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# HUD Chief Seeks Internet Access for the Poor



By Freddie Allen  
Sr. Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Julián Castro, the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, wants to provide broadband access to public housing residents in an effort to increase socioeconomic mobility among poor and low-income families.

“We think [broadband access] is important because the world requires a connection to the Internet now,” said Castro.

He said that HUD wants to launch the program, which is still in its early planning stages, in 20 major metropolitan areas working with private sector telecommunication companies

*Julían Castro, the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development talks about the importance of homeownership in the African American community. (Freddie Allen/NNPA)*

to wire the communities or provide wireless in a free or very low-cost way.

Castro said that in the vast majority of public housing communities, there is no connectivity.

According to a 2014 report by the Pew Research Center, most households with incomes below \$20,000, “do not have an internet subscription for a computer, cell phone or other device, though they may have free access at a local library or elsewhere.” Roughly 25 million American households, “have

no regular internet access at all, either at home or elsewhere.”

Sixty-two percent of Black adults have broadband access at home compared to 74 percent of White adults. A gap of 12 percent. The digital divide between Black and White adults 65 and older leaps to 21 percent (30 percent vs. 51 percent who have broadband at home).

A 2010 Pew survey revealed that Americans feel that people that don’t have broadband access at home “are at a major disadvantage when it comes to finding out about

job opportunities or learning career skills, or when getting health information, learning new things for personal enrichment, and using government services.”

Castro said that a respectable number of people have Internet connection through their cell phone, but it’s not the same as having that access in your home where it’s more stable and you can do homework and other things that people generally don’t do on their phones.

*HUD continued on page 5*

## President Obama Reportedly Not Feeling Too Good About the Nation’s Black Colleges



WASHINGTON, DC — President Obama and Vice President Biden recently met with members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to discuss key issues such as economic security and education. They also addressed the future of the nation’s more than 100 HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

But some in attendance say Obama had very negative things to say about HBCUs.

He reportedly criticized the student loan policies at HBCUs and insisted that low graduation rates, not federal funding cuts or his free community college plan, were the greatest threats to HBCUs. His free community college plan proposes to offer free tuition for enrolled students who maintain a 2.5 GPA and are making progress toward completing their program, but many critics say this will hurt the HBCU community.

According to Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA): “[President Obama] said there were some HBCUs that were not good at graduating students and if they did not improve they’d have to go by the wayside. In other words he didn’t show much empathy for struggling HBCUs. It was like ‘show me the numbers’ and if the numbers aren’t where they need to be, that’s it. It was a somewhat callous view of the unique niche HBCUs fill.”

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) also commented, “I was concerned about what the President said because it feeds into a narrative about the value of these institutions and whether they are equip to educate our students and what the cost is for doing so. Many of these institutions have not had a maintenance of effort on the part of states or the federal government and over time that wears on their ability to maintain standards or even advance beyond a certain level. It was very clear that he doesn’t have the same level of appreciation for what these institutions have done and could do in the future given the right support

## Civil Rights Group Calls on FBI to Address Systemic Crisis of Racist, Violent and Abusive Policing

*ColorOfChange.org Issues Statement on FBI Director James Comey’s Assertions on Race Bias in Law Enforcement*

WASHINGTON, DC - “For the first time ever, the head of the FBI has directly addressed race in a speech delivered at Georgetown University entitled, ‘Hard Truths: Law Enforcement and Race.’ However, while we acknowledge Director Comey’s decision to enter the critical conversation about systemic racial bias, violence and corruption within law enforcement across the country, his speech perpetuated many of the dangerous, discriminatory perspectives that uphold the crisis of violent and abusive policing.

“Director Comey presented false equivalencies around the police violence facing Black and brown Americans and the growing calls for systemic policing reform. Holding police accountable for addressing the crisis of discriminatory police misconduct is not ‘unfair,’ but is rather one of the most critical challenges facing our nation.

“We strongly challenge Comey’s argument that Black and brown communities are to blame for the daily terror and indignity of discriminatory policing. The reality is that law enforcement and leaders such as Director Comey and Attorney General Holder have the responsibility and obligation to address the violence and discrimination endemic to law enforcement.

*Policing continued on page 4*

# Lawyers’ Committee Releases 2014 Election Protection Report: Democracy Should Not Be This Hard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On last Thursday, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyers’ Committee) released a report depicting the obstacles to the ballot box experienced during the 2014 general election season and the work performed by the nonpartisan Election Protection Coalition to help voters respond to undue burdens on the right to vote.

The report describes the 2014 voting landscape in which equal access to the franchise was not guaranteed. It also conveys the voter experience and shares compelling stories reported to Election Protection from across the country.

Lawyers’ Committee President and Executive Director Barbara Arnwine said, “The Election Protection 2014 Report exposes that there is much to do to ensure our electoral system works for all voters. Voting rights champions must keep using innovative ways to engage and educate voters; voters must speak out when their right to vote is in jeopardy; and local legislators and elections officials must as-

pire to a voting system that ensures maximum inclusion and participation.”

The Report documents a 45% increase in calls from the 2010 midterm election to the 1-866-OUR-VOTE Hotline, with over 43,000 total calls during the 2014 election season and over 18,000 calls on Election Day alone. Polling places account for 61% of reported voting inquiries to Election Protection, and 24.5% of reported inquiries concerned voter registration. And of the reported obstacles to vote, 26% concerned polling places, 22.9% concerned registration and 10% concerned poll workers. In Texas, over 13% of problems reported by voters were with the state’s stringent voter ID requirement. In Georgia, where nearly 40,000 eligible individuals attempted to register to vote but were inexplicably left off the state’s voter rolls, nearly 45% of voters sought information about voter registration, and nearly 57% of reported problems were with registration. Texas and Georgia were among the top five states by total call vol-

ume on Election Day.

“This report is as much about voters’ perseverance to cast a ballot as it is about the problems that marred the midterm Election,” said Lawyers’ Committee Manager of Legal Mobilization and Strategic Campaigns Chris Melody Fields. “Voters and advocates across the country stood strong in the face of the first election since key protections of the VRA were weakened in 2013. As we reflect on the 2014 election, especially the factors that impacted America’s lowest voter turnout in over seven decades, we must continue to be vigilant, removing unnecessary barriers that decrease participation and deploying new strategies to engage voters in our democracy.”

Through its suite of hotlines, including the 1-866-OUR-VOTE hotline (1-866-687-8683) administered by the Lawyers’ Committee, 1-888-VE-YVOTA (1-888-839-8682) administered by NALGO Educational Fund, 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-273-8683) administered by APIA-Vote and Asian Americans

Advancing Justice-AAJC and dedicated team of legal experts and trained volunteers, Election Protection helps all American voters, including traditionally disenfranchised groups, gain access to the polls and overcome obstacles to voting. The coalition has more than 150 partners - including the NAACP, Common Cause, National Bar Association, State Voices, Native American Rights Fund, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, National Disability Rights Network, Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALGO), New Organizing Institute, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Rock the Vote, the Hip Hop Caucus, Verified Voting Foundation, Advancement Project, APIAVote and the Brennan Center for Justice - at the national, state and local level and is providing voter protection services nationwide. For more information visit [www.866ourvote.org](http://www.866ourvote.org).





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# Opinions & Editorials

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# The AME Church: Economic Empowerment



By Peter Grear

## Educate, organize and mobilize

Economic empowerment and wealth creation are considered to be the most significant unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement. As we've reported before, our goal for The Third Reconstruction is to help build a network of individuals and organizations committed to a non-racial, equal opportunity America characterized by political, economic, and social justice. Several months ago the AME Church laid down a marker that it would be wise if other churches and organizations follow their lead. In her article AME Church Leaders Cite Black Economic Empow-

erment as 2015 Goal, Hazel Trice Edney noted that Reverend Jonathan Weaver says A.M.E. pastors, led by Bishop William P. DeVaux, are now poised to carry out a specific plan that they hope will spread to other denominations and ultimately catch fire in other denominations and the Black community throughout 2015. Wrote Edney, the starting plan, in a nutshell, is for churches located in the A.M.E. Second District - North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and D.C. - to commit to the support of two Black-owned businesses. They are Thomas Morehead, president of a BMW dealership in Sterling, Va. and Donnell Thompson, co-founder/co-owner of RWDT Foods, Inc., a chain of restaurants based in N. Snellville, Ga. The link to the full article follows: <http://bit.ly/1vWNqVB>

Just for the record, I'm a Que and I trust and pray that Omega Psi Phi will embrace this initiative. Great work AME.

[www.thethirdreconstruction.com](http://www.thethirdreconstruction.com) is a blog whose goal, as noted above, is to help build a network of organizations and individuals committed to political, economic, and social justice. To accomplish this, our blog tracks individu-

als and organizations that are involved in initiatives that are supportive of our goals. On our blog we will post topics that relate to the various initiatives and solicit public input that will help the various efforts succeed. We will eventually have threads for the various topics/issues and hope that you'll sign up and post your comments or questions. In addition to the Black Church we are tracking the Moral Monday Movement and their issues of voter suppression, Medicaid expansion, minimum wages and others. We are tracking elected officials on many of their efforts, including The Affordable Care Act, economic disparity, and voting rights. We are tracking Black Lives Matter and their issues, which include police misconduct, Black immigration, ending the prison industrial complex, and pass-

ing the Ending the Racial Profiling Act (ERPA) into law. In addition to [www.thethirdreconstruction.com](http://www.thethirdreconstruction.com) blog we maintain multiple Facebook pages, groups, and another website. On all of our Internet sites and in Greater Diversity News, we continuously write and post articles and comments that we believe are relevant to our blog topics and articles detailing the history of Blacks in America with all of its hate filled, bloody brutality. As a people, Blacks must know their past because many public policies from our past continue to pose grave threats to us today. And of course, there are many that believe that those that don't know their past are doomed to repeat it. Join the growing numbers of people that are committing themselves to fight for political, economic and social justice and please ask your

affiliated churches and organizations to join in the efforts.

GDN covers news that is vital to unrepresented and underserved communities. We need your financial support to help us remain viable.

Peter Grear, Esq. writes for Greater Diversity News and [www.thethirdreconstruction.com](http://www.thethirdreconstruction.com) with a primary focus on political, social and economic justice. To support our efforts, to unite our politics and economics, please "Like" and follow us at [www.facebook.com/ThirdReconstruction](http://www.facebook.com/ThirdReconstruction). Please "Share" our articles and post your ideas and comments on Facebook or at our websites [www.GreaterDiversity.com](http://www.GreaterDiversity.com) and [www.thethirdreconstruction.com](http://www.thethirdreconstruction.com). Comments can also be sent to [pgrear@thethirdreconstruction.com](mailto:pgrear@thethirdreconstruction.com). Finally, please ask all of your Facebook "Friends" to like and follow our pages. •

## A Different Standard for Black Girls



By LeConte J. Dill  
NNPA Guest Columnist

Nearly 40 years ago, a metaphor or fable, if you will, about "upstream-downstream" was created by healthcare practitioners to better explain and argue for the value of preventative health care measures. The fable describes a group of community members standing near a river who witness someone drowning. Some of the community members jump into the water and pull the person to the shore. As soon as they do so, they try to resuscitate her.

Then, another drowning person floats down the river; and as the community recruits more lifesavers, still more drowning people float past them. Eventually, someone thinks to go upstream to find out what was causing so many people to be pulled into the river. More recently this fable has been used as a metaphor for those lost in the midst of a failing educational system in an effort to get Americans to look upstream to see the sources of the problem; and to query why so many of the failing students are people of color.

If we think of those upstream determinants as structural barriers, what happens when girls of color are pushed out of educational systems that are supposed to support them? How can a path be cleared for them that serves as a bridge to economic stability,

and optimal life outcomes? In a new report, Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Over-policed and Underprotected the African American Policy Forum examines these concerns in New York City and Boston. The report breaks down data by race and gender, and its findings are disturbing. In New York, for instance, in the 2011-2012 school year, Black girls were disciplined 10 times more often than White girls. In fact, in some settings Black girls were found to face a greater racialized risk of unjust punishment than Black boys.

Girls of color are often more harshly punished for non-violent offenses that educators have coded as "disruptive" and "disrespectful." They are sometimes punished for behavior that would be viewed as innocuous for boys. For instance, one girl interviewed for the report explained: "Some of the girls did have this sense of frustration, that there is a different standard for girls' behavior versus boys. So boys seem to just get more looking the other way, or more tolerance of even the exact same behavior."

Girls of color are also experiencing multiple forms of violence before they even walk through the school doors. They are ingesting trauma for breakfast. Its embedded in the pressures of serving as quasi-mothers for younger family members, enduring physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse at home, and leaving their homes with no safe route to school in neighborhoods that have literally been disinvested in by city and corporate officials.

Once they reach their schools, they often find the buildings and classrooms to be unsafe. Many schools that serve low-income youth and students of color have permanent metal detectors. These schools are coded as "dropout

factories," known for graduating less than 60 percent of the 9th graders who attend them. In Black Girls Matter, the authors found that girls of color reported facing discriminatory and abusive comments from school security officers, and intrusive body searches as they entered the school and in the hallways. Rather than fostering a safe space these conditions at times made some girls avoid school altogether. Simply put, school push-out for girls of color can result in a kind of slow-death, and the absence of a genuine opportunity to succeed. Rather than serving to prevent failure down the road it is more likely to produce failure.

So, as we travel back upstream to see what is going on in our public schools, let's do so armed with more data - both qualitative and quantitative - so that we can gain a better understanding of the roots of the problems that girls of color face. Let's call for public policies and innovative programs tailored to their needs; and let's acknowledge that when girls are pushed out of school lasting effects spill over into every aspect of their lives. Let's lend a hand before the girls are forced to fend for themselves in treacherous waters.

LeConte Dill is an Assistant Professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate School of Public Health, teaching and conducting community-engaged research related to urban health, positive youth development, and qualitative methods. A native of South Central Los Angeles, LeConte lives and works in Brooklyn, N.Y. She holds degrees from Spelman College, UCLA, and University of California-Berkeley, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. •



Purchase the book online from [bendib.com](http://bendib.com) Khalil Bendib is a Berkeley based award winning cartoonist published in 1,700 small and mid-sized newspapers as well as The Black Commentator.

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Wilmington, NC

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Shaw University  
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5th Avenue Baptist Church  
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Community Boys Club  
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First Baptist Church  
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National Food  
Redcross Street

St. Stephens  
501 Redcross Street

Coin Laundry  
Princess Street

Ephesus SDA  
1002 Castle Street

Thompson's Barber Shop  
1403 Dawson Street

Smitty's  
17th Street

Ebenezer Church  
2929 Princess Place Drive

Macedonia MB Church  
3701 Princess Place Drive

Enoch Chapel Baptist Church  
7011 Market Street

African-American Cultural Center  
UNCW, Room 211

John T. Hoggard High School  
4305 Shipyard Boulevard

Chestnut St Presbyterian Church  
714 Chestnut Street

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# Career & Education

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## Hi-Tech Must Give Higher Priority to Diversity



By Kim M. Keenan  
NNPA Guest Columnist

This revolution will definitely not be televised.

When Intel announced that it would spend \$300 million over the next five years to

create a workforce that actually looks like America, the coverage of the announcement was scant.

Here, we have a real game changer, and the faint praise of Intel CEO Brian Krzanich's decision to establish a \$300 million dollar "Diversity in Tech" initiative – or Jesse Jackson's efforts at prodding the industry – is almost as bad as the conditions that created the need for the fund in the first place.

Almost.

By stepping up and leading tech companies out of the same old thinking about how to create a diverse workforce,

Intel is opening the door for others in the tech world to ensure that the age of innovation looks like all of America.

Last month, Apple included two established minority-owned firms in its \$6.5 billion debt offering, which was the largest high-grade corporate bond sale this year – until Microsoft followed with a \$10.75 billion debt offering that included four minority-owned firms. This is the kind of action befitting the companies in the vanguard of changing the world we live in.

The business case is clear. People of color and women are among the highest consumers of all things tech. And there are too many of us to be ignored.

The Census Bureau figures tell the story.

"The non-Hispanic white population is projected to peak

in 2024, at 199.6 million, up from 197.8 million in 2012. Unlike other race or ethnic groups, however, its population is projected to slowly decrease, falling by nearly 20.6 million from 2024 to 2060," the Census Bureau reported. "Meanwhile, the Hispanic population would more than double, from 53.3 million in 2012 to 128.8 million in 2060. Consequently, by the end of the period, nearly one in three U.S. residents would be Hispanic, up from about one in six today.

"The black population is expected to increase from 41.2 million to 61.8 million over the same period. Its share of the total population would rise slightly, from 13.1 percent in 2012 to 14.7 percent in 2060.

"The Asian population is projected to more than double, from 15.9 million in 2012 to

34.4 million in 2060, with its share of nation's total population climbing from 5.1 percent to 8.2 percent in the same period.

"Among the remaining race groups, American Indians and Alaska Natives would increase by more than half from now to 2060, from 3.9 million to 6.3 million, with their share of the total population edging up from 1.2 percent to 1.5 percent. The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population is expected to nearly double, from 706,000 to 1.4 million. The number of people who identify themselves as being of two or more races is projected to more than triple, from 7.5 million to 26.7 million over the same period.

"The U.S. is projected to become a majority-minority nation for the first time in

2043..."

In that world, a company that only sees white will find competitive challenges to keep up with a world that sees everything but white – green will be the driver of what companies look like, and not just in tech.

This is not a handout by any means. This is a hand up to a solid future for our communities of color. We are drivers of all aspects of this new economy. Our money powers micro chips, search engines, and every handheld device on the planet. Diversity as a core value is more about staying connected with your customers so that they do not discard you for the next new shiny thing than it is about giving something away.

*Hi-Tech continued on page 5*

### 18-Year Old Fast Food Worker Makes Black History

*Publishes New Guide on Customer Service*



**UNDERCOVER CUSTOMER:**  
100 Ways To Fix Your Broken Customer Service  
*First-Hand Advice From an 18-Year Old Fast Food Employee*

Bookcover and author,  
Sherron A. Stevens

Sherron A. Stevens, although currently working at the bottom level in the fast food industry, is not afraid to call himself a customer service expert and establish himself as a future leader in the industry!

Columbus, OH - Using his first-hand experiences as a fast food worker, Sherron A. Stevens, an 18-year old African American college student from Columbus, Ohio, has made a unique contribution to the world of business and customer service. He has authored Undercover Customer: 100 Ways To Fix Your Broken Customer Service - a powerful new guide for employees, managers, executives and CEOs on how to implement exceptional customer service.

In Undercover Customer, Sherron unleashes 100 super simple, but also super effective customer service tips from an associate's perspective. Remember that most of these types of books are written from the manager's perspective or even from the corporate office. But Sherron's book is straight from the trenches!

Sherron is currently working for Chick-fil-A, but has also worked for Donatos Pizza (a popular chain in Ohio) in the past. He says people should listen to him because he works directly with the customers every single day! "Most CEOs and corporate executives never deal directly with the customers," he says. "So how can they know how to properly train their employees?"

Sherron's ideas and suggestions are more than just talk! His accomplishments have gained him a lot of attention and notoriety in the workplace - from manager referrals, to tons of verbal and written customer compliments, to being personally invited to meet with the CEO of



one of the largest pizza chains in Ohio.

In his book, he lists the following four reasons why he says customer service is critical to any business:

#1 - 68% of customers say they won't return to a place of business if they have experienced bad customer service.

#2 - 7 in 10 Americans say that they are willing to spend more money with companies that they believe provide excellent customer service.

#3 - It takes 12 positive experiences to make up for one unresolved negative customer experience.

#4 - It is 6-7 times more expensive to acquire a new customer than it is to keep a current one.

So why write a book? "I wrote Undercover Customer because I wanted to share my expertise on customer service with other associates, managers and corporate executives around the world. But also I want to establish myself as a future leader in the customer service industry," Sherron comments.

He adds, "Right now, I'm in college and I'm still working at the bottom level. But I'm very passionate about customer service, and I would love the opportunity to work in customer service at a higher managerial level and even one day start my own customer service training and evaluation company."

He says he chose the title Undercover Customer because the book gives a unique perspective on customer service from the vantage point of a customer in disguise who is really a customer service expert.

Undercover Customer: 100 Ways To Fix Your Broken Customer Service  
By Sherron A. Stevens  
ISBN: 1507779364  
Available as an e-book and paperback at Amazon.com or [www.UndercoverCustomer.com](http://www.UndercoverCustomer.com)

## FOOD LION

February 18 - February 24, 2015





# Health & Wellness

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## Successful Woman Breaking Gender Paradigms in North Carolina



By Johanna Saavedra,  
UNC News Bureau

In a world where in theory, gender struggle is long gone, since the adoption of the feminine universal suffrage in 1931, in practice, for women today, reaching high positions remains a narrow path.

It is not a secret that being in one of the highest offices in a company is a double-edged sword, not only for the personal and economic satisfaction but also for the great responsibility that this represents.

But what does it takes to work in this position? What sacrifices or risks must be taken to achieve, reach and also stay? Three of the most successful women in the state of North Carolina are proof of that. For them, tenacity, courage and dedication are some of the qualities that are needed to perform this type of work in a society where man is dominant, says Mary Winston, the chief financial officer of Family Dollar.

"In a job like this, gender differentiation is evident in the financial sector, which is dominated by men. But I've worked in international organizations where women even from other countries have succeeded because no matter

where they work, they do a good job."

For the Puerto Rican Deborah Aguiar-Vélez, owner of Systems Corporation since 1983, it is very clear that women have many challenges related to their gender in an intrinsic way that men do not have, like looking for a job while they are pregnant. Likewise, Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State of North Carolina, believes that women's style is different in issues of leadership because, in a world led by men, it is difficult for a woman's voice to be heard and valued.

"If the person to whom he is speaking doesn't think a woman should be in that kind of leadership is difficult to be taken into account. It's hard to be persuasive because women ideas are often eliminated because the way they look physically," Marshall said. "Martin Luther King said, 'Judge me by my heart's content and quality of my ideas and not judge me by my gender or my race.' There is still much to reach in that level."

On the other hand, for Winston, although women do have a disadvantage compared to men, making the work harder, she also states that "often the limitation of some women is mental, they

believe that they can not do or will not be accepted depending on family or cultural context."

Despite what they have had to live through these years of experience, each of them is optimistic and sees hope for the success of the female figure in senior positions.

Advice for people who aspire to high positions Security. Know what you want to achieve. Objectives involve effort and sacrifice.

The same level of effort is required getting to occupy one of these positions, as maintained and be good at what it does. I think they must always be ready to work hard, make sacrifices, and achieve a balance with the challenges they face in life to succeed.

Preparation. Success is when opportunity meets someone who is prepared, and how to be prepared? Prepare by studying, making connections, always believing that one can do better and work more efficiently, nothing comes easily. One must pass intelligently to expert and a reliable expert advisor.

Confidence. Not waiting to have everything sorted out and be an expert. You have to identify the strengths that need to improve and fix the weaknesses, and not let

*Ursula Burns is the CEO of Xerox and the first African American woman to head a Fortune 500 Company.*

weaknesses become vulnerabilities.

Make yourself known. Recognize your interests and communicate them to others.

Many women expect to be strong or skilled enough about a topic to get started and get the dream job; that will never happen, you may

be the rest of your life.

Volunteering. There are many small jobs with great responsibility where you learn a lot more, if you volunteer when the opportunity presents itself.

Being expert. Work on your skills and personal strengths to become an expert

in any subject, work or office. Initially work may not pay but if you are good at what you do, you will definitely become an indispensable resource.

Have vision. Not to be perfect, not be the best but it is important to look to the future and have a plan.

Declaring victory. Believing that everything will be fine and start working to get in; if it fails, leave it and move on. •

## New Hanover County Community Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

The board of advisors of the New Hanover County Community Foundation is now accepting applications for three scholarships.

Scholarships are available for students wishing to pursue a degree or training in the field of nursing or teaching at an institution of higher learning in New Hanover County through the Joseph Bergin and Elsa Flower Davies Teacher Training and Nursing Training scholarships.

Applications are also being accepted for the Myrtle Grove Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Scholarship. Eligible applicants must be former firefighters who served with a New Hanover County volunteer fire department or descendants of such firefighters who are interested in pursuing higher education at an accredited university, college, community college or technical institute.

Application forms are

available on the North Carolina Community Foundation's website, [www.nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org). Complete application packets must be received by Saturday, April 18, 2015. The review committee will not consider incomplete applications.

About New Hanover County Community Foundation

The New Hanover County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation. New Hanover County Community Foundation board members are: Stephen Gaskins, Ned Barclay, Patrick Boykin, Ron Copley, Eldridge Dodson, Noel Fox, Frank Gibson, Rickey Godwin, Patrick Moore, Laurie Taylor, Kristi Sullivan and George Taylor.

For further information, contact Angie Brewer, NC Community Foundation southeast region associate, at [abrewer@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:abrewer@nccommunityfoundation.org) or 910-509-7256.

foundation.org or 910-509-7256.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation: The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made \$89 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$191 million in assets, NCCF sustains 1,200 endowments established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, non-profit organizations, institutions and scholarships. The NCCF partners with 60 affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance in 67 counties across the state. An important component of NCCF's mission is to ensure that rural philanthropy has a voice at local, regional and national levels.

For more information, visit [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org) and Facebook or follow on Twitter @NCCF. •

## Policing

*continued from front*

"The problems of law enforcement are structural just as much as they are about the implicit racial bias of police. These problems require a complete overhaul of the systems, policies and practices

that uphold discriminatory and violent policing, such as Stop and Frisk, Broken Windows policing, and so-called predictive policing. These practices incentivize police to target, harass and unjustly arrest Black and brown people for the most minor of issues.

"Coney holds the power to address the issues of violence and racism in policing

and we urge him to move beyond words and into definitive action, starting with the collection of data referenced in his speech. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further at a meeting with Director Coney, backed by the voices of more than 200,000 ColorOfChange members and our allies." •



### Peter Grear, Attorney at Law

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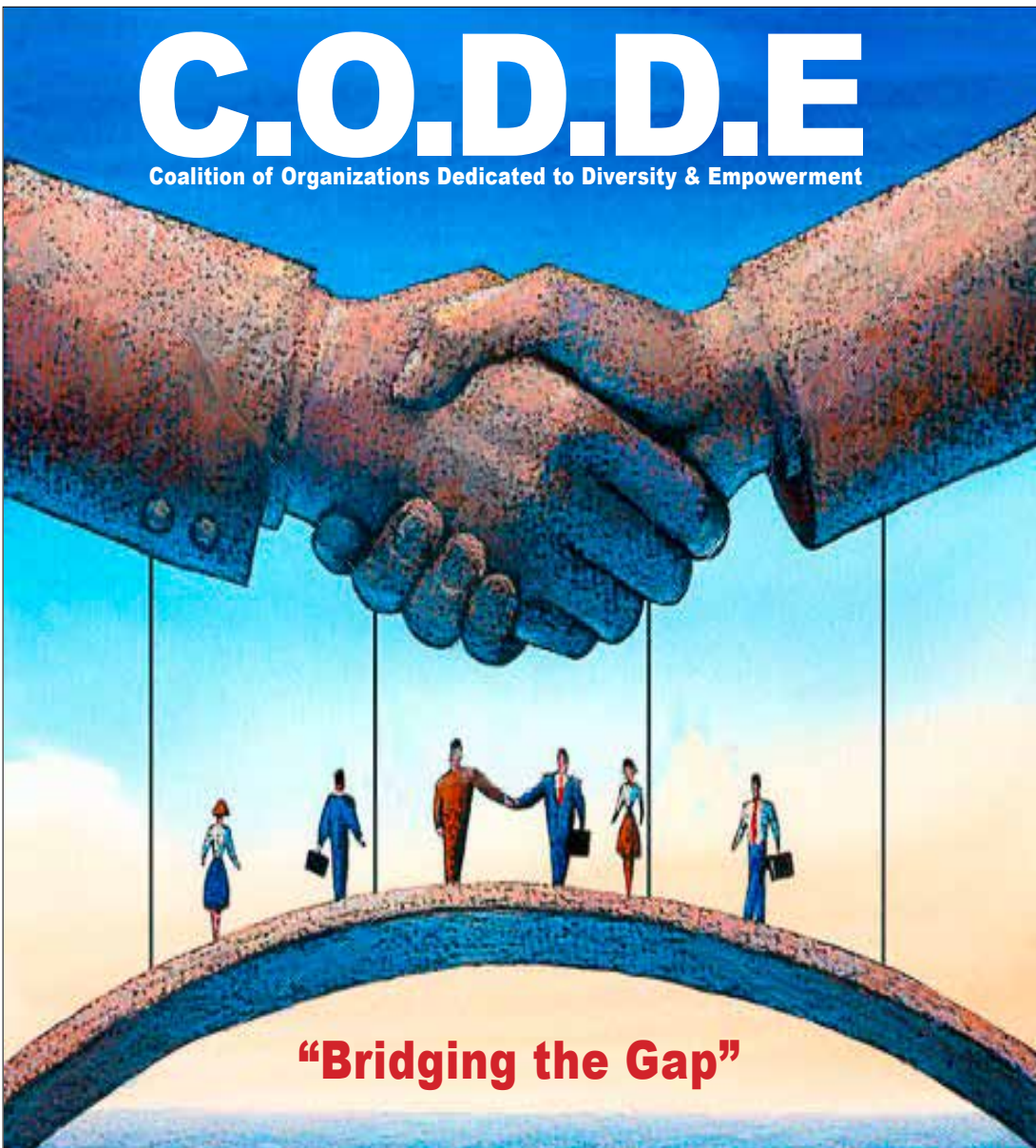


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# Business Resources

More Resources and News online at GreaterDiversity.com

## Black Women to Gather in Los Angeles for a Conference On Opening Beauty Supply Stores

*This year's Beauty Supply Entrepreneurship Conference will take place in Los Angeles, California on March 28-29, 2015*

LOS ANGELES, CA - The ethnic beauty supply business is a \$15 billion business with approximately 13,000 retail outlets across America. According to Beauty Business magazine, the industry has seen a 12% growth during the toughest recession years for retailers between 2007 and 2009. A study conducted by Alberto Culver showed, the beauty customer visits an OTC (over-the-counter) store on average, 22 times per year. These statistics are what contribute to the beauty retail business being such a strong sector.

The business has generated significant wealth for manufacturers, distributors and retailers. However, a documentary produced by Jewish filmmaker, Aron Ranen, revealed that roughly only 3% of the retail outlets are owned by Blacks, though Blacks make up 96% of the customer base. Dawn Sealey, a black Canadian store owner stated, "The collusion also exists in Canada, which prompted me to become an owner too."

Though there is an increase for natural haired women, beauty supply stores still see massive revenues by serving the natural hair clientele too. Manufacturers have ex-

panded product lines to meet this growing customer base and those purchases are largely being made in stores; stores that are predominantly owned by Asians (and Arabs in the state of Florida).

In recent years, this imbalance has prompted black women to take an interest in becoming owners themselves. Princess Hill and Kelli Williams, Detroit store owners, stated, "We are not quite sure how we got here, but we are willing to be part of the solution to take the industry back." Sealey, Hill and Williams attended the Beauty Supply Ownership Conference, a conference developed by in 2010 by, Atlanta-based, Beauty Supply Institute, a company who helps aspiring store owners get into the beauty supply business.

Since 2007, the company has opened over 70 stores and generated over \$10,000,000 in revenues. Amanda Mickens, an Alabama store owner stated, "My son and I decided to open a store after having put in many years in at Corporate America. I couldn't have done this without the help of Beauty Supply Institute. There are so many traps that you can't see until you're deep in it."

Its founder, Professor

Devin Robinson, a 3-time store owner, opened his first store in 2005 after being threatened by a Korean store owner holding a golf club while Robinson was shopping for supplies for his barber shop and salon. Robinson said, "It was my first time shopping at that store so the owner didn't know me and I was browsing the aisles for a while seeking out a large amount of items. He didn't like it. It spooked him. He became suspicious, then volatile and then straight violent. I left in peace but that day developed a plan to start my own."

Since 2010, many of the conference attendees have gone on to becoming store owners. The conference trains aspiring owners on what to expect in the business and how to avoid the pitfalls that are in place against new owners.

In 2013, the conference took place at the Westin Airport Hotel and this year will take place at the Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel in Los Angeles, CA on March 28-29, 2015. There is a limited amount of seats available.

For registration information, go to [www.BeautySupplyConference.com](http://www.BeautySupplyConference.com) or call 404-551-4398. •



*Entrepreneur Amanda Mickens and her son getting ready to open their store.*

### HUD

*continued from front*

Castro attended junior high school with a lot of kids that lived in public housing and his father also lived in public housing at different periods in his life.

"I know that the folks who live in public housing have the same aspirations and the same potential as anybody else," said Castro. "And here at HUD we're going to do every single thing that we can to make sure that they can be a part of our American success story."

That American success story includes increasing homeownership to build wealth from one generation to the next and to increase upward mobility, and that's a part of HUD's long-term mission.

The department's most immediate challenge, however, is addressing disparities in the rental market.

Blacks not only face discrimination in the rental market, but they also are treated differently than Whites when they look to become homeowners.

According to a 2013 report by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Black renters who contact agents about recently advertised housing units learn about 11.4 percent fewer available units than equally qualified whites and are shown 4.2 percent fewer units."

Blacks are also offered shorter leases and told that background checks are required more often than White renters.

Blacks faced even greater discrimination when attempting to buy a home. When Blacks contacted agents about recently advertised homes they were shown roughly 18 percent fewer homes than White homebuyers. During the housing crisis, minorities were often offered subprime loans products, even when they qualified for better loan conditions.

"Too many times African American families don't get the same opportunities to evaluate potential homes or rental properties just because of the color of their skin and we want to root that out," said Castro.

The United States Census Bureau reported that the homeownership rate for Blacks was 42.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014, the lowest of all racial groups. Whites had the highest homeownership rate at 72.3 percent. The homeownership rates for both groups were down from the same period in 2013.

Castro said that the bulk of wealth of African Americans and Latinos is tied up in their homes.

Biniam Gebre, the acting commissioner for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), said that even though homeownership rates have fallen, people are still creating

families and having babies and that's creating pressure on the rental market which, in turn, is causing the rise in rental costs.

"The rental market and the homeownership market are inextricably linked," said Gebre. "You have to deal with both problems you just can't deal with one."

In an effort to make homeownership more affordable, Castro said that the administration is working to reduce mortgage insurance premiums, a fee that skyrocketed 145 percent (\$1,600 more annually), since the housing crisis began in 2007.

"That has a significant negative impact on the ability of folks with modest means in particular communities of color to be able to afford to buy a home," said Castro.

Castro said that reducing the premium would allow 250,000 more borrowers to afford a home through the FHA and the average borrower will save about \$900 every year.

"The [Federal Housing Administration] FHA continues to play a vital role in creating a ticket to middle class and wealth creation through homeownership," said Castro.

Castro said that HUD has also made significant investments in presale counseling, homeowner counseling, and financial literacy to help homebuyers understand the real cost of homeownership.

That real cost was a burden that many homeowners in Prince George's County were ill-prepared for when the housing bubble burst.

Two years after the recession officially ended, more than 50 percent of housing sales in Prince George's County, known as the wealthiest majority Black county in the nation, were in foreclosure properties, according to Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS), a multiple listing service for real estate professionals. Bankrate.com, an online aggregator of financial rate information said that Maryland was second in the nation for housing units receiving foreclosure filings in December 2014.

Through a national mortgage settlement agreement, Maryland's former Attorney General Doug Gansler secured \$10 million in aid for Prince George's County homeowners and residents seeking affordable housing.

The distressed assets sale program (DASP), launched in 2012 also encouraged lenders to work with borrowers to avoid foreclosure and help residents stay in their homes.

Gebre said that for places like Prince George's County where neighborhoods are plagued by high foreclosure rates and many homeowners are underwater on their loans, "the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) can provide significant reduction in

the debt that they owe."

Through HUD's streamlined refinancing program, Gebre added that borrowers who are not in delinquency can benefit from lower rates in the marketplace without having to do a lot of paperwork.

END OPTIONAL CUT  
Castro said that it's the combination of providing housing and providing the opportunity that excited him the most about his role as secretary of HUD, a post he's held since July 2014. The San Antonio, Texas native said that the investments that are made across HUD make a difference in creating more opportunity for all Americans and those opportunities are particularly significant in the African American community.

"We can't truly have a nation of opportunity until everyone, no matter their background or the color of their skin, has the chance to fully enjoy the same opportunity," said Castro. "And we're not there yet." •

### Hi-Tech

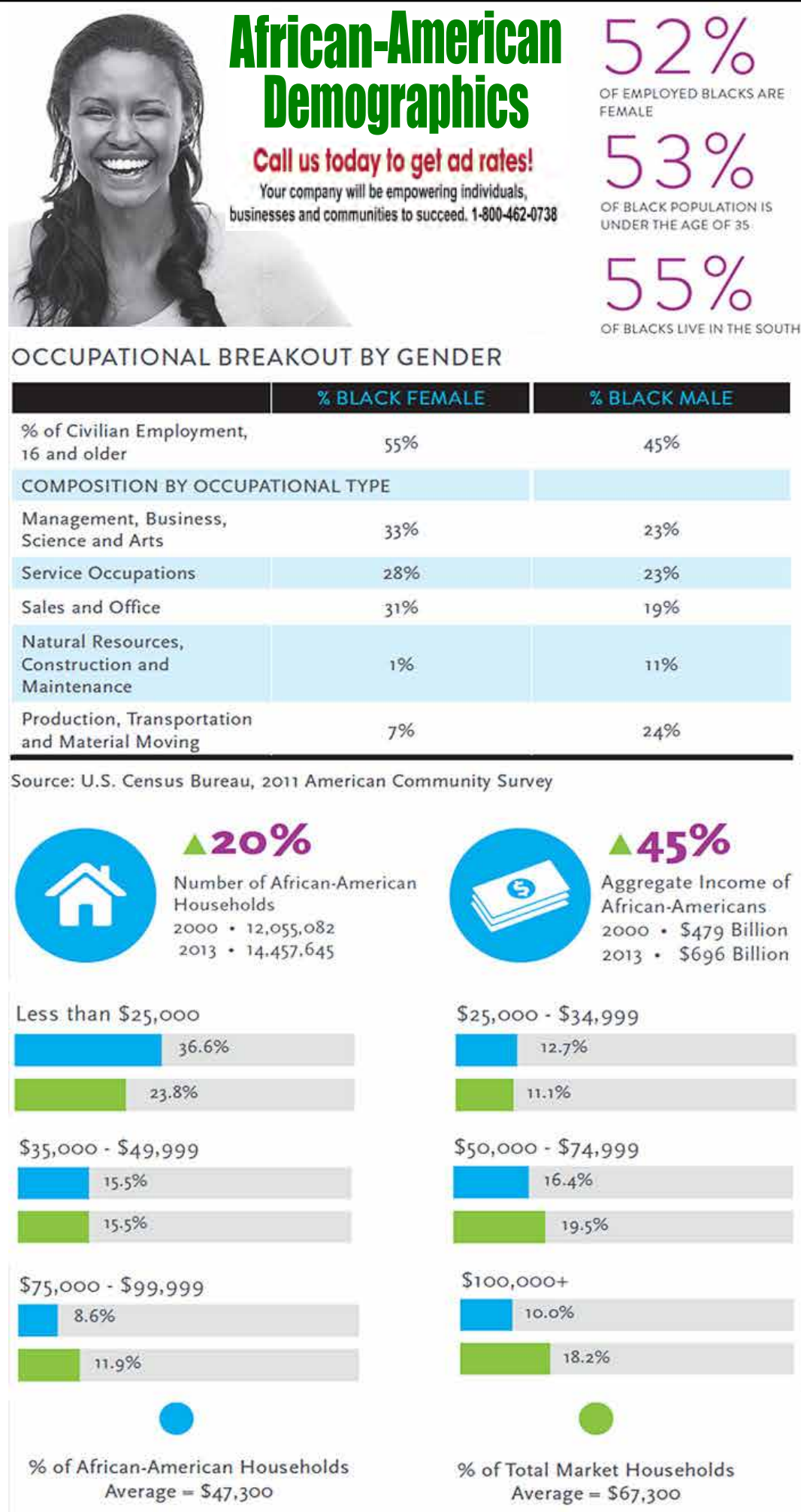
*continued from page 3*

Even more key is the Intel's decision to be the first Silicon Valley Firm to recognize Martin Luther King's Birthday as a holiday. The message is clear. This is not a Black holiday, but a holiday that reflects the American spirit. Service really is the rent we pay for our time here on earth. With all of the progress and all of these gadgets, we expect cutting edge companies to produce cutting edge answers. If we can locate your phone, your keys, and seats to that sold-out game, it would never make sense that we have no idea where or even how to find qualified people of color? Somewhere, someone is feeling my déjà vu.

The actions taken by Intel, Apple, and Microsoft demonstrate that they recognize that good business requires action to get us on track. We cannot wait for a perfect pipeline of engineers before we diversify the tech industry. We already have marketing reps, lawyers, engineers, and executives in all colors, so we can start right where we are now while working to expand the pipeline for the future. At stake is an America that can provide jobs for all, and not just for a chosen few.

The Intel, Apple, and Microsoft announcements are signs that we have the technology, we have the will, and we can create an innovation area with a workforce that truly looks like America. We should accept nothing less.

Kim M. Keenan is the President and CEO of the Multicultural Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC). Prior to taking the helm at MMTC, Keenan served as General Counsel and Secretary of the NAACP. •





# Events & Announcements

More event details online at [GreaterDiversity.com](http://GreaterDiversity.com)

## Black History Month Programs From the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

**RALEIGH, N.C.** -- African American History in North Carolina is wide and deep. Examples of technological innovations, artistic excellence and uncommon courage can be found in programming at state historic sites and history museums. Other sites present aspects of African American history all year. The following listing highlights Black History Month programming and ongoing opportunities.

Throughout February. Historic Edenton, Edenton. Harriet Jacobs Walking Tour. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Hear the amazing tale of Harriet Jacobs, a woman born into slavery in Edenton, who escaped to become a well-known abolitionist and author. As documented in her 1861 autobiography, "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," this walking tour shares her story and takes you through downtown Edenton to see many of the sites mentioned in her book. Tours include entry into St. Paul's Church and the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. 3 p.m. Fee.

All Year. Somerset Place, Creswell. A representative state historic site that offers a comprehensive and realistic view of 19th-century life on a large North Carolina plantation. Originally, this unusual plantation included more than 100,000 densely wooded, mainly swampy acres. During its 80 years as an active plantation (1785-1865), hundreds of acres were converted into high yielding fields of rice, corn, oats, wheat, beans, peas, and flax; sophisticated sawmills turned out thousands of feet of lumber. By 1865, Somerset Place was one of the upper South's largest plantations. Free.

Feb. 21. State Capitol, Raleigh. With All Our Rights: Meet North Carolina's First African American Legislators. Step back in time to and "meet" a few members of North Carolina's 1868 first black caucus at the Capitol during this one of a kind living history program. Visitors will encounter actors portraying such notable figures as Abraham Galloway and James Henry Harris and hear about the lives and work of these pioneering legislators. •

## 2015 Pretty Brown Girl Day Celebration to Launch in Chicago on February 28th

Photo Credit:  
*CreativeSoulPhoto.com*

DETROIT, MI - International Pretty Brown Girl Day was established by the Pretty Brown Girl Foundation. This is a special day to empower, inspire and encourage girls of color to love the skin they're in.

The mission statement of the organization is to encourage girls to celebrate the beautiful shades of brown all over the world; while inspiring positive self-esteem and confidence. The call to action is for organizations, schools, churches and community leaders to start a Pretty Brown Girl Club and launch them with celebrations on International Pretty Brown Girl Day.

"It is significant that International Pretty Brown Girl Day is during Black History Month and will be hosted in Chicago this year where our story began," says Sheri Crawley, Founder of Pretty Brown Girl. Girls of color will have a social platform to address, discuss and celebrate the very important topic of loving the skin they're in. The theme this year is to "Dream Big" with confidence, courage and character.



dence, courage and character.

The Pretty Brown Girl Club, launched in 2012, is the first ever organization for girls of color to have a social platform to address, discuss and celebrate the topic of loving the skin they're in. Pretty Brown Girl also offers a K-12 After-School Program Curriculum

with interactive engagement and learning activities. Young ladies participating in the Pretty Brown Girl programs will be inspired to Dream Big and pledge to walk in their purpose.

The 2015 International Pretty Brown Girl Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center located in Chicago, Illinois. Registration is free, but seating is limited. More information can be found on their website [www.prettybrownngirl.com](http://www.prettybrownngirl.com) or their Facebook page, Pretty Brown Girl. •

with interactive engagement and learning activities. Young ladies participating in the Pretty Brown Girl programs will be inspired to Dream Big and pledge to walk in their purpose.

## Walk Into Your Inheritance Outreach Ministries

Accepting Clothing Donations  
Drop Off location 1757 Stanley Rd.  
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Please Call Evangelist Utrillia Bryant  
910-294-0656 or Overseer Elgin Blake  
910-557-0438 for more details.

## Wilmington International Airport Announces American Airlines, Delta Adds Non-Stop Flights to New York (LGA) and Atlanta (ATL)

WILMINGTON, NC – The Wilmington International Airport (ILM) announced last Monday that the following cities will now be served by additional non-stop flights starting this spring.

American Airlines added an additional non-stop flight to New York (LGA) on February 12, 2015.

Delta Airlines to add 6th daily non-stop flight to Atlanta (ATL) on May 1, 2015.

Delta Airlines to re-instate a non-stop flight to New York (LGA) on June 5, 2015.

The re-instatement of Delta's non-stop flight to LaGuardia will increase service to New York to 3 daily non-stop flights, adding the early morning departure time back into the schedule. Starting June 5th, non-stop flights to LGA will have the scheduled departure times of 6:00am (Delta), 10:55am (American), and 5:35pm (American). The additional Delta flight to Atlanta will increase non-stop service to ATL to 6 non-stop flights daily.

"We know that convenience is very important to our passengers," Gary Broughton, ILM's Operations Director stated, "and we are very pleased to announce this increase in service. ILM's current non-stop flights to LaGuardia and Atlanta average 80% load factors and we anticipate that the additional flights will provide a much needed increase in available seats and departure options, particularly for our business travelers."

Flights are available to be booked via the respective carrier's website.

The Wilmington International Airport is the 4th largest airport in North Carolina with approximately 800,000 annual passengers. Offering service on both Delta Airlines and US Airways/American Airlines, ILM services 4 non-stop hubs which allow for convenient domestic and international travel. ILM prides itself on offering award winning customer service and convenience with multiple flight options, easy security screening, and close parking. For more information on ILM, please visit [flyILM.com](http://flyILM.com) •

## Life Changing Ministries Family Worship Center 4875 New Centre Drive Wilmington, NC

On Sunday, February 22, 2015, Life Changing Ministries Family Worship Center invites you to our Annual Black History Program at 4:00 pm. There will be several presentations on African American Historians. Thank you in advance for your presence. For more information contact Elder Hazel Miller 910-352-5048 or 910-392-3206.

## Global Prophetic Training Center

From Vision to Manifestation  
Empowerment Workshops for Growth

Saturday, February 21, 2015  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Held at Global Prophetic Training Center  
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For more information call 855-409-7522  
or email [info@globalprophetic.org](mailto:info@globalprophetic.org)

By His Grace Ministries Presents

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 <b>LATOYA KING</b>	 <b>KRISTIE GRACE LEE</b>	 <b>GIZZLEMAN KOOLIN</b>	 <b>MINISTER TYAUN BRYANT</b>	 <b>BOODADDY</b>
 <b>PC &amp; PERFECT PRAISE</b>	 <b>DERRICK SMITH JR</b>	 <b>SONS OF GOD</b>	 <b>JANISHIA GORE</b>	

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# Spirit & Life

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## Some Faith Leaders Victimize Rape Survivors Again

By Jazelle Hunt  
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Simone Oliver had always been called, as they say in the religious community. She was active in the Baptist church throughout her youth, playing piano for the youth choir and even ghostwriting sermons for several pastors as a teen. She loved Scripture, loved preaching, and loved God. For her, church was heaven-on-earth.

But it was also hell. At 15 years old, Oliver's then-pastor called her into his church office, grabbed her, put his tongue in her mouth, and fondled her until she broke away. It was the third time in her life she had been sexually assaulted, already a rape survivor at 12 years old at the hands of her sister's first husband, and again at 13 by a family friend staying in her home.

Still, her faith did not waver. In fact, it grew stronger as Oliver transitioned from being a public school teacher to a minister.

In the mid-2000s, she took on an associate pastor's role at a non-denominational church in New Jersey. The founding pastor tried to court her for years until she finally acquiesced and the two began a secret relationship. However, a year later, he decided to marry someone else. Still, the affair continued.

"I couldn't get out. It was almost like sinking into an abyss," she remembered. "I had gone to someone in the church to let them know this was going on. And they pretty much turned on me."

And no group leans on the church more than Blacks.

"While the U.S. is gen-



*Retired pastor and survivor, Sharon Ellis Davis now teaches seminary classes on race, gender, class, and sexual assault and abuse. (Photo courtesy Sharon Ellis Davis)*

erally considered a highly religious nation, African-Americans are markedly more religious on a variety of measures than the U.S. population as a whole, including level of affiliation with religion, attendance at religious services, frequency of prayer and religion's importance in life," according to a report titled,

"A Religious Portrait of African-Americans" by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Black Women are the Most Religious

And among the most religiously committed, no segment is more committed than African-American women. The report found that 84 per-

cent of Black women say religion is very important to them and 59 percent say they attend religious services at least once a week.

As committed as she was, Oliver eventually left that church, broke off the affair with the pastor, began dating the man who would become her husband, and was accepted into Princeton Theological Seminary. As her life got better, her former co-pastor's behavior grew worse. He sent threats to her regularly, and began stalking her and her then-fiancé.

She recalled, "He said to me — not of himself — but he said, 'A man can commit murder, do his time, put on a suit, and still be a man. But when a woman's reputation is ruined, she is ruined.' Those were his threats to me."

In 2011, five days before her wedding, the pastor's behavior moved beyond idle threats.

"It's a miracle story I'm here and alive, because this man stabbed me 30 times. I was paralyzed from the waist down," Oliver recounted. Years later, she still remembers his final threat, prior to the day of the attack: "'When I'm finished with you, you will not get married, you will not have a ministry, and Princeton will never have you.' That was the last thing he said to me."

Oliver was stabbed mostly in her abdomen and back, damaging her spinal cord and liver. Her former co-pastor was arrested walking down the street covered in her blood, still holding his hunting knife. Survivors Need More than Prayer

Sharon Ellis Davis, a former criminalist in the Chicago Police Department and retired pastor, knows a bit about crime from more than one perspective.

She said, "I was married to a police officer, and there was a domestic abuse issue and sexual abuse. It was dismissed all the time. It was a matter of, 'You all stop,' or 'Don't be so bad,' or 'It'll be okay.' But never 'I hear you, I understand you, I believe you.' Even if [the department] knew the abuser was guilty, there was that code where you don't rat on other police officers."

So Davis channeled her frustration into something useful. She successfully lobbied for an internal domestic violence advocate, a civilian who would support and speak for domestic violence victims in police officers' homes and became a full-time police chaplain.

But in Davis' own church experience — first in the Pentecostal church as a child, then in the United Church of Christ

as an adult — she saw parallels to the way she was treated by the police department.

"The church was nice to me, but they didn't know what to do with me," she said. "I need more than prayer, I need more than a hug. In fact, sometimes [survivors] don't even want to be touched. I need more than a deliverance service, I need more than a Band-Aid on what forgiveness might look like."

"The two very important institutions that I was involved with — the church and the criminal justice system — both in the time that I needed them, failed me. Now they didn't know they did, because they were not conscious of it."

Davis feels that lack of consciousness grew from the problematic messages about women coming from the pulpit. For example she points out the Biblical stories that are emphasized, such as the false rape accusation of Joseph, and the ones that are largely ignored, such as the actual rapes of Dinah and Tamar as well as David's coercion of Bathsheba.

To her, they all sent the message that the burden of sexual trauma is not welcome in the sanctuary.

"The church has not become the safe place it needs to be that would give some women in church permission to disclose," Davis said. "The consequences of not having church as a safe place...you can kill the souls of the people that are there. People can lose their faith."

Sex and sexuality remain taboo in many faith communities.

"How is it that the church is going to really be advocates for victims of rape in the Black church when even having normal conversations of sexuality can't happen? How can we talk about patho-sexuality if we haven't talked about normal sexuality?" she asked. "We're still stuck in many way on the thou-shalt-nots. We spend more time judging the behavior than helping someone understand this was not their fault."

Even worse than a lack of knowledge among leadership is that perpetrators often exist within the church, their violence and damage unchecked and even covered up.

Oliver said, "I had a woman call me — I thought she was calling to check on me and see how I was — but she called to tell me her own story, about a pastor. Someone [else] told me a story. She was invited out to another church to preach, and was raped by the pastor who had invited her. When the third person, and fourth person, and the fifth time you hear

### The Living Word

1 John 4:7  
(NIV)

New International  
Version

7: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. •

these stories.... I'm like okay. Something is going on here."

After more than three months of physical rehab, Oliver overcame her paralysis and learned to walk again. She testified in court against her attacker, who was sentenced to 21 years in prison.

For all their silences and inadequacies, many Black faith centers are adept at serving their communities and fostering communal solutions and cooperation. Both Davis and Oliver assert that Black faith centers have also made great strides toward addressing domestic violence, with permanent ministries and pastor trainings becoming more common.

"We're better in the Black church at caring for people," Davis explained. "But we're not as good at having a model of pastoral care for people who have been sexually abused. We're not having clergy exposed to the education that they need to understand these dynamics."

Some outside the faith community recognize this as well, including Sherelle Hessel-Gordon, executive director of the D.C. Rape Crisis Center.

"The Word says faith without works is dead," she says. "There has to be fruit, there has to be action, there has to be community...there has to be active justice," she said. "The rhetoric of 'It'll get better by and by' — nah. That's just spirituals to move our souls. When you leave that room, you're still carrying that cross."

Oliver, now a full-time seminary student, said, "I'm a rape survivor, but I'm also a gender-based violence survivor, and it took the violence for me to really reckon with the rape," she acknowledged. "In telling my story...I started to realize how many horror stories are in church."

NEXT WEEK: Breaking the silence.

(The project was made possible by a grant from the National Health Journalism Fellowship, a program of the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.) •

## Ben Tankard & Shirley Murdock Receive Gold Records – New 'Full Tank 2.0 CD' is Amazon #1 Bestseller

NASHVILLE, TN - Gospel/Jazz pioneer Ben Tankard and R&B/Gospel sensation Shirley Murdock recently received RIAA Gold records for their 2006 hit JESUS IS LOVE for 500,000+ sales as part of the 2006 WOW Gospel collection. Originally written and recorded by Lionel Richie, JESUS IS LOVE was covered on Ben Tankard's PIANO PROPHET 2006 Smoothjazz release and has been selling and receiving heavy airplay for a staggering 8 years--WOW! Shirley says, "I am so excited to receive this Gold record. Working with 'Tank' was thrilling because he is a tough, hard nose producer but he makes you laugh while he is pulling the best out of you."

Tankard and Murdock teamed up again on Ben's brand new musical release, FULL TANK 2.0 for a remarkable remake of the Staple Singers hit, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE Ben says, "I have been blessed to work with some remarkable artists over my career including: Yolanda Adams, Gerald Albright and Take-6. Shirley Murdock is like family and such a monster of a talent. Her soulful voice was a great choice and she did an awesome job helping me take and old masterpiece to a new level." The song is picking up steam at national radio.

FULL TANK 2.0 also features Kirk Whalum on an instrumental rendition of another classic, REACH



OUT AND TOUCH SOMEBODY'S HAND. Looks like another Gold record may be coming for these two..... FULL TANK 2.0 released 2/10/15 and is already the Amazon #1 Bestseller for jazz-fusion category.

Murdock will guest appear this week on Tankard's hit Bravo / NBC reality show THICKER THAN WATER on Sunday night 8/9 EST. This episode features a VIP grand gala celebration for Tankard's 25 years in the music arena. With a smile Tankard says, "I am thankful for the gift of music God gave me after I left pro basketball with an injury.

Sometimes when one dream dies in your life, it is because God is planning something bigger. I have a great family, a hit TV show and multiple awards as a musician but zero NBA championships as a basketball player. I wanted to be a Portland Trailblazer but GOD wanted me to be a Kingdom Trailblazer. I'm glad I listened to him."

Ben Tankard / Full Tank 2.0 is produced and distributed by BENJamin' Universal Music / Central South Music and available on Amazon, iTunes, Walmart and stores everywhere. •



# WWIL 1490 AM



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Please check your ad the first day it runs to see that all of the information is correct. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. *Greater Diversity News* will only assume responsibility for the first day. We must limit our financial responsibility to the charge for space. For changes, corrections or cancellations, call your sales representative or a Classifieds advisor at 1-800-462-0738. Deadline for cancellations is Monday by 5:00 p.m. the week of publication.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ASPHALT PAVEMENT  
RESTORATION:  
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS/  
DURHAM COUNTY

Sealed bids from licensed contractors will be received by Durham Public Schools, Durham, North Carolina on Thursday, March 12, 2015 for furnishing of labor, material and equipment for asphalt restoration to Forest View Elementary School project, 3007 Mount Sinai Road, Durham, North Carolina, 27705. Bids will be received up to 2:00 PM from Single Prime bidders at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Deliver bids to **Durham Public Schools, Construction and Capital Planning Office located at 2011 Hamlin Road, Durham, North Carolina 27704.**

- No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days.
- Bid security required is 5% of the bid in cash, certified check, or Bid Bond.
- Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract amount will be required.
- Durham Public Schools reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities.

Minority Business Participation: Bidders shall note that compliance with County of Durham M/WBE policies and the North Carolina Statute 143-128.2(c) are required for this project.

Project scope: Includes full depth reclamation (FDR) of the sub base to a depth of 12 inches. A new 3 inch asphalt surface is specified for the bus drive and parking areas at the back of the school and a new 2 inch asphalt surface is specified for the front drive and parking areas. New striping will also be required on site. See drawings for work associated with the renovations.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: Scheduled for Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1:30 pm at the Durham Public Schools Transportation Conference Building located at 2011 Hamlin Road, Durham, NC 27704. Inspection of the site shall be scheduled immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. The project Engineer's representative will be available to answer questions. It is mandatory that prime bidders attend the entire Pre-Bid Conference and visit the site prior to bidding.

Statement of Qualifications: Each proposal shall be accompanied by a statement of qualifications that demonstrates experience in at least five (5) projects of similar scope within the past three (3) years with references.

Complete plans and specifications for the project can be obtained at the Contractor's expense from ARC Document Solutions, 951 Aviation Parkway, Suite 700, Morrisville, North Carolina, (919) 388-9900.

Plans and specifications are also open for inspection at the following locations:

- McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Rooms in Raleigh and Charlotte, NC
- Carolinas AGC, Inc. Plan Rooms in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte, NC
- Construction Market Data offices in Cary, NC
- NC Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham, NC
- Stewart, 101 West Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

Signed:  
Dr. Bert L'Homme,  
Superintendent  
Durham Public Schools,  
Durham, North Carolina

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ASPHALT PAVEMENT  
RESTORATION:  
LITTLE RIVER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS/  
DURHAM COUNTY

Sealed bids from licensed contractors will be received by Durham Public Schools, Durham, North Carolina on Thursday, March 12, 2015 for furnishing of labor, material and equipment for the asphalt replacement to Little River Elementary School project, 2315 Snow Hill Road Durham, NC 27712. Bids will be received up to 2:30 PM from Single Prime bidders at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Deliver bids to **Durham Public Schools, Construction and Capital Planning Office located at 2011 Hamlin Road, Durham, North Carolina 27704.**

- No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days.
- Bid security required is 5% of the bid in cash, certified check, or Bid Bond.
- Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract amount will be required.
- Durham Public Schools reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities.

Minority Business Participation: Bidders shall note that compliance with County of Durham M/WBE policies and the North Carolina Statute 143-128.2 (c) are required for this project.

Project scope: Includes full depth reclamation (FDR) of the sub base to a depth of 12 inches. A new 3 inch asphalt surface is specified for the bus drive and a new 2 inch asphalt surface is specified for other drive and parking areas. Asphalt replacement is planned for a playground hardscape area as well as grading remediation work for playground space with erosion issues, as indicated in the Contract Documents. See drawings for work associated with the renovations.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: Scheduled for Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 2:30 pm at the Durham Public Schools Transportation Conference Building located at 2011 Hamlin Road, Durham, NC 27704. Inspection of the site shall be scheduled immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. The Engineer's representative will be available to answer questions. It is mandatory that prime bidders attend the entire Pre-Bid Conference and visit the site prior to bidding.

Statement of Qualifications: Each proposal shall be accompanied by a statement of qualifications that demonstrates experience in at least five (5) projects of similar scope within the past three (3) years with references.

Complete plans and specifications for the project can be obtained at the Contractor's expense from ARC Document Solutions, 951 Aviation Parkway, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560, (919) 388-9900.

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- Carolinas AGC, Inc. Plan Rooms in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte, NC
- Construction Market Data offices in Cary, NC
- NC Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham, NC
- Stewart, 101 West Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

Signed:  
Jon Long,  
Executive Director,  
Construction and Capital Planning  
Durham Public Schools,  
Durham, North Carolina

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Baker Mechanical, Inc. Seeking Minority prices for work relating to HVAC.

Contact: John Williams  
P.O. Box 2284  
Wilson, NC 27894-2284  
Telephone: (252) 291- 4460  
Fax No.: (252) 291- 7204

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Deadline for submitting Electronic Bids on the following projects as well as the public reading will be **MARCH 17, 2015, at 2:00 pm**. The public reading will be held in Contract Standards and Development Unit Conference Room (Room 156 A/B), Building B, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Century Center Complex, 1020 Birch Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610. Please enter door B-2.

MARCH 17, 2015 LETTING

**(C203551) WAKE;  
(C203535) VANCE, WARREN  
PROPOSAL NO. 1;  
(C203534) WARREN PROPOSAL  
NO. 2;  
(C203646) VANCE, WARREN  
PROPOSAL NO. 3  
CLUSTER;  
(C203549) ROBESON;  
(C203561) ROWAN;  
(C203389) MECKLENBURG,  
CABARRUS;  
(C203644) UNION;  
(C203643) LINCOLN;  
(C203490) MADISON;  
(C203563) CARTER 8 WEEK  
ADVERTISEMENT  
APRIL 21, 2015 LETTING**

A bid bond or bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the bid will be required.

These contracts are subject to all appropriate Federal Laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Plans, proposal forms, and specifications may be obtained at the Raleigh Office of the Department of Transportation, Telephone # 919-707-6925

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MR. MIKE HOLDER, PE  
CHIEF ENGINEER

INVITATIONS TO BID

**FEBRUARY 25, 2015  
11:00 AM**

**Project:**  
NCDOT Lenoir County DB00217  
WBS: 2CR.20541.10

**Work Description:**  
Resurfacing and shoulder reconstruction in Castle Oaks Subdivision

**Estimator:**  
Ryan Holton,  
(P) 252-527-8021  
(F) 252-527-4739

**Plans and specifications can be viewed at the following:**

**Barnhill Contracting Company, 604  
East New Bern Road, Kinston, NC  
28502**

**[https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/  
Pages/Letting-List.aspx?let\\_type=2](https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-List.aspx?let_type=2)**

INVITATION TO BID

**FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**Project:**  
NCDOT Onslow County  
Contract ID: DC00081  
WBS Element: 45333.3.FR4

**Work Description:**  
Grading, Drainage, Widening, Guardrail, Signals, Pavement Markings & markers to Install Offset Left Turn Lane US 17 Bus NB & SB

**Bid Date:**  
2/19/15  
2:00 PM

**Estimator:**  
Jeff Davidson,  
(P) 910-577-5659  
(F) 910-577-6464

Plans and specifications may be viewed at the following address and at [https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/  
Letting-Details.aspx?let\\_type=3](https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-Details.aspx?let_type=3)

**Barnhill Contracting Company  
102 Elizabeth Street  
Suite D  
Jacksonville, NC 28540**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

County of Greene  
*Owner*  
  
229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D  
*Address*  
  
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of **USDA-RD Water System Improvements - Phase 1H Contract No. 15-Water Transmission Lines and CFS** will be received by the ENGINEER at Greene County Office Complex, 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, March 19, 2015, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Greene County Office Complex,  
229 Kingold Boulevard,  
Suite D,  
Snow Hill, NC 28580

McDavid Associates, Inc.,  
3714 North Main Street,  
Farmville, NC 27828-0049

McGraw-Hill Construction,  
3315 Central Avenue,  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(View online at [www.construction.com](http://www.construction.com))

Construction Journal,  
400 SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Stuart, FL 34994  
(View online at [www.Construction  
Journal.com](http://www.ConstructionJournal.com))

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc.,  
1118 Azalea Garden Road,  
Norfolk, VA 23502-5612  
(View online at [www.bceva.com](http://www.bceva.com))

iSqft Plan Room,  
c/o Duncan Parnell,  
4275 Regency Drive,  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
(View online at [www.isqft.com](http://www.isqft.com))

Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Issuing Office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a non-refundable payment of \$300.00 for each set of Contract No. 15.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids.

Bidder shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit Bids.

This Project is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The Owner has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the Work.

Bidders shall, within the time frames specified in the Bid documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the Bidder made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the Bid.

Prospective Bidders who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 am on March 4, 2015 in Greene County Office Complex, 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580. Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

Jerry Jones  
Chairman  
County of Greene

February 19, 2015  
*Date*

MBE/WBE BID SOLICITATION

DeVere Construction Company, Inc. is currently soliciting quotes from interested MBE and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following project bidding on Thursday, February 26, 2015 @ 2:00 PM. Please submit prices to [estimating@deverece.us](mailto:estimating@deverece.us) or Fax to 989-356-1198 no later than 12:00 noon on bid day.

**Project:**  
Water Treatment Plant Replacement, Town of Fontana Dam, NC

**Scopes:**  
Fencing, asphalt paving, paint, lockers, overhead doors, electrical, plumbing, casework.

Plans, specs and detailed bidding requirements can be viewed at the following:

DeVere office at 8541A Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, 27612  
Town of Fontana Dam, 11517 Fontana Rd., Fontana Dam, NC 28733  
McGill Associates, 55 Broad St., Asheville, NC 28801  
McGraw-Hill/Dodge Plan Room [www.dodge.construction.com](http://www.dodge.construction.com)  
Carolinas AGC online at [www.cagc.org](http://www.cagc.org)

For more information or to quote prices contact Tom Bennett (Estimator) @ 989-356-4411.

DEVERE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER - WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE OR DISABILITY.

INVITATION TO BID

**FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**Project:**  
NCDOT Brunswick County  
Contract ID: DC00094  
WBS Element: 3CR.20101.171

**Work Description:**  
Milling, Pavement Interlayer & Resurfacing, Etc. SR 1406 (Bell Swamp Rd) & SR 1472 (Village Rd)

**Bid Date:**  
2/19/15  
2:00 PM

**Estimator:**  
Michael Griggs,  
(P) 910-675-2554  
(F) 910-675-3709

Plans and specifications may be viewed at the following address and at [https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/  
Letting-Details.aspx?let\\_type=3](https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-Details.aspx?let_type=3)

**Barnhill Contracting Company  
4901 N. College Road  
Castle Hayne, NC 28429**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time on Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services office, East Carolina University, 1001 East Fourth Street, Greenville, NC 27858-4353 for the construction of **Health Sciences Campus Steam Infrastructure Upgrades Phase 2**, Code 41366, Item 327, ID#060718201, at which time and place bids will be opened and read.

There will be a **non-mandatory** pre-bid conference at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 in the Health Sciences Campus Facilities Conference Room, East Carolina University, 600 Moye Blvd., Greenville, North Carolina.

Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from David Nardi, P.E., c/o Wiley|Wilson, 127 Nationwide Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24502. Please contact Candy Tibbs at 434.455.3680 or by e-mail at [ctibbs@wileywilson.com](mailto:ctibbs@wileywilson.com) during normal office hours to request plans and specifications.

Plans are available as PDF files electronically for a non-refundable cost of \$30.00. Hard copies of plans are available for a plan deposit of \$100.00 which is refundable upon return of complete sets of plans in good, usable condition within 10 calendar days after the bid date.

“East Carolina University encourages participation by MWBE firms and supports UNC system's policy of ensuring and promoting opportunities for minority businesses.”

The state reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.

John Fields  
Director, Facilities Engineering & Architectural Services  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC





# Greater Diversity Classifieds

INVITATION TO BID

Jacksonville Mechanical, Inc. is soliciting bids and encouraging participation by DBE/MBE/WBE subcontractors and/or suppliers for the following

**Project:**  
New Bern High School - Water Source Heat Pump Replacement Ph. 3

**Bid Date:**  
Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.

**Location:**  
New Bern, NC 28562

**Scope of Work**  
Install and set into operation the heating and air conditioning equipment.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained by phone call to Jacksonville Mechanical, Inc. (910)-455-1830.

**Contact Information**  
Clay Koonce, Estimator  
Office: (910) 455-1830  
Fax: (910) 455-9163  
Email: [clay@jvillemech.com](mailto:clay@jvillemech.com)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the County of Wake in the Procurement Services Department, Room 2900, Wake County Justice Center, 301 S. McDowell Street, Raleigh NC 27601 for providing labor, material and equipment entering into a Single Prime Contract for construction of the **Wake County Courthouse Salisbury Street Lobby Renovation.**

Sealed Single Prime Construction bids will be received up to 3:00 p. m. Wednesday March 18th, 2015.

The work consists of Renovations to the Salisbury Street Lobby of the Wake County Courthouse, 316 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, NC.

Electronic files (PDF's) of the complete plans and specifications can be obtained beginning February 19, 2015 from Accent Imaging free of charge. Printed copies of the plans and specifications may be purchased from Accent Imaging at (919)782-3332. Plans can be accessed for viewing at <http://www.planscope.com>. The general contractors are responsible for distributing this access code to all their subs. Accent Imaging will respond to questions concerning general contractors on the bid list.

Complete contract documents can be reviewed at the office of the Designer, AGC, Raleigh Branch; F. W. Dodge, Raleigh Branch; NCIMED, Durham, and Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas (HCAC).

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held Thursday, March 4th, 2015 at 2:00 PM in Room C170 of the Wake County Public Safety Center at 330 Salisbury Street.

Wake County provides minorities and women equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of its construction program consistent with North Carolina Law. Bidders shall comply with the requirements of the Wake County Minority Business Enterprise Program, as outlined in the bidding documents. Failure to comply with these requirements may grounds for rejection of the bid.

Wake County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

WAKE COUNTY

Mark Forestieri, AIA  
Director Facilities Design and Construction

INVITATION TO BID  
MWBE/SDBE SUBCONTRACTORS

Bar Construction Co., Inc. is soliciting quotations for the following project:  
**City of High Point Fire Training Center Improvements. Bids are due at 4:00 pm on 03/05/2015.** Interested subcontractors should contact Mike Schultz at 611-A Industrial Ave, Greensboro, NC 27406, (336)-274-2477, or [mschultz@barconstruction.com](mailto:mschultz@barconstruction.com).

INVITATION TO BID

Jacksonville Mechanical, Inc. is soliciting bids and encouraging participation by DBE/MBE/WBE subcontractors and/or suppliers for the following

**Project:**  
Memorial Lift Station Replacement Project

**Bid Date:**  
Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 5:00 P.M.

**Location:**  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

**Scope of Work**  
This project consists of refurbishing and retrofitting the wet pit portion of the existing wet pit/dry pit sewer pump station while also abandoning and removing other part of the existing station. The completed work will result in a refurbished pump station that includes a cleaned and lined wetwell fitted with duplex submersible sewage pumps and related accessories together with new pump control and miscellaneous piping and site improvements. The work will include temporary bypassing of the pump station using portable pumps as well as, demolition, grading, excavation, concrete, site, paving, electrical, fencing and site restoration work.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at:

Jacksonville Mechanical, Inc.  
[www.jvillemech.com](http://www.jvillemech.com)  
[www.randwconstruction.com](http://www.randwconstruction.com)

**Contact Information**  
Kyle Becher, Estimator  
Office: (910) 455-1830  
Fax: (910) 455-9163  
Email: [Kyle@jvillemech.com](mailto:Kyle@jvillemech.com)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

JIMMY R. LYNCH & SONS, INC., AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTOR, IS SOLICITING BIDS FOR M/W/DBE PARTICIPATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

WE WOULD APPRECIATE A QUOTATION FROM YOUR FIRM FOR ANY AND ALL WORK AND/OR MATERIALS ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

**(1) Davidson County – Grading, Drainage, Widening, Paving & Structure D100085 (BD-5109V) Replace Bridge # 11 over First Potts Creek on SR 1155 Bids: 3-11-15 @ 10:00 AM**

**Materials, Asphalt Paving & Surface Restoration, Crushed Aggregate Base Course, Seeding, Mulching, Interior & Exterior Piping & Valves, Water, Sewer, Pavement Marking, Pavement Removal, Earthwork, Milling, Bituminous Pavement, Electrical, Switchgear, Instrumentation & all Mechanical & Electrical Appurtenances, Pump Station, Hauling, Clearing & Grubbing, Erosion Control, Traffic Control Signs, Precast Concrete Structures Work, Subgrade prep. , Roadway and Curb & Gutter & Gutter Replacement, Sitework Grading, Drainage, Landscaping, Metals, Wood & Plastics, Thermal & Moisture Protection, Finishes, Painting, Underdrains, Roadway Base Prep, Storm-water Management Installation, Streambank restoration, Culvert Installation, Demolition & Other Incidental Items Necessary For Construction to complete the project.**

**\*\* If you need plans, specs., equip., credit lines, secure loans, joint payments, insurance or quick payments—call Daniel or Mo @ J.R.L. (J.R.L. will furnish bonds for all projects & will help you obtain the proper certification, (if you are not certified.)**

Please Submit Quote the Day Prior to Bid Opening.

**Phone: 336-368-4047  
Fax: 336-368-4613**

BID REQUEST

**BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY**

**ATTENTION: MBES & WBES**

Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following projects: **NCDOT Contracts: #DA00221 Camden County; #DA00225 Currituck County; #DA00234 Camden County; #DA00237 Dare County; #DA00241 Perquimans County, #DA00245 Chowan County.** Pre-Bid Meeting is on Friday, February 20, 2015 at 10:00 AM in our Elizabeth City Office at 1304 US 17 South, Elizabeth City, NC. These projects bid on March 4, 2015 and include opportunities on hauling, milling, rumble strips, concrete work, pavement marking, inductive loop sawcuts and seeding & mulching. Plans can be viewed in our office at the address listed above or on the NCDOT website: <http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/division1/BidRequests.html>. Please contact James Spivey at (252)335-9503. **AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received until **3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 17, 2015** in the conference room of the East Carolina University Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services, 1001 East Fourth Street, Greenville, NC 27858, at which time and place bids will be opened and read for the construction of:

**East Carolina University, Fletcher Residence Hall Renovations and Accessibility Improvements, SCO # 12-09610-01B**

Open Meeting for Preferred Brand Alternates; **Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** at ECU's Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services Conference Room.

Pre-Bid Meeting; **Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.** at ECU's Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services Conference Room.

In accordance with GS133-3 and SCO procedures the following items are being considered by the owner for this project: **A. Proprietary Irrigation System – RainBird**

Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained at MHAworks, 409 Evans Street, Suite C. Greenville, NC 27858, during normal office hours. Plans will be available in the plan rooms of the Construction Market Data- Raleigh, NC; McGraw-Hill Dodge – Raleigh, NC; Institute of Minority Economic Development Center in Durham, NC; and I-Square Foot Digital Plan Room/ Carolinas Branch of AGC. Plan Deposit: \$150.00 per set.

East Carolina encourages participation by MWBE firms and supports UNC system's policy of ensuring and promoting opportunities for minority businesses.

The State of North Carolina reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.

Signed:  
Mr. Bill Chatfield  
Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC

INVITATION TO BID  
MWBE/SDBE SUBCONTRACTORS

Bar Construction Co., Inc. is soliciting quotations for the following project: **Forsyth Technical Community College – Stokes County Campus. Bids are due at 3:00 pm on 03/03/2015.** Interested subcontractors should contact Mike Schultz at 611-A Industrial Ave, Greensboro, NC 27406, (336)-274-2477, or [mschultz@barconstruction.com](mailto:mschultz@barconstruction.com).

NOTICE MBE/WBE/DBE ENTERPRISES

Young McQueen Grading is currently soliciting bids from NCDOT certified DBE/MBE/WBE certified contractors and suppliers for the project below. We will be receiving bids for all materials and for the following scopes of work, if applicable: hauling, demolition, erosion control, seeding storm drainage, asphalt, guardrail, signage, striping, retaining walls, structures, clearing & grubbing, curb & gutter, and surveying.

**NCDOT #DN00142 in Ashe Co. Bid Date: 3/5/15.** Plans and specs may be examined at our office, on our ftp site, -downloaded at NCDOT.gov

ALL DBE Subs and Suppliers are encouraged to participate. Please notify us at the email address below if you intend to bid.

Young & McQueen will consider a reasonable request for assistance from contractors for equipment, supplies and other items necessary to perform work. We will also break work out into economically feasible units. Please call to discuss any requests you may have prior to bid.

If you have questions regarding this project please call 828-682-7714, ext 40.

All project item lists, specifications and plans are available in .pdf format at: <http://ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/ps/contracts/letting.html> or can be viewed at our office, at the address below.

You may also visit the link below for basic project information on our FTP at: <http://share.youngmcqueen.com/login.html> User: NCDOT\_Bid Password: Bid2015

**ALL QUOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 3/4/15 AT 12:00 PM.**

Send quotes to 828-682-9286 or email to [atipton@youngmcqueen.com](mailto:atipton@youngmcqueen.com)

INVITATION TO BID  
MWBE/SDBE SUBCONTRACTORS

Bar Construction Co., Inc. is soliciting quotations for the following project: **Town of Cary – Downtown Park. Bids are due at 1:30 pm on 03/05/2015.** Interested subcontractors should contact Greg Tillman at 611-A Industrial Ave, Greensboro, NC 27406, (336)-274-2477, or [gullman@barconstruction.com](mailto:gullman@barconstruction.com).

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

State Utility Contractors, Inc. solicits subcontract proposals for the following work: **Welding for First Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project., Shelby, NC. The bid date is March 2, 2015.** Minority businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for this work. If additional information is needed, please contact Todd Wasson at (704) 289-6400. EOE M/F

CONSTRUCTION

DEVERE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

DeVere Construction Company, Inc. is a Raleigh-based heavy civil construction company and is currently **accepting applications for experienced heavy equipment operators including finish dozer, motor grader and track hoe** for our various road projects in the Charlotte metro and Mecklenburg County areas. The successful applicants will be motivated, have reliable transportation and have a general knowledge of equipment preventative maintenance.

Competitive wage and benefits are offered. A pre-employment drug screen must be successfully passed and Devere subscribes to E-Verify.

Please fax resume with last five (5) years work experience and pay history with current contact number to 919-363-6575 or email to [lortiz@deverecc.us](mailto:lortiz@deverecc.us). An electronic application is also available online at [www.deverecc.us](http://www.deverecc.us)

DeVere is an equal opportunity employer – women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

EDUCATION

SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Information Services Librarian  
Library Services

SPCC is seeking applications for Information Services Librarian for the Arts & Sciences Division. This is a 12-month, full-time position located on the OCH Campus in Monroe, NC. Minimum Requirements: MLS/MLIS from an ALA accredited program; Demonstrated ability providing reference and Information Literacy instruction in an academic library setting; Demonstrated ability to conduct research utilizing online and physical resources; Demonstrated experience with web development; Demonstrated experience troubleshooting hardware and software issues; Proficiency with standard office productivity software.

Please see job description at <http://www.spcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/jobs/> for complete details.

Position is open until filled, applications will begin review on March 6, 2015.

For an SPCC application, contact us at:

**South Piedmont Community College  
Human Resources Office  
PO Box 126  
Polkton, NC 28135  
704-272-5471**

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Mathematics Instructor  
Academic Affairs

SPCC is seeking applications for a Mathematics Instructor in the Department of Mathematics. This is a 9-month, full-time position located on both the LL Polk Campus in Polkton, NC and the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe, NC. Minimum Requirements: Master's Degree in Mathematics or a Master's degree in a related field with a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in Mathematics; Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; Working knowledge/utilization of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software applications.

Please see job description at <http://www.spcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/jobs/> for complete details.

The initial review of applications will begin on March 16, 2015 with a preferred start date of August 10, 2015.

For an SPCC application, contact us at:

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Masonry Instructor - Brown Creek Correctional Institute  
Corporate and Community Development Department

SPCC is seeking applications for Masonry Instructor for the Corporate and Community Development department. This is a 12-month, full-time position located at the Brown Creek Correctional Facility in Polkton. Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED; At least five years' experience in the Masonry field as a Mason; Working knowledge/utilization of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software applications; Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Position is open until filled, with a preferred start date of March 2, 2015.

For an SPCC application, contact us at:


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**Biology Instructor:** req.: master's degree in biology.

**Electrical Systems Technology Instructor, Edenton-Chowan Campus:** req.: associate's degree; 5 yrs. electrical exper.; N.C. licensed electrician.

**Director, Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness:** req.: master's degree in higher educ. admin., research methodology or related field w/ course work &/or training in educ. research, statistics or related field; 5+ yrs. of professional exper. in an institutional effectiveness/planning & research setting designing & conducting assessment, prog. eval., & survey research projects in an educ. environ.

For information & application, contact: HR Office, COA, 252-335-0821, ext. 2388, visit the college's web site at [www.albemarle.edu](http://www.albemarle.edu) for information on duties/qualifications/deadline & to download a COA employment application.

PROFESSIONAL

PASQUOTANK COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ALBEMARLE DISTRICT  
JAIL ADMINISTRATOR

This is a new 248 bed District Jail. Applicants must meet the minimum State of North Carolina standards. Must have at least a high school diploma and 3 years' experience in managing employees, and knowledge of County Jail operations. Further education preferred. Salary is based on training/experience of applicant. All applications/resume' can be sent to Pasq. Co.Sheriff's Office at 200 E. Colonial Ave., Eliz. City, NC 27909. Deadline to turn in applications is March 18, 2015. This position will stay open until filled. For more questions or job description contact Randy Cartwright at 252-338-2191.

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Website [www.cravenc.edu](http://www.cravenc.edu) or by calling (252) 638-7375. EOEE



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