

State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission



2014 Annual Report

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

January 2015

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of the State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106



*Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis,
AAAC Chairperson*

Dear Governor Malloy,

Reflecting on 2014 offers some hopes and challenges for the African-American community in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (Commission) believes that education, criminal and social justice, health and economic development have been impacted by the events and policies during the year.

Progress was made with narrowing the Achievement Gap. Early childhood education initiatives championed by your administration has improved school readiness for thousands of children from economically stressed communities. Connecticut continues to be a leading state in the nation by assisting students and families of graduating high school students with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the key for securing financial aid for college. More than 1,000 Connecticut students completed FAFSA on our annual College Goal Sunday-CT. Although the high school graduation rate for African-American students has improved, students are not prepared for the rigors of post-secondary education or career readiness. We will continue to work with leaders to address developmental education needs for students. Your initiative "Go Back to Get Ahead" has shown a positive impact to increase the college graduation rate by making it easier for those whose college pursuits were delayed, to return to school.

The Commission is pleased with the work done by the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project (CTRP3). As an active member of the CTRP3 Advisory Board, the Commission has assisted with ensuring that the intent of the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act (Public Act 99-198) – which prohibits any law enforcement agency from stopping, detaining, or searching any motorist when the stop is motivated solely by considerations of the race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation – is enforced. All law enforcement agencies throughout Connecticut now submit traffic stop reports at least quarterly, most every month for data analysis. The Commission still has concerns with the use of Tasers by law enforcement. We will work closely with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and non-governmental organizations as the Taser use policy is developed.

During a round table discussion, the Commission was able to better understand some important factors needed to achieve health equity. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in health and health care is essential. The need for interpretive services for those who English is a second language is a priority.

The past year the State of Connecticut began to show signs of recovering from the recession. The recovery for African-Americans however, remained slower than for the rest of the state. Indicators like unemployment, the rate of poverty and home ownership still remained unacceptable. More needs to be done. The Commission in partnership with the United States And Africa Development Organization and Yale University sponsored an economic summit to establish business opportunities for the nations of Africa and Connecticut businesses.

Although Connecticut did not experience the divisive incidents and unrest of Ferguson (MO), Staten Island (NY) or Cleveland (OH), the Commission is concerned biases exist in many institutions in our society. The Commission will continue to take preventative measures to help ensure that thoughtful strategies and policies are implemented to keep people safe, respected and free to be productive in their communities. We look forward to greater opportunities for all citizens.

Thank you,

Fred Pierre-Louis, Ed.D., MS, MBA
AAAC Chairperson

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 and criminal 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.

2014 Annual Legislative Report

The African-American Affairs Commission provided testimony for several bills spanning from criminal justice matters, children's safety and education to health equity. A letter of support was also submitted for the Honorable Judge Crawford to be appointed a superior court Judge.

Education

The Commission provided testimony to the Appropriations Committee asking that they strengthen PA 12-40 and asked them to be cautious about adopting proposed changes to remedial education courses and funding mechanisms that would affect many African-Americans attending community colleges in cities across the state. Based on annual mathematics and English placement data, in many urban areas, less than 20% of students admitted to community college tested into college level English and Mathematics courses.

Testimony was also provided to the Achievement Gap taskforce supporting their report which spells out specific changes that the state should make in order to invest in the future of minority children in the state who are being failed by the education system. This issue is important to the Commission because students of color tend to be in the lowest performing schools in the state therefore having less economic opportunity. This correlates to the high percentage of individuals of color that are involved in the criminal justice system. By giving every student in the state access to a quality education the state will be making an investment in the future, possibly spend more money on education and less on corrections.

Criminal Justice

The disproportionate representation of African-Americans in the criminal justice system is one of the most important issues to the Commission. This session we provided testimony on bills that would help to address some of these disparities.

The Commission supported SB 55 which requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop and implement a written policy for the State Police and municipal police departments (collectively, "law enforcement agencies") on accepting, processing, and investigating public complaints against them alleging misconduct. Due to the Commission's involvement in the racial profiling and prohibition project we have heard first-hand many complaints from residents across the state, most of which are African-American males allege police misconduct. A written policy needs to be in place that allows the complainant to file a complaint and be assured that a complete and fair investigation can be conducted. The written policy should be developed in concert with civilians not associated with law enforcement and the POST Council. In addition, complainants should not be forced to bear unreasonable costs for filing complaints. The written policy should require that all previous complaints against the sworn officers be available to the complainant.

There are many barriers that African-Americans face when trying to find employment in the State of CT. The unemployment rate for African-Americans is 12.2% while for Caucasian residents the rate is 7.7 %. One of the factors that has helped to create this disparity is the alarming rate of African-Americans that are arrested and convicted of crimes resulting in a criminal record which then creates a barrier to finding employment. Forty-two percent of the total prison population in Connecticut is Black or African-American. This bill would help many of these individuals access employment as a part of their re-entry to the community. The Commission supported SB 153 which allows ex-offenders who have demonstrated rehabilitation to be granted a certificate of rehabilitation by the Board of Pardons and Paroles or the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. This certificate should help them in getting employment despite the stigma attached to having a criminal record.

Health

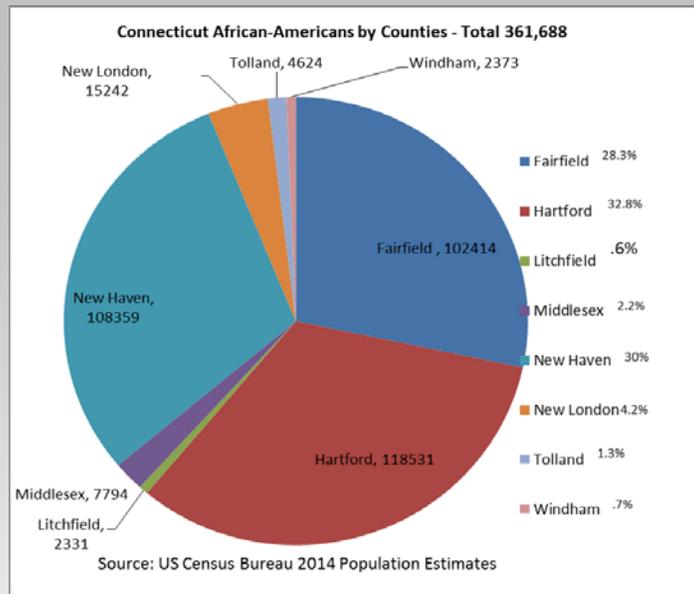
The Commission supported legislation that would create a list of harmful chemicals to children and fetuses in order to protect their health. While we understand that harmful chemicals exist in everyday products it is important to make the best effort possible to eliminate or control exposure to as many of these chemicals as possible.

The Commission supported an effort to create a simple streamlined way of collecting data that would mirror the federal regulations for health care purposes. The Commission also submitted testimony supporting the expansion of school based health centers.

Economic Development

The Commission supported legislation used to create a domestic worker taskforce. In Connecticut like many other states, domestic workers tend to be immigrant women of color. Currently, there are over 2 million care providers in the US (40,000 in Connecticut). Many work in exploitive and abusive conditions within a culture that fails to recognize domestic work as labor that deserves recognition, protection, and respect. Their work makes other work possible for others. Without domestic workers many of their employers would not be able to work as they provide childcare, elder care and housecleaning which should be seen as dignified work rather than the negative stigma that attached to domestic work.

2014 SNAPSHOT OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN CONNECTICUT



Total Population - 361,688

Females - 188,837

Males - 172,851

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 18 years	47,098	49,382	96,472
18 and Over	122,031	111,107	233,138
65 years and over	19,708	12,350	32,058

Households - 127,078

<u>Family Households</u>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>Nonfamily Households</u>	<u>43,924</u>
Married-couple family	35,997	Householder Living Alone	38,579
Other Family	47,157	Not Living alone	5,345
Female head householder no present husband	39,767		
Male head householder no present wife	7,390		

Marital Status

<u>Population 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>283,393</u>	<u>Male 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>132,675</u>	<u>Female 15 Years & Over</u>	<u>150,718</u>
Now married, except separated	84,103	Now married, except separated	44,453	Now married, except separated	39,650
Widowed	13,780	Widowed	2,982	Widowed	10,798
Divorced	32,431	Divorced	12,191	Divorced	20,240
Separated	9,594	Separated	3,462	Separated	6,132
Never married	143,485	Never married	69,587	Never Married	73,898

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2009 – 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2014 SNAPSHOT OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN CONNECTICUT

School Enrollment

<u>Population 3 Years & Enrolled in School</u>	<u>118,113</u>
Nursery and Preschool	7,437
Kindergarten	5,410
Elementary (grades 1-8)	43,155
High School (9-12)	27,383
College or graduate school	34,728

Educational Attainment

Population 25 years and older	221,390
Less than High School Diploma	37,354
High School Graduate (includes GED)	74,211
Some College or Associates Degree	68,491
Bachelor's Degree	41,334

High school graduate or higher **83.1%**

Male high school graduate or higher	82%
Female high school graduate or higher	84%

Bachelor's degree or higher **18.5%**

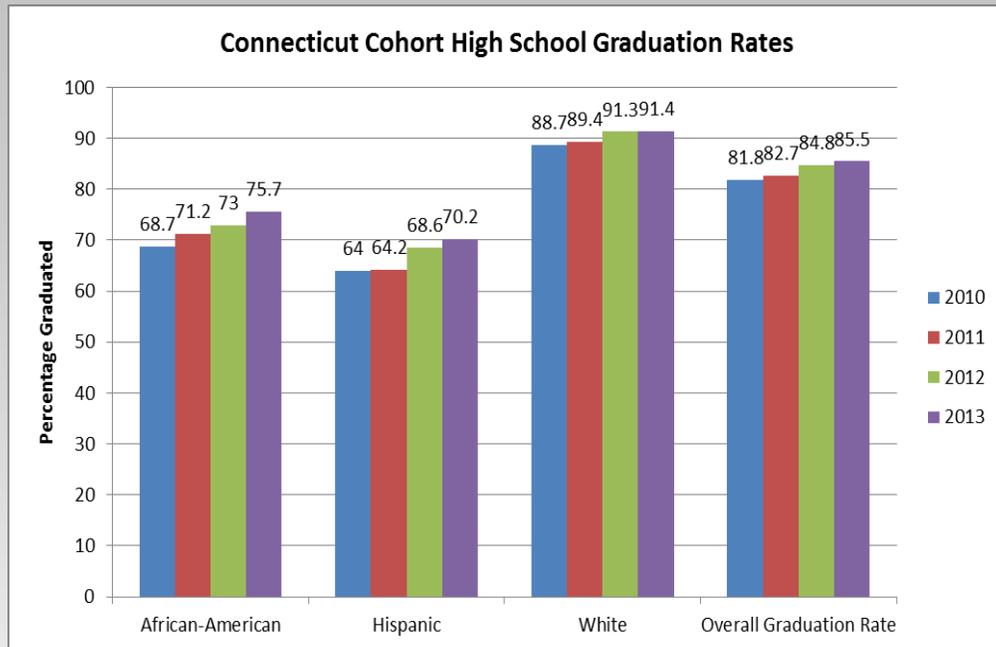
Male bachelor's degree or higher	18%
Female bachelor's degree or higher	19.1%

Employment Status

Population 16 Years and Over	277,343
In Labor Force	192,464
Employed	158,797
Unemployed	33,667
Not in Labor Force	84,879

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

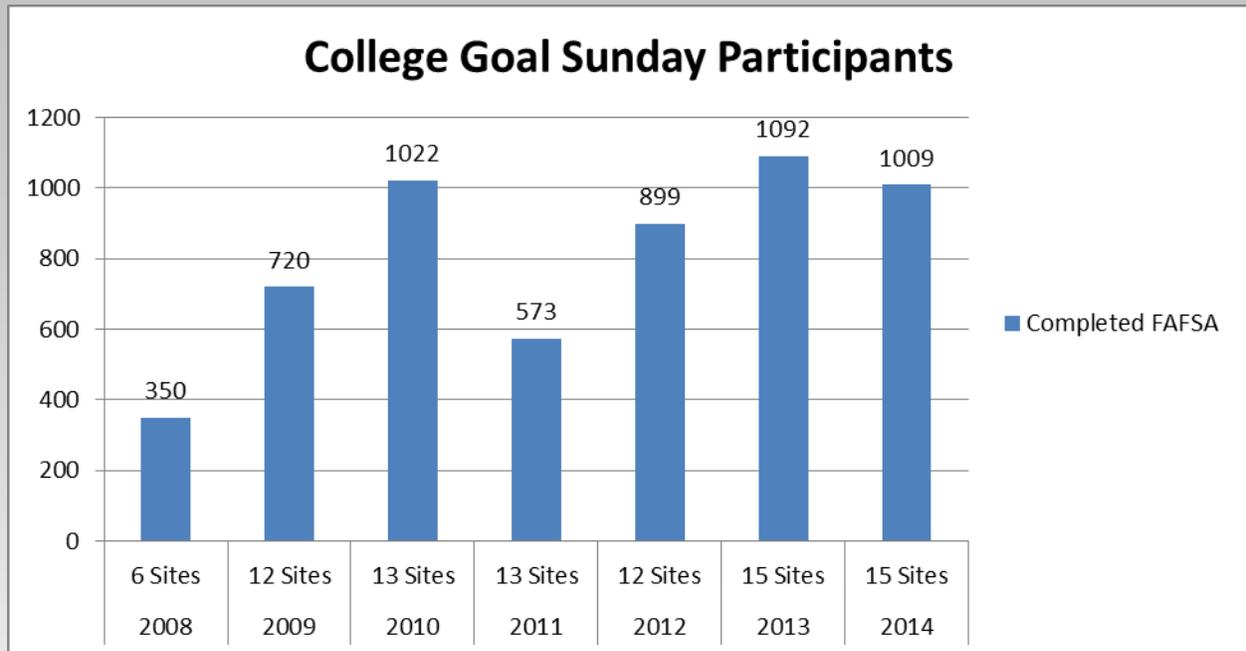
Indicator 1: African-American Graduation Rate



Story behind the baseline: Almost four years ago the State Department of Education implemented a more accurate method for calculating high school graduation rates. The current method calculates the graduation 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 graduation rate for African-American students from high school had the largest percentage. More attention has been placed on improving instruction and resources are being focused on failing schools. Magnet and charter schools have had a positive effect. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support the implementation of Common Core 2) Assist with the implementation of individual student success program 3) Partner with Minority Teacher Recruitment Programs and support cultural competency programs for teacher development and 4) Maintain and update the KnowHowToGo-CT website.

Source: CT Dept. of Education

Indicator 2: First Generation and Low Income Students completing FAFSA forms for college financial aid

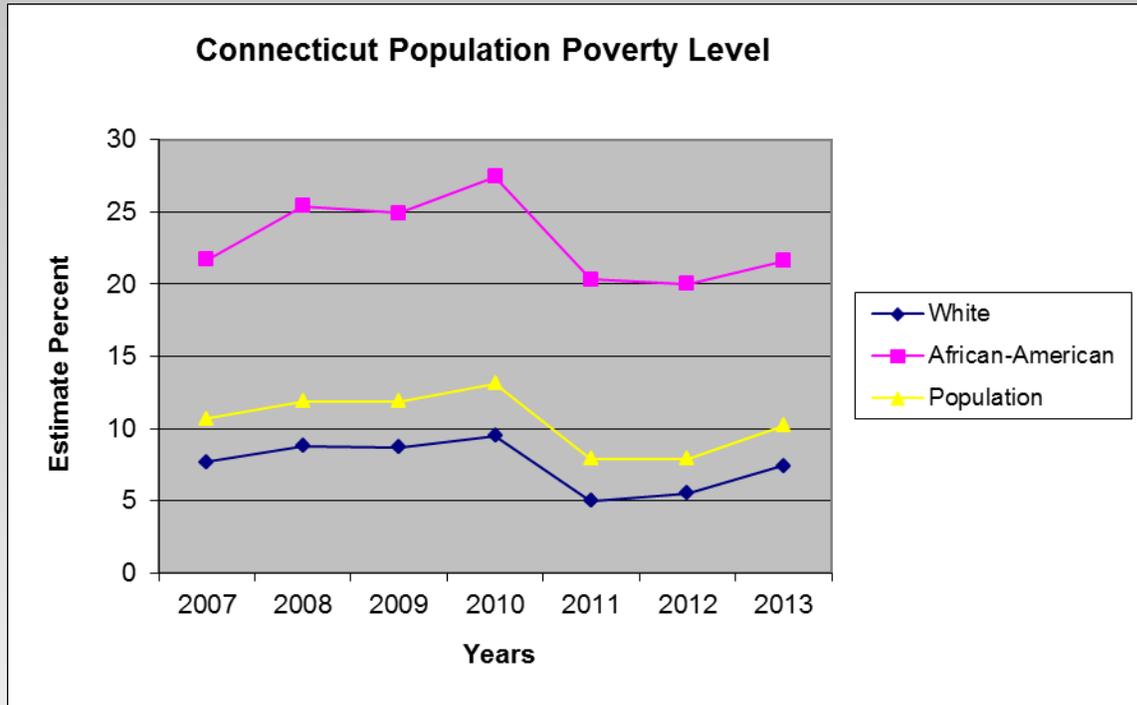


Story behind the baseline: Student debt has become another barrier for low-income, first generation students considering attending post-secondary education. Federal programs like Upward Bound and GEAR UP have not received increases in funding. Students are finding that they must take out more loans. 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). 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) Assist efforts to reduce student loan debt for higher education; 4) Partner with educators, community based organizations, foundations, professional associations and parents to recruit high school seniors and volunteers; 5) Publish and distribute Scholarship Directory.

Source: College Goal Sunday Connecticut

Result 2: All Connecticut Residents of African Descent are Financially Successful

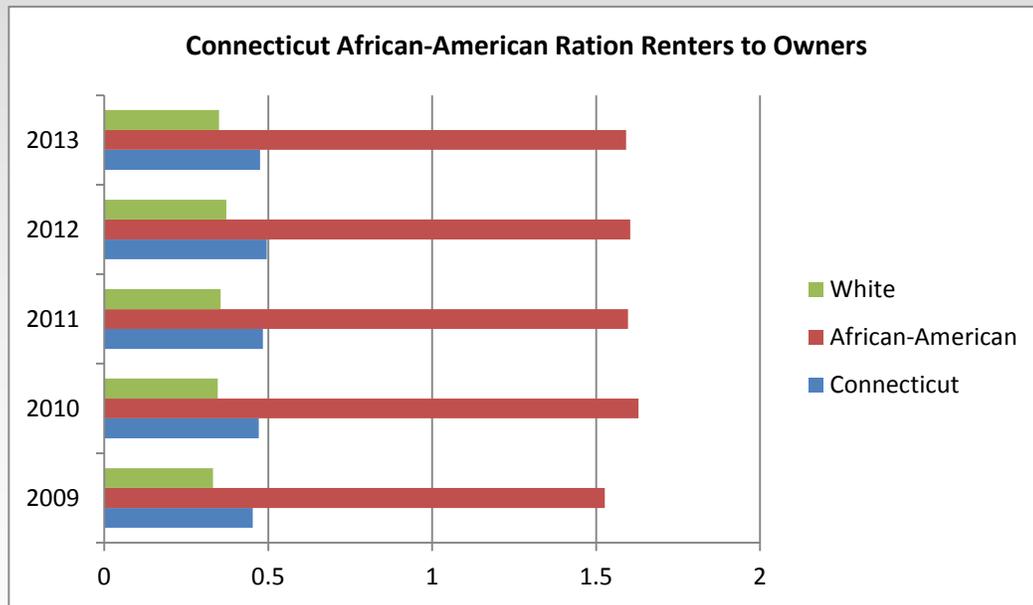
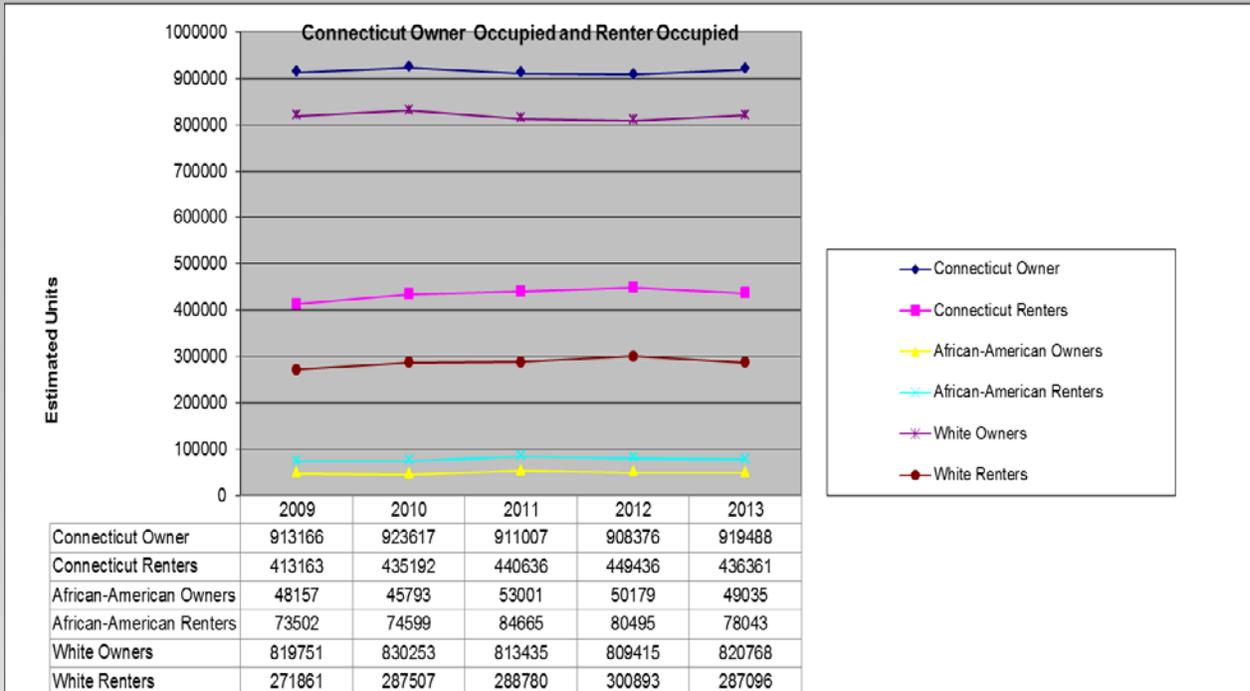
Indicator 1: Percent of African-American households living below the poverty level



Story behind the baseline: Since 2010 the rate of poverty for African-Americans has decreased. In 2012 the rate leveled to 20%. The effect of the recession and the high cost of housing has kept individuals and families in poverty. The entire state experienced an increase in the rate of poverty in 2013. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Strengthen employment efforts that economically uplift working poor families from poverty, e.g. earned income tax credit, individual development accounts and support increasing the minimum wage; 2) Offer opportunities to attend programs in financial literacy; 3) Through the results of a disparities study, identify and work towards eliminating barriers preventing minority owned businesses from getting secured state contracts, 4) Support efforts to provide more affordable housing.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

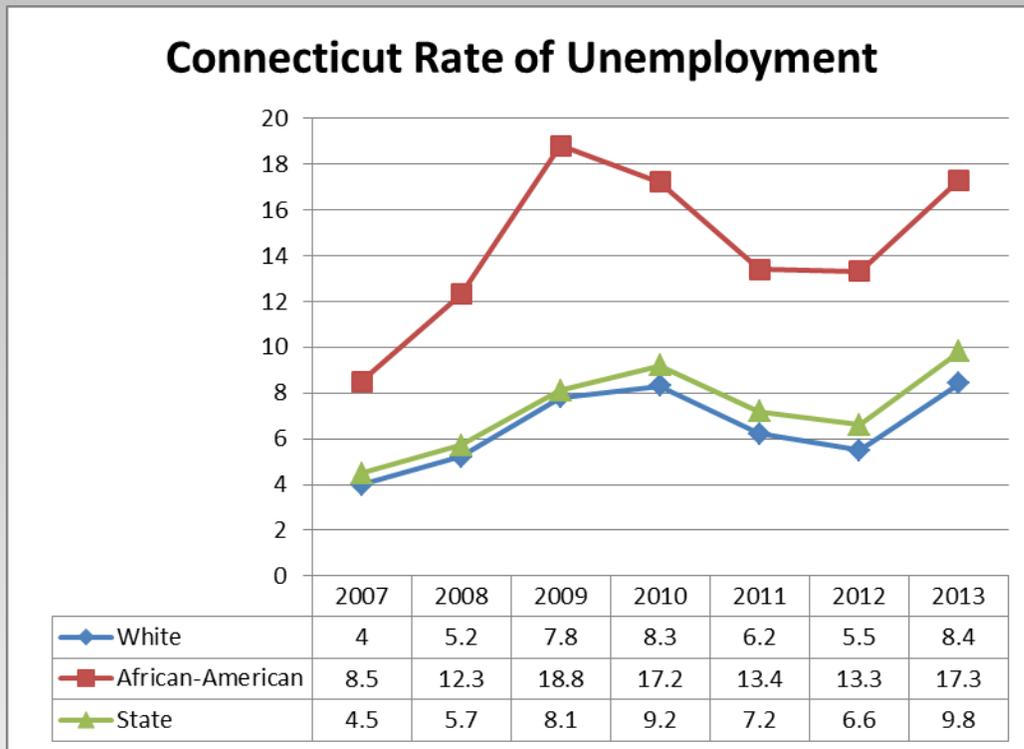
Indicator 2: Percent of African-Americans who own homes



Story behind the baseline: Home ownership is an indicator of financial security, wealth and self-sufficiency. Statewide most population groups are home owners rather than renters. More African-Americans rent homes than own home homes. In 2013 fewer African-Americans owned homes than the previous year. This is understandable since the rate of poverty for African-Americans increased. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Invest in affordable housing developments; 2) Promote first time homebuyer opportunities in low-income communities; 3) Promote fairness in lending policies; 4) Assist homeowners facing foreclosure with information; 5) Support legislation and housing coalitions that advocate for affordable housing.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Indicator 3: Percent of Unemployed African-Americans



Story behind the baseline: The rate of unemployment for African-Americans has consistently been above the state average before and since 2007. The unemployment rate statewide took a significant jump in 2013 with African-Americans experiencing the greatest increase. Towards the end of 2014, Connecticut was catching up with the rest of the nation with improvements in the rate of unemployment.

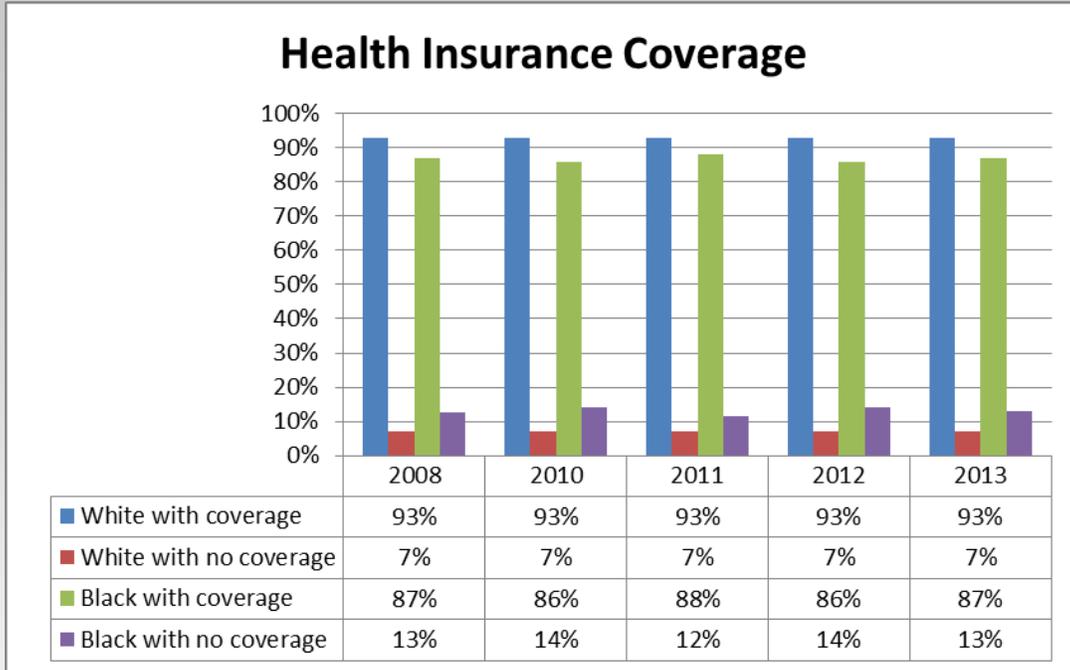
Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support and encourage employment programs that reach urban centers; 2) Circulate announcements regarding employment opportunities on the website and email blasts; 3) Improve the overall educational attainment for African-Americans.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates – People who are Black or African-American Alone

**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 implementation of the Access Health Connecticut (the Affordable Care Act) will improve the numbers of individuals with health care and health insurance. Proposed strategies to turn the curve: 1) Support implementation of Access Health by encouraging and supporting enrollment; 2) Promote awareness of healthier living through proper nutrition, regular visits to physicians and free health screenings and 3) 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., DPH, DSS and the NBC Channel 30 Health Care Round Table.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

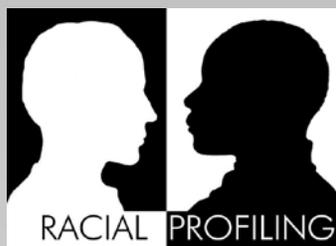


PROGRAMS

ISSUES

ACTIVITIES

RACIAL PROFILING



Connecticut's anti-racial profiling law, entitled The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 54-1l and 54-1m), was changed significantly during the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions. The intent of revising this legislation was to ensure a more rigorous application of the initial law while allowing for methods and guidelines to be put in place that would effectively infuse current and future best practices into all facets of its key provisions (e.g. the data collection/analysis, training, and complaint processes). A key element in the new legislation shifts responsibility of its implementation to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in consultation with a newly established Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board.

The public has often questioned whether police target individuals based on their race, ethnicity, age, gender or membership in a protected class. Nationally, disparities found in traffic stops have come under scrutiny by the public, policymakers, and civil rights groups. In Connecticut, law enforcement agencies conduct approximately 650,000 traffic stops each year. Traffic stops are one of the most common encounters the public has with police.

On October 1, 2013 law enforcement agencies in Connecticut began collecting and electronically submitting traffic stop data into a centralized database developed and maintained by the Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System. This is the first time since the laws inception in 1999 that data is being collected and transmitted in a uniformed electronic format. This major improvement in data collection from more than 100 law enforcement agencies will drastically improve access to racial profiling data. The electronic collection and submission of traffic stop information in real time will allow policymakers and law enforcement administrators to respond to the communities they serve, enabling them to use the information as a powerful tool to enhance relationships between police agencies and their communities.

The Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) is electronically collecting data from all 92 municipal police departments, the Connecticut State Police, all 7 University Police departments, the State Capitol Police, Department of Motor Vehicle Inspectors, Department of Revenue Services Inspectors, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Police and the Metro North Police.

Developing a transparent system to view the data by members of the public, policymakers, and law enforcement administrators is an important component of this project. For the first time, the electronic collection system developed by CJIS makes it possible to create a system for public consumption of data. In the fall 2014, raw data files and summary tables were available online through the Connecticut Data Collaborative portal. The information will be updated regularly and allow for more immediate access to data for decision making.

Although much of the initial work of this project was to develop a standardized method for data collection and analysis, it has only been one component to prevent future profiling activities. Public awareness, education, effective training and a rigorous complaint process are all tools within a diverse toolbox available to prevent the occurrence of racial profiling in traffic stops and enhance trust between communities and law enforcement.

Edited excerpts from the State of Connecticut Traffic Stop Data Report

28th CELEBRATION OF DR. KING'S LIFE AND LEGACY

On January 20, 2014 AAAC Commissioners Donna Campbell and Daryl Hugley along with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission hosted the 28th celebration of Dr. King's life and legacy at the State Capitol. The event was held in the Hall of Flags.

Governor, Dannel P. Malloy, Lieutenant, Governor Nancy Wyman, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, State Treasurer Denise Nappier and "other luminaries" attended the event.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission honored three outstanding Connecticut women; Tanya Hughes, Executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities for her two decades of leadership in the field of civil rights; Victoria Christgau, who founded the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence at the request of legendary civil rights leader, educator and activist, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., received the community award. Also, Maggie Gardner, who in 2007 established Gardner's House, Inc., to improve the course of personal recovery from cancer, and particularly for those living within Hartford's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, received the humanitarian award.



Governor, Dannel P. Malloy addresses the crowd at the 28th celebration of Dr. King's life and legacy at the State Capitol.

2014 COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY



Yale 2014 Girls' Basketball Team

On January 26, 2014, the African-American Affairs Commission co-sponsored College Goal Sunday, (CGS) at 15 sites throughout Connecticut. In this statewide event students and their parents received one-on-one, expert advice on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and on how to plan for college. Statewide, a total of 1009 students completed their FAFSA forms.

CGS is a volunteer, charitable effort to assist low-income families and those who have no college-going tradition in accessing a higher education. Specifically, CGS helps families complete the FAFSA—required to qualify for college financial aid nationwide. In addition, valuable information was shared about the benefits of attending college, student support services, areas of study, and various degree programs.

At the Gateway Community College site, members of the Yale women's basketball team gave back to the Elm City by helping college-bound seniors and their parents fill out applications for federal financial aid and the New Haven Promise Scholarship.

2014 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 2014 featured artist was Dean Rhoden. Mr. Rhoden resides in Hartford, CT, but is originally from Kingston, Jamaica. He developed a love for art while in high school. His artwork is mostly paintings and drawings. He loves creating cultural art work as well as drawing and painting people and animals.

Artist Marcia Esson also contributed art to the Exhibit. Her Caribbean background is apparent and shows through in the art that she creates. Marcia enjoys creating with bright colors, abstracts and painting free style.



Artist Dean Rhoden and Governor Dannel P. Malloy



Hartford Hospital and Dr. Bradford Howard, Jr.

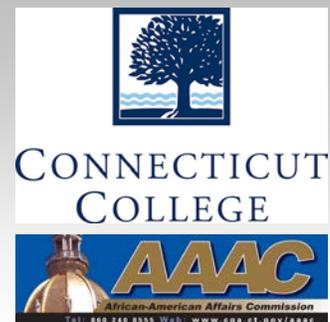
BLACK HISTORY MONTH - "A WORK IN PROGRESS"

February is Black History Month and the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) hosted its annual "A Work in Progress" event in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut.

The event provides opportunities for organizations to display their contributions and share information with legislators, legislative staff and the public. They in turn had the opportunity to become familiar with these governmental, nonprofit, historic and cultural organizations that have service connections and/or historical significance to the African-American community. Fourteen organizations generously donated their time at this year's event.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE HOSTS AAAC

On April 2, 2014 the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) held its monthly commission meeting at Connecticut College, CRO's Nest - Crozier-Williams Center in New London, CT. The Commission meetings are normally held monthly at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Connecticut College students along with New London area residents attended the event.



VETERANS OF COLOR Courage, Adversity and Triumph



On Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at the Hartford Public Library the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) in partnership with the Hartford Public Library, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity – Alpha Psi Boulé and several veteran organizations hosted the showing of *Veterans of Color*.

Veterans of Color is a one hour DVD that captures the oral history of African-American veterans in World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. Men and women veterans provide voice to the numerous challenges that faced them on the battlefields, in their service quarters and in their own communities while serving this nation. Compelling interviews tell stories of hardships, perseverance and valor by men and women in the service to their country while being denied their freedom and rights as Americans.

A panel of war veterans moderated by AAAC Commissioner, Alexander Tettey, Jr., provided the audience with their personal experiences. The panel included: Connie Nappier - WW II Veteran Tuskegee Airman, Sam Beamon - Viet Nam Veteran and AAAC Commissioner, Alexander Tettey, Jr., Veteran of Iraq.

Bob Rodman from AARP also shared information about benefits for veterans.



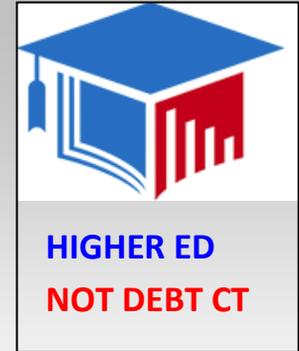
*AAAC Executive Director, Glenn Cassis and
AAAC Commissioner and Veteran of Iraq, Alexander Tettey, Jr.*



*U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and WW II Veteran
Tuskegee Airman, Connie Nappier*

HIGHER ED - NOT DEBT CT

On September 18, 2014 the AAAC co-sponsored the launch of the Higher Ed, Not Debt CT Coalition and the release of a new report, A Mountain of Debt. Connecticut's students and alumni shared their stories of how skyrocketing college tuition has burdened them with high debt. Higher Ed, Not Debt CT is a coalition of advocacy organizations pushing for justice in the higher education system. The coalition is focused on reversing state disinvestment in higher education, making higher education accessible to all students, addressing the rising costs of higher education and solving the growing student debt crisis.



Organizations gather to discuss issues affecting health equity in the State.

HEALTH EQUITY ROUND TABLE

The African-American Affairs Commission hosted the Health Equity Round Table Discussion on September 25, 2014 at the State Capitol in Hartford, CT.

Participating Organization: The Urban League, Multi-Cultural Health Partnership, The Hispanic Health council and the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Group came together to discuss issues affecting Health Equity in the State.

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.



History of the Black Panther Party of Connecticut



Dr. Jamie J. Wilson



Attorney John Williams

The Amistad Committee, Inc. in partnership with Faith Congregational Church (Hartford), the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) and the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center hosted a presentation on the history of the Black Panther Party of Connecticut on Monday, September 29, 2014 at Faith Congregational Church, 2030 Main Street, Hartford.

Dr. Jamie J. Wilson, Associate Professor of History at Salem State University wrote *The Black Panther Party of Connecticut*. The publication traces the origins of the Black Panther Party (BPP) from 1966 in Oakland CA, to its rise on a national level and its decline in the early 1970's. In the book, Dr. Wilson follows the history of the BPP in Connecticut from 1969 – 1973. Dr. Wilson focused his presentation on the Panther Party in Bridgeport, Hartford, Middletown, Norwalk, Stamford, Waterbury and the sanctioned chapter in New Haven. The Black Panther Party of Connecticut is available at most local libraries in Connecticut.

The presentation was followed by a panel that included Attorney John Williams, Al Marder, President, Amistad Committee, Inc. and Butch Lewis, Hartford Black Panther Party Member). The program was repeated at the New Haven Museum on October 2, 2014.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY HOSTS AAAC

On Wednesday, October 1st Eastern Connecticut State University hosted the monthly meeting of the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room in the J. Eugene Smith Library.

The Commission was greeted to the campus by President Elsa M. Núñez. Dr. Dennis Canterbury, professor of sociology at Eastern and an appointed member on the Commission served as the meeting's host. Commissioner Canterbury presented the audience with an overview of the Commission. The audience, composed of students, faculty and staff, members from the community of Windham and public officials raised questions on education, criminal justice, health and the affordability of higher education.

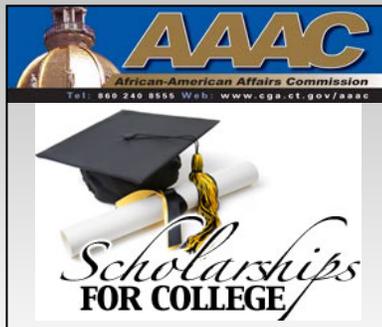
Executive Director, Cassis shared information on resources for students to use to gain access to higher education and ways to help pay for it. Legislative Analyst, Subira Gordon and ECSU Public Relations Officer, Dwight Bachman, shared the latest information on President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative and what it could mean to improving the lives of young men. The Commission also addressed concerns in health equity and racial profiling.

State Representative Susan Johnson shared some of her legislative initiatives that were supportive of the work of the Commission. Windham Public Schools superintendent Dr. Patricia Garcia and board of education member Luz Osuba, described some of the challenges facing the district and some of the goals for the school year.



AAAC Commissioner Brenda DelGado, Chairperson Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis, Executive Director, Glenn Cassis, Commissioner Donald Harris and Commissioner Alphonse Wright

AAAC SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, RESOURCES & INFORMATION



To make the journey to college a little easier, the African-American Affairs Commission compiles a listing of available scholarships, information and resources to assist students with their search for scholarships and grants. The book provides a brief description of scholarships, contact information and links that direct students to the actual scholarship and application.

The book contains over 150 pages of scholarships and reaches thousands of students throughout the state. The book is a valuable tool that opens the door for thousands of students.

The book, AAAC Scholarships, Grants, Resources & Information can be downloaded from our site www.cga.ct.gov/aaac or contact the office for a copy.

US AFRICA BUSINESS CONFERENCE AT YALE UNIVERSITY

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission partnered with the United States And Africa Development Organization (USAADO), Yale University, Southern Connecticut State University and the City of New Haven and sponsored a US Africa Business Conference. The conference was held at the MacMillan Center at Yale University, November 14, 2014. The Conference focused on opportunities for trade with nations of Africa (Senegal, Ghana, and Nigeria), agriculture and economic growth, "How Space Technology Can Improve Health Care Delivery in Africa and Beyond" and manufacturing and infrastructure. Dr. Chris Udry, Chair of Yale University's Africa Studies Program and Yale economist professor who has done extensive research covering several African countries presented the keynote address "Agriculture and Economic Growth: Opportunities For US and African Businesses". Melissa Grosso, Senior International Trade Specialist for the US Commerce Department spoke on the topic "Fostering US African Trade – The Role of the US Dept. of Commerce". Anthony Peters, Director Bridgeport MBDA Business Center operated by the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, spoke on business development. Rachel Nyaradzo Adams, Associate Director for Africa and Ifeanyi Awachie, Woodbridge Fellow (both from the Yale Office of International Affairs) presented on the Yale Africa Initiative. Dr. Emmanuel N. Emenyonu, Professor of Accounting, Southern Connecticut State University and President of USSADO presided at the Conference.

Plans are underway to hold a multi-day international conference in the spring of 2015.



Dr. Chris Udry, Chair of Yale University's Africa Studies Program and Yale economist professor



Dr. Emmanuel N. Emenyonu, Professor of Accounting, Southern Connecticut State University

BERNARD C. WATSON, Ph.D.



Bernard C. Watson, Ph.D.

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) continued its focus on Veterans of Color – Courage, Adversity and Triumph with programs in four communities in observance of Veterans Day.

Dr. Bernard Watson, a co-producer for the documentary visited Waterbury, Hamden, Bloomfield and Hartford on November 11th and 12th and discussed the role of African-Americans in the military since World War II.

Veterans of Color is based on interviews with 31 African American women and men who served in the United States Armed Services. Serving their country even when treated as second-class citizens— these women and men stormed the beaches of Normandy, flew as Tuskegee Airmen and experienced the pain and chaos of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The film captures personal accounts that help all Americans understand the challenges faced by African-American veterans in their military and civilian lives.

Dr. Watson is a veteran of the Korean War, an author and recipient of more than 100 awards.

2014 CLASSIC AWARDS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) paid tribute to six distinguished African-Americans during its 15th Annual Classic Awards on Friday, May 16, 2014 in the atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

The 2014 Keynote Speaker was Adrienne W. Cochrane, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Greater Hartford. The Urban League of Greater Hartford is an affiliate of the National Urban League whose mission is to promote the self-empowerment of individuals in the Connecticut Capital Region to achieve educational, occupational and economic equality for themselves and their families.



Adrienne W. Cochrane

2014 CLASSIC AWARDS

For fifteen years the 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 \$2,200.00.

Awards were presented to: Man of the Year - George Mintz, Organizer of Juneteenth of Fairfield County. Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. John C. Norman of Canton, Educator and mentor. For the first time a recipient received an award in two categories. Maggie Gardner of Hartford, cancer survivor and founder of Gardner's House Inc., received an award for the Woman of the Year as well as the award for Business and Economic Development. The 2014 Youth of the Year scholarships were awarded to Shyheim Snead from Kolbe Cathedral High School and Tianna Edwards from Watkinson School. Also, certificates of achievement were presented to high school seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement.

Minister Shanda Winston of the New Jerusalem Christian Center in Middletown, CT offered the Invocation and Elizabeth Ross Norman and saxophonist Henry Bentley provided musical entertainment.



AAAC Commissioners, 2014 Classic Award Honorees and Keynote Speaker

Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis, Alphonse Wright, Tianna Edwards, Maggie Gardner, Glenn Cassis, Shyheim Snead, Kristen Clark, Dr. John Norman, Dr. Dennis Canterbury, Subira Gordon, Patsy Darity, George Mintz, Adrienne W. Cochrane, Denise Drummond and Derrick McBride

2014 CLASSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS



George Mintz
Man of the Year



George A. Coleman
Lifetime Achiever



Shyheim Snead
Youth of the Year



Maggie Gardner
Woman of the Year



Gardner's House Inc.
Business & Economic Development



Tianna Edwards
Youth of the Year



Singer, Elizabeth Lyra Ross-Norman



Poet, Danielle "Journey" Harrison



Saxophonist, Henry Bentley, Jr.

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 Muay 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 Metro Hartford Alliance Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Clark was appointed to the AAAC Board in 2007 by Representative Christopher G. Donovan.

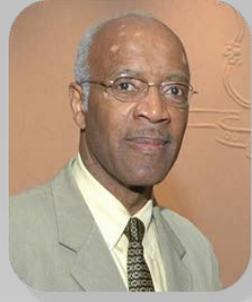
Commissioner Brenda P. DelGado has worked in the area of health care administration for more than 30 years and is the former Executive Director of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc. (AHEC) in Hartford. While under her direction the agency expanded its resources and became a respected collaborator 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
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.

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 AAAC 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.

In 2014 the African-American Affairs Commission welcomed 4 new commission members to the board. Dr. Edna Brown from Tolland County, Stephanie Johnson from New London County, Thomas Ficklin from New Haven County and Alexander Tettey, Jr. from Hartford County.



Commissioner
Dr. Edna Brown



Commissioner
Stephanie Johnson

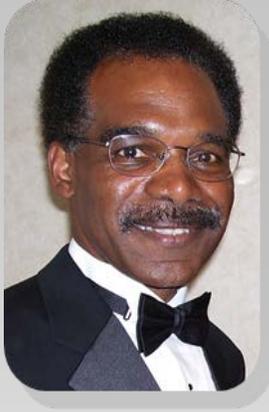


Commissioner
Thomas Ficklin



Commissioner
Alexander Tettey, Jr.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - STAFF



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Executive Director

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Legislative Analyst

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Denise Drummond
Sr. Legislative Secretary

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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). Mr. Cassis is an active member of several professional and non-profit organizations, including the 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: Board of the United Way, and Deacon Board for Union Baptist Church. Mr. Cassis is the State Coordinator for College Goal Sunday and is a reviewer for 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 has been the Senior Legislative Secretary for the African-American Affairs Commission since 2001. She is responsible for the administrative functions of the Commission and aids in conducting research on legislative issues. Ms. Drummond coordinates the Annual Classic Awards and is responsible for the Connecticut Scholarship Guide. Prior to joining the Commission Denise worked for 8 years as the Executive Secretary at Allegheny Ludlum Steel Company in Wallingford, CT.



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



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2014 Annual Report

African-American Affairs Commission

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