



16th Annual Business Leadership Conference
“Breakthrough Innovation & Creativity, Leading Change, Reengagement”
September 23, 2026 (9am - 3 pm) Sheraton, Edison, NJ
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<u>Registration & Networking Breakfast</u>	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
<u>Introduction of Dignitaries</u> John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM, Founder, President, and CEO The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ)	10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.
<u>Welcome Remarks</u> Rev. Steffie Bartley, Sr., Sr. Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church Northeast Regional Director, National Action Network (NAN)	10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
<u>Sponsorship Recognition</u> JPMorgan Chase, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, United	10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
<u>Panel 1</u> <u>Banking on the future: Piloting Equitable Access to Public & Private Capital</u> Moderator: John E. Harmon, Sr. Michelle Bodden, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, NJEDA Sadiera Crawford, Vice President, J.P. Morgan Chase Jorge Sam Cruz, Executive Director -New Jersey Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) Sandra Moore, Managing Director & Chief Impact Officer, Advantage Capital	10:40 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
<u>Lunch</u>	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
<u>Special Guest Speaker</u> The Honorable Ras Baraka, Mayor City of Newark, NJ	12:30 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.
<u>Keynote Speaker</u> Kenneth L. Harris, Ph.D., 16th President & CEO, National Business League (NBL)	12:40 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.
<u>Panel 2</u> <u>Positioning for Opportunities in the Public Sector</u> Moderator: Dr. Denise Anderson, Ph.D., MPH, CEO, Denise Anderson & Associates Melanie Walter, Executive Director, NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Association Stephen Dilts, Chief Operating Officer, NJ Turnpike Authority Paul F Sprewell, Esq., Director, Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation	1:20 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
<u>Panel 3</u> <u>Embracing Change & Digital Transformation</u> Moderator: Nadine Jones, Legal Strategist, Media Contributor & DEI Thought Leader Tony Lowman, Chancellor, Rowan University Rebecca Darling, Director Community Affairs & Partnerships, Coreweave Derrich Phillips, President & Founder, Aspire Cyber	2:10 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
<u>Closing Remarks</u> John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM	2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.