have been featured in national magazines and online news media. He has participated in dozens of juried and group exhibitions throughout the United States. His style has been described by one critic as multi-faceted, a mixture of seriousness and offbeat humor that is also expressive in the study of movement and human emotions.



Artist Rory D.L. Moorer

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - "A WORK IN PROGRESS"



*Kim Johnson
Comprehensive Breast Care Center*

The African-American Affairs Commission hosted its annual Black History Month's "A Work In Progress" table top event in the State Capitol/Legislative Office Building concourse. The event provides an opportunity for many organizations to gain visibility, display their contributions and share information. It affords legislators, legislative staff and the public a chance to become familiar with governmental, nonprofit, historic, cultural and health organizations that have service connections and/or historical significance to the African-American community. Kim Johnson from the Comprehensive Breast Care Center at St. Francis Hospital was among the many organizations that took part in the event.

THE STATE OF BLACK CONNECTICUT



State Representative Brandon McGee

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission presented its Legislative Agenda for the 2013 Session during a press conference on March 12, 2013. The press conference was hosted by State Representative Brandon McGee (Windsor/Hartford) and Gwen Eaddy, Founder of the State of Black Connecticut and President of the Connecticut Parents Union. Representatives from state agencies, commissions, professional associations and community organizations that partner with the AAAC discussed the important work contributed by the commission. Also included was representation from education, health equity, civil rights and economic development.

LIFELINES TO HEALING - GET ON THE BUS!



In the week leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, Lifelines to Healing embarked on a multi-city bus tour that culminated in Washington, D.C. The opportunity deepened the national conversation on race and justice and moved the American people to push for change. The bus tour traveled across the country telling real stories, building movements to redeem the soul of America! The bus tour made a stop at the Union Baptist Church in Hartford, CT where Executive Director, Glenn Cassis welcome the group.

50TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC MARCH ON WASHINGTON

In August 2013 people from across the country converged on our Nation's Capital to commemorate and celebrate the historic March On Washington which occurred 50 years ago August 28, 1963.

In 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for a political rally known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Organized by a number of civil rights and religious groups, the event was designed to shed light on the political and social challenges African-Americans continued to face across the country. The march, which became a key moment in the growing struggle for civil rights in the United States, culminated in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, a spirited call for racial justice and equality.

The Union Baptist Church in Hartford, CT and the African-American Affairs Commission organized a bus trip allowing many of Connecticut's residence to attend the event on August 24, 2013



Connecticut residents travel to the 50th Anniversary March on Washington



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING PROGRAMS

The African-American Affairs Commission partnered with Capital Workforce Partners by providing a meaningful and productive work experience for Hartford area high school students. Students worked 25 hours a week in the AAAC office during the months of July and August. The AAAC also partnered with the Hartford Job Corps Academy throughout the school year. The AAAC assisted youth in developing positive social skills, career awareness, and work readiness.

CONNECTICUT PROCLAMATION Apology for Slavery



Drummer Inar'a Rahmin and "Friends" perform at the event



Former Senator Toni Harp and Stella Antley in front of the statue commemorating the Amistad Revolt of 1839

In 2009 the Connecticut General Assembly issued an apology for the men, women and children enslaved in Connecticut in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and for the businesses that profited from slavery.

Connecticut was home to some 5,100 slaves in the mid-1770s and the state legislature rejected emancipation initiatives in 1777, 1779 and again in 1780 before it played a significant role in abolition efforts and outlawed slavery in 1848.

Four years after Connecticut's General Assembly officially apologized for slavery, Former Senator Toni Harp Senator and Kenneth Green (the proclamation's co-author) read the apology aloud to Stella Antley, the great-great granddaughter of a former Connecticut slave. The African-American Affairs Commission co-hosted the ceremony that took place on August 29, 2013 at New Haven City Hall.

Harp said it's important for people to know the history of slavery, including the fact that the institution existed here in Connecticut. "We know we've come a long way" since the days of slavery, Harp said at the ceremony. "We know we still have a long way to go" to tackle racial disparities in health care, the education achievement gap, and homelessness.

AAAC HOSTS GHANAIAN PRINCIPALS

On September 1st through 8th, 2013 twenty-six high school principals from Ghana, West Africa, visited Connecticut. The trip was designed to have the Ghanaian educators interact with their counter-parts in Connecticut on issues such as ethics, educational leadership and service to their respective schools. The African-American Affairs Commission hosted their visit and showcased some of Connecticut's model educational programs for the principals.

The group participated in a series of discussions on public policy and practices in Connecticut, also participated in lectures, seminars and workshops on information technology for educational management. The principals visited high schools in Bloomfield and East Hartford; toured the Connecticut Science Center; visited state government officials at the State House and Legislative Office Building; and met with Connecticut Department of Education officials to discuss financial and behavioral management, supervision, evaluation and professional development; assessment and testing and school safety issues.



Ghanaian Educators visit the State of Connecticut



AAAC "POLICE RIDE ALONG"



Executive Director, Glenn Cassis rides a long with

On the morning of July 30, Executive Director Glenn Cassis rode with Connecticut State Police Officer Scott Prouty on I-84 between Hartford and the Massachusetts border. The "Ride Along" provided Mr. Cassis with a first-hand understanding of how traffic stops are made on a heavily trafficked interstate highway. A majority of the stops were made as a result of excessive speed that were easily detected at least a ¼ mile away with a radar gun. One driver was ticketed for texting while driving. Officer Prouty represented law enforcement very well as he demonstrated courtesy and professionalism with all of his interactions.

FORTUNE LAID TO REST

On September 12, 2013 the remains of Fortune, an African-American slave who died in 1798, lay in state in the Connecticut State Capitol rotunda before state police escorted them to a memorial service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Waterbury. According to records, Fortune was baptized there in 1797. "Fortune was a Waterbury man who worked, lived and died in our state at a time when African-Americans were denied basic civil rights. He, his wife and their three children were the legal property of Dr. Preserved Porter, a Waterbury physician. Shortly after Fortune's death in 1798, his children were sold off, and Porter, a bone surgeon, dissected Fortune's body and prepared his bones to keep his skeleton for anatomic study. After 215 years, he was finally laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery.



Fortune laid to rest



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman signs Fortune's guest book

WELCOME DR. HELEN NEWTON

Executive Director – CT Commission on Health Equity



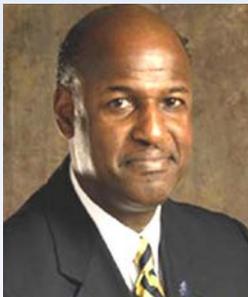
Dr. Helen Newton

The African-American Affairs Commission and the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity (CHE) held a reception on December 19, 2013 to welcome Dr. Helen Newton as the new Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity. Welcoming Dr. Newton with remarks were Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner of Department of Public Health, Dr. Marie Spivey, CHE Chair; Kate McEvoy, Interim Medicaid Director, Department of Social Services; Glenn Cassis, AAAC Executive Director; and Vickie Veltri, JD, Health Care Advocate. Dr. Newton gave an overview of CHE's upcoming goals for the new year.

2013 CLASSIC AWARDS



Speaker Governor Dannel P. Malley



Speaker Dr. Stanley F. Battle



The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) paid tribute to six distinguished African-Americans during its 14th Annual Classic Awards on Friday, May 17, 2013 in the atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Governor, Dannel P. Malloy addressed the audience of approximately 250 people. The 2013 Keynote Speaker was Dr. Stanley F. Battle. Dr. Battle is an educator, author, civic activist and is currently a Professor at Central Connecticut State University.

For fourteen years AAAC has recognized outstanding Connecticut African-American men, women, business and economic development leaders, lifetime achievers and high school students. The honorees were selected from a distinguished pool of applicants submitted by the public.

The six Connecticut residents were recognized and honored for their outstanding accomplishments. Each recipient received a plaque from the AAAC, proclamations and citations from Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Treasurer Denise Nappier, the Attorney General George Jepsen and Comptroller Kevin Lembo. Through the numerous corporate, non-profit organizations and private donors, each student received a scholarship award for \$2,500.00.

Awards were presented to: Man of the Year, Foday Dumbuya, teacher at the CREC Montessori Magnet School in Hartford. Lifetime Achievement, George A. Coleman, a private educational contractor, working at the Cooperative Educational Services in Trumbull, Youth of the Year, Dionne Parker, former senior at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, Woman of the Year, Constance Coles, from Say Yes To Education (SYTE) at the University of Hartford, Youth of the Year, Khalil Harris-Abrams, former high school senior at High School Inc. in Hartford, and the award for Business and Economic Development was awarded to Karen Bellamy, founder and owner of KJB Associates, LLC in Hamden, CT.

Reverend Daryel McCrorey, Sr., Senior Pastor of the Greater Joy Mission Church in Hartford gave the invocation. "B Anointed" Brianna, Brooklyn and Braxton Palmer sang the "The Star Spangled Banner" and First Lady Carrie McCrorey, wife of Reverend Daryel McCrorey sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Music entertainment was provided by African drummers "Friends" and saxophonist Henry Bentley.

2013 CLASSIC AWARDS



Foday Dumbuya
Man of the Year



George A. Coleman
Lifetime Achiever



Khalil Harris-Abrams
Youth of the Year



Constance Coles
Woman of the Year



Karen Bellamy
Business & Economic Development



Dionne Parker
Youth of the Year



2013 Classic Award Honorees with Governor, Dannel P. Malloy

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - COMMISSIONERS



Chairperson
Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis



Vice Chairperson
Darryl A. Hugley



Secretary
Donna Campbell



Treasurer
Rosetta Jones

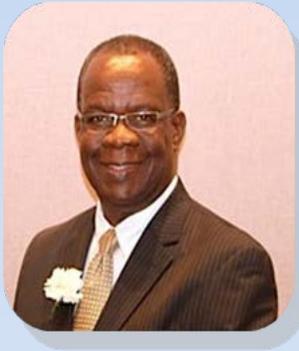
Chairperson, Fred Pierre-Louis, MBA, MS, Ed.D. is a proven leader in both community and professional arenas. He is a passionate team player with a keen understanding of group dynamics. He has sixteen years of combined business development and project management, and teaching and administrative experience. Commissioner Dr. Pierre-Louis received a doctorate degree in educational leadership from the University of Hartford. His academic achievements include: A Masters Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Bridgeport, EMBA from the University of Connecticut, an Advanced Business Executive Program from Amos Tuck Business School at Dartmouth College, B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, Business Computer Programming, Computer Processing Institute, Bridgeport, CT. Commissioner Dr. Pierre-Louis is committed to continuous improvement and self-actualization of the individual. He is a member of the Stamford Public School Foundation, the board of trustees of Mead School, the Chairperson of the Smith House (for elderly citizens in Stamford), a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, and the chairman of the education committee of AAAC. He was appointed in 2006, by House Minority Leader, Robert M. Ward.

Vice Chairperson, Darryl A. Hugley, was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission by Senate President Pro Tempore Speaker, Donald E. Williams in 2010. Originally from Hartford but now representing New Haven County, Mr. Hugley is an avid political activist. He currently serves as an Executive Board Member and Chair of the Criminal Justice/Urban Initiative Committee of the Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP. Prior to that Mr. Hugley served as the Youth and College Advisor for the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches. A proud father of his 9 years old son, Farrad D. Shabazz, Mr. Hugley and his son are avid practitioners of Muy Thai, Judo and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. After earning a B.S. in Sociology/Criminology from Southern Connecticut State University Mr. Hugley decided to put his activism into writing. He is currently completing his Master's Thesis, at Southern Connecticut State University School of Graduate Studies on, "21 Century Black Nationalism in Urban America". A Prince Hall Mason with Oriental Lodge #6 in New Haven, CT, Mr. Hugley works as a Counselor for Yale New Haven Psychiatric Hospital.

Secretary, Donna Campbell was appointed to the AAAC in 2009 by State Senator Donald Williams. Donna currently serves on the AAAC Executive Committee as Secretary. She hails from Hartford, CT and is very active in the community, especially working with youth. She is employed at Women and Families Center in Meriden, CT as a Consultant. Mrs. Campbell is married to Marvin Campbell and is the mother of two sons, Rhashim and Marlon.

Treasurer Rosetta Jones retired in 2001 as Warden of Brooklyn Correction Institution. Her career began with the Connecticut Department of Corrections as a Correction officer. Spanning 22 years Ms. Jones ascended through the ranks as Lieutenant at Niantic Correctional Institution for Women; Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Commissioner, Deputy Warden, and Warden. Ms. Jones holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Springfield College. She is Councilor women Town of Montville. She serves on the following boards; Finance Committee; Rules & Procedures Committee, Planning & Zoning, and Library Liaison; Garde Arts Center, Trustee (Vice President), Norwich NAACP (Legal Issues Committee); League of Women Voters; Montville Polish Club; Women's Network Southeastern Conn; Producer of Public Access Program "Town Matters," Board of Directors, Raymond Library, member of the Chinese & American Cultural Assistance Association. Recently elected, ACLU-CT Board of Directors. She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in November 2003 by Governor John G. Rowland.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner
Dr. Dennis Canterbury



Commissioner
Kristen Clark



Commissioner
Brenda P. DelGado



Commissioner
Donald Harris

Commissioner Dennis C. Canterbury, PhD., in Sociology, Binghamton University (State University of New York), is Professor of Sociology at Eastern Connecticut State University. He has published extensively on development issues including Neoliberal Democratization and New Authoritarianism (Ashgate 2005), European Bloc Imperialism (Haymarket 2012), and his latest book Capital Accumulation and Migration (Brill 2012). He has been a visiting Professor in the Institute for Development Studies and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana and winner of the Connecticut State University System 2009 System-Wide Research Award. He was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission by Senate President Pro Tempore, Donald Williams in 2010.

Commissioner Kristen M. Clark is the Village for Families and Children, Inc.'s Community Ambassador. During her fourteen years with the agency, Ms. Clark has worked as a supervisor, therapist, and case manager in the Village's foster care program. As part of her community involvement, Ms. Clark participates as an officer with several organizations in the Greater Hartford area. She is currently the President of the Howard University Alumni Club of Greater Hartford, an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and member of the Board of Directors for Community Health Center in Hartford. Additionally, Ms. Clark serves as a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Greater Hartford Alliance of Black Social Workers, the NAACP, past member of Hartford Communities that Care Advisory Board and the Neighborhood Enforcement and Stabilization Team (NEST). She is involved with the Development Committee of the Open Hearth as well as the Corporate Intern and Young Professionals Committee of the MetroHartford Alliance Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Clark was appointed to the AAAC Board in 2007 by Representative Christopher G. Donovan.

Commissioner Brenda P. DelGado has worked in the area of health care administration for more than 30 years and is the former Executive Director of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc. (AHEC) in Hartford. While under her direction the agency expanded its resources and became a respected collaborator in the community to help address health inequities in culturally diverse populations across central CT through community advocacy, education, and direct care. Brenda is also the past Chief of HIV Prevention Clinical Services for the CT Department of Public Health AIDS Division where she worked for 20 years. She is a CT Health Foundation Leadership Fellow and one of two to receive their first Health Equity Superstar award in 2012. She also received a Fellowship in Long term Care Administration from the National Black Caucus on Aging to and is a licensed Nursing Home Administrators in CT. She has a Certificate in Health Care Management from the UCLA John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management, a Bachelors degree in Biology & Medical Technology, a Masters degree in Allied Health Administration and PhD (ABD) in Educational Psychology. Brenda currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Catholic Schools, the Office of Black Catholic Ministries, Jewish Federation Homes and the Cape Verde Santiago Scholarship Foundation. She is in her 3rd year as an appointed Commissioner on the CT African American Affairs Commission and is also currently an active at-large member of the CT Multicultural Health Partnership.

Commissioner Donald Harris currently serves as Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education. A Bloomfield High School graduate, Mr. Harris received his BS from Springfield College, and his MS and 6th Year degrees from the University of Hartford. His career has included working for the Town of Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department, as a Physical Education teacher at Bloomfield High School, as Director of Athletics for the Bloomfield Schools, as Vice Principal at Carmen Arace Middle School, and as Principal at Bloomfield High School. He is currently a Real Estate Sales Agent for William Raveis Realty. Donald has been a committed leader in Bloomfield for many years, and has an excellent understanding of the youth of the town. One of his goals as a Town Councilor is to promote economic development with an emphasis on the Center of Town, and promote the quality of life for all residents of the town. He also commits to supporting continued improvements in academic progress and the school infrastructures. In 2012 he was elected to serve on the CABE (CT Association of Boards of Education) board of directors.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - COMMISSIONERS



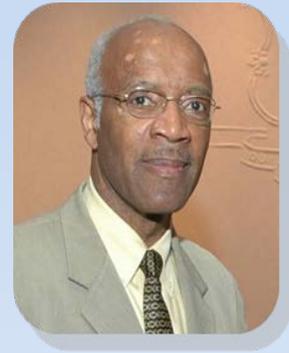
Commissioner
Derrick McBride



Commissioner
Kathy Thompson



Commissioner
Diana Washington



Commissioner
Alphonse Wright

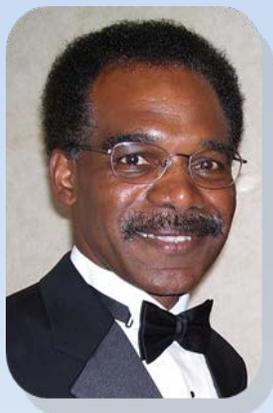
Commissioner Derrick McBride currently works for the Vernon Youth Services Bureau after retiring from law enforcement after 23 years of Service for the Eastern Connecticut State University's Police Department. He served as the department's Lieutenant and Executive Officer. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He served in the United States Army Reserves for 10 years as a Captain and member of a Civil Affairs Unit. Mr. McBride is involved in many roles within the Windham community. He is a board member- Vice President of KIDSAFE CT, an advocate for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect and serves as a Corporator for Windham Memorial Hospital. He was an advisor/Mentor for a Student Organization, Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success (M.A.L. E.S) and an appointed member of Windham's Affirmative Action Commission. He is an AAU and Windham Recreation Basketball Coach. Mr. McBride was a Public Safety appointed Member to the commission by the Speaker of the House in 2001. He has held the offices of Treasurer and Secretary for the Commission and has served on several committees.

Commissioner Kathy Thompson of Watertown, Connecticut has been appointed by Senator Martin Looney to serve as a member of the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission as a resident of Litchfield County. Thompson serves as a parent advocate focusing on the achievement gap in Connecticut. She is a graduate of the Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (Parents SEE), which provides motivated family members with practical strategies for working with other parents, educators, and community leaders to examine education policies and practices. The Connecticut Commission on Children sponsors the program. Her memberships include the Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut and serving as a board member with the Connecticut Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She served as a medical administration specialist in the United States Air National Guard. She received her Bachelor's degree in cultural studies from the University of Tennessee and her Master's degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from the Ohio State University.

Commissioner Diana Washington is Director of Community Relations for Liberation Programs, Inc. a behavioral health care provider with a social mission. The program demonstrates daily that substance use disorders can be treated successfully through targeted treatment solutions and has programs in Bridgeport, Stamford, Darien and Greenwich. Before working with Liberation Programs, Diana was a community outreach grants coordinator with the office of Congressman Christopher Shays. There her responsibilities include disseminating information on federal, state and local funding opportunities as well as loans and contracts to non-profit and social service organizations and local governments. She is also affiliated with the Human Services Council of Mid-Fairfield and the Southern Connecticut Black Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Washington was appointed in September 2009 by Senate Minority Leader, John McKinney.

Commission Alphonse Wright has more than twenty years of Human Resources experience and twenty plus years sales experience including financial planning and as a mortgage broker, dedicated to meeting the needs of small business and individuals. As part of his commitment to give back to the community, he participated on a number of inner-city boards as well as the Connecticut State Board of Education. In Norwalk, he was Excel's Chairman of the Board. Excel is an organization that helps at-risk students graduate high school and attend college. As a result of Mr. Wright's willingness to represent his community and engage the political process, he received a letter of recognition from President George W. Bush, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and Governor M. Jodi Rell. In addition to serving on the AAC Board, Mr. Wright is secretary of his Masonic Lodge in West Hartford and Treasurer of McCullough Temple in New Britain. Mr. Wright is a U.S. Air Force veteran and a graduate of Boston University. He has two adult children who live out of state. Mr. Wright was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission by House Republican Leader, Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr. in 2007.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - STAFF



Glenn A. Cassis
Executive Director

(860) 240-0258
glenn.cassis@cga.ct.gov



Subira Gordon
Legislative Analyst

(860) 240-0251
Subira.gordon@cga.ct.gov



Denise Drummond
Sr. Legislative Secretary

(860) 240-8536
denise.drummond@cga.ct.gov

Executive Director - Glenn A. Cassis has served as the Executive Director of the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission since August 2006. Prior to joining the AAAC, Mr. Cassis, a New York native and Bloomfield resident, worked for nearly 20 years as the executive director of the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program, Inc.(CPEP). Under his leadership, the statewide program expanded from a single school district serving 43 students, to 12 urban school districts serving more than 9,000 students. Mr. Cassis is an active member of several professional and non-profit organizations, including the American Society of Engineering Educators, the Southern New England Association of Technical Professionals, Sigma Pi Phi – Alpha Psi Boule' and the Hartford Branch of the NAACP. He serves as a board member or officer in the following organizations: Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, Vice President Connecticut Academy for Education Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Trustee Board for Union Baptist Church. Mr. Cassis is the State Coordinator for College Goal Sunday and is a reviewer for National Science Foundation, NASA and the State Department of Higher Education. Mr. Cassis attended the University of Connecticut where he earned his undergraduate degree in political science and his graduate degree in arts administration.

Legislative Analyst – Subira Gordon started as the legislative Analyst for the AAAC in November of 2013. Since starting the position she has been involved in racial profiling meetings, been a part of the legislative committee with the commission on health equity, created monthly newsletters and worked on the 2014 Legislative Agenda for the AAAC. Prior to taking that position she worked for the House Democratic Organization as a policy analyst where she worked closely with the speaker of the house and caucus leadership on legislative issues.

Senior Legislative Secretary - Denise Drummond

AAAC TALENT BANK

In order to comply with one of our mandates asking the African-American Affairs Commission to “encourage African-American representation at all levels of state government, including state boards and commissions”, the African-American Affairs Commission, (AAAC) is seeking to update and expand its Talent Bank.

The Talent Bank is a file of resumes and curriculum of African-Americans who are interested in appointment to state boards, councils, commissions or task forces as well as positions in public service and in the private sector.

We ask that anyone interested in being recommended for appointment to provide information about themselves and their interests to the African-American Affairs Commission. This information will be maintained in our commission database. As opportunities arise, the AAAC will make appropriate recommendations for the appointment of African-Americans to any and all vacancies.

Please feel free to complete and return the attached talent bank application via email aaac@cga.ct.gov, fax (860) 240-8444 via or U.S. mail at: 210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509, Hartford, CT 06106

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION – TALENT BANK

Name: _____

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Address: _____ / _____

Street

City / Town

State/Zip Code

Telephone: _____ / _____

Phone #

E-mail address

Employer:

Racial/Ethnic Background: _____ Age: 18-30 31-50 51 & over

Political Affiliation: Democrat Republican Independent U.S. Citizen: Yes No

Education (Please Attach Resume):

_____ / _____ / _____

Degree

Major/Concentration

Institution

Graduation Year

Areas of interest for appointment:

Education Human Services Health Economic Development

Public Safety Children / Youth Housing Other

Describe community experience, organization's purpose, your role/title and dates served.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION – FRIENDS



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION – FRIENDS



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

210 Capitol Avenue - Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 240-8555

aaac@cga.ct.gov

www.cga.ct.gov/aaac

