

# 20 JUNETEENTH 26 INNOVATION EXPO LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

EST. JUNE 2007



African American  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
NEW JERSEY

June 10, 2026  
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON CHERRY HILL  
CHERRY HILL, NJ



LEWIS LATTIMER



KATHERINE JOHNSON



BOOKER T WASHINGTON



GLADYS WEST



Hackensack Meridian *Health*  
is proud to be a sponsor of  
the African American Chamber  
of Commerce of New Jersey's  
2026 Juneteenth Innovation Expo.

Best wishes for a successful event!



# GOOD LEADS THE WAY<sup>®</sup>

Bag drop  
Start at a kiosk

© 2026 United Airlines, Inc. All rights reserved.



**UNITED**

STAR ALLIANCE 

# 20 JUNETEENTH 26 INNOVATION EXPO LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

**LEADING  
THE WAY  
FORWARD**

The AACCNJ proudly launched its inaugural Black Business Expo in 2023 at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ. The 2024 event was re-branded as the “Juneteenth Black Business Expo” hosted at Fairleigh Dickinson University on the Metro Campus, followed by the 2025 Expo at The College of New Jersey, in Ewing, NJ.

Building on this legacy, the event has evolved into the Juneteenth Innovation Expo—an annual platform celebrating ingenuity, industry leadership, and forward-thinking creation across multiple fields. The Juneteenth Innovation Expo now highlights the latest advancements, products, and ideas developed by trailblazers within our community, providing a dynamic space for industry leaders to share, connect, and inspire.

EST. JUNE 2007



**African American**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
**NEW JERSEY**

# 2026 EXPO SPONSORS

In 2026, the event has evolved into the Juneteenth Innovation Expo—“Leading the Way Forward”, and will provide an annual platform to celebrate ingenuity, industry leadership, and forward-thinking creation across multiple fields, providing a dynamic space for industry leaders to share, connect, and inspire.

## Living the Legacy Sponsor



## Visionary & Resilience Sponsors



## Community & Unity Sponsors



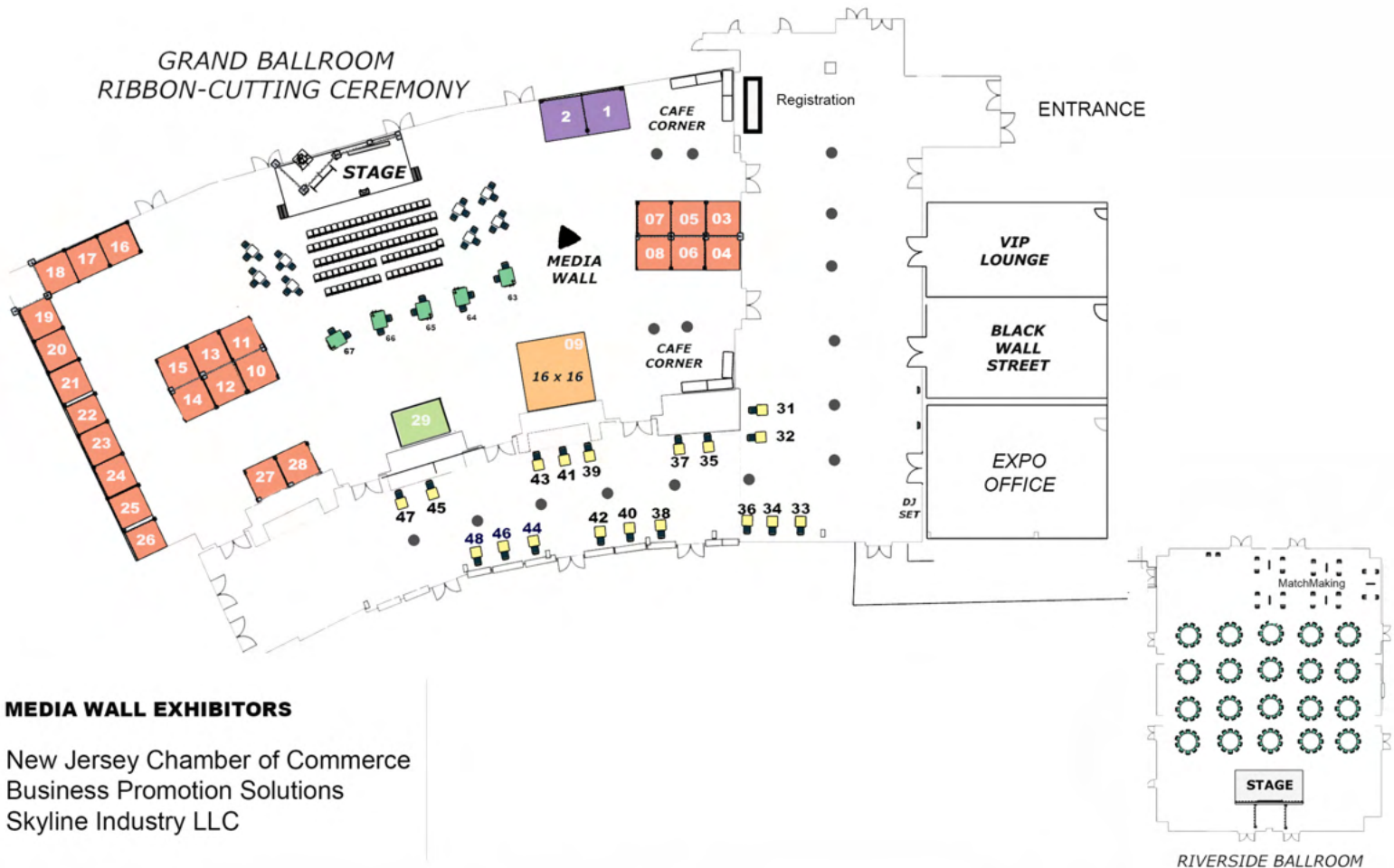
## State Agency Sponsor



## Media Wall Sponsor



# EXHIBITOR HALL MAP



## MEDIA WALL EXHIBITORS

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
Business Promotion Solutions  
Skyline Industry LLC

## EXHIBITORS

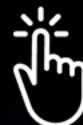
- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 AACCNJ TDI & Mobile Academy                                | 17 Internal Revenue Service                | 34 General Counsel Support Services |
| 2 AACCNJ TDI & Mobile Academy                                | 18 Green Glass Films                       | 35 JLD Tax Resolution Group         |
| 3 LeaderLift   | 19 United Airlines                         | 36 Lambco Erecting, Inc.            |
| 4 New Jersey Department of Labor                             | 20 Virtua                                  | 37 Author Sharon Benejamin          |
| 5 Reworld  | 21 Cyber Security Consulting Ops           | 38 Nettie, Nana & Friends           |
| 6 Le Kool Champagne  | 22 PSE&G                                   | 39 Skip Bailey Coaching,            |
| 7 Citizens Bank  | 23 NJ Economic Development Authority       | 40 Passage Theatre Company          |
| 8 Atlantic City Electric                                     | 24 New Jersey's Clean Energy Program       | 41 Two River Theater                |
| 9 Hackensack Meridian Health                                 | 25 New Jersey Department of Transportation | 42 Razor Sharp Global               |
| 10 Cyber Security Consulting Ops<br>/Lydia Barron Consulting | 26 New Jersey Transit                      | 44/46/48 Arts World                 |
| 11 MDVIP   | 27 NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency    | 63 Daniel Production                |
| 12 OceanFirst Bank   | 28 NJBAC                                   | 64 Reign Financial Services         |
| 13 South Jersey Industires                                   | 29 AACCNJ Annual Events/Membership         | 65 Tillman Law Group                |
| 14 Elizabethtown Gas   | 31/32 New Jersey Department of Labor       | 66 Clean Energy Jobs Program        |
| 15 TD Bank   | 33 NJ Dept of the Treasury                 | 67 Brick City Bricks 4 Kidz         |

# 2026 EXPO SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM** Registration Opens, Continental Breakfast – Grand Ballroom
- 8:30 AM** Exhibit Hall Opens – Grand Ballroom
- 9:00 AM** Ribbon Cutting
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM** Return of The Battle of the Pitches
- 11:00 AM** Interactive AI Panel – Exhibit Hall – Grand Ballroom Main Stage
- 11:00 AM** Matchmaking Session #1– Riverside Ballroom
- 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM** Lunch Riverside Ballroom      Fireside Chat with Elvin Ross, CEO of e. Ross Studios  
Jazzland and Nox Point AI Solutions
- 2:15 PM- 3:15 PM** Fireside Chat with Majora Carter, Real estate developer, urban revitalization strategy consultant, Peabody Award-winning broadcaster. Exhibit Hall, Grand Ballroom
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM** Matchmaking Session #2 – Riverside Ballroom
- 4:00 PM** Exhibit Hall Closes  
Cocktail Reception Begins
- 6:00 PM** Cocktail Reception Ends

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



EST. JUNE 2007



**African American**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
**NEW JERSEY**



EST. JUNE 2007



EST. JUNE 2007



# About the AACCNJ

## The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

performs an essential role in the economic viability of New Jersey. While providing a platform for New Jersey's African American business leaders, to speak with a collective voice, the AACCNJ advocates and promotes economic

diversity fostering a climate of business growth through major initiatives centering on education and public policy. The Chamber serves as a proactive advocacy group with a 501(c) 3 tax exemption, which is shared by the National Black Chamber of Commerce.



November 23, 2022, The United States Chamber of Commerce awarded the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey with its Accredited State Chamber with Distinction designation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

"Chambers of commerce that achieve an Accreditation designation are truly leaders in their industry," said Raymond P. Towle, U.S. Chamber Vice President, Federation Relations and IOM. "This rigorous review includes all aspects of a chamber's policies, operations, and programming. When chambers of commerce earn the distinction of becoming Accredited, it is a mark of excellence for the organization, its staff, and its leadership. Accredited chambers are recognized for their ability to serve as a resource to their region's businesses while maintaining transparent governance practices, sound financial controls, safe work environments, effective communications, and value in programming. They are commended for their continued advocacy of free enterprise, and for their commitment to serving members and their local businesses. Congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment."

In **March of 2019**, The United States Chamber of Commerce (USCC) awarded the AACCNJ with three stars Accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community. **The Chamber joins the top 3 percent of all chambers in the nation who are Accredited as both the only accredited Chamber in New Jersey and the only African American Chamber in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce federation to hold this distinction. With approximately 7,000 chambers in the U.S.**, Accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a prestigious honor that distinguishes the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership displayed by Accredited state and local chambers of commerce. In **November of 2022**, the USCC granted the AACCNJ a reaccreditation status with; Statewide Chamber with Distinction. **In October of 2025, the AACCNJ remained New Jersey's only Accredited Chamber or Business Organization, as declared by the largest business federation in the world, the USCC.**

*"We are extremely delighted to share with our members and supporters the recent designation awarded by the United States Chamber of Commerce to the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, of its reaccreditation status "State Chamber with Distinction", said John E. Harmon, Sr., Founder, President & CEO. "The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey is the only Accredited Chamber of Commerce or Business organization in our state - what a significant achievement for the dedicated staff of professionals and Board of Directors."*

**IN 2022, THE AACCNJ RECEIVED A PERFECT SCORE IN COMMUNICATIONS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT FROM THE USCC.**




# ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) Inc. was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, B2B (business-to-business) organization in Trenton, New Jersey. The Founder, President and CEO of the AACCNJ is: John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM., jharmon@aaccnj.com Telephone (609) 571-1620

Serving more than 900 active members, the AACCNJ has become a central beacon for minority and non-minority advocacy building, community and government relations, business development, job retention, and education attainment. The Chamber serves as a mechanism for communication, program creation, and strategic implementation of initiatives and resolutions that help build New Jersey's economic landscape.

To date, the AACCNJ has advocated on behalf of its members on several capital development and procurement projects to insure inclusion. The AACCNJ is a conduit to:



**Bridging gaps** between the **under-performing populations** in New Jersey and a vital resource to initiating dialogue leading to strategies that address the state's overall competitiveness.



**Workforce and development training**, job-readiness programs and recruitment services.



Free enterprise activity for **Women, Veteran and Minority-owned business.**



**Access to resources** in making statewide businesses visible in key markets.



**An open line of communication** with state and local government officials, and suppliers.



**Youth mentorship** and entrepreneurial programs.

## AACCNJ LOCATIONS

379 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618  
(Headquarters)

Transformation Center  
165 West Hanover Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618

Carnegie Center Building  
35 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Mill One  
1 North Johnston Avenue  
Hamilton, NJ 08609

# 2026 PRESIDENT'S CLUB



# ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1

The AACCNJ's new Transformation Center was made possible through the exceptional generosity of Nexus Properties, whose affiliate, Seven One Plus, LLC, gifted the 26,800-square-foot facility to the Chamber. Dante Germano, Managing Member of Nexus Properties, played a key role in facilitating this contribution and ensuring the building could become a long-term asset for the community. This transformative investment is further supported by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) and strengthened through a formal partnership with Rowan University, which will provide educational programming, workforce-development opportunities, and collaborative initiatives.

2

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) and Rowan University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish an academic presence for Rowan at the AACCNJ's new hub, The Transformation Center, in Trenton. This partnership aims to expand educational and training opportunities in the region by integrating Rowan's resources with the chamber's business-focused center.

3



AACCNJ "Pathway to Success" wins Two Bronze Telly Awards in the 2025 Competition. Bronze Award DEI Category for (2) Season Six Episodes.



4

TDI secured more than \$2 million in program funding to strengthen workforce pathways for populations facing systemic barriers — including justice-impacted individuals, people directly or indirectly impacted by the opioid epidemic, and New Jersey veterans, women and historically marginalized populations seeking high-growth careers in manufacturing and supply chain logistics.

5

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ), in partnership with the Administrators Network, proudly hosted the inaugural Educators of Color Symposium on June 6, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza in Princeton, NJ. The event brought together a dynamic community of educators, thought leaders, and advocates dedicated to advancing equity and excellence in education.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gary Mann, CEO, Jasfel Analytics, ROI Influencers, People of Color  
Marcus Dyer, Principal, Withum, ROI Influencers, People of Color  
Tammeisha Smith, CEO, Dunbar Center, ROI Influencers, People of Color  
Robert Johnson, Esq., Officer, Chief Diversity Officer, Corporate Group, Gibbons P.C.,  
has been recognized by his peers in the 2026 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®  
Schnearia Ashley, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banker, Truist, was appointed to Governor  
Shapiro's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs  
Tanya L. Freeman, Esq., Co-Founder, Black Business Unblinded, Chair, NYSBBA, named to BINJE's 2025  
Best Health Care List Chairs: Chair of the University Hospital Board of Directors



## LEADERSHIP & STAFF RECOGNITION

Jacqueline E. Baptiste – ROI Influencers People of Color 2025  
Jacqueline E. Baptiste – ROI Women In Business 2025  
Mary Griffin - Received SDDC Advocate Award  
Carmen Gates – Completed first year of USCC IOM Program  
Carmen Gates – Appointed to the Board of Contact of Mercer County  
Vivian Harmon - Completed first year of USCC IOM Program  
Vivian Harmon - Served as a panelist for Future Ready NJ with NJ Council of County Colleges  
Bydeia Harmon – Completed first year of USCC IOM Program  
Nyanpu Kerkulah - Joined staff as a full time Program Director  
Khadir Williams - Joined staff as a full time Program Coordinator  
Demetra Alston - Promoted to Employment and Outreach Services Coordinator

# MEMBER BENEFITS

---

## ALL MEMBER BENEFITS

- Radio Show
- Membership Spotlight
- Monthly members only virtual call with the President
- Member Events Posted on Website - Free promotion of events, ribbon cuttings and services
- Complimentary Regional networking at AACCNJ events
- Dual membership with the US Chamber of Commerce
- Trade specific Roundtables
- Quarterly meetings
- Annual meeting
- Meeting With A Member of Membership Acquisition Team
- Assistance with MBE/MWBE/SBE/DBE Certifications
- Member Resume Portal
- Q&A opportunities with state and local officials and corporate representatives
- Pro Bono Alliance - Pro bono legal services \*Annual revenues of \$500,000 or less.
- Ability to post jobs
- Access to RFP opportunities
- Opportunity for referrals and resources for potential opportunities
- Access to members only, promotions and discounts
- Complimentary website development
- Complimentary monthly ROI reports

## MEMBERS LV2 - LV5 (\$2,500-\$7,500)

- Spotlight in Magazines
- Guest on RVN TV
- Priority Scheduling as a Quarterly meeting Presenter
- Priority Scheduling as panelist for AACCNJ events
- Standalone social media promos

## MEMBERS LV6 - LV9 PLUS PRESIDENT'S CLUB (\$10K AND ABOVE)

- Pathway to Success TV appearance
- President club Roundtable Participation
- Unlimited promo shares on social media
- Company name and logo on AACCNJ website
- Recognition at the AACCNJ Annual meeting
- Supplier Chain Diversity
- High level networking and access to unique opportunities
- President club breakfast during BLC
- Support on Legislative and Public Policy matters

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS



**Gary Mann**

Chairman, AACCNJ Board of Directors  
President & CEO, Jasfel Analytics



**Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM**

Founder, President & CEO  
AACCNJ



**Tammeisha D. Smith**

Vice Chair, AACCNJ  
CEO, Dunbar Center, Inc.



**Marcus Dyer, Esq.**

Treasurer, AACCNJ  
Associate, Withum Smith & Brown



**Robert L. Johnson, Esq.**

Secretary, AACCNJ  
Partner, FBT Gibbons

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. Denise Anderson, Ph.D., MPH**  
CEO  
Denise Anderson & Associates



**Racheal Ankrach-Fosu**  
Chief Technology Advisor  
The Galileo PreSchools  
Busy Place Early Learning Center, KIDFIN



**William Bowie**  
President & CEO  
Empower Construction



**Deborah J. Frazier**  
Wealth Management Advisor  
LRG Wealth, Advisors/Hightower



**Hosea Johnson**  
\*Emeritus Board Member  
President & CEO  
Johnson Associates Systems, Inc.



**Nadine Jones**  
Legal Strategist, Media Contributor &  
DEI Thought Leader



**Alton Shaw**  
Vice President of Op  
PRWT



**Dr. Funke Olayinka, MD**  
Owner Nothing Bundt Cake, Wayne, NJ  
Founder and CEO, GHIT Consulting, Inc.



**Jemia Kinsey Singleton**  
President/Chief Communications Officer  
Kinsey Communications



**Will Smith**  
Vice President  
Corporate Shared Services  
South Jersey Industries (SJI)



**Robert D. Warrington, Esq.**  
Founding Partner,  
Dawkins & Warrington Law Group, LLC



**Thom Webster**  
Chief Executive Advisor  
2020 Business Advisors

# COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. John E Harmon, Sr., IOM**  
Founder, President & CEO  
AACCNJ



**Jackie P. Taylor**  
Chair, Community Board of Directors, AACCNJ  
CEO & Founder  
Boost Strategy Group LLC



**Schnearia Ashley**  
Senior Vice President  
Truist Commercial Banking



**Carin Heps**  
Assistant Vice President, Small Group &  
Individual Broker Channel Sales  
Delta Dental of New Jersey  
Delta Dental of Connecticut



**Faye Coleman**  
CEO  
PG Health, LLC



**Stacey Kavanagh**  
Vice President  
Market Manager  
Provident Bank



**Wendy Lanski**  
Director, Enterprise Vendor  
Management & Operations  
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ



**Bill Stephey**  
Principal Executive  
Broad Market Media



**Viviana Lamm**  
CEO  
Risk Strategy Solutions



**Ralph D. Weaver**  
Founder & Former CEO  
East West Connections



**Lawrence Wooten**  
Senior Manager, Supplier Diversity  
American Water

# DISPARITY STUDY TASK FORCE



Denise Anderson, Ph.D., MPH  
Founder & CEO, Denise Anderson  
& Associates (DA&A) LLC



Tasha Youngblood Brown, MBA, CISA  
Managing Director  
EY



Marcus Dyer, CPA, JD  
Treasurer, AACCNJ  
WithumSmith+Brown, PC



Tanya Freeman, Esq.  
Chief Strategy & Policy Officer, AACCNJ  
Founder & Managing Partner  
Tanya Freeman Law, LLC  
Chair, NY State Black Business Alliance



Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM  
Founder, President, & CEO  
AACCNJ



Robert Johnson, Esq.  
Secretary, AACCNJ  
Partner, FBT Gibbons



Gary Mann  
Chairman, AACCNJ  
CEO, Jafel Analytics



Monique Nelson  
Executive Chair,  
UniWorld Group (UWG)



Tammeisha Smith  
Vice Chair, AACCNJ  
CEO, Dunbar Center, Inc.



Robert Warrington, Esq.  
Former Vice-Chair, AACCNJ  
Founding Partner, Dawkins &  
Warrington Law Group, LLC

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Deiredra Oliver  
Senior Branch Manager  
Visions Federal Credit Union  
Saddle Brook, NJ

<https://www.visionsfcu.org/locations/saddle-brook>



Edward Roberts  
Founder & Owner  
Prep Boyz LLC/ Buggin Out  
Pest Control

<https://www.bugginoutipm.com/>



Nadine Brown  
CEO  
N&R Divine Cleaning  
Services LLC

[www.nrdivinecleaning.com](http://www.nrdivinecleaning.com)



Pauline Lloyd  
Founder & Executive Director  
Albert Islay Walden  
Education Alliance, Inc.

<https://www.islaywalden.org/>



Kim Leiby  
Business Development  
The Lerepco  
IT Group

<https://www.lerepco.com/>

# AACCNJ STAFF



**Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM**  
Founder,  
President & CEO



**Jacqueline Baptiste**  
Executive Advisor to  
President & CEO  
& Brand Ambassador



**Mary Griffin, PMP, IOM**  
Vice President of  
Membership  
Retention & Programs



**Nicole Baptiste, IOM**  
Vice President,  
Membership Acquisition  
& Financial Management



**Carmen Gates**  
Vice President of Community  
Development and  
External Affairs Officer



**Tanya Freeman, Esq.**  
Chief Strategy & Policy Officer, AACCNJ  
Founder & Managing Partner  
Tanya Freeman Law, LLC



**Bydeia Harmon**  
Community  
Development Officer



**Vivian Harmon**  
Executive Director  
Training & Development  
Institute



**Tammy Holloway**  
Senior Membership &  
Program Specialist  
NYSBBA, AACCNJ



**Demetra Alston**  
Program Director of  
Outreach and Workforce Services  
Training & Development  
Institute



**Nyanpu Kerkulah**  
Program Director  
Training & Development  
Institute



**Jayme Rittenburg**  
Office Administrator



**Margaret Syphax**  
Member Relations  
Support Manager



**Melody Holiday**  
Intake and Workforce  
Administrative Coordinator  
Training & Development Institute



**Khadir Williams**  
Program Coordinator  
Training & Development  
Institute

# ADJUNCT STAFF



Helen Walker



Evon Judkins



Kimberly Smith



Tress Parker



Myrial Pedersen



Glori Bryson



Joslyn Morman



Vanessa Woolfolk



Victoria Woolfolk



Shawna Biggs



Sabrina Williams



Tamara Williams



Elaina Mason

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**Gary Mann**  
Chairman of the Board, AACCNJ



**Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM**  
Founder,  
President & CEO



**Jacqueline Baptiste**  
Executive Advisor to  
President & CEO  
& Brand Ambassador



**Mary Griffin PMP, IOM**  
Vice President  
Membership  
Retention & Programs



**Nicole D. Baptiste, IOM**  
Vice President,  
Membership Acquisition  
& Financial Administration



**Tanya Freeman, Esq.**  
Chief Strategy &  
Policy Officer



**Vivian Harmon**  
Executive Director,  
Training & Development Institute



**Carmen Gates**  
Vice President of Community  
Development and External  
Affairs Officer



**Jayme Rittenburg**  
Administrative  
Assistant



Adjunct  
Staff



**Margaret Syphax**  
Member Relations  
Support Manager



**Tammy Holloway** Senior  
Membership & Program  
Specialist NYSBBA, AACCNJ



**Nyanpu Kerkuah**  
Program Director



**Demetra Alston**  
Program Director of Outreach  
and Workforce Services



**Khadir Williams**  
Program Coordinator



**Melody Holiday,**  
Intake and Workforce  
Administrative Coordinator



**Byeida Harmon**  
Community  
Development Officer



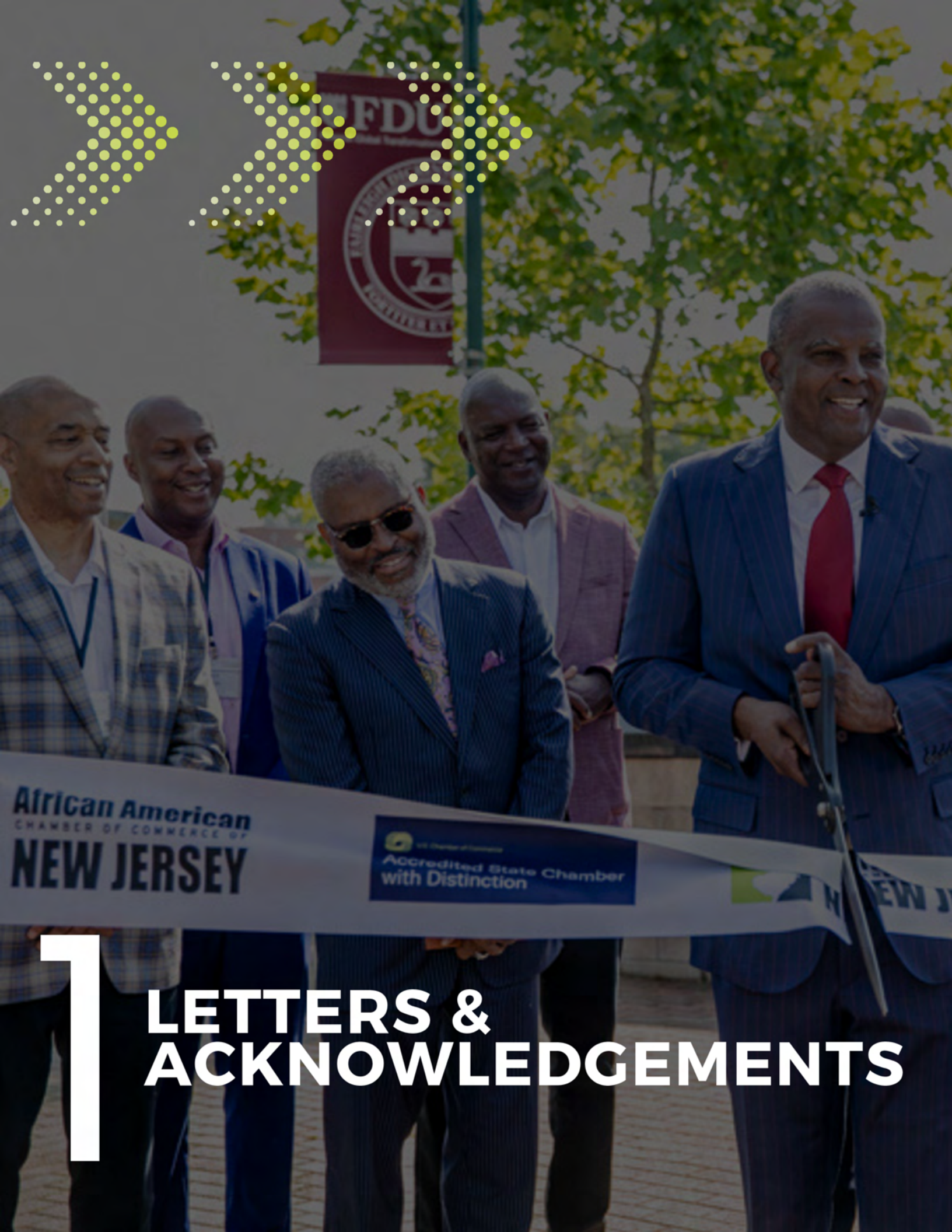
Consultants



**Joe Awundaga, CPA**  
Accounting



**Shareene Snear**  
Grants/Financial Consultant



# 1 LETTERS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# Letter from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Valued Members, Sponsors, Partners, and Distinguished Guests,

Welcome to the 4th Annual Juneteenth Innovation Expo — a celebration of excellence, innovation, and the enduring legacy of Black enterprise in America.

Juneteenth is more than a moment in history. It is a testament to resilience, to the unbreakable spirit of a people who, against every obstacle, have built, created, and contributed immeasurably to the fabric of this nation. This year, we gather not only to honor that legacy, but to harness it — to draw from its depth the inspiration and determination that will carry Black-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders boldly into the future.

The theme of this year's Expo — innovation rooted in culture and heritage — reflects our belief that the greatest driver of progress lies within our own story. From inventors and architects to artists and economists, Black Americans have shaped this nation in ways that deserve to be celebrated, studied, and built upon. It is that spirit of ingenuity and possibility that we bring to every conversation, every partnership, and every initiative of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ).

We are honored to welcome our special guests, Elvin Ross and Majora Carter, whose work and vision exemplify the transformative power of creativity and community-driven leadership. Their presence at this Expo speaks to the caliber of dialogue and inspiration we are committed to bringing to our members and partners.

To our Board of Directors, your guidance and steadfast commitment to this Chamber's mission remain the foundation upon which all our work stands. To our staff, and volunteers your tireless dedication behind the scenes makes events like this possible, and your efforts do not go unnoticed. To our members, you are the heartbeat of this organization — your courage to build, grow, and invest in your communities is what this Chamber exists to support. And to our sponsors, your investment is not merely financial — it is a declaration of belief in a more equitable and prosperous New Jersey.

The AACCNJ remains resolute in its mission: to strategically align with those who hold resources, opportunities, and information — and to leverage those relationships in service of a more competitive, vibrant, and equitable state where all people can live, work, and coexist with dignity and opportunity.

Today, we do not simply commemorate freedom. We exercise it — through commerce, through connection, and through the collective power of a community that refuses to be defined by its limitations.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for believing in what we are building together.

With gratitude and great expectation,

Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM  
Founder, President & CEO African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

# 20 JUNETEENTH 26 INNOVATION EXPO

EST. JUNE 2007



African American  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
NEW JERSEY



# 2

## ABOUT THE EXPO

FOURTH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH INNOVATION EXPO  
AACCNJ OVERVIEW  
INNOVATION EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

# JUNETEENTH: A HISTORY OF RESILIENCE

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

RESILIENCE IS OUR HERITAGE

NATIONAL  
MUSEUM of  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY &  
CULTURE

# JUNETEENTH: A HISTORY OF RESILIENCE

*Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900 held in "East Woods" on East 24th Street in Austin. Credit: Austin History Center.*

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.



The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.



*Band performing in Texas for Emancipation Day, 1900*



*Emancipation Day Celebration Richmond, VA 1905*

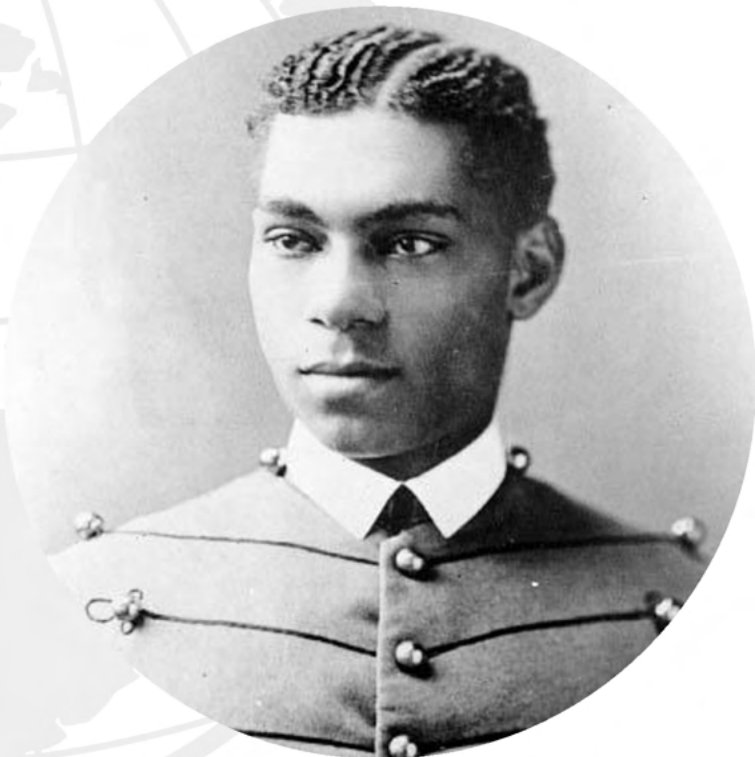
# A HISTORY OF RESILIENCE THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces, serving with distinction during World War II as fighter and bomber pilots, as well as in various support roles. Despite facing racial segregation and discrimination, they earned an outstanding combat record, notably as bomber escorts, and were awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations, gaining the nickname "Red Tails" for the red markings on their aircraft.

## HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER

was the first African American to graduate from West Point in 1877, becoming a second lieutenant and the first Black officer to lead Buffalo Soldiers in the U.S. Army. Despite his distinguished service, he was unjustly court-martialed and dismissed, a decision later overturned, and he was posthumously pardoned by President Bill Clinton in 1999.



# MATCHMAKING SESSIONS

**20** JUNETEENTH  
**26** INNOVATION  
EXPO

Learn about opportunities at major companies from decision-makers by participating in matchmaking sessions



A leading telecommunications and media company providing internet, wireless, entertainment, and business technology services to customers across the United States.



A New Jersey-based electric utility and Exelon company providing safe and reliable power to more than 560,000 customers throughout southern New Jersey.



PSE&G is a energy company headquartered in New Jersey, and one of the ten largest electric companies in the U.S.



A nationally recognized construction management company delivering complex commercial, healthcare, education, and infrastructure projects across the United States.



Ferreira Construction is a national leader in the construction industry and has expanded its services to include transportation, utility, power, marine construction, and renewable energy.



Withum is a nationally ranked advisory and public accounting firm providing to businesses and individuals on a local-to-global scale.



SJI strives to deliver safe, reliable and affordable natural gas service to more than 700,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.



An engineering, architecture, and construction firm delivering innovative solutions for energy, infrastructure, and industrial projects worldwide.



Turner is a North American-based, international construction services company and a leading builder in diverse market segments.

# RETURN OF THE BATTLE OF THE PITCHES AACCNJ INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT: BUILDING FOR WHAT'S NEXT



10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. GRAND BALLROOM - CENTER STAGE



## COACHING SESSION

**Dr. Clint Parker**  
President & CEO  
LeaderLift, LLC

## MODERATOR

**Bydeia Harmon**  
Community Development Officer  
AACCNJ Capital Fund

## PITCH CONTEST JUDGES

**Dr. Oscar Holmes IV**  
Professor of Mgt. & RUSE Director  
Rutgers University

**Mercedes White**  
Technology & Economic Dev. Strategist  
NJEDA

**Lydia Barron**  
CEO  
Lydia Barron Consulting Group

# UNLOCKING GROWTH THROUGH RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

11:00 A.M. - NOON EXHIBIT HALL - MAIN STAGE

Join us for a dynamic, multi-sector conversation on leveraging Artificial Intelligence within practical and regulatory frameworks to accelerate growth, strengthen trust, and streamline operations across business, government, education, transportation, real estate, healthcare, and community institutions at various levels of business.



**TANYA L. FREEMAN, ESQ.**  
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER, AACCNJ  
FOUNDER, TANYA FREEMAN LAW



**VEDA SHAMSID - DEEN, ESQ.**  
CEO AND FOUNDER  
T3 CREATORS COLLECTIVE (T3CC) AND  
ARCONNEX



**GARY MANN**  
CHAIRMAN, AACCNJ  
CEO, JASFEL ANALYTICS

# SPEAKERS



1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

RIVERSIDE BALLROOM

## ELVIN ROSS

CEO, e. ross studios Jazzland & Nox Point AI Solutions in New Orleans

Elvin Ross: An Emmy Award-winning composer and multiple American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Screen Music Award recipient, Elvin fuses artistic vision with technological innovation to drive economic revitalization in New Orleans East and establish the city as a national leader in creative tech and AI infrastructure.

## MAJORA CARTER

Real Estate developer, Urban revitalization strategy consultant, MacArthur Fellow, Peabody Award winning broadcaster

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

GRAND BALLROOM

Majora is responsible for the creation of numerous economic developments, technology inclusion projects, green-infrastructure developments & policies, and job training & placement systems. Majora is quoted on the walls of the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History and Culture in DC: "Nobody should have to move out of their neighborhood to live in a better one" - which is also the subtitle of her 2022 book, Reclaiming Your Community.



DR. JOHN E. HARMON, SR., IOM  
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, CEO, AACCNJ

# FIRESIDE CHAT





# BLACK HEART INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT



**ILLUMINATION: TRACING THE PATHS OF BLACK ECONOMICS IN AMERICA**

Black Heart returns to the AACNJ Expo with Northstar, the Chamber's newly developed conversational AI companion. Curious about stories of resilience, trends in New Jersey's economic landscape, or which workshops best match your interests? Just ask Northstar. Also back by popular demand is Illumination: Tracing the History of Black Wealth in America—an interactive timeline that begins with Black Wall Street and journeys through key historical moments shaping the Chamber's mission today.



Users are guided through interactive video story.



**CHAMPAGNE**

## COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Networking Reception Traditions Bar & Grill

Join us as we raise a toast to our collective efforts and the success of this year's expo. The reception will be an evening filled with camaraderie, laughter, and celebration of our cherished traditions. We're excited to announce that DJ Kevin McCallister will be spinning some fantastic tunes, so get ready to let loose and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere!





3

RETURN OF THE BATTLE  
OF THE PITCHES  
MODERATORS  
JUDGES



## Bydeia Harmon

Community Development Officer  
AACCNJ Capital Fund

Born into loving but humble beginnings to Karen and Kenneth Harmon, a native son of North Philadelphia was born in 1982. It would be here that Bydeia S Harmon would grow to make the Harmon family name proud. Excelling athletically in multiple sports, as well as scholastically matriculating with honors within the Philadelphia Public school system. Graduating from Northeast High School Magnet Program in 1999, Bydeia would decide to attend the HBCU Delaware State University in Dover Delaware. Choosing a major of Finance and Banking he cultivated a multitude of relationships while shaping his mindset for success in the professional business arena.

After obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in 2003, Mr. Harmon would begin his professional career in Center City Philadelphia with Bank of America in the year 2004. With an office on Market St. directly across from the Philadelphia Stock Exchange his knowledge of the business world would grow vastly, partnering with numerous local business owners and community ambassadors. Accomplishing many business development goals individually and as a team leader would lead to a role as mortgage loan officer at BOA, as well as management roles with Wells Fargo bank and Santander Bank in Delaware throughout subsequent years.

Currently Bydeia is the president of his own financial consulting business headquartered in the Philadelphia area, where he remains dedicated to his clients, business partners and community which raised him. Coaching basketball at Mastery North Charter School in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, and Team Final / BBA on the national AAU circuit servicing the PA/NJ youth, Bydeia's sense of service, duty and entrepreneurship is ever present.



## Dr. Clint Parker

President & CEO  
LeaderLift, LLC

Clinton Parker III, Ph.D. is the President & C.E.O. of LeaderLift, LLC (Certified VOB, MBE, and SBE). He also serves as Dean and Assistant Professor at the Grant School of Leadership and Business at Pillar College in Newark, New Jersey.

He completed four years of active duty in the United States Navy with an Honorable Discharge. He holds a B.S. in Bible/Christian Leadership from Cairn University, an M.S. in Management from Saint Elizabeth University, an M.H.A. in Health Administration from Seton Hall University, and a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.

As a proven leader with over twenty-five years of high performance in successive leadership roles, including high-potential individual contributor, front-line supervisor, operations manager, director, and executive in small and large organizations. He is passionate about coaching, leadership development, team building, organizational change, public speaking, and leadership ethics deeply rooted in his Christian faith. He is also a captivating, engaging, and inspiring keynote speaker.

Dr. Clint launched the LIFT™ process, which is a potent combination evidence-based best practices, experience, and research to develop and strengthen leaders to lead their teams more effectively, enabling them to exceed performance targets consistently. This tried and proven approach grounded in time-tested leadership principles and practicality will make a high impact in any organization. Other signature tools include E-13™ Elevational Leadership, Elevational Compass™, and the Elevational Effectiveness Evaluator™.



## Dr. Oscar Holmes IV

Professor of Mgt. & RUSE Director  
Rutgers University

Dr. Oscar Holmes IV, SHRM-SCP is a Professor of Management and Rutgers University Student Executive (RUSE) Director at Rutgers School of Business-Camden where he has also served as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs. He has taught executive education, graduate, and undergraduate courses in Leadership, Organizational Behavior, Conflict Management and Negotiation, DEI Management, and Crisis Management.

Additionally, he is the founder of [WHConsulting Firm, LLC](#), creator and host of Diversity Matters podcast, and was a 2023-2024 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow at The University of Delaware. His research examines how leaders can maximize productivity and well-being through fostering more inclusive environments and has been published in several top-tier management journals and books. He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in Management from The University of Alabama. He has won numerous awards for his scholarship, teaching, and service such as being named one of Poets & Quants 40 Under 40 Best Business School Professors in the world, Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40, Diversity MBA Top 100 Under 50 Emerging and Executive Leaders, and won the Mid-Atlantic Association of College of Business Administration Innovation in Teaching Award, the New Jersey Policy Research Organization Foundation Bright Idea Research Award, and the Rutgers University Leaders in Faculty Diversity Award. In addition to his scholarship being covered in various news outlets, he is a [TEDx speaker](#), organizational consultant, and has made a number of media appearances that include Huffington Post Live, television, and radio interviews.



## Mercedes White

Technology & Economic Dev. Strategist  
NJEDA

Mercedes is a public-sector leader, economic development professional, and emerging voice at the intersection of innovation, tax policy, and community impact. As a Team Lead within the Tax Credit Relationship Management division at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), she oversees strategic stakeholder engagement and program administration for New Jersey's Film and Digital Media Tax Credit Program while also serving as Product Owner for Next NJ-AI, one of the state's premier initiatives designed to accelerate artificial intelligence innovation and investment. With expertise spanning economic incentives, program operations, and public-private partnerships, she is passionate about creating pathways for growth that strengthen both industry and communities.

In addition to her professional work, she is deeply committed to service and advocacy, serving on the boards of SPEAK and Killy's Kids in Florida, organizations dedicated to empowering children and families through education, support, and opportunity. With her MBA, she brings a unique blend of policy expertise, strategic leadership, and community engagement to every endeavor. Her work reflects a steadfast belief that economic development is most impactful when it fosters innovation, expands opportunity, and creates lasting positive change for future generations.



## Lydia Barron

CEO

Lydia Barron Consulting Group

Lydia Barron is President & CEO of Lydia Barron Consulting Group (LBCG), a certified Minority Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) providing management consulting, executive coaching, and speaking services. She brings a distinctive combination of executive leadership and consulting experience, helping organizations execute critical priorities across transformation, operational improvement, governance, technology modernization, AI, cybersecurity, and leadership development.

Lydia works with leadership teams to translate strategy into measurable outcomes, helping organizations accelerate transformation, improve operational performance, strengthen governance, and modernize technology in complex, regulated environments. Her experience spans strategic planning, transformation program management, operational excellence, leadership development, and enterprise services delivered across business, operations, and technology.

A former Wall Street executive, leadership coach, and nationally recognized speaker, Lydia brings 25+ years of executive leadership experience across Fortune 100 institutions and other complex organizations, including Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Elevance Health, and Beacon Health Options. She has served in senior roles including Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer, and Chief of Staff to the CEO.

Her leadership spans financial services, healthcare, government, and telecommunications, with experience leading enterprise transformation across business, operations, and technology. Her work includes generating more than \$25 million in cost savings, supporting the insourcing of Bank of America's \$1 billion global infrastructure from HP, and modernizing legacy platforms to improve scale, agility, and performance.

Lydia's portfolio includes large-scale initiatives such as insourcing and outsourcing programs, mergers and acquisitions integration, strategic divestitures, enterprise data centers, cloud migration, digital and mobile banking platforms, and national contact center infrastructure. In healthcare, she supported the strategic planning and launch of value-based primary care clinics across North Carolina and helped launch behavioral health clinics within select Walmart Supercenters. As a speaker, Lydia has delivered keynotes and facilitated executive sessions for the American Bankers Association, NJ Bankers Association, Euromoney CRM, the New York Black MBA Association, Brooklyn Public Library LevelUP Program, and global leadership forums. She currently serves on the board of the New York Black MBA Association and has previously served on the boards of ITSMF, the National Black Data Processing Associates Foundation, and The Carver of Connecticut.



**4**

**UNLOCKING GROWTH  
THROUGH RESPONSIBLE  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
MODERATOR      PANELIST



## Veda Shamsid – Deen, Esq.

CEO and Founder  
T3 Creators Collective (T3CC) and ARConnex

Veda Shamsid-Deen works at the edge of emerging technology, regulatory frameworks, and systemic organizational change. As CEO and Founder of the T3 Creators Collective (T3CC), she designs and delivers award-winning programs that upskill workforces, and advises organizations on adopting AI to accelerate growth and streamline operations. She is also CEO and Founder of ARConnex, a patented, codeless augmented reality technology company.

Veda brings a rare depth of public- and private-sector experience. A seasoned corporate counsel and litigator, her background includes serving as Director of the Office of Securities in Washington, D.C., where she was the principal liaison to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as an Assistant Attorney General, and a legal consultant specializing in data security, privacy, and compliance SaaS architecture. This extensive history in risk management and governance allows her to help institutions deploy powerful technologies responsibly while earning the trust of industry stakeholders, regulators and communities alike.

Deeply committed to economic development, Veda serves as Co-Chair of the Technology Council for the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, was a gubernatorial appointee to the New Jersey Broadband Access Study Commission, and previously directed technology and innovation sector strategy across New Jersey's community colleges. She holds a Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University, a Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity and Risk Management from Harvard University, and is admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia.



## **TANYA L. FREEMAN, ESQ.**

**CHIEF STRATEGY & POLICY OFFICER, AACCNJ  
 FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER  
 TANYA FREEMAN LAW**

nya Freeman is a legal strategist, civic leader, and lifelong servant to the people and institutions of New Jersey. Her work across law, healthcare, and community leadership is guided by a simple but powerful belief: strong institutions create stronger communities.

She is the Managing Partner of Tanya Freeman Law, where she leads a family law practice focused on complex, high-asset matters involving closely held businesses and sophisticated financial structures. Her approach is marked by strategic clarity, disciplined negotiation, and steady judgment, particularly in moments that require both precision and compassion.

Before entering the legal profession, she spent more than fifteen years in banking and insurance, leading audit teams and managing enterprise-level risk and compliance functions. That experience continues to shape her work today, bringing financial acuity, operational rigor, and a systems-based perspective to advocacy and leadership. She has represented high-profile clients, including professional athletes and public figures, in matters requiring discretion and trusted counsel.

For more than a decade, she has played a central role in New Jersey's healthcare and civic leadership landscape. From 2013 through 2025, she served on the Board of Directors of University Hospital and was appointed Board Chair in 2018. During her tenure, she helped guide the state's only public hospital through periods of complexity, transformation, and public accountability, with a deep commitment to institutional integrity, access to care, and health equity.

She also serves on the Board of Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, advancing educational opportunity and statewide impact.

Her leadership has been recognized across sectors. In 2022, NJ ROI named her one of the Top 25 Most Influential People in Healthcare. She has also been honored as Family Practitioner of the Year by the Essex County Bar Association and recognized multiple times as a Top Family Law Lawyer by Morris Essex Health and Life Magazine.

A sought-after speaker locally and internationally, she speaks on leadership, business development, equity, and cultural competence, particularly at the intersection of law, healthcare, and community impact. Across every role she holds, her work is rooted in service, legacy, and the responsibility to leave institutions and communities stronger than she found them.



**GARY MANN**

**CHAIRMAN, AACCNJ**

**CEO, JASFEL ANALYTICS**

Gary Mann is a distinguished American computer scientist and entrepreneur renowned for his expertise in data engineering, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. In 2018, he embarked on a transformative journey by founding JASFEL Analytics LLC, an innovative company specializing in data engineering, AI, and analytics, where he currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer.

Gary's journey into the realm of data commenced during his undergraduate years at Rutgers University, where he initiated a startup focused on automating data collection and analysis. Armed with a degree in Computer Science upon graduation, Gary seamlessly transitioned into the private sector, carving a niche for himself in diverse areas such as business intelligence, data integration, information management, SaaS development, business development, entrepreneurship, and corporate leadership. With a career spanning over three decades, Gary has amassed a wealth of experience in corporate leadership that extends beyond data management. His multifaceted expertise encompasses product development, global sales, marketing, executive management, and the operational intricacies of technology solutions. Gary has served as an international business executive for companies specializing in data intelligence, data governance, and data integration. Furthermore, he has played a pivotal advisory role for Big Four consulting and technology firms, offering guidance in the architecture, sale, and implementation of solutions across various vertical markets. Gary's reputation for collaboration, problem-solving acumen, and unwavering work ethics has consistently positioned him in mission-critical roles.

An insatiable learner, Gary diligently hones his skills and expands his knowledge base to consistently deliver cutting-edge solutions to diverse industries and businesses. This journey stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of innovation.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Gary is actively engaged in community and industry leadership. He serves as a board member of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) and the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. Additionally, Gary contributes his expertise to the steering committee of the New York State Black Business Alliance, the NJEDA Diversity Finance Advisory Board, and the Fiserv + RU-N advisory Board.



4

# FIRESIDE CHAT SPEAKERS



**DR. JOHN E. HARMON, SR., IOM**  
**FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO**  
**AACCNJ**

John E. Harmon, Sr. IOM has served as the Founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ), since 2007. In this role he has the responsibility of establishing, implementing and executing the mission, as well as the fiduciary oversight and governance of AACCNJ in accordance with its Bylaws. In addition, he works to identify strategic partnerships in both the public and private sector to connect AACCNJ members and supporters to resources and opportunities to grow and sustain their goals and objectives. Moreover, Harmon serves as an advocate on behalf of the 1.1 million African American residents and the over 70,000 black owned businesses statewide to ensure that policy at the municipal, county, and federal level provides fairness, equity and access to a level playing field in the market place.

Harmon is the former President and CEO of the Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce (MTAACC). Under his guidance, MTAACC grew its membership substantially, forged alliances with business associations/organizations and government, and forged strategic partnerships in the public and private sectors to benefit African American businesses throughout New Jersey.

John Harmon is a Board Member and the Former Chairman of the Board for the National Black Chamber of Commerce; there are 150 Affiliate Chapters of the NBCC and over fifteen international affiliates. Harmon was recently appointed to the US Chamber of Commerce – Board of Directors, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s Economic Community Advisory Council (ECAC), Investors Bank Board of Directors, Hackensack Meridian Health Board of Directors. Harmon is also a Board Member of Digital Place Based Advertising Association, and is a member of the US Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. He is the Founder and Chairman of the New York State Black Chamber of Commerce (NYSBCC). Additionally, Mr. Harmon is a Board member of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce (NJCC), New Jersey BPU, Supplier Diversity Development Council (SDDC), Opportunity New Jersey, Chairman of Crime Stoppers of Greater Trenton and a former Board Member of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), First Book, Minding Our Business (MOB), a youth entrepreneurial initiative in affiliation with Rider University.

Harmon was recently acknowledged by Return on Information-New Jersey (ROI), as the Number 1 Person of Color in New Jersey. Harmon was also acknowledged in South Jersey Journal’s list of the “Twenty-five Most Influential African Americans in New Jersey”, for the third consecutive year. Harmon was selected for ROI-NJ “2018 Power List of Influencers. Harmon is also recognized as a Center of



J Influence (COI) for the United States Army and was recently selected as a participant in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) hosted by the Secretary of Defense. The JCOC program is the oldest and most prestigious public liaison program in the Department of Defense. Harmon was selected as one of 40 individuals (out of 230 applicants) to attend JCOC18. In addition, Harmon was the only attendee from the State of New Jersey. Harmon was recently selected to NJBIZ2018 Power 10. The criteria for selection to the Power 100 were: Identify the people impacting business in New Jersey in a positive way whose primary mission is to foster growth in the state. Harmon was the first individual selected as a member of the host committee for NFL Super Bowl XLVII held in New Jersey 2014.

Mr. Harmon holds an associate degree in Business Administration from Mercer County Community College and Burlington County College, and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1983. Mr. Harmon also successfully completed a one-year Fellowship on Regionalism and Sustainability sponsored by The Ford Foundation and completed the Minority Business Management Seminar at the University of WisconsinMadison, in 2009. Additionally, Mr. Harmon completed a four-year Chamber Executive Management Program, at Villanova University, sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in 2014. Harmon was conferred with an honorary Associates Degree in Business Administration from Rowan College Burlington County, in 2014. Harmon was awarded a honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), honoris causa, from Fairleigh Dickinson University in May of 2022.

Prior to his twenty three year career as a chamber executive, Mr. Harmon was previously employed at The Bowery Savings Bank in New York City where he managed the bank's Residential Real Estate Department overlooking major mortgage loan transactions; and at Chemical Bank where he managed third party loan originations for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. While working at Chemical Bank, Mr. Harmon established The Affordable Housing Loan Program. Following his banking career, Mr. Harmon founded a transportation company in 1989, called Harmon Transfer, Corp. The company transported dry goods, perishable commodities, and produce throughout the Northeast United States and Canada. Mr. Harmon has three sons, John Jr., Joshua, and Justin.



## ELVIN ROSS

CEO, e. ross studios Jazzland & Nox  
 Point AI Solutions in New Orleans

Elvin Ross just finished Disney+'s pop/hip hop musical Sneakerella, a beloved, magical story about working hard and the magic that comes along from hard work. Elvin's an award-winning composer, owner, and executive producer of E. Ross Studios and is well known and widely respected in the television and music industries. For the last twenty years he has composed music for several Tyler Perry's stage plays, television series and films such as Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Madea's Family Reunion, House of Payne and The Haves and The Have Nots, and many many others. He is currently the weekly composer for Tyler Perry's Too Close to Home (TLC) and just completed Boo! A Madea Halloween. His credits also include serving as Creator and Executive Producer of the television award winning Gospel Dream Talent Search as seen on BET and GMC.

As Ross now adds filmmaker to his resumé, he makes his directorial debut with the thought provoking, compelling and inspirational documentary, Kunta Kinteh Island: Coming Home Without Shackles. Simply put -this riveting film depicts life of the African man, woman, and child prior to their horrific enslavement and one man's determination to be free if only in heart. The film also depicts the renaming of James Island (holding quarters for slaves) to Kuntah Kinteh Island, which honors the legacy of Kuntah Kinteh. Filmed in The Gambia, West Africa, Kunta Kinteh Island features Ben Vereen and The Kinteh Family.

Ross takes great pride in creating films that educate, inspire, and encourage people to engage with stories in ways they haven't before. Ross lives in Los Angeles, CA where his greatest joy is being a father to his sons.

E. Ross Studios is an American film production company based in Atlanta, Georgia USA that produces, filmed entertainment (theatrical motion pictures, television programs, documentaries, film scores, television scores and songs) through multiple platforms. Founded in 2009, e. ross studios is the home of the entire catalog of music scores for Tyler Perry Studios, Theatrical Plays and Television shows, and multiple Films. E. Ross Studios' film franchises include Gospel Dream Talent Search (BET) Kunta Kinteh Island (PBS-Documentary) and The King's Son (Feature Film 2020).



## MAJORA CARTER

Real Estate developer, Urban revitalization strategy consultant, MacArthur Fellow, Peabody Award winning broadcaster

Majora Carter is a real estate developer, urban revitalization strategy consultant, MacArthur Fellow, Peabody Award winning broadcaster, and teaches at Princeton University.

She is responsible for the creation of numerous economic developments, technology inclusion projects, green-infrastructure developments & policies, and job training & placement systems.

Majora is quoted on the walls of the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History and Culture in DC — which is also the subtitle of her 2022 book, Reclaiming Your Community: "Nobody should have to move out of their neighborhood to live in a better one."

Carter applies corporate talent-retention consulting practice to reduce Brain Drain in American low-status communities. She has firsthand experience pioneering sustainable economic development in one of America's most storied low-status communities: the South Bronx, as well as cities across North America and abroad.

She and her teams develop vision, strategies and the type of development that transforms low-status communities into thriving mixed-use local economies.

In 2017, she launched the Boogie Down Grind, a Hip Hop themed specialty coffee & craft beer spot, and the first commercial "3rd Space" in the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx since the mid-1980s.

Majora was born, raised and continues to live in the South Bronx. She is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science (1984), Wesleyan University (1988 BA, Distinguished Alum) and New York University (MFA).

After establishing Sustainable South Bronx (2001) and Green For All (2007), among other organizations, she opened this private consulting firm (2008) — which was named Best for the World by B-Corp in 2014.



CHAMPIONS LIVE HERE

NEW JERSEY  
20 BLACK  
24 ENERGY  
EXPO  
SNC

NEW JERSEY

Waly  
LAB PUBLIC

EXHIBITOR LIST

Vakki

PSEG  
PSEG.COM

5

ADVERTISEMENTS  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



# JUNETEENTH INNOVATION EXPO PLANNING TEAM

**John E. Harmon, Sr. IOM**  
Founder, President & CEO

**Nicole Baptiste**  
Website & Membership - Exhibitors

**Mary Griffin**  
Membership - Matchmaking

**Bydeia Harmon**  
Pitch Contest

**J. Noelle Baptiste**  
Graphic Design and Marketing  
NOIR Marketing & Design

**Tahji Wright**  
Social Media and Marketing  
NOIR Marketing & Design

**Jacqueline Baptiste**  
Project Management & Sponsorship Outreach

**Tress Parker**  
Project Management

**Jayne Rittenburg**  
Administrative Assistance  
Website & Registration

**Bob Lasser**  
Principal  
EXM LLC, Design Production

**Joanne Golden**  
Exhibit Manager  
EXM LLC, Design Production

**Marybeth Erickson**  
Stage Manager  
EXM LLC, Design Production

## THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND ADJUNCT STAFF

### Staff

Demetra Alston  
Nicole Baptiste  
Carmen Gates  
Mary Griffin  
Bydeia Harmon  
Vivian Harmon

Melody Hoilday  
Tammy Holloway  
Nyanpu Kerlulah  
Jayme Rittenburg  
Margaret Syphax  
Khadir Williams

### Adjunct Staff

Helen Walker  
Jessica Desmond  
Evon Judkins  
Kimberly Smith  
Sabrina Williams  
Tamara Williams

Shawna Biggs  
Elaina Mason  
Dawn Smith  
Lisa Clotter  
Brenda Livingston  
Connie Ellis

ON BEHALF OF THE  
AACCNJ THANK YOU TO:

### Service Providers

BSide Entertainment Group  
Green Glass films  
Total Exposure Entertainment  
MPAC Printing  
Selecta Graphics  
Business Promotions Solutions  
Doubletree by Hilton Cherry Hill  
360 Vinyl  
Blackheart Emoji

**Commitment to  
excellence because  
people are at the  
heart of it all.**

Come experience  
the difference.

*Together, we are  
here for good.*



[virtua.org](http://virtua.org)



## Joining Forces for a **Brighter** Tomorrow

Together with African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, we're on a mission to ensure local students have access to the skills and knowledge needed for long-term success.

As we expand career opportunities in the communities we proudly call home, we take a step closer toward a more equitable energy workforce – one that's reflective of the diverse communities we serve.

[atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com)

© Atlantic City Electric Company, 2026



# Office of Business Development (OBD)

For more information contact:

**The Office of Civil Rights  
Office of Business Development (OBD)**

**Email:** [dbeoutreach@njtransit.com](mailto:dbeoutreach@njtransit.com)  
**Website:** <https://njtransit.sbdbe.com/>



**Procurement Calendar**

<https://www.njtransit.com/procurement/calendar>



**Register for Bid Express**

**Bid Express ::**  
<https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/1462/home?agency=trueNJTransit>



**Office of Business Development**

<https://www.njtransit.com/our-agency/office-civil-rights>



Ready to applaud  
imagination, innovation  
and excellence.

Citizens is proud to support African  
American Chamber of Commerce of NJ  
and the 2026 Juneteenth Innovation  
Expo.

**BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT  
& SECTOR STRATEGIES**

# REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Get personalized solutions  
for your business.



## MEET OUR BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM

Employers are encouraged to work with our Business Services Team members to discuss their immediate and future workforce needs. Our team provides concierge services, directing you to available resources:

- Talent acquisition services
- Specialty hiring programs
- Training incentives

**Let us help you advance your workforce today.**



## LEARN MORE

For more information about our current grant opportunities, contact us at 609-984-4437 or find your local Business Team Member here:

**[NJ.GOV/LABOR/BUSINESS](https://NJ.GOV/LABOR/BUSINESS)**



Kool Koala Dentistry  
New Jersey/Delaware  
Customer since 2016

■ TD Business Premier Checking

# 12-month maintenance fee waiver when you open an account.\*

Because your smallbusiness  
deserves big offers.


Learn more at [td.com/smallbizoffers](https://td.com/smallbizoffers)

\*Business Checking Monthly Maintenance Fee waiver offer is valid for TD Small Business checking accounts opened 5/1/26 - 7/31/26 by a new Customer, one account per new Customer TIN. The waiver is based on the account type at account opening as outlined: Business Premier Checking: The Monthly Maintenance Fees will be waived for the first twelve months or first thirteen statement cycles after the account has been opened, whichever period is longer for Business Premier Checking accounts. | All other Small Business Checking accounts: The Monthly Maintenance Fees will be waived for the first six months or first seven statement cycles after the account has been opened, whichever period is longer for Business Convenience Checking Plus, Business Interest Checking Plus or Business Simple accounts. | The first statement cycle may be less than a full month. Standard pricing will resume when the waiver period listed above expires. See Business Fee Schedule For details. Account analysis checking customers are not eligible for this offer.


TD Bank, N.A., Member FDIC

© 2026 TD Bank, N.A., and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Because around here,  
we make our  
own future.

 NJready.com

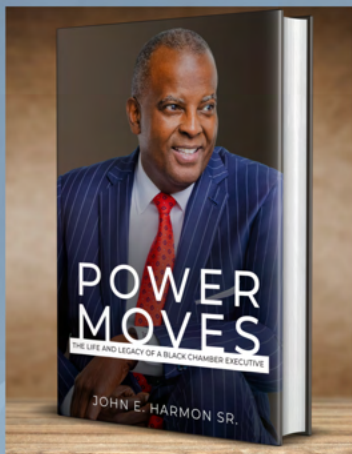
*Jersey*  
**Ready**™

 **PSEG**

# POWER MOVES

The Life And Legacy Of A  
Black Chamber Executive

AVAILABLE NOW!



John E. Harmon Sr. recounts his ascension journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of the state's most influential businessmen.



Build your next success story.



[OceanFirst.com](http://OceanFirst.com) | 888.623.2698



Sustainable  
Waste Solutions

We are proud to sponsor the AACCNJ and honor the extraordinary achievements of African Americans in business, sustainability, politics, education, sports, and entertainment.

Celebrating these trailblazers reflects our commitment to recognizing excellence and inspiring future generations.

# Resilience & Hope

drive our commitment to building stronger more sustainable communities that ensure equity for all.

---



EST. JUNE 2007



**African American**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF  
**NEW JERSEY**

*The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has been incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and provides advocacy and support for businesses throughout the State of New Jersey.*

*Copyright © 2026 African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.*

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed "Attention: Permissions Coordinator," at the address below:*

[www.aaccnj.com](http://www.aaccnj.com)  
379 West State Street Trenton NJ 08618  
609-571-1620

*Book Design by: Noir Marketing and Design LLC*

**NOÏR.** | **MARKETING  
& DESIGN, LLC**