

SAVE THE DATE

Pennsylvania Black Conference on
Higher Education, Inc.

Presents:

"Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward"

Annual Professional
Conference

May 29 - 30, 2025

Hosted by:

pbcohe.org





Pennsylvania Black Conference On Higher Education, Inc.

Greetings!

We cordially invite you to the 54th Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education. We invite you to join us, Thursday, May 29, 2025, through Friday, May 30th, 2025, at Arcadia University, 450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038.

Fifty-four years ago, the late Honorable K. Leroy Irvis founded the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education to examine the impact of state and federal educational policies on persons of color Pennsylvania and advocated for greater access for minority students, faculty, and staff. The 54th Annual Conference theme, "Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward" will facilitate deep enriching conversations around the changing climate of Higher Education: funding, access, retention and success for African Americans and underrepresented groups.

Further, PBCOHE's 2025 conference will explore critical issues of how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies and activities within our campuses affect students, staff, and faculty across our communities. Over the past decade, there have been unique changes in how communities of color have been excluded, and we must name and address them if we have any chance of countering the negative policies that the PBCOHE members have witnessed.

Moreover, what will PBCOHE's focus, and strategies be in the coming years to assist members, stakeholders, and partners to address these concerns? PBCOHE is seeking to learn from leaders, faculty, and staff and graduate students whose work examines or addresses the impact of DEI policies and activities on their campus, practice, pedagogy, and/or research. These works may include policies or research on anticipated policies, innovations involving recruitment, admission and retention efforts, advancements in technology and online learning, or national or local educational practices or programs, and how minority students might benefit from or be hindered by these policies, forces, or changes in the coming years.

Since 1970, the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education (PBCOHE) has given tens of thousands of dollars in financial support to worthy students through its scholarship program. In addition, PBCOHE provides ongoing opportunities for minorities in higher education to pursue their professional, social, and personal development through the Student Leadership Development Institute and the Institute for Educational Management and Leadership. We are a not-for-profit, (501)(c)(3) organization and a Pennsylvania professional association whose purpose is to ensure that African Americans and other underrepresented groups have access to higher education in the Commonwealth.

PBCOHE's 54th Annual Conference will convene at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania which plays a vital role in educating the next generation of leaders, advancing the regions workforce development, and generating breakthrough discoveries. This conference will provide attendees with a rich opportunity to explore the myriad of issues related to ensuring student success while creating bonds with educators from across the Commonwealth. Please join us as we celebrate fifty-four years of service, leadership, and scholarship.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stephen Jones and Cherylyn Rush, 2025 Conference Co-Chairs



Pennsylvania Black Conference On Higher Education, Inc.

www.pbcohe.org

ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education was established in 1970 by the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis who was the Minority Leader and Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives at that time.

Since 1970, the organization has been examining the effect of state and federal educational policies on persons of color in Pennsylvania. In addition, PBCOHE has given thousands of dollars in financial support to worthy students through its scholarship program. Moreover, PBCOHE provides ongoing opportunities for minorities in higher education to pursue their professional, social, and personal development.

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

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, and the Journal of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 students, 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 Black African Americans and other under-represented groups in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Support of the personal growth and development of students through the Black Active Student Intercollegiate Struggles (BASICS) arm of the PBCOHE.

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;
- Contributing to the efforts in the Commonwealth to recruit, retain, and graduate students by promoting quality programs, which encourage personal and academic achievement.
- Creating a climate that promotes and attracts students to post-secondary educational and graduate programs;
- Developing educational strategies to promote inter-group understanding within an increasingly diverse population in the Commonwealth; and
- Contributing to the common efforts to recruit, develop, and promote its faculty and staff, once hired.

PENNSYLVANIA BLACK CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2024-2026

PRESIDENT (2025-2026)

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EDUCATION POLICY CHAIR

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2025 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/THINK TANK

IEML CO-DIRECTOR/HISTORIAN

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secretary@pbcohe.org

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MRS. BARBARA A. THOMPSON**

bagthompson@comcast.net

2025 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

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SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

DR. CHUCK A. BAKER

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901 S. Media Line Rd.
Media, PA 19063
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cbaker2@dccc.edu

**EMERITUS MEMBER



PBCOHE 54th Annual Conference
Tentative Agenda
(Subject to Change)

Thursday, May 29, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Executive Council Meeting
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Planning Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Exhibitors/Vendors
12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Opening Luncheon
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops Session I
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops Session II
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	President's Welcome Reception
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Exhibitors/Vendors
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	PBCOHE Business Meeting
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Workshops Session III
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Scholarship Awards Luncheon
2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Academic/Legislative Forum
3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Regional Meetings
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Networking and Reception
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	PBCOHE Annual Awards Dinner
9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Entertainment

2025 PBCOHE Annual Conference Hotel List



<https://chestnuthillhotel.com/>

Chestnut Hill Hotel

8229 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-242-5905

5 rooms available for May 28 – 30

\$299 – \$339/night (Queen)
\$279 – \$359/night (Double Queen)

3.8 miles from Arcadia University. Rate includes free continental breakfast and Wi-Fi. Free onsite parking also available on first-come, first-served basis.



<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/fort-washington/ftspa/hoteldetail>

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Ft. Washington-Philadelphia

432 Pennsylvania Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-591-9000

Room rates:

May 28 – May 29: \$120.00/night
May 30: \$156.00/night

4.4 miles from Arcadia University. Rate includes free continental breakfast, Wi-Fi, and onsite parking.



<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/phlfwgi-hilton-garden-inn-philadelphia-ft-washington/>

Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia/Ft. Washington

530 Pennsylvania Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-646-4637

Room rates:

\$128 – \$155/night (King)
\$136 – \$165/night (Double Queen)

4.4 miles from Arcadia University. Rate includes free Wi-Fi and onsite parking.



https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-fort-washington/best-western-fort-washington-inn/propertyCode.39094.html

Best Western Fort Washington Inn

285 Commerce Drive
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-542-7930

Room rates:

May 28 – May 30: \$139.00/night
Room rate cut-off 30 days before date of arrival.

4.9 miles from Arcadia University. Rate includes free full hot breakfast, Wi-Fi, and onsite parking.



PENNSYLVANIA BLACK CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.

54th Annual Conference - May 29-30, 2025

Arcadia University – Glenside, PA

www.pbcohe.org

Tax Id# 23-2162416

“Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward”

Dr.____Mr.____Mrs.____Ms.____Name_____

Title/Position_____Institution/Organization_____

Mailing Address_____City/State/Zip Code_____

Business (_____)_____E-mail Address _____

Registration Class: Professional____Graduate Student____Presenter____Other (specify)_____

REGISTRATION FEES: Full registration includes entry into all program sessions, conference materials, conference meals and the annual banquet. The appropriate fee must accompany the registration form. All registrations include one-year membership.

Full Conference Registration

____ Early Bird (February 17 – April 1)	\$325
____ Regular (April 2 – May 14)	\$350
____ Late/Onsite (May 15 – May 29)	\$400
____ Emeritus Member	\$225

Daily Rates ONLY (includes meals, materials and one-year membership)

____ Thursday \$110

____ Friday \$270

Event Rates ONLY (meals only)

____ Friday Scholarship Luncheon \$85

____ Friday Awards Dinner \$135

Registration is also available on Eventbrite. To register online and pay by credit card, visit <https://bit.ly/PBCOHE54> or scan the QR Code below. Please note that a service fee will be added to each registration.



Make checks payable to: **PBCOHE, Inc.** and mail with this form to:

Ms. Karla Roach, PBCOHE Registration
PO Box 7446, Steelton, PA 17113
717-379-9259 / secretary@pbcohe.org

*Conference registration serves as approval for the use of your image on all PBCOHE marketing materials.



Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc.

www.pbcohe.org

54th Annual Conference
Arcadia University
Glenside, Pennsylvania
May 29-30, 2025

Theme: "Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward"

Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2025

Call for Presentation Proposals

PBCOHE was founded in 1970 by K. Leroy Irvis (Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives) with the mission to ensure that underrepresented minorities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would have access to a quality education. While the main focus remains constant, different sub-themes and issues continue to be brought forth.

The conference theme for 2025, "**Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward**" is inclusive of issues that are appropriate for discussion amongst administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Higher education, and specifically Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies, programs, and practices have long been the bridge that has helped marginalized groups cross over to success. As we look to the future, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and practices are under attack by legislation at the federal, state, and local levels. As higher education practitioners and advocates, we need to advocate our protection for the very policies and programs that help students, faculty, and administrators succeed. The "Facing Our Future" conference is an appropriate opportunity to have dialogue about moving forward given the legal issues and social climate confronting us.

We invite you to submit proposals to present at the conference addressing the theme. Some topics and sub themes include:

- Is future access to higher education at risk?
- Who should be included in discussions about the future of education?
- How could we defend Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?
- What is there a disconnection with the current administration and DEI goals?
- The Ethics of Inclusion in the Higher Education Agenda?
- Is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion dead?
- Developmental Issues related to Education Leadership?
- The history of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?
- Campus Needs and Campus Climate Challenges?
- Best Practices in Future Planning in Higher Education?
- The Agenda – What is Working?

For more Information contact: Chuck Baker, PhD., Workshops Chair, cbaker@dccc.edu
Brenda Sanders Dede, Ed.D., Co-Chair Emeritus, bsdede48@gmail.com
Dr. Stephen Jones, Ed.D., Conference Co-Chair, S.jones@Villanova.edu,
Cherylyn Rush, BA, Conference Co-Chair, rush@lasalle.edu



Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc.

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This presentation is being submitted as a:

_____ Research Presentation - *a traditional workshop, the topic of which is the presenter's current or completed research on the conference theme*

_____ Best Practice/Skill Development Workshop - *a traditional format workshop of sharing insights and expertise designed to enhance knowledge and skills of attendees on the conference theme*

PROGRAM TITLE: (Maximum of 50 Characters and spaces)

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS (FOR PUBLICATION IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM - 50 Word Maximum)

LEAD PRESENTER (*Contact Person*):

Name: _____ E-mail _____

Position: _____

Business Address: _____

Cell Phone:(____) _____ Business Phone:(____) _____

PRESENTER II (If necessary):

Name: _____ E-mail _____

Position: _____

Business Address: _____

Cell Phone:(____) _____ Business Phone:(____) _____



Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc.

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PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:

Please include presentation learning outcomes, summary of information, best practice(s), research to be presented, presentation method (panel, lecture, large/small group discussion, demonstration, media), relevance to the conference theme, targeted audience and description of accompanying AV, materials, or handouts. Please limit description to 150 words.

CONFIRMATION OF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE:

If this proposal is accepted I/we will attend the conference and pay the appropriate registration fee. I/we understand that this program may be replaced if I/we do not register in the timeline prescribed.

Presenter Signature _____

Date _____

Presenter Signature _____

Date _____

AUDIO VISUAL INFORMATION:

Please indicate your audio-visual needs on this form. LCD projectors and laptops will be the responsibility of the presenter(s). **PLEASE INFORM US OF YOUR AUDIO-VISUAL NEEDS.**

Information about renting audio-visual equipment from the Venue is available upon request.

NOTE: Please provide all requested information on this proposal form.

Please **do not use** "attachments" in lieu of a completed proposal form. **(The exception to attachments, if more than two people will be presenting.)** A "brief"/one page vita/resume for each presenter must be included. The vita/resume should include presenter's name, address, phone, and e-mail, plus recent work experience, educational history, and professional contributions such as publications and/or presentations.

Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submit this completed Presentation Proposal form and a copy of each presenter's brief vitae/resume via email by **Friday, April 4, 2025** to:

Brenda Sanders Dédé, Ed.D.
PO Box 290
Clarion, PA 16214
bsdede48@gmail.com

ALL PRESENTERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE

*****All Proposals can be submitted for consideration in the PBCOHE Journal*****

Acceptance notices will be emailed/mailed by April 26, 2025



Pennsylvania Black Conference On Higher Education, Inc.

www.pbcohe.org
Tax Id# 23-2162416

54th Annual Conference

Arcadia University
Glenside, Pennsylvania
May 29 – 30, 2025

"Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward"

Dear Colleague:

We request your financial support through the purchase of space in our program booklet for your personal, institutional, or business advertisement. Your contribution will help to support seven scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each which are awarded annually to talented undergraduate and graduate students in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Conference also awards two \$1000 scholarships to high school students who are planning to attend colleges or universities in Pennsylvania. We solicit your support and appreciate your kind contribution to help us provide needed financial support. Students from your school may be winners, so what better way to support than to contribute? Help ensure that you and your school or organization is represented among the supporting advertisers.

With much appreciation,

The PBCOHE 2025 Conference Planning Committee



Pennsylvania Black Conference On Higher Education, Inc.

www.pbcohe.org

54th Annual Conference

Arcadia University
Glenside, Pennsylvania
May 29 – 30, 2025

"Facing Our Future Together: A New Way Forward"

A Scholarship Note From

Dr. Chuck Baker, Chairperson
PBCOHE, Inc. Scholarship Committee

The Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc. will award seven (7) \$1,000 scholarships to talented undergraduate and graduate students in the Commonwealth. We invite you to share the enclosed application with your students. **All completed applications are to be submitted to the address on the application on or before Friday, April 18, 2025. Only applications that are complete will be accepted and electronic applications are preferred. Therefore, the committee recommends that you email all applicant material together in one email. If you desire to send the application via United States Postal Service mail, you may email me follow-up to inquire if I received your packet of information. The committee does not examine material for completeness prior to scoring for scholarship awards and the committee does not email students who have missing documents in their packet. The student is responsible for submitting the entire packet of material in one packet to the email address (or mailing address) for Dr. Baker below. Electronic transcripts should be sent directly from the Registrar at the applicant's institution to cbaker2@dccc.edu. Mailed transcripts should be received sealed to the physical address below.**

If any of the prospective applicants have questions, they are encouraged to contact me at their earliest convenience via e-mail at cbaker2@dccc.edu. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Please note: Freshmen students (less than 30 completed credit hours) are NOT eligible to apply.

The scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon, which will be held at 12:30noon on May 30, 2025.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON TO RECEIVE THEIR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.

The Financial need of the applicants will be considered.

The scholarships and their respective criteria are herein listed:

The K. Leroy Irvis Undergraduate Scholarship (3)

ONE of these \$1000 scholarships will be awarded in each of the regions (Eastern, Central & Western) in Pennsylvania to undergraduate students who meet these criteria.

- Outstanding Scholarship.
- Extracurricular activity participation.
- Leadership qualities.
- Interpersonal qualities as alluded to by the student's references.
- Essay in no more than **five typewritten, double-spaced pages** on **"Why I Should Receive a K. Leroy Irvis Scholarship."**
- 3.0 or above grade point average.
- **Brief bio sketch and photograph (Photo for program booklet).**



The W. Terrell Jones Educational Equity Scholarship (1)

ALL of the criteria listed under the K. Leroy Irvis Scholarship category and:

- Evidence of work and/or volunteer service in the area of educational equity.
- Essay in no more than five typewritten, double-spaced pages on **“Why I should Receive the W. Terrell Jones Educational Equity Scholarship.”**

The Robert D. Lynch Leadership Scholarship (1)

ALL of the criteria listed under the K. Leroy Irvis Scholarship category, with special emphasis on the student’s leadership skills and academic record, and:

- Must have attended the Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Development Institute (SLDI).
- Essay in no more than five typewritten, double-spaced pages on **“Why I should receive the Robert D. Lynch Leadership Scholarship.”**

The Esther-Jafari Haymon Scholarship (1)

The successful recipient of this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- Valid registration at a college or university in Pennsylvania with a **financial need**.
- **Grade Point Average of 2.0 and above.**
- Be at least in sophomore year of matriculation.
- Student must demonstrate leadership skills and participation in co-curricular activities.
- Three letters of recommendation are required. One of the three letters of recommendation **MUST** come **from your Financial Aid Office stipulating your need.**
- Essay in no more than five typewritten, double-spaced pages on **“Why I Should Receive the Esther-Jafari Haymon Scholarship.”**

The John S. Shropshire Graduate Scholarship (1)

ALL of the criteria listed under the K. Leroy Irvis Scholarship category and:

- Earned six graduate credits/hours of study (minimum)
- Essay in no more than five typewritten, double-spaced pages on **“Why I Should Receive the John S. Shropshire Graduate Scholarship.”**



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Page 1

Please place a check beside the scholarship for which you are applying.

The K. Leroy Irvis PBCOHE Scholarship

Western Region (1)

Central Region (1)

Eastern Region (1)

The John S. Shropshire Graduate Scholarship (1)

The Robert D. Lynch Leadership Scholarship (1)

The W. Terrell Jones Educational Equity Scholarship(1)

The Esther-Jafari Haymon Scholarship (1)

This application should be accompanied by (application will be considered incomplete without the following):

Pages 1 and 2 of the Scholarship Application (**MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION PACKAGE**)

ESSAY not to exceed **five typewritten, double-spaced pages** on “Why I Should Receive a (name of scholarship) PBCOHE Scholarship Award.”

OFFICIAL college transcript (mailed in sealed envelope from your school Registrar or through electronic transmission from your school Registrar).

THREE letters of recommendation. One letter **must** come from a college professor, but may also come from a counselor and/or any professional person who will discuss the candidate in relation to the following criteria: 1) Scholarship; 2) Interpersonal Skills; 3) Leadership; 4) Writing, speaking, computational skills; and 5) Any other observations about the candidate which may assist the Scholarship Committee in their evaluation of the candidate.

A **brief bio sketch** and **photograph** (for the scholarship publication).

First semester freshmen are NOT eligible to apply.

NO APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNLESS APPLICATION PAGES 1 AND 2, AN OFFICIAL UPDATED TRANSCRIPT, ESSAY, AND THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE RECEIVED



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

PAGE 2

Personal Background Information:

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Home Address: _____
Number and Street

City, State Zip Code

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Male ___ Female ___ U.S. Citizen ___ Yes ___ No

Educational Information:

Full Name of Institution you are currently attending: _____

School address (if different from above): _____
Box #, Dorm

City State Zip Code

Institution's PBCOHE Region in Pennsylvania: ___ Eastern ___ Central ___ Western

Please check present academic classification:

___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate Grade Point Avg _____

County of Institution: _____

Major Course of Study: _____

Minor: _____

Contact Telephone: () _____ - _____

Please Return To:

Chuck Baker, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
Delaware County Community College
901 South Media Line Road, Media, PA 19063
Cbaker2@dccc.edu

Applications MUST be submitted on or before April 18, 2025