
State of Connecticut
African-American
Affairs Commission
Connecticut General Assembly

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

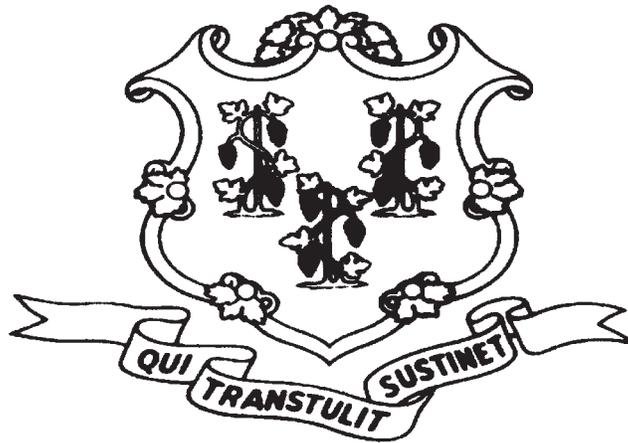


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LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

- Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the African-American population in the state;
- Advise and provide information to the Governor on the state's policies concerning African-American communities;
- Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-American population;
- Maintain a liaison between the African-American communities and governmental entities;
- Encourage African-American representation at all levels of state government, including state boards and commissions;
- Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the African-American population of the state; and
- Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with appropriate recommendations concerning the African-American population in the state.



Dear Governor Rowland:

The African-American Affairs Commission is pleased to submit its 2000 Annual Report for your review.

The Year 2000 was momentous for the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC), as we celebrated the beginning of new policy and program directions. A new Executive Director was hired in June and the Commission received budgetary authorization to increase the staff complement to four persons. The staff additions permitted the AAAC to pursue new policies and programs consistent with our mandate. In addition, partnerships with other agencies have assisted in defining the Commission's priorities in Business and Economic Development, Education, and Human Services. Over the last year, the AAAC has developed partnerships with other important groups such as the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and the Granville Academy to produce the "Brain Bowl" outreach program for high school students. Another example of successful partnership was illustrated via the creation of an education coalition and workgroups for the "Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Conference" to improve public education in Connecticut. The African-American Affairs Commission produced a number of documents including an Economic Development Model and an Economic Development Strategic Plan. These documents are now a critical component of the AAAC's policy framework. In addition, we began an exciting partnership with the Department of Economic and Community Development to help foster economic development capacity building for African-Americans in strategic areas throughout Connecticut.

The future of the African-American Affairs Commission looks bright and we remain committed to improving the lives of Connecticut African-Americans, which in term will benefit all citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George S. Logan".

George S. Logan
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I would like to express my thanks to the African-American Affairs Commissioners for recommending me to the General Assembly Leadership to become Executive Director in May 2000. Since becoming executive director, I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the state to meet various groups and individuals, in order to better understand many of Connecticut's important issues.

Still, I would be remiss if I did not personally thank Kurt Harrison and Cherrissia Mosely for their work during Winter/Spring 2000 in carrying out Commission functions, and keeping the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) afloat during the absence of an executive director. Their success however, could not have occurred without the backing of the AAAC Commissioners. Together we are now working toward an exciting future.

During 2000, the AAAC continued to carry out policies and programs based on its mandate. The creation of the AAAC Classic Awards presented a unique opportunity to establish an event to honor the work and accomplishments of African-Americans living in Connecticut.

As co-sponsor of the *Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Conference*, the AAAC helped facilitate the uncommon interaction of educators, business people, human service providers and parents for a discussion of Connecticut's need for public school reform. By providing technical assistance to the conference's School Finance Workgroup, the Commission assisted in transforming dialogue into recommendations for public policy.

As part of the Commission's effort to better serve its constituency, we added a fourth staff member. In September 2000, Cheryl Harris Forbes joined the Commission as Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator.

Today, as I am sure it will remain in the future, the African-American Affairs Commission is committed to its role as facilitator in promoting the understanding of African-American issues and as an innovator of progressive solutions to challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Slaughter".

James A. Slaughter
Executive Director

COMMISSIONER PROFILES

The African-American Affairs Commission would not be successful without coherent policy directives and advocates for improving the lives of Connecticut African-Americans. The individuals vested with these responsibilities are the AAAC Commissioners.

George S. Logan, **Chair (Housing Member)**

Mr. Logan is a Senior Engineer and Mapping Group Supervisor at the BHC Company in Bridgeport. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College, and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System and a member of the Advisory Commission on Multi-Cultural Health. A native of New Haven, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. His volunteer efforts are mainly concentrated on youth empowerment through educational achievement. He currently serves as a board member for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut. In addition to his duties as a Junior Achievement board member, he is responsible for the coordination of the organization's Evening Program, which provides high school students with practical business experience through the creation and operation of an after-school business enterprise. In 1998, then House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan Commissioner.



Christopher Cloud, **Vice-Chair (Health Member)**



Mr. Cloud is a graduate of Howard University (Washington, D.C.) where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. A former legislative aide to State Senator Eric Coleman, he currently is the Executive Director for Amistad America, Inc. Mr. Cloud was responsible for overseeing the marketing and promotion efforts related to the construction of a scale size replica of *The Amistad* vessel. The ship sails the nation's waterways as an educational ambassador, teaching history lessons, cooperation, and leadership to Americans of all ages, interests, and cultural backgrounds. Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin Sullivan appointed Mr. Cloud to the Commission in 1998.

Arthur Perry, **Secretary (Labor Member)**



Mr. Perry is an elected Vice President of Union 1199 New England Health Care Employees Union, and continues to study American Labor History and Law. Mr. Perry, a lifetime resident of Connecticut, was raised in Waterbury and currently lives in New Britain. He has two sons, Matthew and Joshua Perry of Naugatuck. House Majority Leader David Pudlin, also of New Britain, appointed Mr. Perry to the Commission on September 1, 1999.

Jacqueline Dickens, **Treasurer (Public Member)**



Ms. Dickens of Hartford is an alumnus of the American Institute of Banking, the New England Banking Institute and Leadership Greater New Haven. Ms. Dickens offers a wealth of experience in the field of financial services and housing, and has been recognized as a top producer in mortgage lending with a Fortune 500 corporation. In addition to her AAAC responsibilities, she serves as a member of several of organizations, including the Greater New Haven Board of Realtors, NAACP, National Political Congress of Black Women, Sojourner Network of Democratic Women (Executive Board), Hartford Preservation Alliance, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the New Haven Round Table (Housing Discussion and Advocacy Group). She has been recognized by the National Reference Institute for inclusion in the publication of "Who's Who of Women Executives". Senate Majority Leader, George Jepsen, appointed Ms. Dickens to the AAAC in 1999.

Mustafa Abdul-Salaam (**Human Services Member**)



Mr. Abdul-Salaam holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Connecticut where he served as captain of the 1975 basketball team. Mr. Abdul-Salaam also holds a Masters degree in Urban Management/Economic Development from Southern Connecticut State University. He has served in a variety of economic and community development positions in both New Haven and Hartford including; Executive Director of the Upper Albany Neighborhood Collective, Executive Director of the New Haven Family Alliance, Director of the New Haven Job Center, Program Coordinator for the Urban League of Greater New Haven, Inc., Planning Coordinator for the Dixwell/Newhallville Restoration Corporation, Planner for the Community Action Agency of New Haven, and Drop-Out Prevention Coordinator for New Haven Public Schools. Currently, he serves as Managing Director for Smith, Whiley & Company, a financial advising firm. Mr. Abdul-Salaam also serves on the boards of the Hartford Region Chamber of Commerce and the Connecticut Capitol Region Growth Council. Governor John G. Rowland appointed Mr. Abdul-Salaam in 1998.

Jonathan Bruce (**Arts & Culture Member**)

Mr. Bruce is a longtime resident of the City of Hartford. He attended the University of Hartford Art School, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and subsequently earned a Masters in Art Education. Mr. Bruce is an active member of the community and currently serves as the Director of Fine Arts for the Community Renewal



Team of Greater Hartford, Inc., where he founded the CRT Craftery Gallery. He has received numerous commendations for both his community service and commitment to the visual arts. Among them: Connecticut Arts Award for Service to the Arts, Distinguished Alumni Award for Contributions to the Community (University of Hartford), and the Cicuso Club Community Service Award. Mr. Bruce was a former Commissioner of the City of Hartford's Commission on Cultural Affairs and a former member of the Selection Committee for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Currently, Mr. Bruce serves on the board of The

Amistad Foundation and the Electors for the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mr. Bruce to the Commission in 1998.

Lillie Crosby (**Environmental Member**)

Mrs. Crosby of Monroe is a retired executive of the Southern New England Telecommunications Corporation (SNET). She attended Waterbury Public Schools and holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Teikyo Post University, where she majored in Business Office Management and Administration. She also holds a Masters of Science degree in Health and Human Services from the University of Bridgeport. Mrs. Crosby



was also a Minority Fellow with the Connecticut Community Technical Colleges Minority Fellowship Program. She has served as a Commissioner of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. A longtime political activist, she has served on the Monroe Board of Finance, as Secretary of the Monroe Republican Town Committee, the Co-Chair of the first Connecticut chapter of the National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW), and as Co-Chair of Education and Training for the Greater Waterbury Chapter of NPCBW. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for Connecticut

Displaced Homemakers, is a member of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women's Congressional District Advisory Council (4th District), and the political action chair for the Greater Waterbury Chapter of the NAACP. In 1998 Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mrs. Crosby to the AAAC.

Calvin Dixon (**Public Member**)



Mr. Dixon of Bloomfield graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Tufts University. He currently works as a Worker's Compensation Claim Specialist for RSKCO, the claims handling division for Continental National American Insurance Company (CNA), located in Farmington, Connecticut. Prior to working for CNA, Mr. Dixon was employed by Travelers Insurance Corporation in its Internal Audit Department. House Minority Leader Robert Ward appointed Mr. Dixon to the AAAC in 1998.

Constance Green (**Education Member**)



Mrs. Green of Bloomfield is a graduate of Hampton University and the University of Connecticut School of Law. She holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law, and has been honored by the John E. Rogers Foundation Awards Program. Currently she is employed as Executive Assistant to the President/Director of the Office of Equity and Diversity at Eastern Connecticut State University. Mrs. Green is a former Vice-Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education. She is a member of the Connecticut Bar and of Phi Delta Kappa. Governor John G. Rowland appointed Mrs. Green to the AAAC in 1998.

Sharon Ibrahim **(Transportation Member)**



Ms. Ibrahim of Manchester is currently pursuing her Masters at Cambridge College in Springfield, Massachusetts. For more than five years, she has been employed in the human/social services field, most recently with the Health Care for Uninsured Kids (The Husky B) program. She is also the former Project Coordinator for Women in Non-traditional Occupations program, which provides a wide range of services to support women in overcoming barriers to traditionally male dominated occupations. House Minority Leader Robert Ward appointed Ms. Ibrahim to the Commission in 1998.

Trude Mero **(Children & Youth Development Member)**



Ms. Mero attended Georgian Court College in Lakewood, New Jersey. A longtime resident of the City of Hartford, Ms. Mero was born and raised in Denmark, South Carolina. Currently retired, she has served as an executive assistant to four former State Governors including: John Dempsey (1961-1971), Thomas J. Meskill (1971-1975), Ella T. Grasso (1975-1980), and William A. O'Neill (1980-1991). A recipient of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award, she also served as an incorporator for Hartford Hospital and former Chair of the Democratic Town Committee (Hartford). In addition to her AAAC responsibilities, Ms. Mero serves other organizations, including the Greater Hartford Progressive Democratic Women's Club (President), the Advisory Board for the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford Metropolitan District Commission (Chair), NAACP and the North Hartford Partnership for Economic Development. Ms. Mero is also a member of Faith Congregational Church in Hartford. Senate President Pro Tempore, Kevin Sullivan, appointed Ms. Mero to the AAAC in 1998.

Andrea Scott **(Small Business & Economic Development Member)**



Mrs. Scott has more than ten years of experience in financial management and has worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She has worked with various sized organizations in the areas of economic and community development.

Mrs. Scott received her certification as an economic development finance professional from the National Development Council and is currently the Senior Development Manager for the Department of Economic and Community Development. She is responsible for coordinating the Connecticut Inner City Business Strategy initiative. This project seeks to increase the ability of business, government and community leaders to develop and implement strategies for inner city business growth. Along with her expertise in business development, Mrs. Scott volunteers for various boards including: Urban Bankers Association of Connecticut, Inc. (Secretary), Sickle Cell Association of Connecticut, Inc., Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (former Chair and Member). Governor John G. Rowland appointed Mrs. Scott to the AAAC in 1998. She was elected Chairperson in June 1998.

Former Commission Members

We acknowledge the individuals who previously served as AAAC Commissioners:

Michele Beloney

Dr. Benjamin Dixon

Larry E. Reynolds, Sr.

Paul Samuels

Edmund F. Schmidt

2000 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The AAAC had a moderately successful legislative effort in framing its initial legislative agenda for the 2000 Legislative Session. The AAAC provided commentary on 15 bills during that time. Of these, the Commission supported 14. Technically 12 of the AAAC supported bills and one AAAC opposed bill failed, however the language of four of these (Senate Bill 122 and House Bills 5711, 5018 and 5619) were tacked onto other bills and subsequently passed. Two bills also passed the legislative process in their original format. Accordingly, the Commission's agenda did experience success with seven of the 15 bills on its Legislative Agenda.

LEGISLATIVE DETAILS

The AAAC Supported:

Senate Bill 122 "An Act Concerning Individual Development Accounts"

House Bill 5018 "An Act Concerning An Individual Development Account Program For Economic Growth"

House Bill 5619 "An Act Concerning Paid Family And Medical Leave"

Technically these bills failed, however they were tacked on to House Bill 5922, "An Act Concerning The Expenditures Of The Office Of Policy And Management. *This legislation passed and was transmitted to the Secretary of the State as PA 00-192.*

House Bill 5711 "An Act Concerning Racial Disparity In The Criminal Justice System"

This bill also failed, however its language was added to a similar bill. *The bill, R.B. 462, was passed and transmitted to the Secretary of the State as PA 00-154.*

House Bill 5107 "An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Affordable Housing Regarding The Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure"

RESULT: Passed

This bill includes a requirement that no less than 15% of all dwelling units in set-aside developments be sold or rented to persons or families whose income is less than, or equal to, 60% of the area median income.

This legislation passed and was transmitted to the Secretary of the State as PA 00-206.

In addition, the African-American Affairs Commission was successful in its support for the following Senate bills that became laws.

Public Act 00-154 (Senate Bill 462) - "An Act Establishing A Commission On Racial And Ethnic Disparity In The Criminal Justice System"

RESULT: Passed

This bill establishes a commission whose charge will be to establish constructive solutions towards eliminating racial disparities in the State's criminal justice system.

This act became effective October 1, 2000. The 21 member Commission allots a seat for the Chairperson of the AAAC or his/her designee.

The AAAC Opposed:

Senate Bill 124 "An Act Concerning State Inmates In Out-Of-State Facilities"

This bill died in the Judiciary Committee after no further action following a public hearing on March 6th.

The African-American Affairs Commission remains committed to the advocacy of legislation that promotes and enhances the lives of African-Americans in the State of Connecticut.

TALENT BANK

According to a report from Connecticut's Office of the Secretary of State, entitled Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards, (1999); demonstrated membership on Connecticut's boards and commissions does not reflect Connecticut's diverse population. The study revealed of the 1,997 appointed members of the 203 state boards and commissions, 89.4% were White, 6.6% Black, 2.7% Hispanic and 1.3% were classified as "Other". Consequently, the African-American Affairs Commission is working to increase participation of African-Americans on state boards and commissions.

The African-American Affairs Commission Talent Bank maintains applications from African-Americans who are interested in appointment to state boards, councils, commissions, or task forces. The African-American Affairs Commission serves as a resource by forwarding resumes to appropriate appointing authorities. Generally, positions on state boards and commissions are unpaid and are appointed by the Governor, President Pro-tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House or other state officials in accordance with state law.

Anyone interested in participating on a state board or commission, may complete the AAAC Talent Bank Form. The form may be obtained via the Commission website at www.cga.state.ct.us/aaac, or by calling the office at (860) 240-8555.

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

The African-American Affairs Commission participated in a number of projects during the Year 2000:

Classic Awards

The Year 2000 marked the initial year of an annual event entitled "The Classic Awards". The event honors the accomplishments of African-Americans in the State of Connecticut. State residents submitted their nominations to the AAAC awards committee. Selection criteria were created to assist the nomination review process, and to assure the equal consideration of all applicants. It was apparent during the review period that a wealth of talented African-Americans made major contributions, and consistently served in an array of public service efforts. The many applications received made the selection process challenging. The inaugural Classic Awards' recipients were:

MAN OF THE YEAR

Dr. David G. Carter (President - Eastern Connecticut State University)

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Denise Nappier (State of Connecticut Treasurer)

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Senator Toni Harp (10th Senatorial District)

SPECIAL COMMUNITY BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Dr. James H. Gatling (Executive Director, New Opportunities for Waterbury)

LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

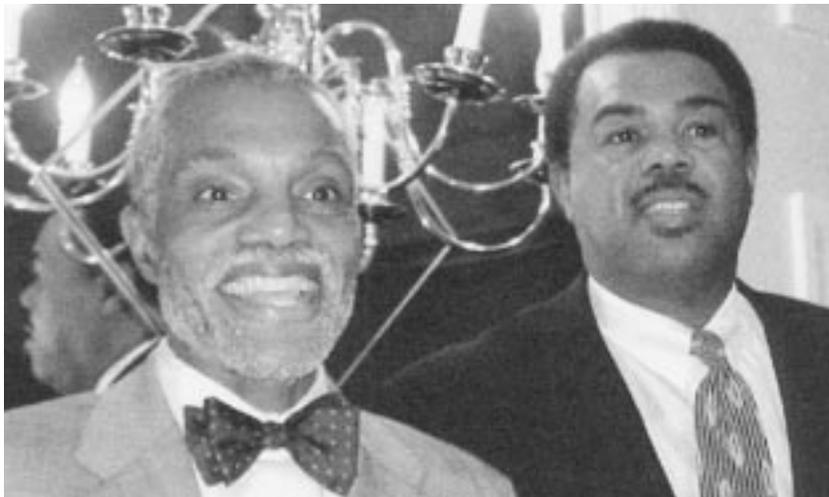
The Honorable Representative William Dyson (94th District)

SPECIAL CULTURAL AWARD

The Amistad Foundation

Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Conference

The *Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Conference* was held at the Waterbury Sheraton on November 2, 2000. The conference premise was to examine public education in the State of Connecticut and to make in-depth recommendations for improvement. This conference examined various parameters from desegregation, teaching/learning process and funding for public education, to community empowerment. Program participants included Attorney John Brittain, one of the lead attorneys for Sheff vs. O'Neill, Dr. Edward Joyner, of the Yale Child Study Center, Anthony Amato, superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools and AAAC Commissioner Constance Green. The keynote speaker was the nationally known author and children's advocate Jonathan Kozol, who has written extensively on America's public education system and the need for its reform. Working groups were formed to analyze issues and develop recommendations. The AAAC participated by developing and coordinating public and media relations, and by providing staff support for the School Finance Workgroup.



Attorney John Brittain, Dean of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Texas-Southern University (l), and Dr. Edward Joyner, Executive Director, School Development Program, Yale Child Study Center (r), during the "Empowering Families" education conference.

Educators, Advocates, Parents and Policy Makers Join Forces at the Empowering Families Conference



Nationally known author and children's advocate Jonathan Kozol, speaks to conference participants.



"Empowering Families" participants and panelists (l-r) Cheryl Harris Forbes, AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator, Shelley Geballe, President Connecticut Voices for Children, James Slaughter, AAAC Executive Director and Dr. Eddie Davis, Bureau Chief, School - Family - Community Partnerships, Connecticut State Department of Education.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The AAAC continued its work on the economic realignment and capacity building process with outside organizations within the state. Information packages, along with a letter detailing its current mission and economic development plans, including the *Economic Development Strategic Plan-Objectives for Implementation*, and the *Business and Economic Development Model for the African-American Population of Connecticut* were distributed to two hundred (200) individuals and organizations, and received favorable responses. The Executive Director initiated and participated in meetings with the Regional Growth Partnership and various other organizations. The AAAC Business and Economic Development Sub-Committee also investigated options for joint ventures with a number of groups for an economic development conference.

The Strategic Plan and Economic Development Model provided tangible evidence of the AAAC's commitment to economic development. The outreach had the additional benefit of sparked interest and subsequent meetings with several economic development officials. Significant events were meetings with Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner James Abromaitis, and Connecticut Economic Resource Center Chairman and Chief Executive Officer William Kaufmann, as well as DECD staff. These discussions were related to potential collaboration with the AAAC and its role as an integral link to resources within Connecticut's African-American communities.

THE AMISTAD RECEPTION

The African-American Affairs Commission hosted a special reception on March 21, 2000 to commemorate *The Amistad*. The Honorable Shirley Gbujama, Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs of Sierra Leone and State of Connecticut Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell were among the many dignitaries attending the event.



The Honorable Shirley Gbujama, Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone and Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut M. Jodi Rell.



Minister Shirley Gbujama with AAAC Commissioners (l-r) Sharon Ibrahim, Lillie Crosby, Christopher Cloud, Trude Mero and Jacqueline Dickens.

The African-American Affairs Commission welcomed *The Amistad* to Hartford in August 2000. The vessel, a reproduction of the same named 19th century slave ship, was constructed with the funding and assistance of Amistad America. The ship functions as an educational ambassador and floating museum, teaching lessons of history, cooperation and leadership to Americans of all ages and cultural backgrounds.



Commissioner Christopher Cloud - Executive Director of Amistad America (second from the left) and Commissioner Jonathan Bruce (third from the left) join Amistad celebrants from Sierra Leone.



Representatives Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, Kenneth Green and Annette Carter, making merry during *The Amistad* event.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION RETREAT

The African-American Affairs Commission Commissioners and staff participated in a retreat at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut on October 7, 2000. The venue permitted a discussion of organizational themes such as Commission expectations, Commission membership, staff, public perceptions and possible strategies for programming and success. The afternoon component included the participation of three legislators, Senator Toni Harp (New Haven), Representative Kenneth Green (Hartford), and Representative Lewis Wallace (Danbury). These legislators contributed their impressions of and expectations for the Commission. The retreat concluded with a discussion of earlier participant statements, and with recommendations for the future direction of the African-American Affairs Commission.

INNER CITY YOUTH SUMMIT

The AAAC partnered with the Granville Academy of Waterbury in support of the Academy's Second Annual Inner-City Youth Summit. The AAAC and the Connecticut Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus co-sponsored this event. The Summit attracted high-school students from Connecticut's major urban areas for an academic competition and financial seminar.

The academic portion or *Brain Bowl*, pitted students of various communities (Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, Bridgeport and Danbury) in friendly competition to test their knowledge of African-American history. The financial component of the Summit provided information on investment principles and finance management. Stacey Tisdale, financial analyst for CBS Market Watch Weekend was the featured speaker. Ms. Tisdale led a spirited discussion with more than 125 students, on the importance of familiarity with business practices and of gaining economic self-sufficiency.

Documents Produced

The African-American Affairs Commission completed the following documents:

1. Economic Development Strategic Plan
2. Organization Master Plan - Public Policy Component Draft
3. Census Packet to African-American Organizations in the State of Connecticut
4. Outreach Letters to Black and Puerto Rican Caucus
5. Letters to Governor Rowland on Affordable Housing, Voter Restoration and Transit
6. Responsive correspondence to inquiries from elected officials
7. Educational Conference Workgroups' Procedures and Analysis Sheet
8. Transportation Impact Analysis Outline for White Paper
9. Biennial Budget Document FY 2001-2003
10. Commission Resolutions 1 thru 26
11. Economic development outreach letters
12. Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Statement of Purpose

BUDGET - 1999 -2000 Fiscal Year

The operating budget for the African-American Affairs Commission as appropriated for fiscal year 2000 follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Personnel Services	\$174,263
Other Services	74,835
Equipment	<u>10,000</u>
Total	\$259,098

AAAC STAFF

Executive Director, James A. Slaughter

Mr. Slaughter administers the daily operations of the Commission, implements its policies and programs, and serves as secretary to the AAAC Board. He prepares policy issue papers, designs new programs, and represents the Commission in discussions with public officials. He also provides testimony regarding issues affecting the Commission's constituency. Mr. Slaughter is primarily responsible for managing the AAAC budget.

Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator, Cheryl Harris Forbes

Ms. Forbes is responsible for the provision and direction of the Commission's educational, informational, promotional, and outreach initiatives. She is also charged with the development of public relations strategies and marketing materials. Additionally, she functions as a liaison to a variety of governmental and organizational entities for project implementation, administration, monitoring and assessment.

Legislative Analyst II, Kurt Harrison

Mr. Harrison provides research and analysis of issues affecting Connecticut's African-American communities, presents facts, findings and alternative solutions, in addition to preparing subsequent reports. He assists the Commission in the determination of its legislative agenda and priorities, and serves as a liaison to legislators, governmental agencies and external groups.

Senior Legislative Secretary, Cherrissia Mosely

Ms. Mosely is responsible for office administration and meeting coordination, as well as word processing and document preparation. She serves as the secretary to the AAAC Executive Director and is the initial contact for general public inquiries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the following organizations for their support during Year 2000:

Black and Puerto Rican Caucus
Campaign to Fight Poverty and Build Economic Security
Capitol Region Chamber of Commerce
Commission on Children
Community Renewal Team, Inc.
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Connecticut General Assembly - Office of Legislative Management
Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies
Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches
Davis Communications
Democracy Works, Inc.
Empowering Families to Build a Better Life Taskforce
Family Support America
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
The Granville Academy
The Nucan Group
The Urban League of Southwest Connecticut
United Technologies
Urban League of Greater Hartford

Unfortunately, the African-American Affairs Commission cannot list all the organizations and individuals that worked with the Commission during 2000. However, the AAAC would like to thank those who have supported its programming and legislative initiatives. The AAAC looks forward to continuing these successful associations and to expanding its outreach to others. Organizations or individuals interested in working with the African-American Affairs Commission may contact the office at (860) 240-8555.