



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

AAAC COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

AAAC Commissioners:

George S. Logan, Chairperson
Fred Pierre-Louis, Vice-Chairperson
Donna Campbell, Secretary
Alphonse Wright, Treasurer
Karen Bellamy
Dennis Canterbury
Kristen M. Clark
Patsy Darity
Brenda P. DelGado
Darryl Hugley
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AAAC Staff:

Glenn A. Cassis,
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African-American Affairs Commission
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LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

Legislative Mandates for the African-American Affairs Commission

- Focus its efforts on the following quality of life desired results 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 the desired results;
- 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.

2010 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is indebted to the many organizations and individuals that supported the AAAC's Legislative Agenda and ongoing advocacy concerns. We are grateful for our many partners including but not limited to the Black and Hispanic Caucus, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Children. The AAAC also acknowledges the support and technical assistance provided by the Office of Legislative Management, Information Technology Services and the State Capitol Police.

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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR



*AAAC Chairperson
George Logan*

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

Dear Governor Malloy,

On behalf of the African American Affairs Commission (AAAC), I am pleased to submit our 2010 Annual Report for your review.

The budget crisis in Connecticut had a major impact on the African-American Affairs Commission. During the September Special Session, Public Act No. 09-7 House Bill No. 7007 – An Act Implementing the Provisions of the Budget Concerning General Government and Making Changes to Various Programs was enacted. This Act significantly reduced the Commission's budget in half resulting in the reduction of staff. The loss of the Legislative Analyst and Special Projects Coordinator positions presented significant challenges to the Commission. The Commission focused its efforts towards restructuring and complying with the new mandate enacted in September 2009. For most of 2010, the Commission spent considerable time informing and reiterating the importance of the work that we accomplished with Legislators. Staff developed additional collaborations and partnerships to help impact policy. Partnerships with the State Departments of Education, Higher Education and Public Health helped insure that the voice of the African-Americans was heard. The AAAC re-granted more than \$62,000 to state non-profit educational organizations that provide access and success to college for first generation and low income students. The Commission also guided College Goal Sunday – Connecticut, a national program that assisted more than 1,100 high school students complete their Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As a member of the newly formed Commission on Health Equity, the AAAC helped hire the Commission's first executive director. The AAAC continued its partnership to help improve health outcomes through its involvement with initiatives in the detection and prevention of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, childhood obesity, kidney disease, lupus, sickle cell disease and lead poisoning.

Through the leadership of the AAAC, Connecticut established the KnowHow2GO-CT Network. With financial and technical support from the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Network's goal is to increase the percentage of adults in Connecticut with college degrees from 40% to 60% by the year 2025.

As evidence of its broadening commitment to education, at our annual Classic Awards the AAAC proudly presented its Youth of the Year Award Winners each with a \$2,200 scholarship. This year marked the a philanthropic milestone, with more than \$14,500 awarded in scholarship grants to deserving academically excellent and community and public service oriented students.

During the year the Commission implemented the Results Based Accountability (RBA) method for reporting and measuring the efforts of the Commission. This has proven to be a process that will inform Legislators and the general public of the accomplishments and how well the Commission is improving the lives of the African-American Community in Connecticut.

Despite the obstacles created by budget reductions, our Commission looks forward and deems it an honor to serve Connecticut's African-American community and to participate at all levels of state government. Our goal and daily practice is to ensure that all policies and every agency and branch of government serves the needs and protect the rights of all Connecticut residents. Your continued support and partnership along with that of the Connecticut General Assembly is appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Logan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

AAAC Chairperson

2010 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

The 2010 legislative session was a short session. The Commission had the challenge of carrying out its mission with just half the staff (2). A majority of the Commission's attention focused on repositioning itself and maintaining its influence on core issues. The Commission provided testimony on education bills, health concerns and civil rights issues. The Commission was responsible for securing grants from national foundations and agencies that were used to provide funding support for college access and success initiatives for first generation and low income students.

EDUCATION

The Commission supported HB 5491 – An act concerning certain school district reforms to reduce the achievement gap in Connecticut. The bill will allow parents to vote to restructure a school that has been identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act; to establish an income tax reimbursement pilot competitive grant program for teachers in priority school districts; to include student academic growth as a factor in educator performance evaluations; to create an online credit recovery program for school districts with dropout rates of eight per cent or greater; to require school districts to conduct two parent-teacher conferences per school year; to establish a task force responsible for examining the achievement gap in Connecticut; to change the date of counting students for purposes of ECS from October first to March first and to require school districts to implement an advanced placement course program. The bill was sponsored by the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and Campaign LEARN. The Commission submitted testimony in support of the bill. The bill was approved in the House and tabled in the Senate.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

The African-American Affairs Commission submitted a letter to CHRO in opposition to Raised Bill 5323 – An Act requiring state agency and contractor affirmative action plans to be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). This bill was sponsored by the General Administration and Elections Committee. If this bill passed, affirmative action plans would be submitted to DAS rather than CHRO which is a neutral, independent and more cost effective agency. The bill died in the House.

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During the 2009 Legislative Session the Commission supported Senate Bill 880 An Act Concerning Trade With Africa. The bill instructs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct a three-year study of programs initiated, conducted and coordinated by the Department of Economic and Community Development that promote and assist Connecticut businesses with international trade with African countries with whom the United States has diplomatic relations. In each of the three years of such study, the commissioner shall focus on four different countries in Africa. This bill was signed by the Governor. The Commission was instrumental in assisting the United States and Africa Development Organization (USAADO) with co-sponsoring visits by delegations from Ghana and Nigeria. The AAAC also assisted the USAADO establish itself as a non-profit corporation with bylaws.

HEALTH

The Commission continued to work with organizations and agencies involved with health disparities. The Commission was represented on the State of Connecticut Commission on Health Equity. The AAAC worked with the American Red Cross Blood Donor Drive, City of Hartford Cancer Task Force, Donate Life, the Lupus Foundation, Central Area Health Education Center, the American Heart Association, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (Southern CT), Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell and the American Cancer Society

2010 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

Closing the Achievement Gap – Develop classroom assessment tools to enhance instruction and learning, strengthen parental involvement, strengthen mentorship programs statewide and strengthen reading programs.

Strengthen multicultural education into school curricula – Ensure that all children have adequate knowledge of their history. Ensuring that first generation students are well prepared academically and financially to attend college.

HEALTH

Support a universal health care plan – Ensure that all residents of the state particularly underserved populations have access to affordable and quality health insurance.

Instituting cultural competency requirements in health care—Ensure that medical providers are culturally competent.

Support HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives – Ensure that youth are adequately knowledgeable about responsible sexual behavior.

Support initiatives for combating diabetes – Support funding prevention and awareness initiatives aimed at stemming the onset of diabetes.

Support initiatives for combating cardiovascular disease and stroke – Support funding prevention and awareness initiatives aimed at stemming the onset of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Increase minority representation of state prosecutors and judges – Address the need to increase minority judges and prosecutors through financial incentives.

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE

Strengthen families through effective fatherhood initiatives – Ensure that fathers are connected and involved with their children.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support initiatives to promote minority businesses in the state – Ensure that minority business have equal access to state contracts.

HOUSING

Increase funding for public housing units – Ensure that public housing units are not further depleted.

Strengthen laws to combat racial discrimination in housing rentals – Support funding to uphold the fair housing laws.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Enhance work support systems for recipients transitioning from welfare to work – Provide ex-welfare recipients with the skills needed to secure sustainable employment.

Establish a State Earned Income Tax Credit – Improve the earnings potential for poor working families

Increase the minimum wage – Ensure that workers receive fair wages.

ENVIRONMENT

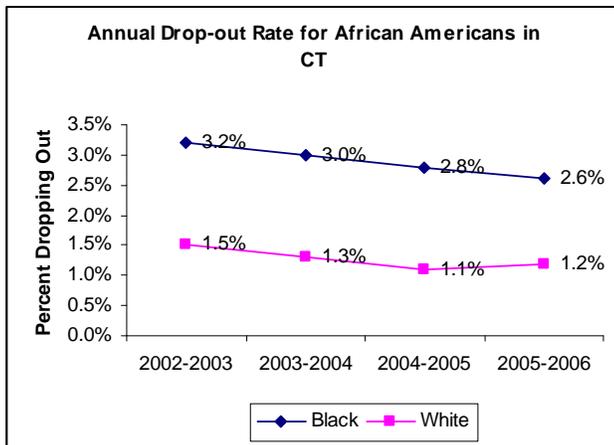
Prevent environmental pollution in the state especially in urban communities – Address the incidence of asthma and other airborne illnesses prevalent in low-income communities. Continue efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning in the state especially in urban communities – Address the incidence of autism and developmental disabilities in children.

2010 RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

RESULT:

All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Achieve Educational Success

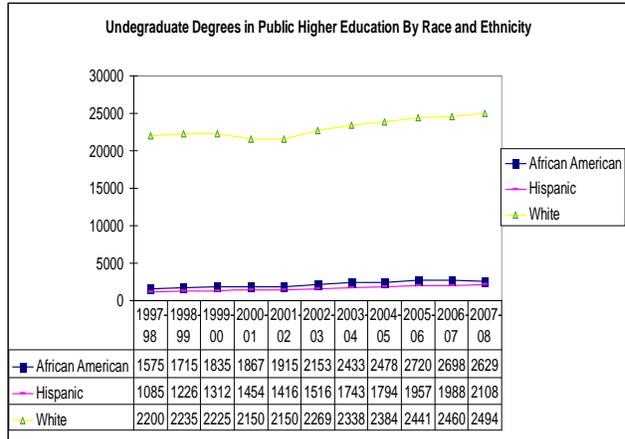
African American Secondary School Drop-Out Rate



African-Americans experience significantly higher secondary school drop out rates than whites. Causes for the higher drop out rate include: lack of adequate early preparation, lack of a welcoming school climate, lack of afterschool programs, policies that allow students to drop out before the age of consent and fewer mentors/role models.

In order to help turn the curve the Commission: 1) Supported policies that provided early intervention through the development of individual education plans 2) Increased the availability of before and afterschool programs 3) Strengthen mentorship programs statewide 4) Supported legislation that increased the age that student can dropout out of school.

% of CT African American College Degree Recipients



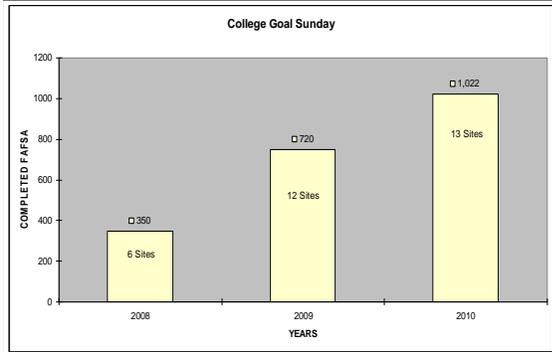
Research shows that individuals with a college degree are 10 times more likely to have a family income over the poverty level. Causes for poor college performance include: inadequate preparation, poor remediation policies, lack of financial aid, and underutilization of student support services.

The Commission used several strategies to help turn the curve including: 1) Support and manage KnowHowToGo, a program that prepares students for college access and success 2) Write grants to secure resources to assist students in pre-college programs with college preparation 3) Convene and develop a statewide network to increase access and success.

2010 RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

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

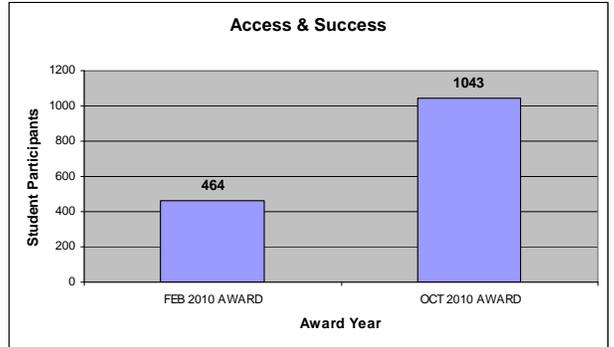
College Goal Sunday



African-American students attending high school in urban school districts are potentially the first in their family to attend college. Since most of these students are low income, they must seek financial aid. In order to become eligible for financial aid students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The cost for college is a major roadblock for most low-income students.

The Commission used the following strategy to help increase access to financial aid: 1) Secured funding from national sources to support College Goal Sunday (CGS) 2) Coordinated sites around the state to host CGS 3) Increased the number of students completing FAFSA forms. 4) Partnered with educators, community based organizations, professional associations and parents to recruit high school seniors and volunteers.

The number of first generation and low income students participate in CT Access and Success programs



The students targeted are first generation, low income and mostly African-American. These students need to be fully engaged in academic programs that prepare them for college and once in college interventions that provide them with every opportunity for success. The programs that engage students require funding support and technical assistance to positively impact participants.

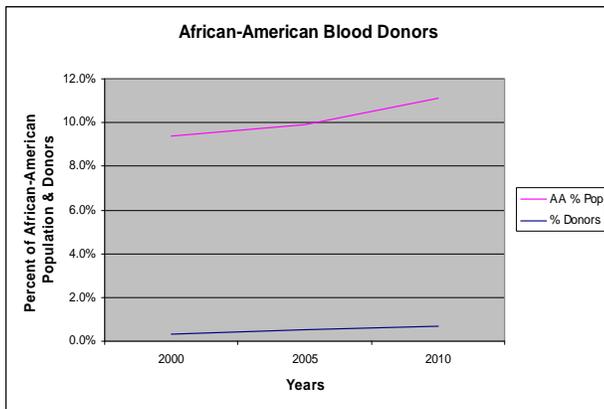
Through grant writing the Commission secured funding from the Lumina Foundation and the Council for Opportunity in Education to re-grant to non-profit, community based and educational institutions to conduct 13 programs around the state. The goal of each program is to increase the adult population in Connecticut with a college degree from 39% to 60% by 2025.

The AAAC partnered with the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now and Rep. Jason Barrett in supporting legislation to address the dropout rate. The AAAC served on the State Department of Education's Ad-Hoc Committee. The AAAC made policy recommendations to close the achievement gap. AAAC is the convener for the state wide college access and success program funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education. Currently \$177,500 has been secured by the AAAC for educational success in Connecticut. AAAC coordinates and manages the funded projects (College Goal Sunday-CT and KnowHowToGO-CT Network).

RESULT:

All Connecticut Residents of African Descent Are Healthy

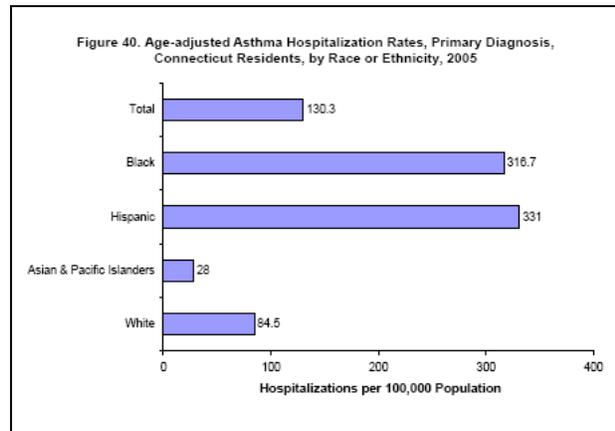
CT African-American Blood Donation is disproportionately low



African-Americans are disproportionately affected by blood diseases like sickle cell, anemia, cancer and leukemia or kidney disease. They are less likely to have physical reactions to blood donations from other African-Americans. While African-Americans comprise 10.4% of the population in CT, they represent less than 1% of the donors.

The AAAC taken steps to increase blood donor participation by African-Americans: Adopted the goal to increase blood drives in minority community by 5%. Sponsor at least one blood drive targeting the African-American population. Assist with conducting a survey identifying barriers that prevent AA from donating blood.

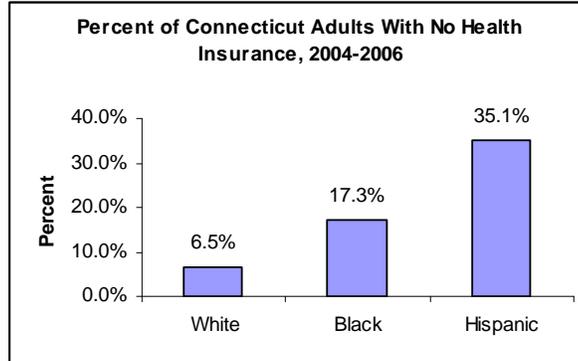
CT African American Asthma Rates



Asthma is a chronic disease that affects a growing number of residents in Connecticut. Based on a study conducted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health of adults, blacks experienced the highest rates of asthma prevalence in the state.

The AAAC developed the following strategies to turn the curve: Involved the impacted communities in environmental decision making. Tracked asthma prevalence rates among school children to identify and better understand causes and contributors to asthma. Promoted stronger indoor air quality school programs.

% of CT African-Americans Without Insurance



Roughly 17.3 % of Connecticut's uninsured are African-American. Health insurance coverage is critical to African-American communities, many of whom have lower income levels and suffer disproportionately from a number of illnesses. Without health insurance coverage many end up in emergency rooms when medical conditions have severely deteriorated significantly increasing health care costs.

The AAAC adopted the following strategies to turn the curve: Supported a universal healthcare plan that is quality, affordable and accessible. Promoted awareness on healthier living through proper nutrition and routine check ups. Helped to Increase Husky enrollment through outreach.

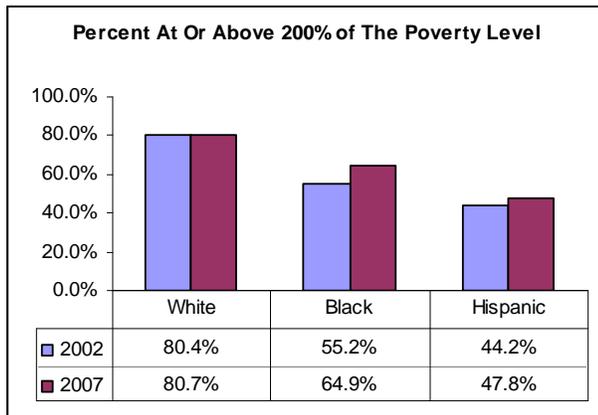
AAAC serves on the American Red Cross Blood Donor Services Diversity Committee. **AAAC** sponsored a blood drive at the Capitol, disseminating donor information through AAAC website. Commission is a member of the Commission on Health Equity, Health First Authority Task Force and the Statewide Primary Access Authority, groups responsible for developing a universal healthcare plan for Connecticut.

2010 RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

RESULT:

All Connecticut Residents of African Descent are Financially Self-Sufficient

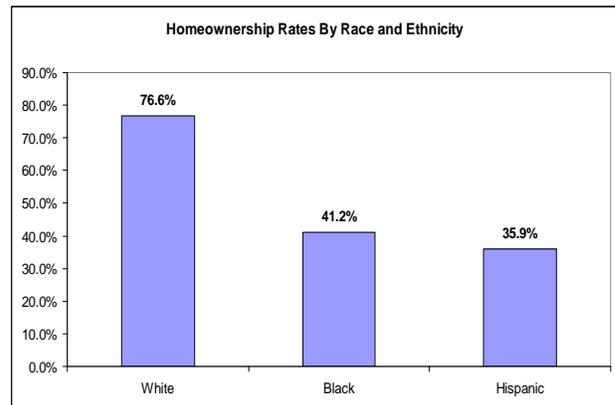
% of CT African-American households living above the poverty level



In 2007 55.2 % of African-American lived above the poverty level implying that 35.1 % of African-American households still lived below the poverty level. Poverty is the most crucial factor responsible for producing a range of negative outcomes in children, including poor academic performance and increased morbidity and mortality rates etc.

The AAAC has adopted strategies to turn the curve. The AAAC Supports employment programs that support working poor families from poverty e.g. earned income tax credits and individual development accounts. Support programs that invest in education to increase earnings potential. Assist with increasing awareness of resources for financial literacy programs.

% of CT African-Americans who own homes



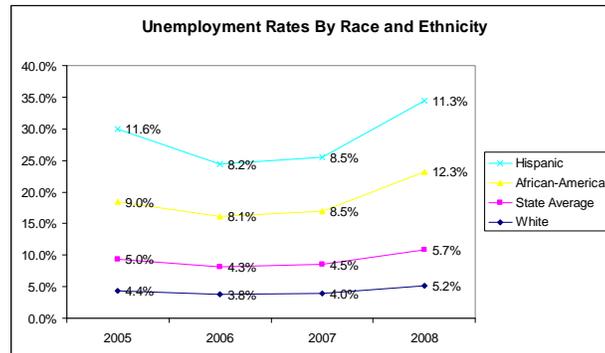
Homeownership rates for African-Americans are 41.2 % compared to 76.6 % for whites. The creation and preservation of affordable housing units for African-Americans is an integral component in addressing poverty, building wealth, ultimately stronger communities.

The AAAC supports programs that: Invests in affordable housing developments; Promotes first time homebuyer programs in low-income communities; Promotes fairness in financial institutions lending policies

The AAAC collaborates with the Child Poverty Council, the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Connecticut Housing Coalition to address affordable housing policy issues in efforts to reduce poverty.

2010 RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

% of Unemployed CT African- Americans



The unemployment rate for African-Americans has consistently been above the state average since 2005. Higher than normal incarceration rates, employment discrimination based on race and lack of educational attainment have all been cited as factors for this negative trend.

The AAAC has supported strategies that: Support and encourage cultural awareness and sensitivity training through workshops, forums etc.: Enforce stronger penalties for employment discrimination based on race; Remove employment barriers preventing ex-offenders from securing stable employment; and the establishment of business opportunities.

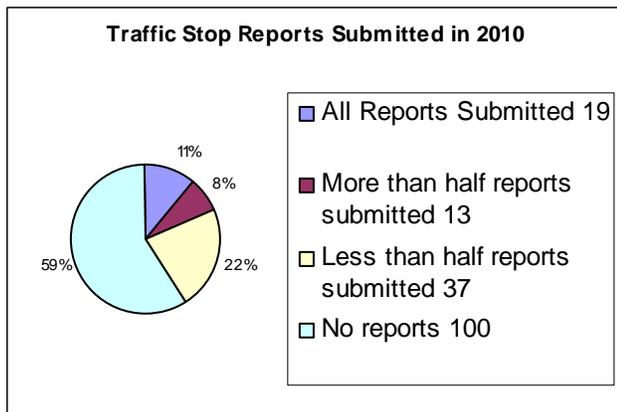
The AAAC meets with citizens and legislators to craft new legislation. AAAC submits proposal requests to Federal Government through DOT for funding Racial Profile study. The AAAC championed hate crimes legislation most recently legislation to eliminate the residual structures of racism existing in the state. The AAAC disseminated information and material to educate the public about racism and its social costs. The AAAC assisted citizens in the establishment of the United States And Africa Development Organization which is the result of Senate Bill No. 880 – Special Act No. 09-14 – An Act Concerning Trade With Africa.

2010 RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

RESULT :

All Connecticut Residents are Free From Discrimination

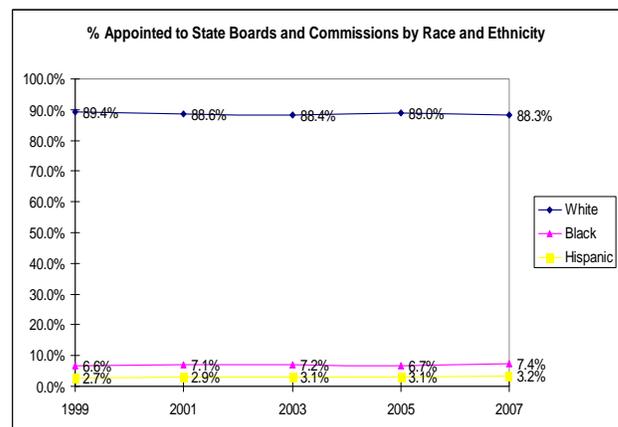
Collect traffic stop reports from law enforcement offices



Public Act No. 03-160 – An Act Concerning the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act – requires statewide law enforcement agencies to submit traffic stop reports to the AAAC. These reports are to determine if stops are racially motivated. Not all of the law enforcement agencies are in compliance of submitting reports per the Act.

The AAAC continues to: Inform agencies that they are required to submit reports; Require standardize form be used; Propose legislation to strengthen reporting requirement and Secure funding to analyze reports.

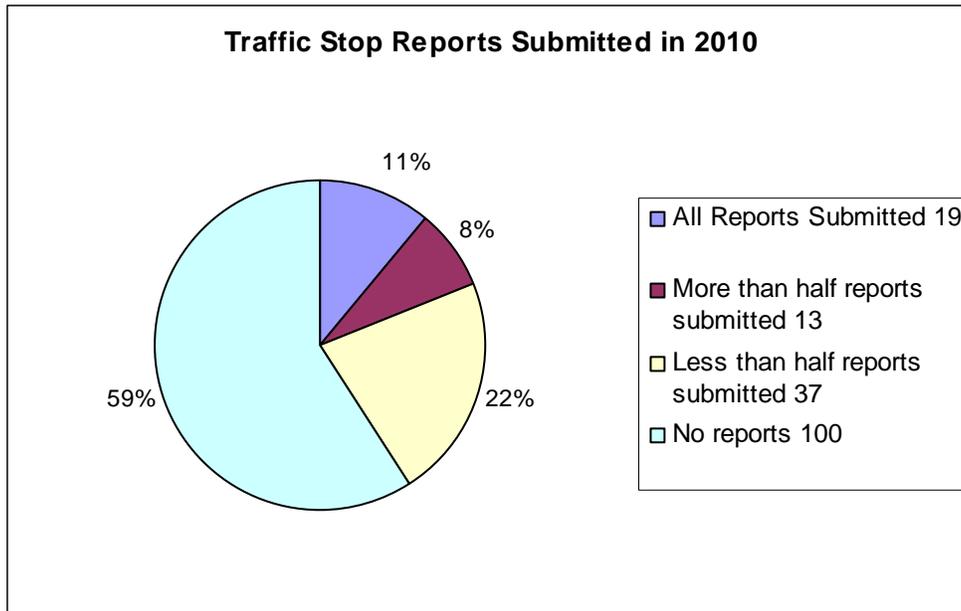
% of CT African Americans serving on State Boards and Commissions



Since reporting began in 1999 on the racial and gender composition of State's Boards and Commissions African-Americans have been consistently underrepresented. In the 2010 US Census Report African-Americans are 10.4 % of the population yet make up 7.4 % of members appointed to State Boards and Commissions.

The AAAC supports strategies to: Expand the recruitment of African-Americans to State Boards and Commissions through community outreach; Build stronger relationships with legislators and community groups; Assist in improving the overall referral and appointing process.

RACIAL PROFILING



Public Act 03-160 known as the “Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act” mandates each municipal police department and Department of Public Safety to provide annually summary reports of traffic stops made by law enforcement to the African-American Affairs Commission. In addition a copy of complaints submitted by persons stopped and written notification of the review and disposition of the complaint must be provided to the Commission by departments.

The AAAC continued to collect and file reports submitted from thirty-one (31) of the one hundred and ten (110) departments in Connecticut. The reports received from the departments have been submitted in several formats. Some were received electronically while others were received in several paper formats. The reports have not been reviewed by the African-American Affairs Commission. No funding was provided by the General Assembly to manage the data and the Commission did not have resources to analyze the reports. Barely twenty-five percent of the required law enforcement agencies have submitted reports during this reporting year. The Commission did receive two copies of complaints made by persons from two departments.

The Commission has not secured funding to analyze the reports that have been submitted. The only action that Commission has taken is to report on which municipalities have filed reports.

The towns that were in compliance with P.A. 03-160 and who submitted reports during the year were:

**ANSONIA
AVON
BLOOMFIELD
BRISTOL
CHESHIRE
DANBURY
GREENWICH**

**HAMDEN
MIDDLETOWN
MILFORD
NAUGATUCK
NEW CANAAN
NEW HAVEN
NEWINGTON
NEW LONDON**

**NEW MILFORD
NEWTOWN
NORWALK
PLAINVILLE
PUTNMAN
RIDGEFIELD
SIMSBURY
STAMFORD**

**STONINGTON
TRUMBULL
VERNON
WATERBURY
WATERTOWN
WESTPORT
WETHERSFIELD
WILTON**

PROGRAMS – ISSUES - ACTIVITIES

- 2010 AAAC CLASSIC AWARDS
- ADVOCACY DAY
- APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY - TRACES OF THE TRADE
- COSTEN CULTURAL EXHIBITS
- COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY
- CONNECTICUT CIVIC DAY
- DONATE LIFE CONNECTICUT
- GREATER NEW ENGLAND ALLIANCE OF BLACK EDUCATORS RECEPTION
- KNOWHOW2GO
- EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH EDUCATION LEAD POISONING FORUM
- STATE OF BLACK CONNECTICUT
- TROUBLE THE WATER
- WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY / THE AMERICAN DIVIDE

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY



www.collegegoalsundayct.org

College Goal Sunday was held on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at thirteen locations around the State of Connecticut. Sites included: Capital Community College, Central CT State University, Central High School (Bridgeport), Eastern CT State University, Gateway Community College, Manchester Community College, Middlesex Community College, Science & Technology Magnet High School of SE CT (New London), Norwalk Community College, Norwich Free Academy, Ridley-Lowell Business & Technical Institute, Sacred Heart University and Western CT State University.

College Goal Sunday is a part of KnowHow2GO Connecticut campaign and is funded and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, YMCA USA, the CT Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFAA) and the CT Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP).

It is a volunteer, charitable effort to assist low-income students and those students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education to navigate and fill out the forms necessary to apply for Federal Student Aid (the FAFSA) as well as provide information on other state and federal financial aid programs.



Volunteers help to make College Goal Sunday a success !

GRANT AWARDS

Grant Funds Awarded to Programs to Improve College Readiness

The KnowHow2Go-CT Network re-grants \$61,817 in awards to college access and success programs

The KNOWHOW2GO-CT Network presented seven grant awards to community-based organizations and colleges in support of their efforts to encourage students to pursue a college education. The presentations took place at the Hartford Boys and Girls Clubs on February 11, 2010.

The funds, awarded by Connecticut's KnowHow2GO initiative, are part of a three-year \$140,000 grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to promote college access and success. The purpose of the grants is to strengthen the quality of student assistance and outreach efforts to students and families in the middle school grades through college. The organizations receiving the grants submitted proposals seeking funds to continue existing programs or develop additional initiatives.

Programs that received awards in round I:

- Education Connection, Litchfield, \$5,000
- The Boys and Girls Clubs, Hartford \$5,000
- Eastern Connecticut State University, Windham, \$5,000
- Wesleyan University - Public School Collaborative, Middletown \$5,000
- University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport \$5,000
- Manchester Community College, Manchester \$4,875
- North End Action Team, Middletown \$2,500



*Wesleyan University - PS Collaborative
Middletown - \$5,000*



*Eastern Connecticut State University
Windham - \$5,000*



*The Boys & Girls Clubs
Hartford - \$5,000*



*Education Connection
Litchfield - \$5,000*



*Manchester Community College
Manchester - \$4,875*

The KNOWHOW2GO-CT Network presented seven grant awards totaling \$29,440 to community-based organizations and colleges in support of their efforts to encourage students to pursue a college education. The presentations took place at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT on October 28, 2010.

Programs that received awards in Round II:

- Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation, Hartford, \$5,000
- Central CT State University, New Britain \$5,000
- The Bridgeport Pubic Education Fund, Inc, Bridgeport, \$5,000
- The Consultation Center - Yale, New Haven, \$4,992.00
- Urban League of Greater Hartford, Hartford \$4,450.00
- Waterbury Public Schools, Waterbury \$5,000.00



*Bridgeport Public Education Fund, Inc.
Bridgeport - \$5,000*



*Central Connecticut State University
New Britain - \$5,000*



*Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation
Hartford - \$5,000*



*The Consultation Center-Yale University
New Haven - \$4,992*



*Urban League of Greater Hartford
Hartford - \$4,450*



*Waterbury Public Schools
Waterbury - \$5,000*

NIGERIAN OFFICIALS VISIT STATE CAPITOL

Nigerian Officials Visit Connecticut's Legislative and Executive Branch

On March 3, 2010 the African-American Affairs Commission hosted approximately 35 public officials from Oyo State, Nigeria. The group, comprising mostly of chief executives - a status equivalent to that of a mayor in the United States. The group was introduced to the legislative and executive branch. Legislators in attendance were State Representatives Ernest Hewitt, Ken Green and former State Representative William Dyson.

The visitors participated in a Public Administration Training Program with The Center for Public Policy & Social Research (CPPSR) at Central Connecticut State University. Dr. Olusegun Odesina, Associate Dean of CCSU's School of Engineering and Technology, was instrumental in bringing together CPPSR and the Nigerian group, which is sponsored by the Quality of Life Foundation (QLF), a non-profit organization based in Nigeria.



Public Officials from Oyo State, Nigeria, CT Legislators and the African-American Affairs Commission

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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 to American society. "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."

AAAC hosts these events which provide an opportunity for many organizations to display their contributions.

A Work In Progress

Several governmental, non-governmental and cultural organizations came together on February 16 – 19, 2010 to share information about their organizations and the services they provide. The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the American Heart Association, Amistad America, Amistad Foundation, Ann's Place, Bill Costen-Sky Endeavors, Charter Oak State College, Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care, CT Coalition for Environmental Justice, Gardner's House, Hartford Hospital's Cancer Program, Prostate Screenings and Asthma Program, Insurance Benefit Solutions, LLC, Interval House, National Kidney Foundation, Sickle Cell of Southern CT, Urban League of Greater Hartford and Woman of Hope for their participation.

The Quilting Project

Quilts made in the community were displayed in the Capitol / Legislative Office Building Concourse from February 1 – 12, 2010. The quilts represent the importance of community connections. AAAC collaborated with Mrs. Carol Washington of Bloomfield, CT to make this event a success. The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the quilters, Carol Washington, Dorletha Clyde, Rosalind Craddock, Barbara Josephs, Lela Kennedy and Sarah L. Moon for displaying their quilts.

Artist JoeSam

Artist JoeSam is a mixed media painter and sculptor. The content of his work is often social and political commentary. His style is characterized by the juxtaposition of diverse, independent, often quite simple elements and his use of bright colors, reflective of his African-American heritage. His work was on display at the Capitol / Legislative Office Building Concourse from February 1 – 12, 2010. www.joesam.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The African-American Affairs Commission hosted an American Red Cross blood drive for the first time on February 18th during Black History Month highlighting the crucial role of Diversity in the blood program. The event was co-hosted by Capitol Preparatory High School of Hartford.

This was an opportunity for the AAAC to reach out to all Connecticut's communities to both grow and increase the diversity of our blood donor population. The AAAC is committed to reaching out to our constituents and encourage the increased participation of Connecticut's minority communities in support of the American Red Cross lifesaving mission to ensure key blood types are available when needed.

In order to help ensure the availability of key blood types that are often represented in higher numbers in ethnic communities building a diverse blood donor population is crucial. When the blood donor population does not mirror the blood recipient population in terms of blood types, shortages of key blood types can occur. Moreover, maintaining a diverse blood supply helps to increase the number of rare blood donors whose specific match may be needed to help save a life.

2010 CLASSIC AWARDS



Host of the 2010 Classic Awards

The State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) paid tribute to six distinguished African-Americans during its 11th Annual Classic Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. This year's Classic Awards Program was hosted by Tina Martin, WFSB Eyewitness News Reporter - Channel 3.

For eleven years AAAC has recognized outstanding Connecticut African-American men, women, business and economic development leaders, lifetime achievers and high school students. Honors were bestowed on Connecticut residents who contributed to the quality of life of Connecticut's African-American communities. Honorees were selected from a distinguished pool submitted by the public.

Man of the Year, Dr. G. Duncan Harris, Dean of Student Affairs, Manchester Community College, Woman of the Year, Dr. Shirley A. Jackson, Associate Professor of Sociology, Southern Connecticut State University, Youths of the Year, Aaron Eaddy, Glastonbury High School and Ayibatari Sikpi, Old Saybrook High School, Lifetime Achievement, Jane L. Givenhand-Glover, Founder, Kente' Cultural Center and Business and Economic Development, Keith Newton of Tinker, Tinker Realty & Insurance, Inc.



2010 AAAC CLASSIC AWARD HONOREES

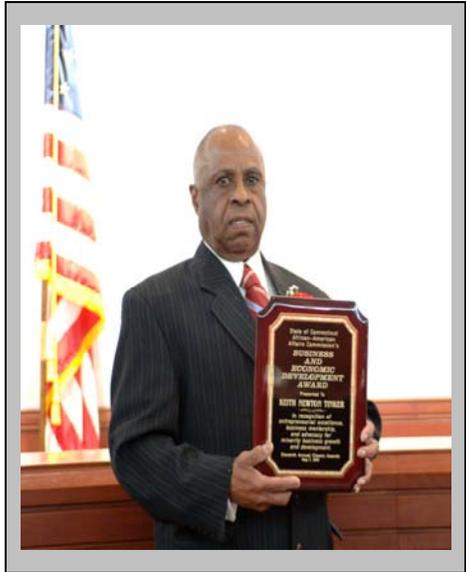
2010 CLASSIC AWARD HONOREES



Man of the Year
Dr. G. Duncan Harris



Woman of the Year
Dr. Shirley A. Jackson



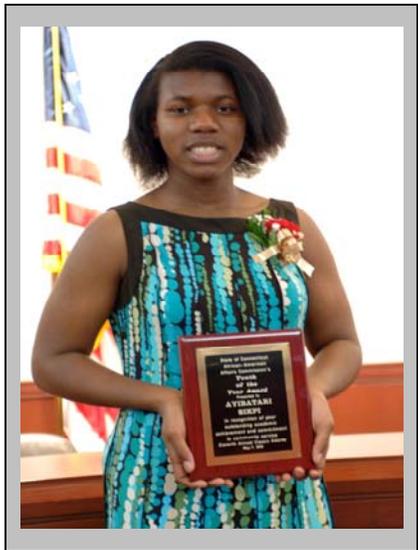
Business & Economic Development
Keith Newton of Tinker



Lifetime Achievement
Jane L. Givenhand-Glover



Youth of the Year
Aaron Eaddy



Youth of the Year
Ayibatari Sikpi

NETWORKING SYMPOSIUM

KNOWHOW2GO-CT GEAR UP

Access & Success in Education

On May 11, 2010 AAAC hosted the KNOWHOW2GO-CT GEAR UP “Access & Success In Education” Part I. The event was held at the Burroughs Community Center in Bridgeport, CT. Those in attendance were Community-Based, Non-Profit, Education Leaders and Faith-Based Organizations that support College Access and Success for underserved and historically underrepresented students.

The guest Speaker was Author Paul Vandeventer, President and CEO of Community Partners, an incubator and intermediary organization with more than 150 projects in Southern California. Mr. Vandeventer has worked in the fields of management, planning, communications, training, and organizational development for businesses, public agencies, foundations, and public interest groups. He has advised on the management of corporate and foundation giving programs and facilitated strategy planning with executive teams and directors of business, grant making and community organizations.

Mr. Vandeventer is also the author of “Networks That Work” A Practitioner’s Guide to Managing Networked Action. Networks that Work serves as both an informative introduction for anyone interested in the creation and development of networks and as a practical handbook for groups at any stage of network formation.



*Dorcus Blue, Program Director
Fairfield County Foundation*



*Paul Vandeventer, President & CEO
Community Partners*



*Rony Delva, Director
Upward Bound Program Fairfield University*

KNOWHOW2GO-CT GEAR UP

Access & Success in Education

On October 28, 2010 AAAC hosted the KNOWHOW2GO-CT GEAR UP “Access & Success In Education” Part II. The event was held at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT. Those in attendance were Community-Based, Non-Profit, Education Leaders and Faith-Based Organizations that support College Access and Success for underserved and historically underrepresented students.

Guest Speakers were Jason Bartlett, Connecticut State Representative 2nd District, CT General Assembly, Carrie Warick, Director Member Services National College Network (NCAN), Dr. Salasi Williams, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Southern Connecticut State University and Carolyn Stanek, Assistant Director National Initiatives American Council on Education



Jason Bartlett, State Representative
2nd District, CT General Assembly



Carrie Warick, Director Member Services
National College Network (NCAN)



Dr. Salasi Williams, Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Southern Connecticut State University



Carolyn Stanek, Assistant Director National Initiatives
American Council on Education

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION FORUM

Anti-Discrimination Police/Community Forum

On June 24, 2010 the African American Affairs Commission along with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities held the Anti-Discrimination Police/Community Forum at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT.

The purpose of the forum was to improve police/community relations. The forum was used to inform community organizations and stakeholders about the role of the Police Department in the community, and the policies and procedures of the Police Department as they relate to policing. The forum touched on issues the community deemed important, while attempting to improve police and community relations. Attendees were informed of laws enforced by CHRO, how they apply services and actions taken by Police Departments.

Panelist includes Gail P. Hardy, State's Attorney, Lt. Col. Steven Fields, State Police, Neil W. Dryfe, Hartford Police Department, Lynn Ford, Director of Hartford Neighborhood Centers, Robert J. Brothers, CHRO Executive Director and Cheryl A. Sharp, CHRO Human Rights Attorney. The goal was to promote dialogue between law enforcement, the community, and CHRO, while identifying possible solutions to community issues that relate to law enforcement.



*Robert J. Brothers,
CHRO Executive Director*



*Anti-Discrimination Police/Community
Forum Panel*

OUTREACH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Black and Latino Male Student Achievement Gap – SERC
- Black History Month Presentation – Department of Public Health
- College Goal Sunday – Connecticut
- Commission on Children – Poverty Council and Child Obesity Council
- KNOWHOW2GO–CT
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women - Trafficking in Persons Council
- Southern New England Association of Technical Professionals
- Symposium Intersection of Race and Education – SERC

PARTNERSHIPS

The AAAC would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.

- Central Area Health Education Center Inc.
- Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparities in the Judicial Systems
- Connecticut Department of Education
- Connecticut Department of Higher Education
- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
- Donate Life
- Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity & Justice
- Help Educate Lead Poisoning Initiative
- Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
- Manchester Community College
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
- Secretary of the State's Office
- State Education Resource Center
- United States and Africa Development Organization

ISSUES OF INTEREST

- Appointive Boards and Commissions
- Black Male Development
- Department of Developmental Services
- Department of Public Health
- Disparate Criminal Justice
- Economic and Business Development
- Educational Achievement
- Education Services For Victims of Lead Poisoning
- Environmental Justice
- Greater New England Alliance of Black School Educators
- Health Programming
- Health Status Disparities
- Juvenile Justice
- Juvenile Violence
- National Correctional Center
- Organ Transplants
- Pay Equity
- Predatory Lending
- Prison Reform
- Prevention of LEAD Poisoning
- Secondary School Reform
- Sickle Cell Association
- Sickle Cell Treatment Disparities
- Social Service Program Reductions

AAAC COMMISSIONERS



George Logan

Chairperson George S. Logan is Director-Capital & Planning at Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut. In this role he is responsible for the entire range of Capital and Planning activities, including water resource planning, project management and new services for Aquarion's facilities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree, and he received a Masters degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Griffin Health Services (Derby-CT) Board of Directors / Griffin Hospital Board of Trustees, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce-Inc., Central Connecticut Coast YMCA Board Of Directors and Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut-Inc. Board Of Directors. A native of New Haven-CT, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. In 1998, House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan as a Commissioner of the African-American Affairs Commission. In 2005, he was reappointed by House Majority Leader, James Amann. In 2009, he was reappointed by House Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan.



Fred Pierre-Louis

Vice Chairperson, Fred Pierre-Louis, MBA, MS Ed.,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.



Donna Campbell

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 Casey Family Services as a Foster Family Recruiter. She is married to Marvin Campbell and is the mother of two sons, Rhashim and Marlon.



Alphonse Wright

Treasurer 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 Chairman of the New Britain Commission on Community Neighborhood and Development 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.



Karen Bellamy

Commissioner Karen J. Bellamy is a veteran in the world of business and an advocate for community causes. Working for small to mid-size companies (Fleet Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield) for more than 15 years fueled her dream to start her own business. Insurance Benefits Solutions, LLC is a premier insurance company providing more than 12 years of products and services which secure lives - Health, Life and Financial. Insurance Benefits Solutions, LLC and its subsidiary KJB Associates partners with a multitude of companies to insure the best solutions can be secured for their clients. Ms. Bellamy is a member of the National Brotherhood of Skiers Club. She was appointed to the Commission by Senate President Pro Tempore, Donald Williams in July 2010.



Dennis Canterbury

Commissioner Dennis C. Canterbury, Ph.D. in Sociology, Binghamton University (State University of New York), is Associate Professor of Sociology at Eastern Connecticut State University. He has published extensively on development issues including Neoliberal Democratization and New Authoritarianism (Ashgate 2005), and European Bloc Imperialism (Brill 2010). He has been a visiting Professor in the Institute of 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.



Kristen M. Clark

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



Patsy Darity

Commissioner Patsy Darity is the District Coordinator of Alternative Education for the Consolidated School District of New Britain. During her tenure as an educator in the Hartford Public School System she served in various capacities including Teacher, Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta and the First Cathedral in Bloomfield. Ms. Darity was appointed to Commission in 2010 by Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan.



Brenda DelGado

Commissioner Brenda P. DelGado, has worked in the area of health care administration for over 30 years and is currently the Executive Director of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc in Hartford. She is the past Chief of HIV Prevention Clinical Services for the CT Department of Public Health AIDS Division. She received a Fellowship in Long term Care Administration from the National Black Caucus on Aging to become one of first African-American licensed Nursing Home Administrators in CT. Ms. DelGado has a Bachelors degree in Biology and Medical Technology, a Masters in Health Administration and is completing a PhD in Educational Psychology. Mrs. DelGado was appointed to the Commission in 2008 by Senate President Pro Tempore, Donald E. Williams.



Darryl A. Hugley

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



Rosetta Jones

Commissioner 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. The Connecticut General Assembly, Association of Police Commissioners, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Connecticut College, CPTV, have recognized her. Ms. Jones holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Springfield College, and was recently elected as a Councilwoman, in the town of Montville, CT. She was appointed to the African-American Affairs Commission in November 2003 by Governor John G. Rowland.



Derrick McBride

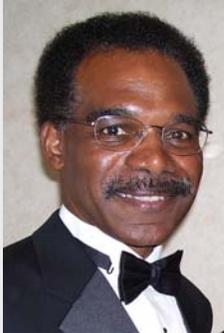
Commissioner Derrick McBride is a native of Bridgeport. He currently resides in Willimantic. Mr. McBride holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He has worked in law enforcement since 1987 at Eastern Connecticut State University's Police Department. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. 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 at the University and within the Windham community. As a reflection of this commitment, he is a recipient of Eastern's Martin Luther King Community Service Award and the Excellence in Service to the University Award. He was appointed by the Windham First Selectman to serve on Windham's Affirmative Action Commission. He is deeply devoted to his family and church. Mr. McBride has served on the Commission since 2001. He was reappointed in 2008 by the Speaker of the House, Jim Amann.



Diana Washington

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

AAAC STAFF



Glenn A. Cassis

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



Denise Drummond

Senior Legislative Secretary - Denise Drummond is a native of Connecticut. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Mrs. Drummond worked for Allegheny Ludlum as an Executive Secretary, Payroll Analyst, and Materials Management Coordinator.

