

The mission of the African -American Affairs commission is 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

AAAC Spotlight

Hanifa Washington

Executive Director for Amistad America



Hanifa Washington studied Communication Theory and Russian & Soviet Studies at Beloit College in Wisconsin and graduated in 2001.

Washington's professional work experience has predominantly been in the fields youth development and community organizing. She has a demonstrated passion for equality and humanitarian efforts.

Hanifa served as crew of the *Amistad* throughout a ten-month tour of the Caribbean. She was part of the Freedom Schooner Amistad's historic arrival in Cuba and completed the schooner's homecoming to Mystic, Connecticut. During this high-profile public diplomacy initiative with the direct involvement of the United Nations, US State Department and the Cuban government, Washington represented the United States.



**Meet our newest
Commissioner**

Alexander Tettey Jr. is a lifelong resident of East Hartford, and a Marine Veteran. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps shortly after the events of September 11th, serving for 11 years. Alex is currently employed in the office of United States Senator Richard Blumenthal and is the most recently appointed commissioner.



President Obama at CCSU



Veterans Of Color Project

In 2000, the United States Congress established the Veterans Project to preserve and make accessible personal accounts of American war veterans. These oral histories will enable future generations to hear directly from veterans the realities of their experiences and better understand the realities of war. The Association For the Study Of African American Life And History (ASALH) has partnered with and endorsed The Veterans History Project to assist in making sure the voices of African American veterans will be represented in this endeavor. They created a documentary titled "Veterans Of Color".

The AAAC has partnered with the Veteran Affairs Committee and other organizations to raise awareness about this film and use it as a tool to educate individuals about the issues that that people of color face in the military.

To watch a trailer for the film or to get more information about the project click [here](#).

Open enrollment for Connecticut Health Exchange ends March 31st. Failure to enroll may result in a fee.

Upcoming events: *Classic Awards May 16th in LOB atrium*

Legislative Update

- ◆ The AAAC supports the governor's proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour which will help over 24,000 African Americans in the state.
- ◆ The AAAC supports the Office of Early Childhood as proposed by the governor which will help to ensure that all students in the state have a clear path to success by being better prepared to enter kindergarten.
- ◆ The AAAC supports the "Go back to get ahead" tuition incentive program. The plan allows every student with at least 12 credits, that has been out of school for 18 months or more, to receive 9 free credits in coursework.

Grant Opportunity

The Connecticut Health Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of funding to increase the diversity of consumers participating in health reform engagement and advocacy. CT Health anticipates funding **4 to 6 grant** requests ranging in size from **\$25,000 to \$50,000**.

CT Health believes trusted voices from within communities of color will more authentically represent the needs and preferences of their communities. By engaging more organizations led by and serving consumers of color in health reform, the state will be better positioned to equitably serve all Connecticut residents. For more information click [here](#)