



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASES

2013 - 2014





For Immediate Release
April 25, 2014

Contact: Glenn A. Cassis
(860) 240-8555

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will sponsor its 15th Annual Classic Awards at 6:30 PM on Friday, May 16, 2014 in the Atrium of the Legislative Office Building (300 Capitol Ave., Hartford 06106). This year five distinguished African-Americans will be honored and recognized.

The AAAC has recognized outstanding Connecticut African-American men, women, business and economic development leaders, lifetime achievers and high school students. This year's honorees are:

George Mintz (Bridgeport, CT) – Organizing and expanding Juneteenth of Fairfield County - Man of the Year

Maggie Gardner (Hartford, CT) – Cancer Survivor and Founder of Gardner's House Inc. - Woman of the Year and Business and Economic Development

Shyheim Snead (Bridgeport, CT) – Kolbe Cathedral High School. - Youth of the Year

Tianna Adanielle Edwards (Hartford, CT) – Watkinson School - Youth of the Year

Dr. John C. Norman (Canton, CT) – Educator and mentor - Lifetime Achievement

Adrienne W. Cochrane, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Hartford will be the Keynote Speaker for the evening.

The two Youth of the Year Honorees, **Shyheim Snead** and **Tianna Adanielle Edwards** will receive scholarship awards from the AAAC. Mr. Snead plans to attend American University (Washington, DC) and Ms. Edwards will attend the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMass Dartmouth) majoring in Biomedical Engineering. The scholarships are supported by donations from corporations, non-profit organizations and individual donors.

Minister Shanda Winston of the New Jerusalem Christian Center in Middletown, CT will offer the Invocation. **Elizabeth Ross Norman** will sing the anthems. Music entertainment will be provided by saxophonist **Henry Bentley**.

The Pre-Reception will begin at 6:30 PM and the Award Ceremony at 7 PM. A reception immediately follows. There is no charge to attend but RSVP before May 12th is urged. Contact the AAAC via email aaac@cga.ct.gov or by phone at 860-240-8555.

The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
210 CAPITOL AVENUE – ROOM 509
HARTFORD, CT 06106

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Website: www.cga.ct.gov/aaac

Date: March 25, 2014
From: African-American Affairs Commission
Contact Person: Denise Drummond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY
COMMISSION MEETING AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE IN NEW LONDON, CT**

On April 2, 2014 the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will hold its monthly commission meeting at Connecticut College, CRO's Nest - Crozier-Williams Center, 270 Mohegan Avenue in New London, CT from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM. The Commission meetings are normally held monthly at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at CONN College.

The mission of the AAAC 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.

For more information about the upcoming off site Commission Meeting or the African-American Affairs Commission, (AAAC) call (860) 240-8555, email aaac@cga.ct.gov or visit www.cga.ct.gov/aaac.

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Date: February 6, 2014
From: African-American Affairs Commission
Contact Person: Denise Drummond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION HOSTS
A BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT**

February is Black History Month and the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will host “**A Work in Progress**” in the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, February 5 - 7, 2014. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission is providing opportunities for organizations to display their contributions and share information. The public will have an 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.

A Work in Progress - The following organizations have generously agreed to donate their time at this year's event. Please stop by and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to ask questions and engage in an informal dialogue with these experts representing a wide range of specialty areas and interests.

Human Resources Unlimited - Human Resources Unlimited is a 39 year old non-profit organization that assists individuals living with disabilities or disadvantages to become more productive, satisfied members of their communities. We provide services that build skills, increase productivity, and reduce barriers to employment and help individuals return to work or school. Our services are located in Springfield, Westfield, Northampton, South Bridge and now Hartford, CT and we serve over 1300 individuals annually.

The Costen Cultural Exhibit - An avid archivist and collector, Mr. Costen created “The Costen Cultural Exhibit” entitled “To God Be The Glory” which is a unique collection of rare photographs, ephemera, memorabilia and collectibles that has been custom designed as a traveling exhibit to show the accomplishments of Americans with an emphasis on African Americans throughout history. Topics address the interests of all age groups and include Slavery, Civil Rights, Invention & Science, Athletics & Sports, Harlem Renaissance, Aviation & Military (NASA, Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen), Music & Entertainment. It has been exhibited at Fundraising Events, Educational Institutions, Museums, Historical Societies, Churches, Community Organizations and Corporations.

The Connecticut Association for Community Action - The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is the umbrella organization for Connecticut's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federally designated, anti-poverty agencies empowering people throughout Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. CAFCA's

mission is to strengthen the capacity of its members to empower people and improve the communities in which they live. Connecticut's CAAs are an integral part of the state's safety net, and provide services such as Head Start and Child Care, Energy and Heating Assistance, Case Management, Employment and Training, Meals on Wheels, Emergency Food, Supportive Housing, Weatherization, Asset Development, and more. While providing services to meet immediate needs, our agencies also work with those in need to develop long-term plans for success and economic self-sufficiency.

All Business Consulting LLC. - Today's Talents are Tomorrow's Stars. All Business Consulting LLC. Is a Talent Scout/Coaching and Mentoring Promotions Network. It researches, locates, nurtures, develops and provides exposure for individuals with gifts and talents who might not otherwise get discovered. All Business Consulting LLC prepares trains, provides the tools and places talent before desired audiences. Also works with individuals to set Goals and to work towards reaching those goals. Whether it is writing a book, storytelling, poetry, writing or playing music, singing, etc. Keeping the Dreams of others alive is what All Business Consulting LLC is all about.

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Southern Connecticut Inc. mission is to provide education, screening, counseling and support services to persons affected with sickle cell disease and the trait. The goal is to ensure a network of partners dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle for patients with sickle cell disease.

Voice of America - Alfredo Allen, a former educator at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, displays his family-friendly, informative in-depth exhibit, "Voice of Africa", in many venues. Mr. Allen spent more than 15 years researching and collecting information about the achievements made by African Americans. His exhibit shares facts about Black scientists, inventors, doctors, businessmen, civil rights leaders and more.

Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care, Inc. - More than 100,000 Americans are living with Sickle Cell Disease. The impact of this hereditary disorder reaches beyond those individuals to their families, friends, and communities. As a community organization Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care, Inc. work tirelessly to ensure that people with Sickle Cell Disease get their voices heard in all aspects of care. By focusing on increasing opportunities for trait counseling and screening in our community, ensuring all individuals with SCD receive coordinated care, and working with emergency departments throughout Connecticut to develop exemplary pathways to care for all individuals with SCD.

Gardner's House - is a haven where cancer patients can receive both physical and emotional support through practical services that focus on the needs of the person during the process of regaining their health after their cancer diagnosis. We recognize that the person is often left behind when impersonal agencies attend to the Patient. Gardner House focuses on the needs of the Person and on maintaining the unity of the family by offering real world services and referrals. In this way, the healing process can proceed with positive support and with minimum stress.

Gary Rhule - Sailing on Broken Pieces: Essential Survival Skills for Recovery from Mental Illness is a non-fiction work written by Gary Rhule, a physician and author, and Hartford-area resident.

A poignant story from the triple perspective of a doctor, sibling and caregiver, Sailing on Broken Pieces takes you into the life of the emergency room and into the life of a person with mental illness. The result is an energetic account that helps us look at mental illness and caregiving in a refreshing way.

Job Corps is free for low income youth/ young adults that provides education and training that helps young people learn a career (insurance and finance, certified nurses assistant, clinical medical assistant and advanced manufacturing), earn a high school diploma or GED and find and keep a good job. For eligible youth at least 16- 24 years of age, Job Corps provides the all-around skills/ up-to-date training needed to succeed in a career and in life. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Job Corps please call (800) 733-JOBS or (800) 733-5627. To reach a local Outreach & Admission counselor please contact Ms. Sakiya Davis (860) 952-1744 (direct line).

Boy Scout Troop 1443 - The CURET Boy Scout Troop 1443 was the brainchild of Scout Master, Dean Rhoden, who is the former Scout Master Ambassador of Jamaica.

The organization's goals are to aid in the advancement and discipline of youth between the ages of 11 to 18 years old. It provides parents the opportunity to play an active role in their son's lives while building strong family relationships. The future goals of this organization are to help the youths become responsible parents which in turn will help to build better neighborhoods.

Connecticut Rivers Council, Inc. Scout Reach Program - The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. The BSA helps build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes that helping youth is key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

Juvenile & Adult Diabetes Health Awareness and Family Ministries - Juvenile and Adult Diabetes, Health Awareness and Family Ministries Foundation (JADHA) is a non-profit organization that educates and spreads awareness about diabetes and health. Promotes and assists in building strong families in the community. The organization also fundraises and promotes talent through the arts. Double Dutch training / conditioning enrichment after school program teaching the technique of the sport in preparation for competition.

Diabetes is one of the most serious health problems that the African-American community faces today. Compared to the general population, African-Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes. To address this growing epidemic, Juvenile & Adult Diabetes Health Awareness and Family Ministries assists the community by increasing awareness of the seriousness of diabetes and its complications.

University of Saint Joseph - The University of Saint Joseph is a comprehensive institution with career-focused undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs. Enhanced by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the values of its founding Sisters of Mercy, the University allows students to thrive in a culture of achievement and collaboration. It offers solid professional training grounded in the liberal arts and is consistently cited on the national level for the quality of its academic programs.

The Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital is a nationally-recognized center for the treatment of patients with cancer, and one of the largest of its kind in the Northeast United States. It houses not only teams of many talented and experienced medical specialists and support personnel, but the latest in technologic equipment to provide cutting edge, state-of-the-art care. In 2007, it was named by the National Cancer Institute as an NCI Community Cancer Center, one of 16 in the US and the only one of its kind in Connecticut. The Outreach Program at the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer offers free screening exams in the Hartford region. The program focuses on breast, prostate, colorectal and cervical cancers. A diverse population has been served, ranging from uninsured recent immigrants, to senior citizens in their housing communities, to employees of large corporations at their worksites. The Cancer Center offers the only mobile mammography program in central and northern Connecticut. For more information, please call Hartford Hospital's Cancer Connect Line at 860.545.6000."

American Diabetes Association - Diabetes is one of the most serious health problems that the African-American community faces today. Compared to the general population, African-Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes. To address this growing epidemic, the American Diabetes Association created program and materials to increase awareness of the seriousness of diabetes and its complications among African-Americans

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Comprehensive Breast Health Center - African-American women are less likely than white women to be diagnosed with breast cancer. However, they are more likely to die from it than any other race and more likely to be diagnosed at an advanced stage. The Breast Health Center at Saint Francis helps women navigate the sometimes complex journey that the treatment of breast cancer can involve. Expert clinicians, evidence based treatment plans, same-day mammogram test results, and personalized guidance by a nurse navigator and licensed clinical social worker comprise the comprehensive care available through the Breast Health Center. Patients feel safe, valued, and uniquely special during the course of their care. Now located at the new Comprehensive Women's Health Center.

Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute - Doctors at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center are acutely aware of the prevalence of prostate cancer, and particularly the racial disparities in healthcare when it comes to prostate cancer among African-American men. Saint Francis has partnered with 30 faith-based and community organizations serving the community at large and developed The Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. The goal of the Men's Health Institute is to provide free services to the uninsured and the underinsured, and to address the racial disparities that affect the community. The program focuses on patient education, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment for men at risk of prostate cancer. The goal of the Men's Health Institute is to address the health disparities and barriers to care that affect our community, especially for the uninsured and underinsured.

Santander Bank - Santander is a locally-focused bank backed by the strength of the Santander Group, a leading global financial institution. We offer products and services for personal, business, and corporate banking customers. We listen to our customers to their unique needs and ideas and offer useful solutions and personalized guidance to

help them put their money to work to accomplish their goals. We provided \$2 million in grants to local non-profit organizations for low to moderate income individuals and communities that focus on community investment and economic development to support affordable housing and small business growth and job skills or work force development.

Black History Month is a national annual observance for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. While the accomplishments of African-Americans should be celebrated all year long, February is the month when we focus on the contributions made by African-Americans.. “Black History Month allows us to commemorate the accomplishments of African-Americans, not just for African-Americans, but for everyone because most of the accomplishments of African-Americans have not only affected African-Americans, but the nation as a whole.”

The remembrance was originated by historian Carter G. Woodson. In 1925, Carter G. Woodson, an educator and historian began campaigning among schools, journals and black newspapers calling for a 'Negro History Week' to be celebrated. This would honor the importance of black achievement and contribution in the United States. He was able to institute this 'Negro History Week' in 1926 during the second week of February. In 1976, Negro History Week turned into Black History Month which we celebrate today.

The mission of the agency is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political wellbeing of the African-American Community in the State of Connecticut through advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, community networking and influencing legislation.

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For Immediate Release: Glenn A. Cassis
January 22, 2014

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) and College Goal Sunday- CT will offer students and families an opportunity to learn about financial aid for college.

On January 26, 2014, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFAA), the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Program (CAEOP), American Savings Foundation, USAFunds and CT Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) will sponsor College Goal Sunday at 15 sites in Connecticut. In this statewide event students and their parents can have one-on-one, expert advice on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and on how to plan for college.

College Goal Sunday (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 will be shared about the benefits of attending college, student support services, areas of study, and various degree programs.

Between the hours of 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., professional financial aid personnel will assist high school seniors and their families in completing and submitting their FAFSA form online. The sites for 2014 will be:

Central High School (Bridgeport) – Saturday, January 25, 2014 ONLY

East Hartford High School
Eastern Connecticut State University
Gateway Community College
Hall High School (West Hartford)
Manchester Community College
Middlesex Community College (Meriden Campus)
Naugatuck Community College
New Britain High School - American Savings Foundation
Norwalk Community College
Sacred Heart University
Science & Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern CT
University of Hartford
Western Connecticut State University
Windsor High School

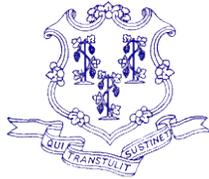
According to Glenn Cassis, Executive Director of the AAAC, “This will be the 7th year we have hosted CGS-CT and we anticipate reaching more than 1,100 students and families at our 15 sites around the state”. He goes on to say, “That we are proud that for 6 years, 4,650 Connecticut students have benefited from CGS”.

Spanish and other interpreters will be available at each site. A \$200 scholarship raffle will be offered at each site. Sites will also provide [Access Health CT](#) information for families in need of health insurance information.

It is strongly recommended that students register in advance by visiting: www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information visit the [CGS website](#) or call 860-240-8555.

End

State Of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Contact Information: State Of Connecticut African-American Affairs
Commission

Denise Drummond - 860-240-8555
Denise.Drummond@cga.ct.gov

December 12, 2012

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford, CT – The African-American Affairs Commission, the Amistad Committee, State of Connecticut Freedom Trail Committee and the Office of the Secretary of State will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in the North Lobby of the State Capitol Building - 210 Capitol Ave. (Hartford, 06106) on Tuesday, January 1, 2013 beginning at 11 AM.

The Amistad Committee is proud to bring this inspiring event to **Hartford, CT**. This will mark the **150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation** that **President Abraham Lincoln** signed proclaiming all slaves in Confederate territory to be forever free. It will also be the time to recognize that milestone in the long struggle against slavery and for equality and justice in our land.

State Senator Toni N. Harp (New Haven-West Haven) will be the keynote speaker. Senator Harp is the Chair of the Appropriations Committee for the Connecticut General Assembly. The Mass Choir, under the direction of **Minister Wayne Dixon**, will perform

selected songs. **Pastor Kenric Prescott** of Union Baptist Church (Hartford) will offer the Invocation. Attendees will participate in a litany reading on the Emancipation Proclamation by **Glenn Cassis**, Executive Director of the AAAC.

Poems written by Connecticut students celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation will be read. Winners of the "What Freedom Means to Me" Poetry Contest are **Kaitlyn Bell**, *Harwinton Consolidated School - Harwinton , CT*, **Chloe Thompson**, *Brown Middle School - Madison, CT*, **Lauren Fadiman**, *Shelton Intermediate School - Shelton, CT* and **Kassidi Jones**, *Loomis Chaffee School - Windsor, CT*.

The Drum Calling will be offered by **The Sankofa Kuumba Drum Ensemble**

The commemoration will conclude with the ringing of the Liberty Bell in the Capitol Building by **Emmanuel Gomes** of the Descendants of the 29th Connecticut Colored Infantry Regiment and **Aniya Cassis**, a second grade student attending Noah Webster Micro Society Elementary School in Hartford.

Speaking on the significance of this ceremony, Al Marder, President of the Amistad Committee said, "Africans and African Americans have always fought for their freedom. To overcome, there must be Black and White unity. The struggle continues today for equality and racial justice." Copies of the Emancipation Proclamation will be distributed to those attending.

The Amistad Committee has asked churches and places of worship throughout Connecticut to participate in this commemoration by ringing their church bells at noon on January 1st and to inform their congregation of the historical significance of this event. Call Al Marder (2-3-387-0370) for more details for participating.

Doors to the Capitol will open at 10:15 AM on Tuesday, January 1, 2013. Parking is available at the State Capitol. For more details contact Denise Drummond at 860-240-8555 or denise.drummond@cga.ct.gov

The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut

The mission of the Amistad Committee is to shed light on such issues as slavery, freedom, cooperation, leadership, equality and human dignity. It also calls attention to the issues of racism, bigotry, greed, injustice, and intolerance, which are the causes of so much violence in the world today.

The mission of the State of Connecticut Freedom Trail Committee is to document and designate sites that embody the struggle toward freedom and human dignity, celebrate the accomplishments of the state's African American community and promote heritage tourism.

The mission of the Secretary of State is to seek and support business development opportunities, and foster a more inclusive political process by educating, informing and engaging communities in youth and civic preparation.



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Date: February 7, 2013
From: African-American Affairs Commission
Contact Person: Denise Drummond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION HOSTS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS**

February is Black History Month and the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will host its Annual Art Exhibit featuring Artist Rory D.L. Moorer. His art work will be on display in the Legislative Office Building Concourse, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, from February 15 – 28, 2013. The AAAC will host “**A Work in Progress**” also held in the Legislative Office Building Concourse, February 13 – 15, 2013. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Artist Rory D.L. Moorer - A Connecticut native & internationally known Artist, Mr. Moorer is a professional Award-winning Illustrator/ Graphic Artist who turned to painting in 2000. He has created over 100 original paintings and murals for commissions and multiple public and private organizations. Over the past decade many of Mr. Moorer's original 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. He is currently represented by multiple galleries throughout North America. 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.

Mr. Moorer has donated original works to raise money for various institutions and charitable causes. He is the former owner of the Gallore Art Gallery in Middletown, CT. His art work will be on exhibit from February 15, 2013 through February 28, 2013.

A Work in Progress - Provides opportunities for organizations to display their contributions and share information. The public will have an 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. The following organizations have generously agreed to donate their time at this year's event. Please stop by and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to ask questions and engage in an informal dialogue with these experts representing a wide range of specialty areas and interests.

God's Glorious Girls, Inc. was founded in April 2010 by Garland Higgins. Through the practical application of God's Word, God's Glorious Girls, Inc. is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to leverage awareness and life-skill education to identify, prevent and combat teenage dating violence. God's Glorious Girls is dedicated to empowering women and girls to wholeness and greatness in order to "be the change they want to see in the world".

The Costen Cultural Exhibit - An avid archivist and collector, Mr. Bill Costen created "The Costen Cultural Exhibit" entitled "To God Be The Glory" which is a unique collection of rare photographs, ephemera, memorabilia and collectibles that has been custom designed as a traveling exhibit to show the accomplishments of Americans with an emphasis on African Americans throughout history. Topics address the interests of all age groups and include Slavery, Civil Rights, Invention & Science, Athletics & Sports, Harlem Renaissance, Aviation & Military (NASA, Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen), Music & Entertainment. It has been exhibited at Fundraising Events, Educational Institutions, Museums, Historical Societies, Churches, Community Organizations and Corporations.

The McGivney Center's mission is the education of youth in Bridgeport. The Center works to provide a safe, creative environment where youth can explore educational and recreational activities. The goal is to nurture the intellectual, spiritual and physical growth of youth so they can be successful in all of their endeavors.

All Business Consulting LLC. - Discovering Future Stars. All Business Consulting LLC. is run by songwriter/author and poet/music promoter and radio celebrity, Dr. Bradford Howard Jr. He has written gospel songs that have reached the tops of the charts. All Business Consulting LLC provides talent scouting/coaching and mentoring promotions, research, locate, nurture, develop and provide exposure for individuals with gifts and talent. Whether it's writing music, storytelling, poetry or playing music, keeping the dreams alive is what All Business Consulting LLC is all about. Taking today's gifts and talents and making them tomorrow's stars.

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Southern Connecticut Inc. mission is to provide education, screening, advocate and support services to persons affected with sickle cell disease and the trait. The goal is to ensure a network of partners dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle for patients with sickle cell disease.

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City of Hartford - Health and Human Services - The mission is to work towards a “Healthy Hartford” by pursuing the elimination of health disparities and inequities through the application of best practices, effective collaboration with partners and community members, promotion of a healthier living environment and being a resource for healthy living.

Hartford Connecticut Job Corps Academy is free for low income youth/ young adults that provides education and training that helps young people learn a career (insurance and finance, certified nurse's assistant, clinical medical assistant and advanced manufacturing), earn a high school diploma or GED and find and keep a good job. For eligible youth at least 16- 24 years of age, Job Corps provides the all-around skills/ up-to-date training needed to succeed in a career and in life. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Job Corps please call (800) 733-JOBS or (800) 733-5627. To reach a local Outreach & Admission counselor please contact Ms. Sakiya Davis (860) 952-1744.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state’s leading voice for domestic violence victims and those agencies that serve them. We are a membership organization of Connecticut’s 18 domestic violence service agencies that provide critical support to victims including safety planning, emergency shelter, court advocacy, counseling and support groups. We seek to support our membership through capacity building, technical assistance and a comprehensive training program. CCADV also works on a national and state level to implement strategic policies that will improve Connecticut’s response to domestic violence.

The Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) program works to ensure HIV positive individuals are linked to care, including identification of individuals who are currently out of care. Care includes, but is not limited to, Ambulatory Medical Care and Medical Case Management. MAI works to ensure that clients are educated and connected to a medical health plan such as the Connecticut Aids Drug Assistance Program (CADAP), which covers prescription medication; and the Connecticut Insurance Premium Program (CIPA) which is a program to reimburse eligible clients up to \$1500 per month toward an approved health insurance premium. MAI staff members are highly trained bilingual and multicultural individuals who will screen clients for these services as well as walk them through the process of the CADAP and CIPA eligibility process.

The Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital - Take Charge of your Health is a collaborative effort between Hartford Hospital and the Omega Foundation of Hartford. The Project spearheaded by the Omega Foundation (www.omegafoundationofhartford.org) in partnership with Hartford Hospital (www.harthosp.org) involves periodic discussions, health fairs and health screenings under the theme of “taking charge of your health” and encourages participants to be informed and be responsible. The health fairs and symposiums which include medical experts of the Hospital are held at Hartford Hospital, community centers, churches and barbershops among other locations throughout the year.

American Diabetes Association - Diabetes is one of the most serious health problems that the African-American community faces today. Compared to the general population, African-Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes. To address this growing epidemic, the American Diabetes Association created program and materials to increase awareness of the seriousness of diabetes and its complications among African-Americans.

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uninsured and the underinsured, and to address the racial disparities that affect the community. The program focuses on patient education, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment for men at risk of prostate cancer.

A New Day, Inc. is a non-profit community outreach organization that recognizes the gap between diagnosis and survival rates of breast cancer between women of color and their non-ethnic peers. Our mission is to raise awareness to the devastating impact breast cancer, has on women of color.

Dr. Daphnie Bruno - Dr. Daphnie Bruno is a Developmental Psychologist, renown for her research on issues such as racial and ethnic identity and psychosocial adjustment among Caribbeans. After earning a doctorate from the prestigious Howard University, Dr. Bruno traveled to various parts of West Africa as a research consultant. Dr. Bruno now devotes her time as a leader researching, writing and speaking to Diasporic African youth and young adults about their history in hopes of encouraging a bright future.

Christian News New England – A Monthly Tabloid Newspaper is a division of the Pown All Media Group with offices in Windsor and Hamden. The monthly publication serves as a medium and voice for the Christian community throughout New England. It provides churches, religious groups, businesses, organizations and individuals the opportunity to gain exposure and to get their messages out within diverse communities. The publication is free and is distributed at area churches businesses and other public locations. For drop off locations, advertising rates, publication dates, inclusions and questions call 860-656-9214 or e-mail info@thecne.com

Black History Month is a national annual observance for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. While the accomplishments of African-Americans should be celebrated all year long, February is the month when we focus on the contributions made by African-Americans.. “Black History Month allows us to commemorate the accomplishments of African-Americans, not just for African-Americans, but for everyone because most of the accomplishments of African-Americans have not only affected African-Americans, but the nation as a whole.”

The remembrance was originated by historian Carter G. Woodson. In 1925, Carter G. Woodson, an educator and historian began campaigning among schools, journals and black newspapers calling for a 'Negro History Week' to be celebrated. This would honor the importance of black achievement and contribution in the United States. He was able to institute this 'Negro History Week' in 1926 during the second week of February. In 1976, Negro History Week turned into Black History Month which we celebrate today.

The mission of the AAAC 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.

For more information about the upcoming events or the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) call (860) 240-8555.

-END-



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
210 CAPITOL AVENUE – ROOM 509
HARTFORD, CT 06106

Telephone (860) 240-8555

Fax (860) 240-8444

E-mail: aaac@cga.ct.gov

Date: February 19, 2013
From: African-American Affairs Commission
Contact Person: Denise Drummond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION HOSTS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS**

February is Black History Month and the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will host its Annual Art Exhibit featuring Artist Rory D.L. Moorer. His art work will be on display in the Legislative Office Building Concourse, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, from February 15 – 28, 2013. The public is invited and encouraged to visit the exhibit.

Artist Rory D.L. Moorer

A Connecticut native & internationally known Artist, Mr. Moorer is a professional Award-winning Illustrator/ Graphic Artist who turned to painting in 2000. He has created over 100 original paintings and murals for commissions and multiple public and private organizations. Over the past decade many of Mr. Moorer's original 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. He is currently represented by multiple galleries throughout North America. 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.

Mr. Moorer has donated original works to raise money for various institutions and charitable causes. He is the former owner of the Gallore Art Gallery in Middletown, CT. His art work will be on exhibit from February 15, 2013 through February 28, 2013. If you would like to speak with Mr. Moorer regarding his work and exhibit, please contact our office.

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-END-



For Immediate Release
May 10, 2013

Contact: Glenn A. Cassis
(860) 240-8555

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and the **State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC)** will honor and recognize six distinguished African-Americans during its 14th Annual Classic Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the Legislative Office Building (300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, 06106).

For fourteen years the AAAC has recognized outstanding Connecticut African-American men, women, business and economic development leaders, lifetime achievers and high school students. This year's honorees are:

Foday Dumbuya, (Bloomfield, CT) – Lower Elementary Teacher - Montessori Magnet School - Man of the Year

Constance Coles, (Windsor, CT) – Say Yes to Education – Hartford Chapter - Woman of the Year

Khalil Harris-Abrams, (Hartford, CT) – High School Inc. - Youth of the Year

Dionne Chanelle Parker, (Waterbury, CT) - Sacred Heart high School - Youth of the Year -

George A. Coleman, (Sandy Hook, CT) – Connecticut State Department of Education - Lifetime Achievement

Karen J. Bellamy, (Hamden, CT) - KJB Associates, LLC - Business & Economic Development

The two Youth of the Year Honorees, **Khalil Harris-Abrams** and **Dionne Chanelle Parker** will receive scholarship awards from the AAAC for \$2,500 each. Mr. Harris-Abrams plans to attend Hampton University (VA) and Ms. Parker will attend Coastal Carolina University (SC) in the fall.

The scholarships are supported by donations from corporations, non-profit organizations and individual donors.

This year's Classic Awards Keynote Speaker will be **Stanley Battles**, PhD Central Connecticut State University. **Rev. Daryel McCrorey** of Greater Joy Mission Church in Hartford, CT will

provide the Invocation. **BAnointed** will sing the National Anthem and **Carrier Trimmier-McCrorey** will sing the Negro National Anthem. **Friends** (Stuart “Mookie” sanders, Curtis Greenidge, Asaad Jackson, Jocelyn Pleasant, John Fuentes and Inar’a Rahmin) will provide the Drum Call. Music entertainment will be provided by saxophonist **Henry Bentley**.

The Pre-Reception begins at 6:30 PM and the Award Ceremony at 7 PM. A reception immediately follows. There is no charge to attend but RSVP before May 13th is urged. Contact the AAAC via email aaac@cga.ct.gov or by phone at 860-240-8555.

The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

End



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DEC. 16, 2013

Contact: Glenn A. Cassis, Phone: 860-240-0258;
glenn.cassis@cga.ct.gov



Reception is Thursday, Dec. 19

Dr. Helen Newton Named New Executive Director of Commission on Health Equity

Commissioner of Dept. of Public Health Dr. Jewel Mullen to Speak at Reception

HARTFORD -- The African American Affairs Commission (AAAC) and the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity (CHE) will hold a reception on THURSDAY, DEC. 19 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to welcome Dr. Helen Newton as the new executive director of CHE. The media and the public are invited. The reception will be in the upstairs (2nd floor) atrium of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

Welcoming Dr. Newton with their remarks will be: Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner of DPH; State Rep. Angel Arce; Dr. Marie Spivey, CHE Chair; Kate McEvoy, Interim Medicaid Director, DSS; Glenn Cassis, AAAC Executive Director; and Vickie Veltri, JD, Health Care Advocate.

At the reception, Dr. Newton will give a short overview of the CHE goals for the upcoming year. A clinical ophthalmologist, Dr. Newton began her practice in 1990 and is licensed in New York, Florida, and Connecticut. Her research endeavors have included presentations to the American Public Health Association on "Role of Minority Physicians in Community Practice as Gatekeepers for Clinical Research," and "Recruitment of Diverse Populations in Pharmaceutically Sponsored Clinical Trials" for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. She recently produced "In the Shadows," a documentary on migrant tobacco farmworkers in Connecticut for the Public Voice Committee of CHE. Dr. Newton has received numerous honors and awards from the American Heart Association, Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceutical Company, the Association of Black Women (New York), and Outstanding Young Woman of America (New York City) among others.

She earned her MD in Medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and trained at Columbia University, State University of New York in Brooklyn, and the University of Dallas, School of Management. She is a member of the National Medical Association and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

The Connecticut Commission on Health Equity was established by the General Assembly to eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, gender and linguistic ability, thereby improving the quality of health for all of the state's residents.

