

EST. JUNE 2007



African American  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
NEW JERSEY

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Collaborating for our  
collective success

**24** SEPTEMBER, 2025  
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**SHERATON - EDISON**

125 RARITAN CENTER PARKWAY - EDISON, NJ 08837



1

**FIRESIDE CHAT:  
BEST PRACTICES IN  
PUBLIC CONTRACTING**

9:55 AM - 10:40 AM



**MODERATOR:**  
**DR. JOHN E. HARMON, SR., IOM**  
Founder, Pres. & CEO  
AACCNJ



**KEITH WRIGHT, PH.D.**  
Spiritual leader & Author  
Former Director  
PANYNJ



**MICHAEL GARNER, MBA, CCA**  
Chief Business Diversity Officer  
City-Wide  
Mayor's Office of M/WBES, NYC

2

**EXPANDING ACCESS TO NEW  
JERSEY'S CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS:  
Addressing Systemic Barriers,  
Enhancing Transparency &  
Equity in the Procurement  
Process**

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM



**MODERATOR:**  
**MARKIS ABRAHAM**  
Director  
Hudson County  
Office of Business  
Opportunity



**LAWRENCE WOOTEN**  
Senior Manager  
Supplier Diversity  
American Water



**BIANCA REYES**  
Supplier Diversity  
Manager  
PSE&G



**GLENDA THOMAS**  
CEO  
Electralines



**JEANETTE BARNARD**  
Deputy Dir., Div. of  
Property Mgt. &  
Construction (DPMC)  
NJ Treasury

3

**A CALL TO ACTION:  
Community Development &  
Ownership, Creating  
Generational Wealth through  
Opportunities**

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM



**MODERATOR:**  
**TAI COOPER**  
Chief Devel. Officer  
NJ Economic Development  
Authority (NJEDA)



**ADENAH BAYOH**  
IHOP Franchisee  
Restaurateur & Real  
Estate Developer



**JOY BUTTS**  
V.P. Business Devel.  
Mgr., CSBC, Strategy  
Growth & Operations  
Chase Bank, N.A.



**THOMAS PRENDERGAST\***  
(INVITED)  
CEO  
Gateway Development  
Commission

4

**FROM DEBT TO DYNASTY:  
Mastering Business Finances  
for Long-Term Wealth**

1:20 PM - 2:05 PM



**MODERATOR:**  
**FUNKAE OLAYINKA**  
CEO  
GHIT Consulting, Inc.



**MARCUS DYER**  
Treasurer, AACCNJ  
Associate  
Withum Smith & Brown



**LISA LOVELL, MBA**  
Financial Planner  
Prudential



**MATT VERNEY**  
Market President  
Trustit

5

**REDEFINING THE  
WORKPLACE:  
Artificial Intelligence,  
Workforce Readiness,  
Innovation**

2:10 PM - 2:55 PM



**MODERATOR:**  
**GARY MANN**  
Chairman, AACCNJ  
CEO, Jasfel Analytics



**TOM BERGERON**  
CEO  
Business in NJ Everyday  
(BINJE)



**ANJU (A.J.) HYPPOLITE**  
Software Engineer  
Office of Innovation  
State of NJ



**BRANDON YOUNG**  
President & CEO  
Young Management