

**#R.E.A.C.H.- Race, Economics, Academics,
COVID-19, and Health: Examining the Impact of
Racism on Leaders**



**PENNSYLVANIA BLACK CONFERENCE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.
52ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 7 - 8, 2022**

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CONFERENCE WELCOME

On behalf of the 2022 Eastern Region Conference Planning Committee of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education (PBCOHE), it is with excitement that we welcome you to the 52nd Annual Conference.

Albeit the conference has landed virtually for the second time, we are confident the planning committee's diligent work to bring forth our theme: "#R. E. A. C.H. - Race, Economics Academics, COVID-19, and Health: Examining the Impact of Racism on Leaders" will be well received. Our dynamic keynote and workshop speakers are sure to inspire the PBCOHE family to take up the charge to tackle the many issues old and new that were revealed as the world grew through the Racial and COVID-19 Pandemics. The shut-down reminded us of how important some of the most basic things are to our existence. The Significant of Human Touch - "The human touch is that little snippet of physical affection that brings a bit of comfort, support and kindness. It doesn't take much from the one who gives it, but can make a huge difference in the one who receives it," Mya Robarts.

May the PBCOHE Family continue to REACH out an extended hand to touch and connect with people and resources in all directions that we continue to be a viable organization to address the issues taking place around basic education and higher education as they relate to our underrepresented students. After 52 years, PBCOHE continues to take an active role on building such linkages within the commonwealth of Pennsylvania to ensure the success of our futures, which lies in educating our youth.

You are encouraged to support the conveniently located virtual African-Market Vendor Place before, in between and after conference sessions. Our vendors have items that include books, candles, jewelry, Afrocentric clothing, artwork, and statues for your shopping pleasure, so have your checkbook or credit card handy.

Again, WELCOME and thank you for joining us for the 52nd Annual Conference ~ ENJOY!

Pamela Blanding-Godbolt

Pamela Blanding-Godbolt
2022 Conference Co-Chair

Shantia McCoy-Jones

Shantia McCoy-Jones
2022 Conference Co-Chair

PENNSLVANIA BLACK CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.



The PBCOHE, Inc. emblem/logo depicts the Egyptian pyramids, a book, and a lighted candle.

The pyramids reflect Black Americans' roots and connection with mother Africa.

The open book, at the background, is symbolic of the early Nile Valley Black civilization that gave birth to advancement in the sciences and mathematics. This achievement was unmatched anywhere in the world at the time. The open book also represents PBCOHE's advocacy for minority access to and retention in institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The lighted candle denotes truth and education as the light of the world.

Put together, the emblem/logo is a formidable portrayal of Black achievement and potential if given equal opportunity and access to higher education.

George A. Agbango, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science, Bloomsburg University of PA
Past President, PBCOHE Inc.
International Education Chair
IEML Advisory Committee/Lecturer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc. (PBCOHE) is to provide programs and services which help ensure that the postsecondary educational needs and aspirations of African Americans, in particular, are met and to work in concert with members of other underrepresented groups in the Commonwealth.

This mission is accomplished by fully utilizing our individual and collective talents and resources. We further achieve our mission through education, research, training, and publication.

In particular, the mission provides for:

- Advocacy on behalf of student, faculty and staff needs, and interests.
- Support of personal growth and development of its membership through educational programs, networking, training in human relations, and leadership skills.
- Review and analysis of legislation, rulings, and reports for the impact on African-Americans and other underrepresented groups in the Commonwealth.

PBCOHE shares with other organizations of the Commonwealth the mission of:

- Developing an educational environment that promotes and encourages desirable educational advancement for all people and educational strategies to promote inter-group understanding within an increasingly diverse population in the Commonwealth.
- Contributing to efforts in the Commonwealth to graduate students by promoting quality programs which encourage personal and academic achievement and support efforts to recruit, develop and promote its faculty and staff, once hired.
- Creating a climate that promotes and attracts students to postsecondary education and graduate programs.

VISION

The Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc. (PBCOHE) is an organization made up of African-Americans and other underrepresented professionals from the public and private sector, education, business, social services, law, and government agencies that have a deep commitment to improving and ensuring the education of underrepresented students.

PBCOHE focuses on key issues affecting the future of higher education in Pennsylvania and provides input to the various sectors of government, education and community leaders that impact the lives of underrepresented groups at Pennsylvania colleges and universities. In addition to advocating for policies and issues in higher education, PBCOHE provides support and professional development opportunities through its scholarship program, the Annual Conference, the Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Development Institute (SLDI), the Institute for Educational Management and Leadership (IEML), and the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education Journal.

MEET OUR FOUNDER



THE HONORABLE K. LEROY IRVIS

1919 – 2006

The Honorable K. Leroy Irvis is known as the first African American speaker of any state houses of representatives in the nation and as a civil rights activist. Even as a young boy, Irvis was known to picket department stores in Albany, NY, as early as 1934, when he was 14 years old—and later he led pickets in Pittsburgh against unfair hiring practices.

As a committed student, Irvis had a long and distinguished educational background. He graduated summa cum laude from New York State Teachers College (now the State University of New York at Albany) in 1938. Irvis was from a poor family, and he was known for having never bought a book—instead using library resources and borrowing textbooks. He received a master's in English literature from that same school in 1939, and a law degree in 1954 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Irvis served during the World War II as a civilian attaché. An avid hobbyist, Irvis formed his own club for African-American model airplane hobbyists.

He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1958 and was consecutively re-elected for 15 terms. Known as “The Lion of Pennsylvania” for his effectiveness in office, Irvis was selected as majority leader in 1969. He served seven years in that capacity, and four years as minority leader as well.

Irvis is best known for his time as the speaker of the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania. Elected to that post first in 1977, he served longer than any other person since America's independence from Great Britain. Revered for his oratory skills, Irvis' respect for all people, including opponents, is legendary. He retired in 1988 from politics, after three decades of service.

More than 875 pieces of legislation were sponsored by Irvis over the span of his career, of which a record 264 pieces were signed into law. He contributed to approximately 800 additional pieces of legislation as well. Major themes of his work included education, health, prison reform, consumer protection, housing and governmental reform, and civil rights.

Often referred to as the father of Pennsylvania's community college system, Irvis was the first state representative to introduce such a system to the Pennsylvania House. The University of Pittsburgh also owes its continued existence to Irvis' legislation. Irvis worked throughout his life for civil rights, equality, and the rights of all men, receiving numerous awards and citations. He lived a wide and varied personal life and donated his time to many philanthropic and educational causes.

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL



CHARLOTTE B. STEWART 1927-2010

Stewart was a long-time active member of the Harrisburg community, and she became involved with PBCOHE in the early years of its formation. She was an ongoing active liaison between PBCOHE and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Stewart was a founding member of the Conference on Black Basic Education (COBBE). In the PBCOHE, she served on the Annual Conference Planning Committee, on the Executive Council, chaired the Nominating Committee, and others.

Stewart attended Howard University and the Pennsylvania State University. She was a school teacher at the former Glenwood Elementary School in Susquehanna Township. She retired from the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission where she served as acting regional director and director of education for south central Pennsylvania. She was a community activist, and in her leisure time she was an avid reader and loved baking and entertaining. Affectionately, she was known for preparing and serving superb soul food lunches for the Executive Council of PBCOHE when she hosted the meetings at her home.

MARY DAVIS BALTIMORE

Deceased-1975 Davis Baltimore worked with Irvis and Stewart and supported the activities of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education. Davis Baltimore was an outstanding advisor, administrator, and worker in the field of social work. She was the special assistant to Mr. Irvis while he was the majority leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and an associate professor at California State University of Pennsylvania. During her lifetime, she was a conscientious member of many worthwhile and meaningful organizations.

MEMORIAL FOR THOSE ON WHOSE SHOULDERS WE STAND (that we are aware of)

Founders

The Honorable K. Leroy Irvis • Charlotte B. Stewart • Mary Davis Baltimore

| Past Presidents | Members | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Dr. Jody Harris | Dr. Lloyd Bell | Dr. Elmer Haymon, Jr. PBCOHE Resident Comedian |
| Robert D. Lynch | Dr. Renee Smith Clark Western Region Director | Dr. Donna King |
| Dr. W. Terrell Jones | Vera Cornish | Dr. Leophus King |
| William Meek | Dr. Doris Cross | Rev. Philip Lawrence King, Sr. |
| Dr. Francene Haymon Phillips | Dr. Shirley Dixon | Joe Sanford |
| John S. Shropshire | Tchet Dereic Dorman | William A. "Bill" Savage Western Region Director |
| | George Harris Established the Soul Food Luncheon Tradition | Ronald T. Smith Treasurer |
| | Esther R. Haymon Established the Scholarship Program for College Students | |

PAST PRESIDENTS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1970 – 1971 Dr. Jody Harris | 1991 – 1992 Mr. Ulysses Harold Levy | 2006 - 2008 Dr. Brenda Sanders Dédé |
| 1972 – 1973 Mr. Melvin Allen | 1993 – 1994 Dr. Alphonse N. Novels | 2008 - 2010 Dr. W. Terrell Jones |
| 1974 – 1975 Mr. William Meeks | 1995 – 1996 Mr. John Shropshire | 2010 - 2012 Dr. John B. Craig |
| 1976 – 1978 Mr. D. Douglas Gaston III | 1997-1998 Ms. Andrea Hart | 2012 - 2014 Mr. Albert Jones |
| 1979-1980 Ms. Madeline Haggans | 1998 - 2000 Mr. William Asbury | 2014 – 2016 Dr. Sharon Stringer |
| 1980 – 1982 Dr. Judith A. W. Thomas | 2000 - 2002 Ms. Patricia Hopson-Shelton | 2016 - 2020 Dr. John B. Craig |
| 1983 – 1984 Dr. Francene Haymon | 2002 - 2004 Dr. Richard E. Arnold | 2020 –2022 Mrs. Valdijah Ambrose Brown |
| 1985 – 1990 Mr. Robert D. Lynch | 2004 - 2006 Dr. George Agbango | |

PBCOHE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Pennsylvania Black Conference
on Higher Education, Inc.

Greetings from the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education (PBCOHE), founded in 1970 by the late Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, Pennsylvania's first black speaker of the House of Representatives. As you may know, the PBCOHE's mission is to ensure equal access to higher education opportunities for persons of color in the Commonwealth. We are comprised of an Executive Council, which is the policy-setting arm of the organization, and a general membership. Members of our organization are college/university staff, faculty, students, and administrators who are deeply committed to this mission.

On behalf of the Executive Council, welcome to the 52nd Annual Conference. This year's conference theme, "#R.E.A.C.H. - Race, Economics, Academics, COVID-19, and Health: Examining the Impact of Racism on Leaders", provides a magnifying glass to lay bare the inequities that continue to plague the lived experiences of black and brown students, faculty, and staff in Pennsylvania's higher education institutions. In doing so, it is our clarion call that we are not to lie down in despair but to rise up, in the spirit of our ancestors, in hope and innovation to address these issues. We can address these issues by amplifying our voices, engaging our talents, and collectively mobilizing our efforts.

This year's planning committee has worked to curate sessions and interactives from some of the Commonwealth's premier thought leaders. We hope you enjoy this virtual experience and welcome your feedback. We invite you to consider engaging in our other professional development opportunities that include: Institute for Educational Management and Leadership (IEML) and Emergent Leaders Program. Student development opportunities include: Student Leadership Development Institute and a host of scholarships for deserving high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students of color to help defray higher education costs. We hope that the conference is the vehicle that helps you to find ways in which you can use your time, talent, and resources to further the work of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education.

Enjoy the conference!

In Dedicated Service,

Valdijah Ambrose Brown

Valdijah Ambrose Brown, LMSW, MSHE

EASTERN REGION DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2022 Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education (PBCOHE) Virtual Annual Conference. It is our pleasure to have you back for an outstanding event that we've planned for you.

This year the theme is #R.E.A.C.H. – Race, Economics, Academics, COVID-19, and Health. The presenters will address the primary challenges that face Black administrators, staff and faculty as they help Black students to pursue their degrees across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are living in an age where PBCOHE members hold the key to increasing Black student enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The PBCOHE organization stands ready to make a difference on college campuses wherever they may be.

The Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education has spent more than 50 years committed to increasing Black student enrollments graduation rates. During the conference, the PBCOHE leaders and members will offer insights to provide unique solutions and research on the pressing issues in higher education today. I encourage each participant to use the conference to unlock new knowledge and to establish additional relationships.

Your participation in this PBCOHE Annual Conference will help to bring the world of higher education to economically disadvantaged communities where college access is limited. This conference will boost your commitment to students while building your network with other administrators and staff. You'll listen to some of the leading experts who'll discuss significant topics on race. We need to consistently inspire the future generation of leaders in higher education and beyond.

Thank you for registering to attend the PBCOHE Virtual Annual Conference. We believe that your participation will add valuable input to the success of the conference. Finally, may PBCOHE members continue to be bright lights on college campuses across Pennsylvania.



Dr. Stephen Jones

Dr. Stephen Jones

PBCOHE, Eastern Region Director

SILENT AUCTION

The PBCOHE Conference is being held virtually this year. Given our mission, you'll be pleased to know that we still awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to 7 college students and 3 high school students this year. Commemorative copies of the Scholarship and Conference booklets can be found on our website, PBCOHE.com, under 2022 Annual Conference.

We are able to award these scholarships because of our fundraising efforts through advertising, sponsorships, and the silent auction. For this reason, the 2022 conference planning committee has decided to hold an online silent auction. All monies raised will go directly into our scholarship fund.

The auction will run from Monday, April 4th at 9:00am to Friday, April 8th at 5:00pm.

To view available items, go to <https://www.pbcohe.com/silent-auction.html>. Click on the Shop button to read the item description.

Submit your bid(s) by email to Karla Roach at karj6367@aol.com. Bids must be submitted in \$5 increments and the current bid amount will be updated on the website every 24 hours. The winning bids will be determined by the date/time stamp of the email. Winners will be notified by email on Monday, April 11th. Payment will be due 14 days after winner notification and will be accepted in the form of check, money order, or credit card.

Your bid should include the following info:

Bidder's Name
Contact Number/Email
Bid Item(s)
Bid Amount(s)

All items can be shipped. If it's located in your area, arrangements can be made for delivery or pick up.

Please direct any questions to Karla at karj6367@aol.com. Good luck and thank you in advance for your participation!



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Conference Co-Chair

Vendors/Advertisement

Conference Booklet

Mrs. Shantia McCoy-Jones
Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo VA
Medical Center

Awards

Mr. Lawrence Dowdy
West Chester University (Retired)

Conference Booklet

Entertainment/Silent Auction

Mr. Ron Felder
PHEAA PA School Services

Conference Booklet

Mr. William Lindsey
PHEAA PA School Services

Evaluations

Mr. Kaaba Brunson
PA Human Relations (Retired)

Evaluations/Registration

Mrs. Cherylyn Rush
La Salle University

Evaluations

Legislative/Academic Townhall

Dr. Joi C. Spraggins
CEO, Legacy Bridges
STEM Academy, Inc.

Presenters/Speakers/Registration

Conference Platform Host

Ms. Rachael Banks
Penn State Pittsburgh APO

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Silent Auction

Dr. Chuck A. Baker
Delaware County Comm. College

Silent Auction/Fundraising

Ms. Karla Roach
PHEAA (Retired)

Sponsorship

Eastern Region Director

Dr. Stephen A. Jones
Villanova University

Treasurer

Mrs. Verona Griffin
PHEAA (Retired)

Conference Support/Planning

Parliamentarian

Dr. George Agbango
Bloomsburg University of PA

Executive Director/ Historian

Dr. Brenda Sanders Dédé
Clarion University (Retired)



Teamwork
MAKES THE
Dream Work!

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

| Thursday, April 7, 2022 | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 9:00am – 9:30am | Opening Welcome Address (Plenary/General Session) |
| 9:40am – 10:25am | Session I |
| 10:30am – 11:15am | Session II |
| 11:20am – 12:05pm | Session III |
| 12:15pm – 1:00pm | Luncheon and Scholarship (Lunch & Learn Session) |
| 1:00pm – 1:30pm | Vendors (Virtual Fair) |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm | Keynote Speaker |
| 2:40pm – 3:25pm | Session IV |
| 3:30pm – 4:15pm | Session V |
| 4:30pm – 5:00pm | Regional Meeting |
| 5:00pm – 5:30pm | Networking |
| Friday, April 8, 2022 | |
| 9:00am – 10:00am | Business Meeting |
| 10:10am – 10:55am | Session VI |
| 11:00am – 11:45am | Session VII |
| 12:00pm – 12:45pm | Lunch and Learn (Author's Corner) |
| 1:00pm – 2:00pm | Academic/Legislative Town Hall |
| 2:10pm – 2:55pm | Session VIII |
| 3:00pm – 3:45pm | Session IX |
| 3:50pm – 4:35pm | Session X |
| 4:45pm – 5:30pm | PBCOHE Annual Awards |

Who we are...



Our Values



Customer Centric

Employees, borrowers, students, families, and clients are our customers. We make every decision and measure every outcome based on how well it serves them.



Commitment to Respect

We value diversity and inclusion. We listen and act with empathy and respect.



Citizenship

Our Agency is built on a strong service mentality and desire to help others. We strive to be good citizens of PHEAA and in the communities in which we live and work.



Courage to Evolve

We take ownership and view challenges and change as opportunities to learn, grow, and innovate.

What we do...

Our Mission

To provide affordable access to higher education.

What we strive for...

Our Vision

To be a respected leader in higher education technology and student aid, devoting our energy, resources, and imagination to helping current and future generations of students achieve their educational goals.

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 7, 2022

9:40 am – 10:25 am Session I

“Academic Resources: Staying Ahead and Creating Safe Spaces for Student Success”

Presenter: Margaret Mbindyo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor/Academic Advisor, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

With the pandemic, the transition to post-secondary institution offers new challenges for most students. Students, parents, and guardians must have the knowledge and the awareness of the support and guidance that colleges offer to new students to help them have a strong academic start. This presentation will discuss that.

10:30 am – 11:15 am Session II

“Supporting Mental Health of Leaders of Color amid a Pandemic: A Trauma-Informed Approach”

Presenters: Marina Barnett, DSW, MSW
Associate Professor, Widener University
Quianna Daniels, MSW, LSW
Clinical Case Manager and Counselor
Counseling & Psychological Services, Widener University

This presentation will identify culturally competent, trauma-informed, and justice-oriented strategies that foster mental health and support culturally diverse campus leaders. We will discuss the unique challenges faced by leaders of color and present a strategy to identify existing campus and community resources and create informed and welcoming spaces for leaders of color.

11:20 am – 12:05 pm Session III

“Legacy Bridges Advancing STEM During Racism & COVID”

Presenters: Dr. Joi C. Spraggins
CEO, Legacy Bridges STEM Academy, Inc.
Lt. Col. George E. Hardy
USAF (Retired) Red Tail Tuskegee Airmen

Legacy Bridges STEM Academy, Inc. is a 501© non-profit NASA Legends and Trail Blazers STEM Institute and NASA GLOBE US Partner. GLOBE, Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment is an international science and education program that provides educators, students, and the public worldwide with the opportunity to participate in NASA's scientific process to advance progress on diversity, inclusion, equity, and environmental justice. This session shares best practices from Legacy Bridges NASA Legends and Trail Blazers, Tuskegee Airmen, and Sports Legends.

2:40 pm – 3:25 pm Session IV

“Advising Students of Color during a Pandemic and Beyond: Using Holistic Advising to Support Students”

Presenters: Marquis Coates, MPA
Success Program & Engagement Coordinator, Villanova University
Kevin Covington, MSM
Assistant Director of Retention & Outreach, Villanova University

Student support services have been challenged on college campuses across the country due to the pandemic. Students have had to adapt to changes in class format, changing health guidelines and limited opportunities to connect to one another. Advising college students, particularly students of color at PWIs has become more challenging. There is a need to connect with students more deeply as advisors and to provide students with the resources they'll need to be successful. Our session will discuss these issues and how holistic advising can be implemented.

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm Session V

“Racialized Stress, the Brain, and MBE Strategies”

Presenters: Valdijah Ambrose Brown
Graduate Research Assistant & Research Affiliate, E-LaBS
Drexel University School of Education
Tanya McCreary Ardoin
Research Affiliate, E-LaBS
Drexel University School of Education

This session addresses racism's impact on the health of Black women leaders in academia. Through the lens of Mind, Brain and Education (MBE) science, participants will learn how racialized stress shapes brain structures and neural processes. Three MBE strategies are offered to heal race-related trauma and transform higher education ecologies.

Friday, April 8, 2022

10:10 am – 10:55 am Session VI

“Self-C.O.D.E.: Radical Self-Care as a Pathway to Transformational Leadership”

Presenter: Shenita L. Baltimore
Educator, Life, Success & Business Coach

A journey of self-discovery and high-level life organization to strategically prioritize personal wellness, growth, and development through the use of structure and systems that facilitate discipline and consistency through mindful, life-giving rituals to gain clarity and operate in the power of one's purpose.

11:00 am – 11:45 am Session VII

“Othermothering in the Post Covid 19 Era: Professional Women of Color Mentoring Young College Women of Color at Predominantly White Institutions”

Presenters: Carolyn Reid-Brown, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Melissa Cheese, Ed.D.
Associate Professor, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

This presentation takes audience members on the historical journey of underserved students in higher education and introduces a collaborative leadership initiative facilitated by members of the campus community that promotes the overall success of students. Components of the leadership academy include academic progression, professional readiness, wellness, mentoring, and community service.

2:10 pm – 2:55 pm Session VIII

“College Access: We’re All in this Together”

Presenter: Thomas Butler, M.Ed.
Director of Advancement and Operations
Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable

The Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable (PCPR) acts as a convener that leverages relationships among the Greater Philadelphia K-16 community for 30 years for the good of marginalized individuals aspiring to access and attain a college degree. This session will engage stakeholders on positive solutions for everyone involved.

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm Session IX

“Using Equity-Minded Action to Address the Essential Needs of Underrepresented Students”

Presenters: Shantanique L. Johnson, M.S.
Associate Director of Multicultural Engagement, Gettysburg College
Monique L. Gore, M.S.
Director of Multicultural Engagement, Gettysburg College

Given the persistent wealth gap, this session will explore how to develop student support services in the form of an essentials cupboard that addresses students’ critical out-of-class needs. We aim to provide tools to implement programming to help address the wealth gap and develop a sense of mattering and belonging for underrepresented students.

3:50 pm – 4:35 pm Session X

“For When the ‘Well’ Runs Dry: A Recall through BFA Narratives

Presenter: Dr. Jaché Williams
Higher Education Educator

Few Black Female Administrators recognize their gifts of grand impact in the realm of higher education. It is in working through an ongoing, forward-momentum process of elevating towards wholeness that they can function at their optimal level, accept their influence, and promote their authentic voices. Accept the challenge to thrive.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Cherri Gregg

Thursday, April 7, 2022

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm



Cherri Gregg is an afternoon drive host/news anchor for WHY radio. Prior to her current position, the award-winning journalist covered civil rights, social justice, race and public affairs issues impacting marginalized communities in the Greater Philadelphia region, spending nearly a decade on air at KYW Newsradio.

She served as the station's Community Affairs reporter and was the creator, host and executive producer of the weekly, syndicated radio show and podcast, Flashpoint with Cherri Gregg. Under her leadership, the show

earned two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, an NABJ Salute to Excellence Award for Best Podcast and a Pennsylvania Bar Association Media Award all in 2021.

Cherri, is also a licensed attorney and a past president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists.

ACADEMIC/LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL

Friday, April 8, 2022

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm



Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent J. Hughes is a leading progressive voice on local, state, and national issues. His colleagues elected him to be the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in 2010 and he continues to bring proactive leadership to that role.

Sen. Hughes has served the commonwealth as a member of the Pennsylvania Senate for more than 20 years. He was first elected to represent the 7th Senatorial District in 1994, previously serving as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994. During that time, he was the chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus from 1991 to 1994.

As a key member of the Senate's Democratic leadership team, Sen. Hughes is a champion for major policy issues such as expanding healthcare for low-income workers, raising the minimum wage, defending the right to vote, fighting for increased funding for public education, and rebuilding the state's distressed communities. As Democratic Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Hughes holds a major role in developing Pennsylvania's annual budget of nearly \$34 billion, carefully guiding the state's spending priorities.

In the fight for the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Pennsylvania, Sen. Hughes took a leadership role to help the Pennsylvanians

who may not have had health care otherwise. The centerpiece and final part of this struggle was the successful implementation of Medicaid expansion, which currently provides health insurance to more than 1.1 million low-income working people who previously could not afford coverage.

Ensuring access to our democracy is another of Sen. Hughes' top priorities on a state and national level. He has introduced legislation pushing for automatic voter registration, which received statewide attention. Sen. Hughes is a co-chairman of the National Commission for Voter Justice, an organization that has traveled across the country taking testimony and revealing the numerous voter suppression tactics being utilized in communities throughout the nation.

Sen. Hughes' continues to push for a legislative and pragmatic response to reforming Pennsylvania's criminal justice system. In a successful, bipartisan effort, he led the establishment of the First Chance Fund, which drives budgetary support for the children of incarcerated prisoners. Children who have incarcerated parents are 70 percent more likely to end up incarcerated, unless reached by intervention programs at an early age. Sen. Hughes is committed to break that cycle.

Once again working in bipartisan fashion, Sen. Hughes recently helped to create the \$60 million School and Community Anti-Violence Fund, which provides support for schools and local communities aiming to reduce violence, especially among our youth.

Sen. Hughes is one of Pennsylvania's leading legislative advocates in the fight for education equity. He works locally and nationally in the effort to rebuild crumbling school infrastructures across the state and around the nation.

Sen. Hughes is the legislative leader for the Pennsylvania Promise initiative, a statewide effort to provide free college for state residents. As a part of his mission to provide families with increased support to make higher education more affordable, he also recently partnered with the state treasurer, co-authoring legislation that established the Keystone Scholars Program. This initiative creates a college savings fund for every newborn child in Pennsylvania. Sen. Hughes is heavily involved in the rebirth of Cheyney University. He serves as a member of the Council of Trustees at Cheyney University and is working with academic, business and philanthropic leaders to propel the institution forward. He and his family have established the James Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund, in honor of his late father. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$1 million in college scholarships to students from challenged circumstances who are talented and want to "make a difference."

The senator has been recognized both locally and nationally for his work on HIV/AIDS, as well as his efforts to raise awareness on the challenges of mental and behavioral health in the African American community.



House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton was first elected in 2015 to serve communities in west and southwest Philadelphia, as well as Yeadon and Darby in Delaware County.

As a state lawmaker she has made history twice! First in 2018 when she became the first woman and first African American to be elected as House Democratic Caucus Chair, and again in 2020, when she was the first woman elected House Democratic Leader in the institution's 244-year history.

A lifelong resident of southwest Philadelphia and graduate of Grace Temple Christian Academy, she became active in her community while completing an internship with radio station WDAS. Later, she studied Political Science and Leadership in Global Understanding at La Salle University. After earning her degree, she enrolled at Villanova University School of Law, interning at Regional Housing Legal Services, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

She was an assistant public defender for seven years and became assistant chief of the East Zone during her last year, helping attorneys with case preparation.

In 2013, Leader McClinton combined her passion for public service and law by becoming chief counsel to state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams, where she worked behind the scenes to develop policy and legislation; organize expungement fairs and public policy forums; and assist constituents.

Leader McClinton has earned several distinctions for her commitment to public service including City and State PA's 40 Under 40, Power of Diversity: Black 100, and Above & Beyond lists, the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year award, Fun Time Magazine's Women of Influence Award, the PRE-K for PA Champion award, the Lucien E. Blackwell Guiding Light Community award, the Black Gala Women of Excellence; and Politico Recast's Power List 2022.

THE AUTHOR'S CORNER

Friday, April 8, 2022

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

The raison d'être (purpose) for the institution of education is the dissemination of knowledge. The Author's Corner offers the opportunity for Pennsylvania's intellectuals to discuss their research, projects, and published work. Enjoy your lunch while several of this year' PBCOHE participants share their knowledge in this moderated discussion.

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