

"The Future is Now: Stand Up, Speak Up & Be Counted"

NJBIC 2019 Conference-at-a-Glance

Thursday, October 3, 2019

DAY ONE

7:30 AM REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN

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8:30 AM OPENING PLENARY SESSION

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10:15 WORKSHOP SESSION I (Concurrent Sessions)

AM Workshop 1 | Economic Opportunity/ Anti-Poverty: Affordable Housing & Foreclosure

DESCRIPTION: Unfortunately, the State of New Jersey leads the nation in foreclosures with 70,000 properties going through the process in 2017. In April 2019, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law nine bills that are designed to assist New Jerseyans struggling with foreclosure. The panel will discuss the impact the new law will have on the foreclosure process and other measures that homeowners and community members can utilize to revitalize the blight in their communities due to vacant and abandoned homes.

Workshop 2 | Criminal Justice Reform: 1844 No More: Let's Vote

DESCRIPTION: Based on the New Jersey State Constitution of 1844, people with criminal convictions were restricted from voting. Nearly 175 years later, New Jersey continues to deny the right to vote to individuals who are in prison, on parole or probation for a felony conviction. As a result, more than 5% of New Jersey's Black population is barred from participating in the political process and having a voice in issues that affect their everyday lives and those of people in their communities. The panel will discuss the impact on New Jersey's Black communities and legislation being proposed to correct this racial injustice, as well as the actions that can be taken by the community to ensure the right to vote is restored to these disenfranchised individuals.

Workshop 3 | Education: Declining Presence of Blacks in Higher Education

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DESCRIPTION: While Black students comprise approximately 12% of college and university enrollment throughout the country, fewer than half that proportion of faculty are Black. Research has shown that Black students are more likely to succeed in college when they are taught by professors that look like them. Also, Black professors often feel uncomfortable at institutions of higher learning that make them feel invisible or hypervisible. The panel will discuss the issues related to the hiring of Black professors at institutions of higher education, as well as solutions to some of the campus cultural issues that arise for these individuals and how the community at large can provide support.

Workshop 4 | Health & Environment: Giving Birth to Change: The Impact of Place on Black Maternal and Infant Mortality in the State of New Jersey

DESCRIPTION: The State of New Jersey ranks 47th in the United States in maternal mortality. Women of color account for nearly 60% of these pregnancy related deaths. Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death. Black women are more likely to experience a preventable maternal death. Black women's heightened risk of pregnancy-related deaths spans income and education levels. Black women deserve to have safe and health pregnancies and childbirth. This workshop will discuss the systematic changes that need to occur for Black women in New Jersey to be able to achieve optimal health and well-being, which provides access to improved care and makes the places that Black women live and work healthier.

Workshop 5 | Hot Topics: Opportunity Zone Act: Where are They? What's Happening?

DESCRIPTION: The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 established a new community investment tool called opportunity zones. Opportunity zones are to encourage long-term private investments in low-income urban and rural communities throughout the country. Opportunity zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated opportunity funds. In the State of New Jersey, there are seventy-five municipalities with opportunity zones. The panelists will discuss the creation of the opportunity zones in the State of New Jersey, as well as how the Opportunity Zone program works and how it can benefit the communities where they are located.

11:30 LUNCHEON
AM |

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1:15 PM| WORKSHOP SESSION II (Concurrent Sessions)

Workshop 1 | Economic Opportunity/ Anti-Poverty: Black Wealth Gap

DESCRIPTION: Few Black Americans remember the community in Tulsa, Oklahoma known as Black Wall Street nor the two days of rioting that destroyed that community. There are many instances in our history that have resulted in the prevention of Black people accumulating wealth. The panel will discuss the issues or instances that lie behind the persistent wealth gap for Black people and potential cures to the long history of racial discrimination and public policies that have assisted in the Black wealth gap. These potential cures include reparations, a one-time cash compensation for the lasting effects of slavery and discrimination and other potential remedies.

Workshop 2 | Criminal Justice Reform: Judicial Perspective on Bail Reform & the State of the New Jersey's Black Community

DESCRIPTION: On April 2, 2019, the New Jersey Judiciary released its 2nd Annual Report to the Legislature and Governor on the state's historical bail reform law. The report highlights the changes in the judicial process due to the reform of the bail system, but the report does not provide the perspective of members of the judiciary about the success or failure of bail reform nor information about the impact that the reform has had on New Jersey's Black communities and families. The workshop will explore the judicial perspective and their thoughts on additional changes that may need to be made to ensure that the judicial process, as well as bail system, is fair and equitable for Black New Jerseyans to access.

Workshop 3 | Education: What Is Role of Religious Communities in Supporting Student Success?

DESCRIPTION: Public school systems are discovering a forgotten resource in their communities: the Black church. The Black church is renewing its commitment to education by partnering with public school systems to provide resources to the students in the communities in which they serve. These resources include after-school tutorials, summer schools, computer classes for students and their families, providing meals and family activities. The Black church is filling a gap in the public schools in their communities by supplementing initiatives that the public schools are unable to provide to their populations. This workshop will allow Black church leaders to discuss the programs they have implemented with their public school officials and the impact that those programs have had on the students, their families and the members of their churches.

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Workshop 4 | Health & Environment: *AARP's "\$top Rx Greed"* (sponsored by AARP)

DESCRIPTION: Government is broken while drug companies are making billions in profits off seniors and hardworking Americans. Our elected representatives, at the state and federal level, need to work together to pass legislation to lower prescription drug prices now. AARP's "Stop Rx Greed" campaign is a nationwide call to action to stop letting drug companies price gouge seniors and hardworking Americans and pass bipartisan legislation to lower prescription drug process now. Americans pay the highest prescription drug costs in the world. In a recent survey of likely African-American voters, 84% reported they take prescription drugs on a regular basis. Like all Americans, many are worried they may have to cut back on necessities like food, fuel and electricity to be able to afford a prescription drug. This presentation will take a deep dive into AARP's \$top Rx Greed Campaign including how you can get involved to lower prescription drug costs and:

- Protect older Americans: No one should have to choose between food and medicine.
- Stop Overcharging: It's time to crack down on drug companies for charging Americans the highest prices in the world for the medicines they need.
- Stop Driving up Costs: The tens of billions drug companies spend on advertising each year is shameful and makes drugs more expensive, e.g. they spend billions more on advertising than it costs them to develop new drugs.
- Enact Common sense solutions to lower Rx costs. People of all ages depend on their prescriptions and unfair prices are putting their medicines out reach.

Workshop 5 | Hot Topics: The 19th Amendment at 100: What it Means for Black Women in New Jersey

DESCRIPTION: On June 4, 1919, the United States Congress passed a federal women suffrage amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. The centennial passage of the 19th Amendment, which

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granted women the right to vote in New Jersey, will occur on August 26, 2020. Despite the passage of the 19th Amendment, not all women were able to easily access the polls nor were they represented in the suffrage movement. This workshop will explore the impact that the 19th Amendment has had on Black women's participation in the political process and steps that need to be taken to mitigate the challenges Black women continue to confront today.

2:30 PM FORUM I: The State of Black Health in New Jersey

| DESCRIPTION: Healthy New Jersey 2020 is the State of New Jersey's Health Improvement Plan and its health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the decade. Healthy New Jersey 2020's vision is for New Jersey to be a state in which people live long, healthy lives. Reducing health disparities among New Jerseyans is an overarching goal of the Healthy New Jersey 2020 and have set forth health disparity priority areas, which include, but are not limited to, asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, infant mortality, obesity and cancer screenings. This forum will explore ways in which information about Healthy New Jersey 2020 can be disseminated to New Jersey's Black communities, steps that have been or need to be taken to eliminate health disparities in the Black community and how members of the Black community can participate in and have a voice in the Healthy New Jersey 2020 and 2030 campaigns.

7:00 PM COMMUNITY CHANGE AWARDS CEREMONY & RECEPTION

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Friday, October 4, 2019

DAY TWO

7:30 AM REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN

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8:30 AM OPENING PLENARY

10:15 WORKSHOP SESSION I (Concurrent Sessions)

AM Workshop 1 | Economic Opportunity/ Anti-Poverty: Census 2020: How to Ensure an Accurate Count of our Hard-to-Count Areas

DESCRIPTION: The 2020 Census will be the first census to be largely completed online. An online census is one of several technological innovations that the Census Bureau has designed to respond to the challenges of counting a largely diverse population. As young people are undercounted in the census at a high rate, it is important to engage young adults in the process of completing the census forms for their families and how to develop outreach plans for their individual communities. This workshop will allow young adults to provide information and feedback to a state-wide action plan that has been developed to provide information to hard-to-count areas, as well as how to ensure that hard-to-count areas complete their census forms.

Workshop 2 | Criminal Justice Reform: Jamesburg: Where are We Now?

DESCRIPTION: The New Jersey Training Facility for Boys, also known as Jamesburg, is one of the oldest, most antiquated youth prisons in the country. Under Governor Christopher Christie, a plan was approved to shutter the 150-year old facility, which is inadequate for rehabilitating young people. With the plans to build three new youth correctional facilities, what is the plan for Jamesburg & Hayes facilities? This workshop will address the plans for the two oldest youth correctional facilities in the State of New Jersey, as well as the plans to build three new youth prisons and the advocacy needed to ensure that these three new facilities are not built and the plans to shutter Jamesburg move forward.

Workshop 3 | Education: Organizing to Combat Racially Inequitable School Discipline Policies & the School to Prison Pipeline

DESCRIPTION: The school-to-prison pipeline starts in Pre-K, especially for Black boys. Suspensions are the beginning of the school-to-prison pipeline, which refers to harsh and racially inequitable discipline policies that push students out of school, onto the street and eventually into the criminal justice system. Black students are three times more likely to be suspended as White students. When boys of color fail to graduate from high school, the lifelong impact can be devastating. Two-thirds of Black men without a high school diploma end up in prison at some point in their lives.

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Workshop 4 | Health & Environment: Teen Addiction and Its Impact on NJ's Black Community

DESCRIPTION: Teen drug and alcohol abuse affects mind, body and community, but the problem is so much more. Due to the use of the internet and social media, the teen drug abuse has grown to epidemic proportions. Digital peer pressure and online drug marketing allows the influence of drugs and alcohol on teens. What may have begun as having a "good time" quickly escalates to full-blown drug addiction with dangerous consequences for the teen, family and community. This workshop will address the various ways teen drug and alcohol abuse affects the mind, body and community, as well as how open communication can stem these effects and the road to addiction.

Workshop 5 | Hot Topics: What's Up: Voter Participation & Engagement Election 2019

DESCRIPTION: In order for our country's system of democracy to function properly and for the government to provide fair representation, all eligible voters must have the opportunity to vote and be encouraged to do so. Yet, many eligible voters choose not to exercise their right to vote. Why do individuals make this choice/ What can be done to eliminate unnecessary barriers in the voter registration and voting processes in New Jersey to prevent people from casting their ballots and potential voters from feeling alienated from our system of government. This workshop will discuss how New Jersey and its communities can build an election system that is based on pro-voter policies and practices that drive participation by all eligible voters.

11:30 LUNCHEON
AM

1:15 PM Workshop Session II

Workshop 1 | Economic Opportunity/ Anti-Poverty: Apprenticeship & Career Pathways & Access for Black Youth

DESCRIPTION: Career pathways provide a clear sequence of education and training aligned with professional standards and competencies. Career pathways combined with apprenticeship opportunities can remove barriers for disadvantaged workers, particularly Black youth, and provide an effective pathway that broadens access to opportunities that expose young adults to real-world and career awareness experiences. The workshop will discuss current

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apprenticeship and career pathways programs available to Black youth in New Jersey. In addition, the workshop will discuss potential barriers to entry into these programs and ways to mitigate these barriers.

Workshop 2 | Criminal Justice Reform: Use of Force by the Police

DESCRIPTION: Law enforcement officials should exhaust all other reasonable means in engagement with an individual before resorting to the use of force. It is the policy in New Jersey that law enforcement officers will use only that force which is objectively reasonable and necessary. The Fore Report, a 16-month investigation by NJ Advance Media, found that New Jersey's system for tracking police force is not effective and there is no state-wide collection and analysis of force data, little oversight by State officials and no standard practices among local police departments. This workshop will review the data compiled for the Force Report and discuss remedies that should be proposed to the New Jersey Attorney General based on the data reviewed and advocacy efforts needed to get the remedies implemented.

Workshop 3 | Education: Making the Switch from Decline to Prosperity: Attracting Youth to K-12 Education Careers

DESCRIPTION: Teachers are an essential and influential part of student learning. Despite the value teachers can provide to their students, school districts are facing numerous challenges recruiting new teachers to contribute to the academic growth of students. The workshop will review reasons youth are not attracted to K-12 education careers and discuss ways to encourage an interest in teaching among youth. In addition, the workshop will provide suggestions on an outreach campaign to develop interest among youth for K-12 education careers.

Workshop 4 | Health & Environment: Mental Health & Its Stigma

DESCRIPTION: Mental illness is common. It affects thousands of individuals. Most people who experience mental health problems fully recover or are able to live with and manage the illness. However, there is a strong social stigma attached to mental health-related illness, which leads individuals to not seek treatment. The stigma and discrimination associated with mental health may have a negative

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effect on individuals suffering from a disease, which may affect the individual's ability to find work, be in a steady long-term relationship, live in decent housing or be socially included in mainstream society. This workshop will address the stigma(s) and discrimination associated with mental health, as well as steps that an individual can take to overcome the stigma(s) and get the necessary help.

Workshop 5 | Hot Topics: Federal Policy Impacting New Jersey

2:30 PM FORUM II: New Jersey History of Race and Racism

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will chronicle the history of race and racism in the State of New Jersey. According to Dr. Patricia Reid Merritt, "it is important to talk about things that are difficult to talk about". Race is one of those things. Therefore, this forum will take a journey to New Jersey's race and racism past and bring us forward, so that we can begin to deal with issues plaguing our Black communities due to the racial past of the State.

7:00 PM CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION