

Aura

Magazine

Issue 1

Our Minds, Our Voices 2019

features

Cathy Hughes

2019 Aura "Woman of Influence"

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Magazine Issue 1

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National Women's History Month

In 1987 the US Congress designated March as National Women's History Month. The "Our Minds, Our Voices" initiative was born in observance of National Women's History Month and to create a special opportunity in our community to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women.



Our Minds, Our Voices committee proudly supports “National Women’s History Month” and it’s purpose. It is our pleasure to bring you the third annual Our Minds, Our Voices Women’s Expo and Awards Luncheon. We attribute our success to the many individuals and businesses that support our mission and purpose. The 2019 honorees have made incredible sacrifices and contributions for the betterment of our citizenry, and for that reason we honor them, they are truly “Women of Distinction” .

Gia Wilkerson Peebles, Visionary
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Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Mistress of Ceremony
 Dr. Gail Haynes, Moderator
 Phyllis Coley, Commentator
 Michelle Keaton-Barrow, Women’s Expo Speaker
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Magazine

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Aura Galleria

is please to host our third annual Our Minds, Our Voices Women's Expo and Awards Luncheon to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our 2019 honorees; women of all ages and backgrounds whose efforts and voices have and continue to make a significant impact in our city, state and nation.

Congratulations and continued blessings to our 2019 "Aura Woman of Influence"., Ms. Cathy Hughes and the Aura "Women of Distinction".

Gia Wilkerson Peebles,

President & CEO



AURA GALLERIA



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Debra Watkins, Director CONFERENCE CENTER

Debra Watkins is the Director at the UNC Chapel Hill Friday Conference Center. Since 1986, she has been leading and managing in the event and hospitality industry, as well as fundraising for community-focused causes. An innate people-person, her charismatic personality is inclusive and inspiring.



Debra received the Bachelor of Science Degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Hospitality and Tourism Administration from North Carolina Central University. She was a leader at the UNC Chapel Hill Carolina Union, where she advised, planned, and directed programs and services for the University community.

In 2011, Debra was chosen by the University Diversity Awards Committee in honor of her contributions at the Carolina Union. She facilitated new ways to reach out to a more diverse range of employees and recognized that diversity and quality are not two traits exclusive of each other.

Her passion for community and diversity led her to become a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 2013. The sorority is her pride and joy, as the organization is heavily committed to public service and the constructive development of its members. Recently, Debra has been appointed to serve as a member on the MLK University/Community Planning Corporation, a non-profit group which raises scholarship funds for local students who work to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. She has also served as a member of the Inter-Faith Council Board of Directors, the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, and the State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board. Serving in these organizations, Debra has been provided the opportunity to participate in the planning and delivery of services to the community that she loves.

Currently, Debra is taking the Friday Conference Center to new heights, as she has been implementing technological upgrades and facility enhancements. Her mission is to see every client's vision fully met and exceeded, and she will continue to take the Friday Conference Center on a path towards modernization and distinction. A longtime Chapel Hill resident, she is married to Gary Watkins and they have two daughters and three grandsons.

What is it?



Deborah Ross
2017



April Parker-Jones
2018



Cathy Hughes
2019

National Women's History Month

What is it?

[Women's History Month](#) is a celebration of women's contributions to society.

What is it, when did it begin?

March 2019 will mark the 31st anniversary of the passage of a law making March Women's History Month in the United States. The observation, which was born out of a California school district's celebration of women's achievements, now is celebrated across the country, and includes parades, lectures, health screenings, art exhibits and other activities that highlight women's contributions to society.

When is it?

In the United States, it is celebrated each year in March.

Why March?

March was chosen as the month to celebrate women's history because the first observances of Women's History Week revolved around International Women's Day, which is March 8. International Women's Day, which honors women's achievements worldwide, was first celebrated on March 8, 1911. The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day observances since 1975.

How did it start?

In 1978, a school district in Sonoma, California, decided to honor women's achievements by participating in a Women's History Week event. According to [the National Women's History Project](#), schools hosted essay contests, presentations by women were given at many of the schools in the district and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa, California.

On the Cover

CATHY HUGHES, FOUNDER AND CHAIRPERSON URBAN ONE, INC.

Cathy Hughes is a dynamic, media pioneer who demonstrates the power of one – one woman, one vision, one company - Urban One, formerly known as Radio One. As Founder and Chairperson of Urban One, Inc., the largest African-American owned and operated, broadcast company in the nation, Hughes' unprecedented career has spawned a multi-media conglomerate that generates original content across the spectrum of radio, television and digital media. Her humble beginnings in Omaha, Nebraska, were not a deterrent to her success but rather part of the catalyst that fueled her ambition to empower African Americans with information and to tell stories from their perspective. Hughes began her radio career in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, at KOWH (AM), a station owned by a group of African-American professionals. In 1971, she moved to Washington, D.C., and became a lecturer in the newly established School of Communications at Howard University. During her tenure, she served as General Sales Manager at WHUR, Howard University Radio, increasing the station's revenue from \$250,000 to \$3 million in her first year.



She also became the first woman Vice President and General Manager of a station in the nation's capital and created the format known as the "Quiet Storm," which revolutionized urban radio and was aired on over 480 stations nationwide. In 1980, Hughes purchased her flagship station WOL-AM, in Washington D.C., and pioneered yet another innovative format - "24-Hour Talk from a Black Perspective." With the theme, "Information is Power," she served as the station's morning show host for 11 years.

*Congratulations to
Ms. Cathy Hughes
2019 Aura
"Woman of Influence"*

Madam C.J. Walker and Annie Malone succeeded by developing brilliant business models and strong work ethics at a time when many doors were closed to them. By [Glenn T. Stanton](#)



Money is not the only, nor even most important, marker of personal success. But it's not insignificant when examining the progress and contributions of a historically oppressed minority to society. A notable marker of business success is achieving the status of millionaire. When marking the significant accomplishments of African-American people in the world of industry, determining the first millionaires in that community is as interesting as it is significant.

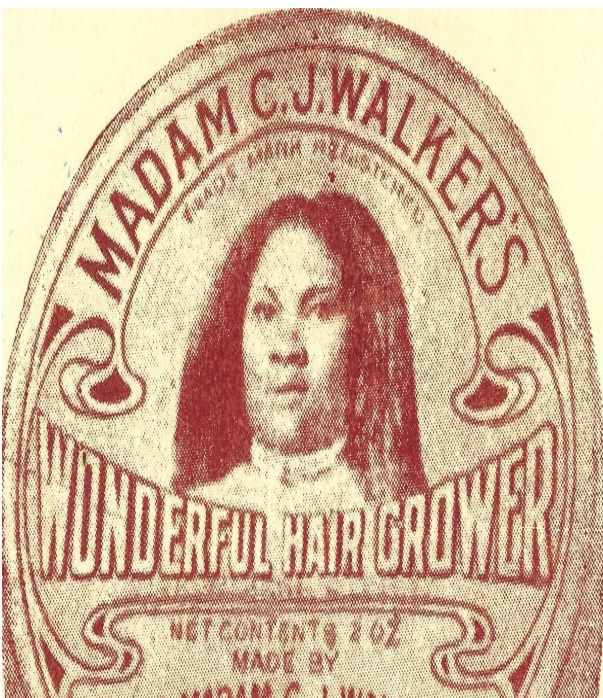
The first two self-made female millionaires in America were African-American women, and they both have remarkable stories. One is relatively well-known; the other, not so much. Sarah Breedlove, better known by her later-attained business name, Madam C. J. Walker, is usually credited with being the first self-made female millionaire in America.

Madam C.J. Walker's Incredible Story

Sarah was born into a slave family in Louisiana in 1867, just after the Emancipation Proclamation — so she was technically born free. Orphaned at age 7, she only had three months of real education, which she received through reading and writing lessons in Sunday school. Sarah married at the age of 14 and was widowed six years later. After her second marriage failed, she married an established businessman and changed her name to the notably elegant Madam C. J. Walker.

In her young adulthood, she was determined to earn enough money to give her only daughter, A'Lelia, a much better life, one that afforded a quality education. Over time, by being uncommonly shrewd, clever, and hardworking, she did so beyond her wildest dreams by becoming Mary Kay long before Mary Kay.

She created an extraordinarily successful line of hair care and beauty products for African-Americans from her meager life savings of \$1.25. Beyond being owned and run by a black woman born from a slave family, the company's primary distinguishing fea-



It used mail orders, but the most dynamic angle were “Walker’s Agents,” the more than 20,000 women who went door-to-door selling Madam’s line of products. These well-trained women were given a branded uniform of pressed white shirts, neat black skirts, and a black attaché case to reflect their professionalism.

These women spread across the country demonstrating the miraculous “Walker System” for advanced hair care and growth to millions of black women.

While unskilled white male workers were making about \$11 a week, Madam’s agents were earning from \$5 to \$15 a day. That was more than they could make in a month doing kitchen work, and they were their own bosses. They got out what they put into it, making them partners in the business.

This was a remarkable opportunity for uneducated, but highly motivated, African-American women to earn an outstanding and empowering income for their families, often elevating their earning power beyond what their husbands could earn. Madam also ran a school of cosmetology where women could learn the skills needed to open their own beauty shops and use Madam’s products.

In 1917, Walker held the first national gathering of businesswomen in the country in Philadelphia, the Madam C. J. Walker Hair Culturists Union of America, to train and motivate her agents. Prizes were given to the women with the highest sales and the most charitable contributions to community efforts, an activity Walker was deeply involved in and encouraged.

She gave \$10,000 a year to help young African-American men and women attend college, and sent six new students to the Tuskegee Institute every year. She was a gracious funder of the NAACP and YMCAs for black youth, as well as many causes fighting racial injustice. She expected her agents to do the same, and they did.



The Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company grew mightily throughout the United States, as well as in the Caribbean and Central America in her lifetime. The brand is still going strong today.

From her great wealth, Walker built many houses and townhomes, but the grandest was Villa Lewaro, at Irvington-on-Hudson, just north of New York City, neighboring John D. Rockefeller’s mansion. She spared no expense in furnishing it as to make any tycoon proud. The New York Times reported that neighbors “gasped in astonishment” that a black woman could own such a stunning home. It was so massive she was able to host her subsequent annual company conventions there.

Madam told Booker T. Washington she was not in the business world only to make a life for herself and her employees, “but to do all the good I can for the uplift of my race.” She did in immeasurable ways, in her innovative products themselves, life-lifting and dignity-giving employment opportunities, her philanthropy, as well as her own personal example and message that an African-American woman can build something unbelievable out of just \$1.25.

Her obituary in the New York Times announced in its 1919 headline, “Wealthiest Negroess Dead” at the young age of 51. The Times noted that “her death recalled the unusual story of how she rose from a washer-woman making only \$1.50 a day to a position of wealth and influence among members of her race.” Her influence was far greater than that.



April Parker Jones | Gia Wilkerson Peebles

I am Gia Wilkerson Peebles, a passionate entrepreneur for over twenty years and master stylist in the cosmetology industry at “the” Aura Galleria (formerly Aura Salon and Boutique). The Aura Galleria is a full-service salon, day spa and barbershop located in Durham, North Carolina where

”My mantra is ***beauty begins within***, and I feel quite fortunate to be the service provider for an array of prominent women and men in business and entertainment.



2018 Our Minds, Our Voices Honorees



Gia Wilkerson Peebles | Police Chief CJ Davis

Interestingly, I am a graduate from California State University, Long Beach with a B.S. in Criminal Justice which landed me with a position with a prominent law firm. However, I quickly realized my passion for personal beauty and becoming a successful entrepreneur... Now it is time, as coined by Lily Hardy Hammond in her 1916 book *In the Garden of Delight*, to ***“pay it forward.” I am asking you to join me in recognizing these amazing “Women of Distinction!”***

The Aura Galleria third annual “Our Minds, Our Voices” luncheon and program will honor trailblazing women in an array of fields. This powerful event recognizes our honorees who are making a difference in: education, medicine, social justice, public service, civil service, mental health, entrepreneurship, humanities, technology, and fashion and beauty. I am delighted to announce that media pioneer, ***Cathy Hughes, Founder and Chairperson of Urban One, Inc. is the***

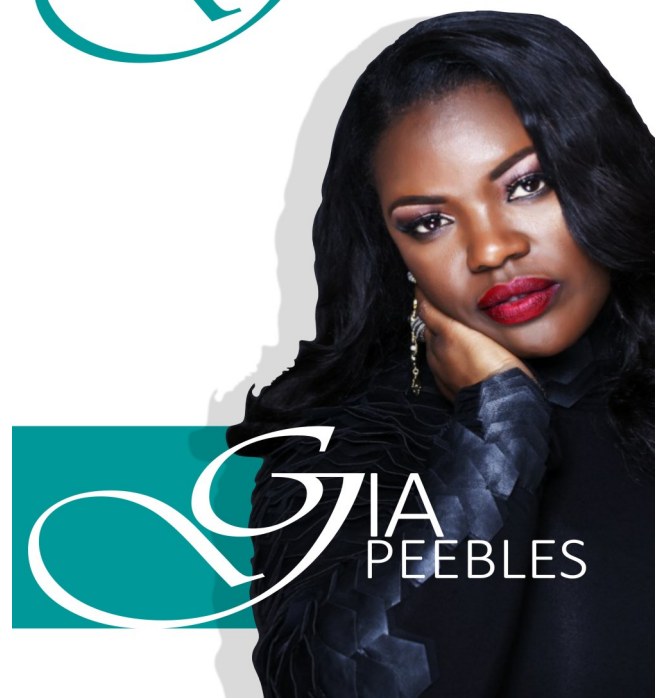


Gia Wilkerson Peebles | Attorney Deborah Ross

2019 Aura “Woman of Influence”. Ms. Hughes is the epitome of successful women and what better person to recognize ten other influential community and national women achievers. Thank you for joining us to celebrate these women properly.

Gia Wilkerson Peebles

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Women's Expo

VENDORS





Catherine Williamson-Hardy,
Mistress of Ceremony

Through the centuries, many courageous women have stepped forward as trailblazers and to champion causes for the benefit of society. Their work to break down barriers has allowed future generations of women to pass through with less resistance.

I am honored to serve as the Mistress of Ceremony for the third annual "Our Minds, Our Voices" awards event at the JB Duke Hotel.

Thank you Aura Galleria for this extraordinary event.

Catherine Williamson-Hardy has over 25 years of experience in the human services field. At the end of her tenure as Interim Director at Durham County Department of Social Services, Catherine was named Deputy Director of Durham County Department of Social Services.

In addition to her experience working in local Departments of Social Services, Catherine has over 12 years of experience as a professional trainer, and consultant. She worked for Appalachian State University, Barium Springs Home for Children, and in 2015, she became the founder and lead trainer of ***Creative Approaches to Talent Development, LLC***. (CAT-D) CAT-D has a broad range of clients from Universities of Wisconsin, Colorado, Duke, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mid-Atlantic Region of Jack & Jill, to Barium Springs Home for Children, H & R Block, NC Chapter of Project Management Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and various conferences, churches, non-profits.

Catherine brings executive leadership experience, energy, creativity and an upbeat style into the training room. She is committed to creating an atmosphere of learning by adapting to each training group. She is ardent, enthusiastic and energized by facilitating training sessions around leadership development, change and transition, employee engagement, teamwork and person-centered practice utilizing unique, interactive and creative exercises. Being in executive leadership roles, Catherine brings a unique real-world perspective to the state, national, and international workshops she conducts. What Catherine teaches, she applies into practice with great success.

Catherine has a master's Degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Catherine is married to fellow Eagle Leroy Hardy. They have two children. Paige Hardy a graduate of North Carolina State University and Chad Hardy a junior at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.



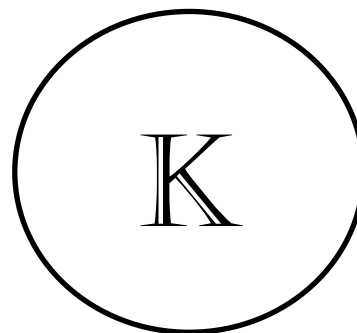
Annie Malone: The True First Female Millionaire

Contrary to most reports, Walker was not the first African-American millionaire. Not even the first *female* millionaire. That title belongs to the humble but supremely confident [Annie Malone](#). It was Annie who established and built the first international industry inventing, manufacturing, and selling cosmetic and hair care products for black women, doing so under her brand name Poro. She served as a formative mentor to Madam Walker as well as her employer. (Walker decided to break from Malone, becoming her primary competitor after she moved to Denver to open that market for Malone's Poro line.)

By 1914, Malone reached multimillionaire status while Walker was working hard to get her business off the ground in Indianapolis. In 1916, Malone broke ground on a mammoth four-story corporate headquarters in St. Louis, occupying a full city block. It housed her street-level retail store front and her highly influential Poro College, which taught young African-American women cosmetic skills and life skills such as dignified comportment, professional dress, and social confidence. The musician Chuck Berry graduated from Poro in 1952, along with his two sisters.

The complex also housed a 500-seat auditorium, gymnasium, dining hall, bakery, chapel, and rooftop greenhouses for growing herbs for her products and fruits and vegetables to feed her students. The rest of the complex housed her laboratories, mail rooms, shipping depot, and the factory that produced her large and growing product line. It was an impressive structure by any standard, a small city employing several hundred busy, remarkably industrious, and successful people.





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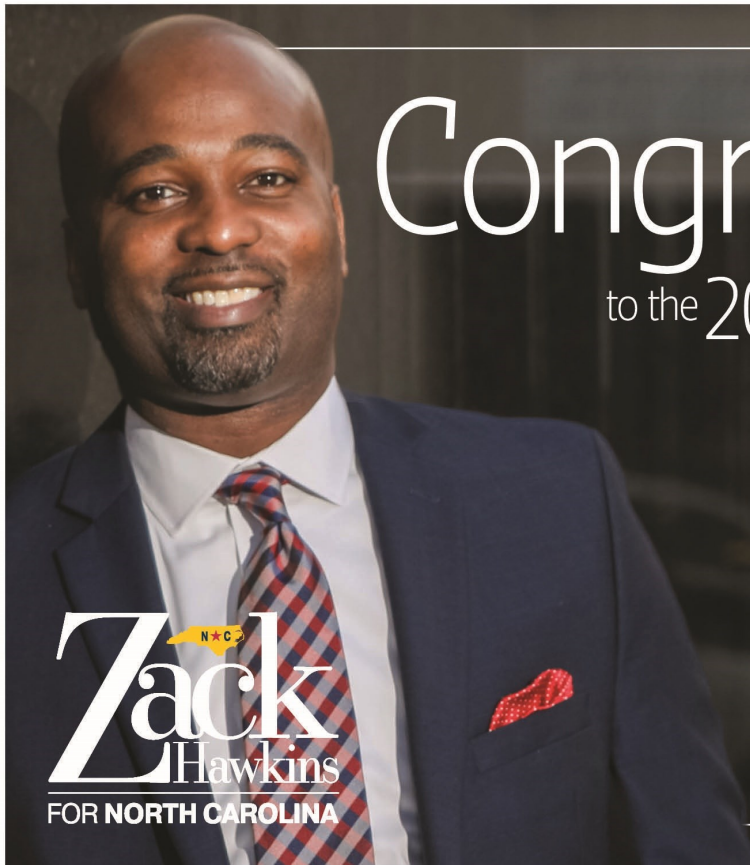
OUR MINDS, OUR VOICES

2019 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RELATIONS

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS MOORE

Kimberly Williams Moore has spent the last 25 years following her passion as a writer and marketer. She began her career in pharmaceutical sales and then launched her own consulting practice while pursuing graduate degrees in creative writing and public relations. Her consulting practice afforded her the opportunity to work with several non-profit and higher education clients before she joined the faculty of NC A&T State University. It was while she worked at NCAT that she was approached by the Chief Marketing Officer of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance to join that team in the role of public relations manager. She was fortunate to travel on behalf of the company for several years meeting with their exceptional sales staff and policyholders. She considers her role in sustaining the 120 year iconic African American brand and witnessing the resurgence of Black Wall Street as two of her most significant professional achievements.

Currently she is pleased to be an active participant in shaping the next generation of public relations and marketing practitioners with her academic roles at NCCU in the Mass Communication Department and Business School as well as the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her current professional activities include serving as part of the subject matter expert team for the NC Department of Health and Human Services Stroke Task Force marketing efforts, developing an organ donation curriculum for the death care industry, fundraising and marketing in higher education and promoting an open source course on financial literacy.




A portrait of Zack Hawkins, a Black man with a goatee, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red and blue patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Congratulations

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Black Women for
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and **contributions** to the world.

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The Duke University logo, featuring a stylized 'U' with a castle tower on top, in white.

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The Duke University logo, featuring a stylized 'U' with a castle tower on top, in white.

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*I am honored beyond measure to serve as
the personal moderator for the 2019*

"Woman of Influence"

Ms. Cathy Hughes.



INFLUENCE...

“the power or capacity
of causing an effect
in indirect or intangible
ways”



When looking for an internationally recognized communicator who ignites the atmosphere with contagious enthusiasm and a passion for purpose, you have but to look directly at Gail Hayes or Dr. Gail, as others affectionately call her.

Dr. Gail is an Executive Leadership Coach and is a former contributor for *The Huffington Post*. Her writing has also appeared in *Essence Magazine*, *MSNBC's The Griot*, *Onyx Woman Magazine*, and several other print and online media outlets. She served as a training consultant for the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) European Training Division where she specialized in Leadership, Organizational Effectiveness, and Workplace Conflict Resolution. She served as the first Black female law enforcement officer and fire fighter in Chapel Hill, NC. While in Chapel Hill, she also served as the first Black Chair of the Orange County Commission for Women. She founded and served as the Director of The European Executive Women's Forum, the 1st active European Network of the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE). Dr. Hayes also worked on Capitol Hill for the National Conference of State Legislatures and received the Outstanding Leadership in State Government Award from the National Governors Conference. North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory recently appointed her to serve on the NC African American Heritage Commission and she also serves on the Leadership Council of the NC Institute of Political Leadership (IOPA). These experiences allow her to relate to diverse audiences.

In 1999, Cathy Hughes became the first African-American woman to chair a publicly held corporation, following the sale of more than seven million shares of common stock to the public. Along with her son and business partner Alfred Liggins, III, she grew what was then Radio One into a multi-media company that became an urban radio market leader with more than 60 stations across the country comprised of hip hop, R&B, gospel and talk radio formats. It became the first African-American company in radio history to dominate several major markets simultaneously, and Hughes became the first woman to own a radio station that was ranked number one in a major market. Radio One also diversified and launched the television network TV One in 2004 and entered the digital space with Interactive One, now iOne Digital, in 2007.

As a result of her success, Hughes has earned hundreds of prestigious awards and recognitions. They include: the naming of Cathy Hughes Boulevard in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska; the 2018 Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award, the naming of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University in 2016, the ADColor Lifetime Achievement Award; the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Chair's Phoenix Award; the NAACP Chairman's Award; the Giant of Broadcasting Award; the Uncommon Height of Excellence Award; the Essence Women Shaping the World Award; the Ida B. Wells Living Legacy Award; and induction into the American Advertising Federation Hall of Fame.

In May 2017, Radio One's name was changed to Urban One, to reflect the market it serves. Urban One, Inc. is now the parent corporation of several subsidiaries: TV One, the largest African-American owned, cable television network in the country and current home of the hit shows *UnSung* and *Uncensored*; Reach Media,

RADIO ONE

THE URBAN MEDIA SPECIALIST

which presents syndicated radio programs like the *Rickey Smiley Morning Show* and the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*; iOne Digital, home of several popular websites including *Hello Beautiful* and *Cassius*; and One Solution, a marketing firm that allows advertisers to take advantage of all of the assets under the Urban One brand.

Cathy Hughes' philanthropic work is on par with her success in the business arena as well. Her passion for education is evident in her efforts to continue her family's work and legacy at The Piney Woods School in Piney Woods, Mississippi. She is a staunch supporter of the school, which was established by her grandfather in 1909 and is the largest of only four African-American boarding schools in the country. In addition, she is a champion for the hungry and homeless, a mentor to countless women, and an advocate dedicated to empowering minority communities.



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WOMEN'S EXPO



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Our Voices
Woman of Distinction Award

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WOMEN'S EXPO 2019 VENDOR SPEAKER



Michelle Keaton-Barrow is a North Carolina native. She attended North Carolina State University where she obtained a BS in Chemical Engineering and a diploma in Project Construction Management. Michelle worked in Research and Development with Union Carbide and then worked as an Environmental Engineer with the State of North Carolina. She hung up her lab coat and founded Keaton Barrow Realty in 1990. She is currently an Accredited Luxury Home agent and is licensed in both North and South Carolina. Michelle lists and sells residential and commercial real estate and has offices in Raleigh and Charlotte NC. She is the CEO of Green Dynamics LLC and is also well known by

the “Boss Lady Michelle” brand. Michelle’s main passion is philanthropy. Over the years she has provided time, talent and treasure to non-profits on a local and national level. She supports groups such as the Urban League of the Carolinas, Passage Home, The Helping Hand Mission, The Harvey B. Gantt Center and the 100 Black Men. She has served on boards for Mechanic & Farmer’s Bank, the United Arts Council and the YWCA. She is currently on the board for the Wake County Community Foundation, PAVE Charter School in Raleigh, the United Minority Contractors of North Carolina, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Black Chamber of Commerce and the Charlotte Business and Inclusion Advisory Committee. She volunteers with SCORE to mentor business owners. She is currently a sustaining member of the Junior League of Raleigh and a member of the Women’s Impact Fund of Charlotte.



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To know **Yolanda Rabun** is to know that she is a skilled singer with a natural storytelling instinct; she comes out the gate stunning her live audiences with her endless energy, commanding vocal power, and inventiveness. Her stage shows are engaging, full of passion, and include straight-ahead and contemporary Jazz, Blues, Folk, Pop, and even Gospel. And, Yolanda is never afraid to take risks.

This rich-voice chanteuse headlines events with her own band for large corporate events and even sold out specialty shows but **Yolanda Rabun** has also opened for and sung with such iconic artists as Jennifer Holiday, Howard Hewitt, Ron Isley and the Isley Brothers, R&B singer KEM and the world-renowned iconic drummer, Shelia E.

Yolanda Rabun has also performed with the NC Opera, the Durham Symphony Orchestra and appeared on a number of TV and radio programs. A proud member of Actor's Equity, Yolanda even has achieved notoriety on regional theatre stages with magnificent reviews alongside Tony-award winning actors, and is an often requested motivational speaker.

Yolanda is also a **Voting** member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (the Grammys), a registered BMI songwriter and a publisher with both BMI and ASCAP.

Imagine a wise person who is sophisticated and well-educated with self-respect and compassion for others, but is also multi-talented in many fields with expert knowledge to tout; As a wife, mother, corporate lawyer, professional actor, music entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and acclaimed recording- performing artist extraordinaire, **Yolanda Rabun** is that person. She is a true Renaissance woman, and in her own words, "not done!"

"I'm just delighted to be able to share great stories through song!" says Yolanda, who laughs when people rattle off who they think she sounds like! She is living at the speed of passion for sure! **Yolanda Rabun's** brand of Soulful Jazz is here to stay. Check her out!



Having graduated from a renowned performing arts high school in her hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, **Yolanda Rabun** (pronounced yo·lawn·duh|ray·bun) honed her singing and stage skills from a young age.

She is a fierce songstress and North Carolina based recording artist who also is versatile enough to handle all styles of music, although she favors jazz and soul. She often says, "...people ask me where have I been, and I tell them, I never went away! But I'm so glad you stopped to listen!" Ask any of her supporters; once you hear and experience Yolanda, you are a fan for life.

Rabun exploded onto the jazz scene first on Stanley Baird's 2007 Traffic Jam hit single, "**I Want 2 Love You**," and, in 2011, she released her debut CD project, "**So Real**," on which she co-wrote several songs, including the title song. In 2012, Rabun infused Soul, R&B, Gospel, Folk, Smooth and Traditional Jazz on her sophomore solo album, "**Christmastime**," and followed in 2013 with the Adult Contemporary single, "**Hold on To Your Dreams**."

To her credit by 2016, Yolanda picked up devoted fans and musical admirers from her appearances around the world at Atlanta's Jazz Festival, D.C.'s acclaimed Blues Alley Jazz, and Hollywood's Catalina Jazz to help successfully fund her third album, **Yolanda**.

For the **Yolanda** project, which made appearances on several charts, including the *UK Soul Top 30* chart for 11+ weeks and a *Billboard Most Added List* for Smooth Jazz, **Yolanda Rabun** effortlessly shifts between eras and genres to produce a mix of classics, standards and originals. The **Yolanda** album, includes songs that showcase **Yolanda Rabun's** unique ability to interpret diverse material and deliver meaningful musical stories (whether new or told before)



"**Rabun** is proven and tested, and good on top of it."

- **SonicSoul (Germany)**

with bare honesty and striking styl-

"**Yolanda Album** is classy and magical." -

JazzTimes

Artist Biography : **YOLANDA RABUN**

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Nina McKinney, Jazz Artist

at the

JB Duke Hotel



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Dr. Acquilla Faye is one of the most sought-after keynote speakers and transformation experts on the planet, well regarded as the top trend-spotter in the world... the most energizing, inspiring & applicable... & I have heard Iyanla Vanzant, Venice “Flygirl” Armour, Lisa Nichols, Christopher Gardner and Dr. Faye is a force to recognize in the field of inspiration and transformation.

~Kenneth Edmonds, The Carolina Times

Tribe Transform provides Education, Elevation, Empowerment and Entertainment to corporations and organizations who want to maintain financial gains, employee satisfaction, and positive customer relations. Dr. Faye knows that being the strongest or largest player in an industry no longer ensures success in today's global marketplace. Companies now need a solid transformation strategy to compete in an increasingly complex business environment.

When a company or individual is experiencing tension or distress, a sea change is often necessary. Whether experiencing perennial challenges with communication, work-life balance & satisfaction and goal-attainment, or facing declining profits, dwindling retention rates, or displeasing conditions; we help companies, turn-a-round and restructure to achieve their full potential.

To stay competitive in an era of disruption and social change, leaders must create additional value by transforming—or risk being imperiled by a shifting landscape. Contact us to explore the latest thought leadership on transformation for insight on how to successfully lead and execute large-scale change across the organization.

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We are a specialized one on one deep business experience and a wide range of backgrounds. It includes industry experts, operational improvement specialists and former executives with a deep record of accomplishment in leading major transformation programs with strong results.

Our services include professional development, training seminars, program development, publishing services, and human resources. Contact us Peace@TribeTransform.com to transform your organization by booking Dr. Acquilla Faye as your keynote speaker or scheduling your first consult with us.

Tribe Transform is helping leading organizations and CEOs transform their businesses to exceed the competitive challenges of tomorrow and master the present enterprise of today.



Transformation Isn't an Option— it's a Business Imperative!

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Equity Matching

ARTIST

ERIC KELLY III

www.erickellyiii.com



Eric Kelly III, ARTISTS BIO

Eric Kelly III, CEO of Kelly Worldwide Branding Agency for three decades, is a Poet, Painter and Master Pastelist who live and works in Durham North Carolina. Born in Washington, DC, he is the leading Abstract Expressionist artist of this generation. Mr. Kelly art form is influenced by Charles White, Willie Nash, Romare Bearden, Ernie Barnes, William Williams, Jr. and John Biggers. Kelly studied and graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1982.

Mr. Kelly's work can be found in myriad of public and private art collections in the United States, and has been seen in numerous exhibitions. "Since the early 1970s, his work has evolved into the creation of historical drawing and painting based on portraits of historical moments in time. In 1980's He began creating abstract and expressionist pieces on wood, canvas and cloth by hand. Abstract and Expression has now become a very prominent feature in his work and he continues to use deep bold lines that he used in early 1970's.

Mr. Kelly's definition of **Abstract Expression**: To create paintings mix with realism, expressionism and abstract art styles in a combined form, using colors and vivid lines to give art a sense of vibrancy and movement. The boldness of the lines that overlap of color, forming the shapes of viewed experience in emotion, projecting the symmetry of tranquil or erotic thoughts that form an abstract release of expressions. In his work, he deconstructs the American expression, its history, its ordinary lines, and its bounders, that are part of everyday culture. His work addresses space assignment, the fragility of line dynamics, shape relations to subject matter and the underlying threads of form and structure that is unexpected. The bold line establishes a dynamic surreal quality, suggests notions of excitement and freedom, and formally unifies the objects in each image; the lines provide clues to content and interpretation. The aim of his paintings and pastel is to paint expressionistic images in an abstract style, and with non-realistic colors and shapes. His images are fundamentally about form and revealing the visual eloquence that he sees images.

Recent group and solo shows include: Painting Now and Forever Part I, The Face of Change, 44 portraits of Barack Obama, The Lydia Meerick Moore Gallery, North Carolina; Behind the Brush, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles; Crossing the Line, Stephens Gallery, Chicago; The Brinkley Gallery, Atlanta Ga, JCCEO Gallery, From One Man to the Other, Birmingham Alabama. Solo exhibitions: Kelly Worldwide gallery, Blue Coffee Gallery, The Talk of the Town Gallery, Black Wall Street Gallery, Wake Technical College, North Carolina Central Law School, North Carolina Student Union, North Carolina Central University Art Museum, The Donald Byrd Gallery, The Carrack Modern Art Gallery, Hayti Heritage Center, Hampton University Museum, French Quarter, New Orleans, LA, Harrah's Casino Las Vegas and The Friday Center. Mural Projects: Kwanza in Few Gardens, The Kingdom, St. Sya Academy, Barack Obama teaches kids, Another Learning Academy.

Mr. Kelly books include Art Anthology, Michael Jackson, the man in the Mirror, Faces That Speak Life, Behind The Brush, The African American History Coloring Book, Art Anthology, Then, 45 years of Art and Barack Obama the Face of Change. Along with his books, Kelly has produced four DVDs, Art Tours, The Barack Obama Collection, An Artist in Perspective, Art

Anthology. Three Poetry CDs and three other books, On a Hot, Hot Day, Twisting in the Rain and 8 Steps to The Road to the Sell. **For Art shows and Tours contact: Eric Kelly III, www.erickellyiii.com erickelly45@gmail.com or call 919-308-9090**



- An extension of the Dining Room the Dining Room Terrace is a lovely outdoor terrace accommodating 72 additional guests for dinner or private receptions.
- The JB Duke Hotel also features numerous bright and airy meeting rooms featuring distinctive all-glass entries and integrated technology to serve as the perfect backdrop for events from corporate meetings to dinners for 60.





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Handle Your Business Girl!

magazine

Reinvention...
you can begin again!



Volume I - Issue 1



"If you don't know who you are, you will never know what belongs to you!" - Dr. Gail Hayes



When looking for an internationally recognized communicator who ignites the atmosphere with contagious enthusiasm and a passion for purpose, you have but to look directly at Gail Hayes or Dr. Gail, as others affectionately call her.

Dr. Gail is an Executive Leadership Coach and is a former contributor for *The Huffington Post*. Her writing has also appeared in *Essence Magazine*, *MSNBC's The Griot*, *Onyx Woman Magazine*, and several other print and online media outlets. She served as a training consultant for the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) European Training Division where she specialized in Leadership, Organizational Effectiveness, and Workplace Conflict Resolution.

She served as the first Black female law enforcement officer and fire fighter in Chapel Hill, NC. While in Chapel Hill, she also served as the first Black Chair of the Orange County Commission for Women. She founded and served as the Director of The European Executive Women's Forum, the 1st active European Network of the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE). Dr. Hayes also worked on Capitol Hill for the National Conference of State Legislatures and received the Outstanding Leadership in State Government Award from the National Governors Conference. North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory recently appointed her to serve on the NC African American Heritage Commission and she also serves on the Leadership Council of the NC Institute of Political Leadership (IOPA). These experiences allow her to relate to diverse audiences.



campaigns. She served for 3 years as "The Voice of the Motivational Moment" on the KD Bowe Morning Radio show on The Sheridan Radio network in 35 markets, on Radio One Detroit's The Karen Dumas Show's feature, Purpose Point with Dr. G, and as the fashion show Commentator for Radio One's Women's Empowerment Conference with over 20,000 in attendance.

Dr. Gail is a professional vocalist and has performed on stages across Europe, Asia and in the US. She is also an award winning author of numerous books including *The Power of a Woman Who Leads*, *One Minute Success Secrets For Women*, *You Are a Daughter of the King*, *The Conduct of Queens and The Conduct of Kings*. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the upcoming *Handle Your Business Girl Digital Magazine*, *The Zone* which debuts in 2019. Her television program, *The Handle Your Business Girl Empowerment Zone* also debuts in 2019.

Although she has lived on three continents, she is quick to let others know that her favorite place on earth is wherever she and her children can laugh and love.

You can reach her through her websites:

www.handleyourbusinessgirl.com
www.paieducationgroup.org
www.theconductofkings.com



@drgailhayes

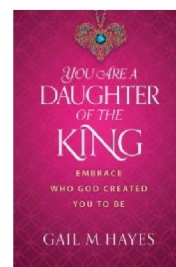
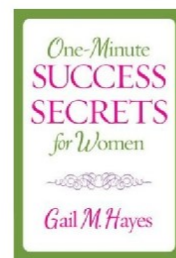
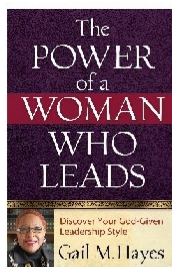


@handleyourbusinessgirl



@drgailhayes

Dr. Gail has appeared and been heard in numerous media outlets to include, the QVC Shopping Channel, NBC's *My Carolina Today*, and European television. She also served as an On-Air talent for the University of North Carolina Television (UNC-TV) where she assisted with statewide fund-raising





Hair: Gia Peebles
Makeup : Gia Peebles

Phyllis Coley CEO and Chief Editor

Our Minds, Our Voices
trailblazers are among the
rocks of this nation; I am
truly honored to serve as the
commentator for the
2019
"Women of Distinction".



Spectacular Magazine
Enlightening | Empowering | Entertaining



Phyllis D. Coley is CEO/Publisher of Spectacular Magazine and Host of Spectacular Magazine Radio Show. With a B.A. in English from NCCU, the Durham native began her professional career as Promotions/Marketing Director for New York City's WKTU-FM. While at the radio station she discovered the rap group Kid'n Play and managed them for five years, guiding their music and movie careers to success.

Moving back to Durham, Coley produced a nationally syndicated television show, The Electric Factory, while working as News Director For FOXY 107/104.

In April 2002, recognizing a void in highlighting the achievements of African Americans, she started her own business publishing ACE Magazine. Coley launched Spectacular Magazine in November 2004. Recognizing the lack of pertinent and truthful information, Coley began Spectacular Magazine Radio Show in March 2009. Coley is the organizer of Durham's Annual MLK/Black History month Parade and the Annual North Carolina Juneteenth Celebration. She currently serves on Central Children's Home Board of Directors, Raleigh Chamber of Commerce's board of Advisors, as Immediate Past Secretary of the Durham Rotary Club Board of Directors and is one of the founding members of the Triangle United Way's African American Leadership Initiative.

The advertisement for Trendy Nailz Salon features a large, circular inset image of a hand with elaborate, multi-colored and jeweled nail art. The hand is positioned over a black silhouette of a hand with long, dripping paint. The background of the ad is a collage of images, including a close-up of a nail being painted and a view of the salon interior with various nail stations and equipment. The text 'TRENDY NAILZ Salon' is at the top, with the tagline 'Where Different Is Our Normal'. Below this, the words 'FREE FULLSET!' are written in large, bold, pink letters. At the bottom, there is a call to action to enter a contest to win a free full set by tagging, liking, and sharing on social media, along with the salon's Facebook and Instagram handles.

ENTER TO WIN A FREE FULL SET WHEN YOU TAG, LIKE AND SHARE!

 TRENDY NAILZ NAIL SALON
 @TRENDYNAILZSALON

Aura Galleria

2019



“Women of Distinction”

I Am A Woman Of Distinction — You Will Feel Me When I Walk Into The Room

[Janne Robinson](#) | December 28, 2018

I am a woman of distinction.

Recklessly beautiful and untamed—my heart is splayed wide open for I not only trust the process, but I trust the force in which each one of my feet hits the ground and my ability to maneuver through the joys and grief I face each day.

I walk tall, taller than an old cypress tree because I am at home in my skin — my self worth lives in each nook and cranny of my spine.

It is not attached to exterior what have you's like money, a piece of paper, a house, a car, this world approval, a ring or success.

My success is in presence.

I am present in the humans I stumble upon like heart beats at first light and in the night.

I salsa dance bare bummed with bronze skin and white cheeks — let the music sway and bend and dip my spirit with the grace of a dozen fire flies drunk on the Moon's wine.

I am dripping in salt, browned from the sunshine, and barefoot in my beauty.

I am not afraid to tell you I am beautiful because I have done the work to be at home in my soul's skin.

I do not shrink to accommodate the insecurities of those around me, but stand tall to remind them gently, why crouch?

My body may be a meat bag, a vessel for the magnificence I hold inside but I cherish each scar on my chin, each freckle, each voluptuous sun bleached curl, each inch of my breasts.

I walk with my head held high when I walk into a room because I know there is space for me in this world — however I may come.

I show this world my tears and my laughter, unashamed.

I know better than to try and fix or heal the suffering of this world.

I know that by healing my suffering, I heal this world.

I am a woman of distinction and I am not afraid to love you before you are ready.

I am not afraid to move faster or slower than the expectations we lay on vulnerability and opening.

I open at my will.

I open at the first drop of a breeze, at a smile from the man sitting with a green top hat that I pass in a taxi cab.

I open fearlessly and sweetly and ferociously with all the might I can for what good is living if we are not loving?

I am here to love and love I will.

I am a woman of distinction, and I am not a victim of circumstance — I feel when things are out of alignment and I move from them with as much grace as I enter.

I show up for this world.

I set boundaries with ease that honour me.

I understand that no is self love and everything after no is unworthiness.

I am worthy, darling — oh so deliciously worthy.

I am authentic as all hell and can taste bullshit from a mile away.

I spit out societal Koolaide laughing and write my own bible.

I ground — ground through movement, through dance, through the sea.

I drink the ocean for breakfast and kiss the red dirt for dessert.

I do not keep my freedom in a cage that requires six whiskies to be let loose.

I dance and shimmy and shake and love through my life.

I am a woman of distinction — you will feel me when I walk into the room.

Mental Health... Tonya D. Armstrong, Ph.D., M.T.S.,

Tonya D. Armstrong, Ph.D., M.T.S., a native of Durham, North Carolina, is a licensed psychologist and the founder and CEO of The Armstrong Center for Hope, a private group practice of multi-disciplinary mental health professionals cultivating psychological and spiritual wellness for all ages. Dr. Armstrong established her solo private practice in 2002 as a licensed psychologist and later expanded into a group practice in 2010. Today, Dr. Armstrong and her team focus on psychological assessment, individual, couple, and family therapy, consultation, and continuing education. Since 2000, she has served as the Minister of Congregational Care and Counseling at Union Baptist Church in Durham. Additionally, she serves as the Dean of the Counseling Studies Department at the Apex School of Theology in Durham, where she directs the Counseling Studies Department.

Dr. Armstrong double-majored in psychology and music at Yale University, and completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a focus on child and adolescent issues. Dr. Armstrong completed her predoctoral internship at Duke University Medical Center with primary rotations in pediatric psychology and family therapy, and received a National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded post-doctoral fellowship at Duke's Center for Developmental Epidemiology. Dr. Armstrong also holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke University Divinity School (magna cum laude), where she subsequently taught on the faculty for five years.



Kemet Nation Media
Makeup: Sharon Davis

*“distinction...
set apart by excellence”*

In 2012, Dr. Armstrong was recognized by the Durham Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women as a Female Entrepreneur of the Year. She is a member of the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA) Insurance Committee, and she and her colleagues received the 2015 NCPA President's Award for their service. Dr. Armstrong was listed in the 2015 edition of Who's Who in Black Raleigh-Durham, honored by the Ebonettes Service Club, Inc. in 2016 with the "Dare to Make a Difference" Award.

In July 2018, Dr. Armstrong began her term as President of the North Carolina Psychological Association, making her the first African American female to lead the organization.

With a true love of gospel music, "Dr. T" released a gospel album, *Choose Hope*, in 2009. You can find her music on iTunes and cdbaby.com. She also has a newly released book/CD set, *Blossoming Hope: The Black Christian Woman's Guide to Mental Health and Wellness* and *Blossoming Hope Companion: Soothing Songs and Spoken Word Recordings*, available on Amazon, Kindle, and cdbaby.com. Dr. Armstrong believes that every new day is a new opportunity to choose hope! Her most important identities are servant of God, wife of 26 years to Corwin Armstrong, and mother to her 14-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son.



Annie was, in many ways, more philanthropic than the extremely generous Madam. She was far less conspicuous in her spending, lifestyle, and personal promotion, even though she was one of the first Americans to own a Rolls Royce. In fact, it was her quiet nature and reserved public image what allowed her less wealthy mentee to become remembered as the first self-made female millionaire, while Annie and her Poro enterprise is largely unknown.

It is truly incredible that these two poorly educated daughters of slaves founded highly successful and influential industries, growing fabulously rich beyond anyone's wildest dreams. But even more stunning, they achieved all this in a decade or so, while no white woman or black man ever came close to achieving such a feat at that time.

Education...Dr. Shirley Hart Arrington

Dr. Arrington earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount and her master's degree, principal certification, and doctorate from Campbell University. She served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Edgecombe County School System, the Rocky Mount City School system and the Nash Rocky Mount School System. She joined the Principals' Executive Program in 1993 as an Assistant Director where she directed several programs for school administrators including the Assistant Principals Executive Program, the Developing Future Leaders Program, the Higher School Performance Program, the Instructional Leadership for Reform Program and the Leadership Conference for New Administrators. In April of 2006 she was appointed by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to the position of Executive Director of the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium. Dr. Arrington retired on September 1, 2011 after over thirty-



Kemet Nation Media
Makeup Sharon Davis

distinction...“building a nation, preparing the mind for greatness”

four years of service to public education in North Carolina. She is currently serving as a professor at Gardner-Webb University, teaching in the Master's of Elementary Education Program. She also works part time as a program assistant and facilitator for the North Carolina Principals' and Assistant Principals Association's Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program. She serves on the board of the Durham Bulls Youth Athletic Association, The Prodigal Son Foundation and the Lincoln Community Hospital Foundation Board. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Girlfriends, Inc., and Charms, Inc.

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Social Justice... Omisade Burney-Scott,



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distinction...

*”giving hope and inspiration, caring
for the voiceless”*

Omisade is a black, southern, feminist, mother and healer with decades of experience in nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, and social justice. Grounded in an analysis of systems of oppression; she has trained extensively in identity politics, intersectionality and liberatory organizing practices. Omisade sees herself as an Organizational Development Midwife, facilitating major transitions that social justice nonprofits, groups, marginalized communities must make in order to remain relevant, responsive, intentional, healthy and sustainable. As a healer and a skilled facilitator, she is particularly skilled in creating brave and open spaces that facilitate people to dig down deep into their own power and create their own solutions.

Omisade is a 7th generation native of New Bern, NC and a 1989 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is member of the 1999-01 class of the William C. Friday Fellows for Human Relations and a 2003 Southeastern Council on Foundation's Hull Fellow. She is a founding tribe member of SpiritHouse and a board member of The Beautiful Project, Village of Wisdom, and Working Films. Omi resides in Durham and is the proud mother of two sons, Che, 26 and Taj, 10.

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Humanities...Jaki Shelton-Green



Jaki Shelton Green is a Lecturer, key note speaker and consultant for various groups and organizations such as; NC Humanities Council Roads Scholar Program, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teachers, Spoleto Sundown Poetry Series, NC Writers Conference, Pamlico Writer's Festival, Paul Green Foundation, San Louis Obispo California Poetry Festival, NC Writer's Festival, UNC-Chapel Hill Law School, NC African-American Cultural Celebration, and the NC History Museum, to name a few.

Over the past forty years, Shelton-Green has taught poetry and facili

tated creative writing classes extensively at public libraries, universities and community colleges, public/private schools, and literary organizations such as the NC Writer's Network, NC Poetry Society, Bates College Multicultural Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Texas A&M, University of Santa Barbara, Rutgers University, St John's University, The Christ School, St. Andrews University, Barton College, Chatham County Arts Council, The George School, Department of Cultural Resources for Brazil, and NC Turkish Association. As a creativity coach, she has facilitated workshops and trainings throughout the U.S, Europe, Caribbean Islands, Central and South America.

distinction...

*“exceptional women pave the way for
future girl leaders”*

In 2013, Ms. Shelton-Green was a featured commentator and creative advisor for GRITS Anthology (Girls Raised in the South) and final judge for the distinguished Lucille Clifton Poetry Award. She judges poetry for schools, serves on the advisory boards of the Salem College Women Writer's Center and Back Bone Press, and in 2016 she was invited to moderate a panel on Harlem Renaissance Poet Anne Spencer's Life and Preservation of the Historic Anne Spencer House Museum in Washington, DC.

As community arts advocate, I create and facilitate programs that serve diverse audiences and populations such as: Upward Bound Programs, incarcerated, homeless, chronically and mentally ill, domestic violence, rape, and incest survivors, elderly, public and private schools, teachers,

hospice care providers, substance abuse counselors, literacy programs, libraries, universities, humanities councils, immigrants, community economic development, and social justice nonprofits.

Her poetry has been widely choreographed by numerous dance companies including *Danca Nova at Colorado Naropa Institute for the Arts, The Chuck Davis African-American Dance Company at the Kennedy Center, Miami City Ballet, Two Near the Edge, Choreo Dance, Murmurations Dance Company, and the Duke University Dance Department.*

Ms. Shelton-Green is the owner of *SistaWRITE* providing writing retreats and travel excursions for women writers based in North Carolina and Morocco.



410.465.1577

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www.visconmedia.net

Public Service....Commissioner Brenda Howerton

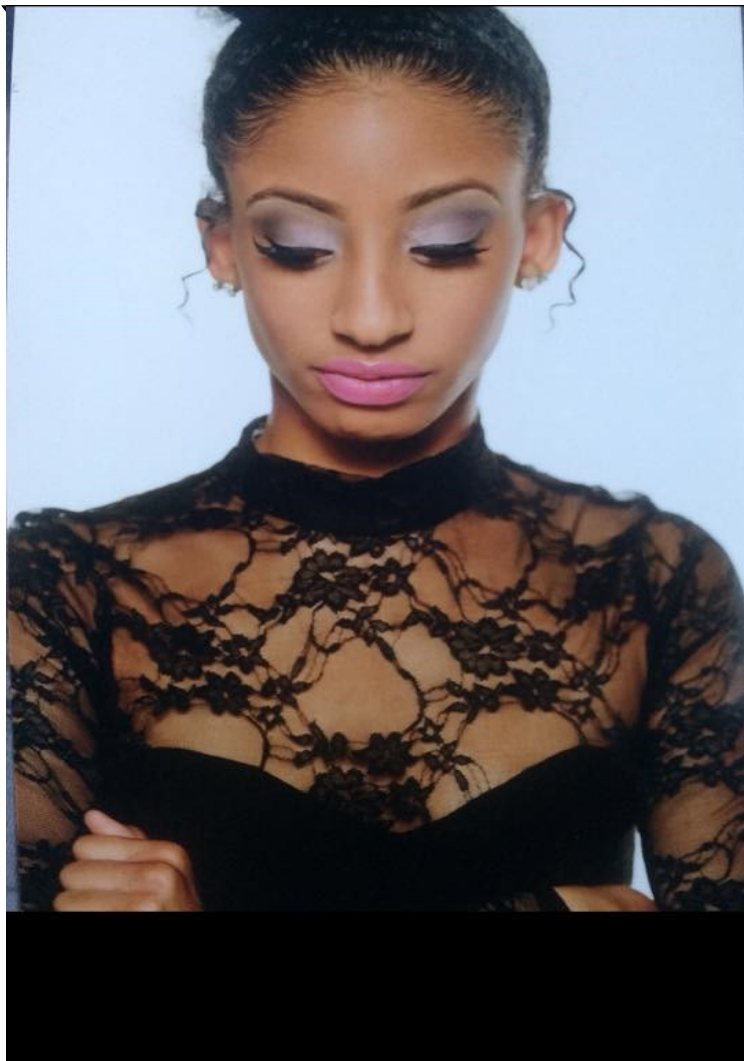


Brenda Howerton was elected to the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 2008. She was reelected in 2012 and 2016, and presently serving in her third term. In August 2017, Commissioner Howerton was sworn in as President of the North Carolina Association of Counties becoming the first County commissioner to be elected to a statewide senior leadership office.

Commissioner Howerton has served as Vice Chairman of the County Commissioner from 2012 until 2016. She also serves or have

distinction..."a calling for a specific purpose"

served on a number of local, state and national boards and commissions including: Durham Technical Board of Trustees, Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism Authority, Downtown Durham Inc., Committee Member, Durham Chair of the City/County Planning Committee, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Public Health Board, Triangle J Council Center of the Region, Durham City-County Partnership for Children, Durham History Hub, Workforce Development Board and Co-Chair Transformation in Ten Education Task Force, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Stepping Up Initiative). appointed by governor Cooper to the Local Government Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees. (LGERS) and Served on the Emerging Issues Blue Ribbon Commission for early childhood financing.



Makeup by Alacyia

She is also appointed by the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) as Vice Chair of both the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board and Work Force Subcommittee for the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee and a member of the Large Urban Caucus committee.

Commissioner Howerton received her B.S. Degree, in Business Management Magna Cum Laude, from Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina and a certification in Executive Coaching from North Carolina State University . She is the owner of The Howerton Consulting, Inc. that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries. Howerton completed the Local Leaders Academy (LELA) in partnership with the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the NC League of Municipalities. She has received numerous awards for her commitment to diversity and inclusion. She moved to Durham in 1986; is a member of Union Baptist Church, and the mother to four children, and three wonderful grandchildren.

Technology....Sandra K. Johnson, Ph.D.



Kemet Nation Media

Makeup: Sharon Davis

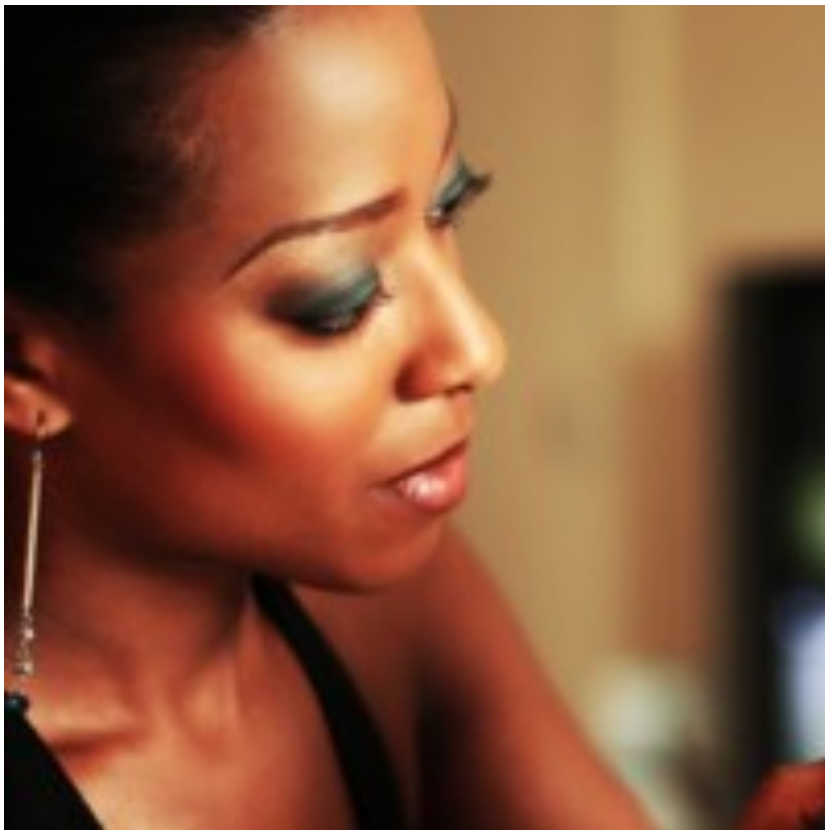
Sandra K. Johnson is the Founder, CEO & CTO, Global Mobile Finance, Inc., a fintech startup company based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. It is developing *geeRemit*, a global remittance mobile app based on blockchain technology and leveraging mobile money. She is also the CEO, SKJ Visioneering, LLC a technology consulting company. Dr. Johnson has over 35 years of experience in computing. Her previous roles include CTO, IBM Central, East and West Africa, Business Development Executive and Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM Middle East and Africa, CTO, IBM Global Small and Medium Business, the Linux Performance Architect, and managing the Linux Performance, WebSphere Database Development, and Java Server Performance teams within IBM R&D. She was also a Research Staff Member at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center.

distinction...

*“Everything is within your power,
and your power is within you.”*

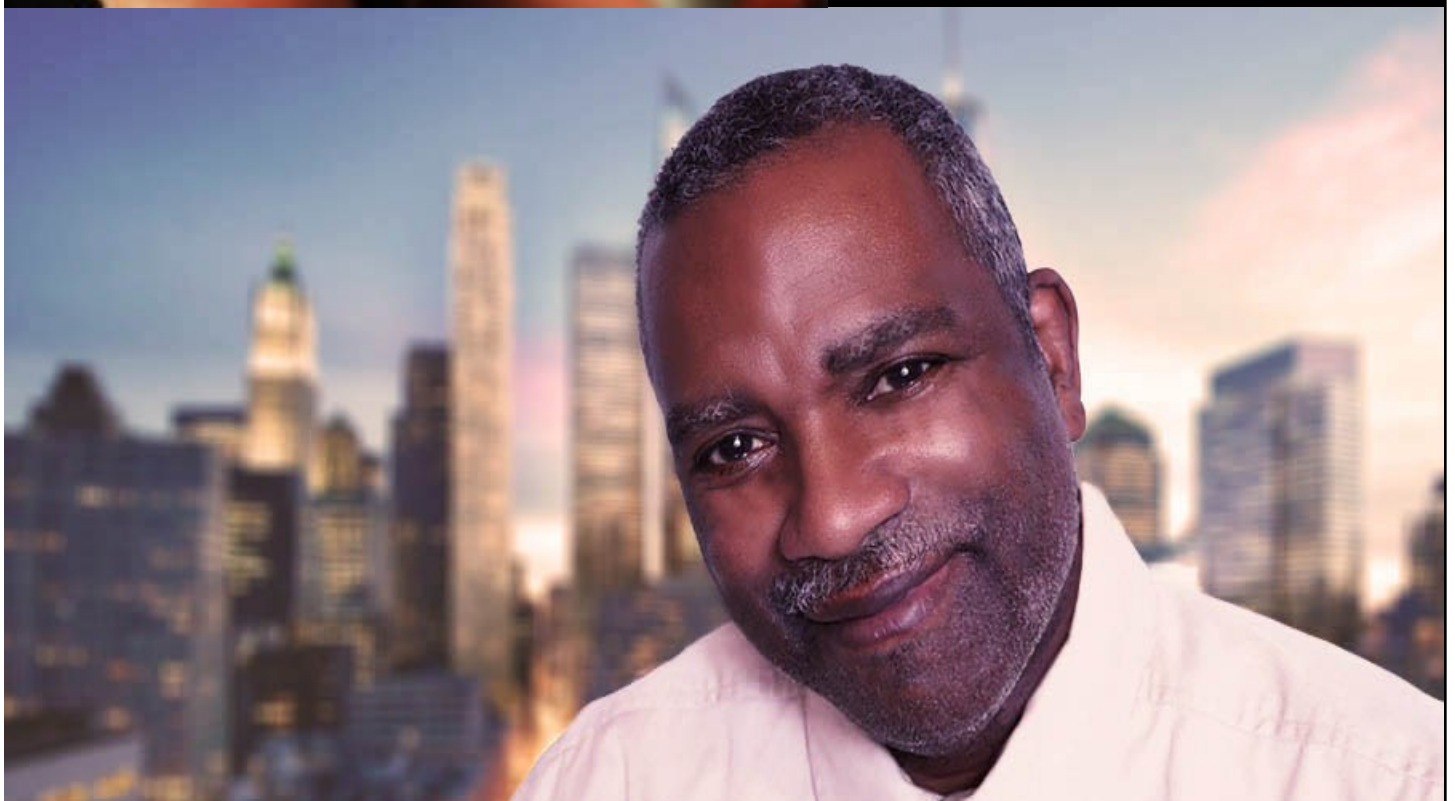
She has a high-performance computing background and has conducted research in several computer performance related areas. Dr. Johnson was a member of the IBM Academy of Technology, which consists of the top 1% of IBM's over 250K technical professionals. She was part of the IBM research design team that created the prototype for Deep Blue, IBM's world-famous chess machine. Dr. Johnson has received numerous technical and professional awards and is a Master Inventor with 40 issued and pending patents. She has authored and co-authored over 80 publications and is Editor-in-Chief of the book *Performance Tuning for Linux Servers*. In addition, she has authored *Inspirational Nuggets*, *Inspirational Nuggets Too*, and *GREGORY: The Life of a Lupus Warrior*. She has an expert certification in Security+ from CompTIA.

Dr. Johnson earned B.S. (*summa cum laude*), M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, all in electrical engineering, from Southern University, Stanford University, and Rice University, respectively, becoming one of the first African-American women to earn a Ph.D. in this field. She is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). She is also an IEEE Fellow and an ACM Distinguished Engineer.



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Civil Services....Kristi Jones



“Always do your best” was repeated constantly to Kristi Jones throughout her childhood by grandparents, parents and teachers. The words of encouragement and assurance is one of the lessons that influenced Kristi in her professional and personal endeavors.

A cum laude graduate of North Carolina Central University, Kristi earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree. She continued her studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a Juris Doctorate of Law.

She started her career in non-profits organizations, first at Opportunities Industrialization Center of Wilson and later in Greenville, North Carolina. These employment opportunities instilled in her an appreciation for non-profits and an understanding that nonprofits fill gaps of unmet needs that may not be

provided by private or public agencies. Jones continues to support the work of non-profits by volunteering, serving on boards, and offering personal financial support.

Her public service career started as a staff member to Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Initiative on Race. This innovative initiative was instrumental in improving race relations in North Carolina by fostering private and public collaborative relationships among business and community leaders.

**distinction...
”excellence of
character; distinctive
qualities “**



In 2017, North Carolina's 75th Governor, Roy Cooper, appointed Kristi as the first African American female to serve as Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor. Kristi has the responsibility of implementing the Governor's agenda and goals by working with cabinet secretaries, senior staff, communities and corporations to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians. Prior to this appointment, Kristi served for 10 years as Chief of Staff for the NC Department of Justice.

The Wendell-Wake Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People bestowed the honor of Humanitarian of the Year to Jones for her grassroots and statewide work as a public administrator and volunteer.

Each day Jones is mindful of the sentiment said to her early in life. She tries to "Do her best" in all facets of life. She feels humbled and blessed to have unique professional experiences and is personally grateful for the love and support from her husband, Muye Akinkuotu.



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Fashion and Beauty....Chelsea Kithcart

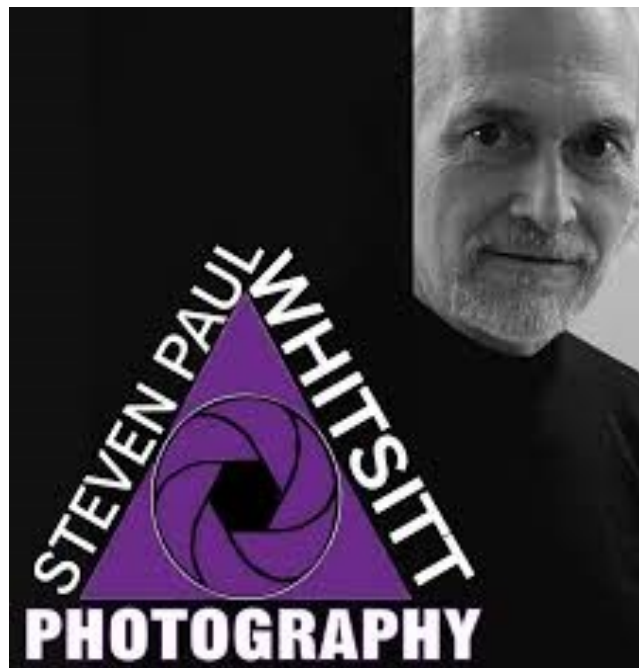


Chelsea is an independent High Fashion Model for over 7 years. She comes from a very loving family and is one of two other siblings, an older sister and brother who reside in the state of Maryland. She attended Mt. Olive College in NC with an interest in Forensic Pathology in 2011. While still in college, she was approached in a local shopping mall by two professional photographers who expressed interest in photographing her. Granted this was not part of her career track, but she agreed, changed gears and the rest is history in working in the Beauty and Fashion Industry.

Chelsea has modeled locally and out of the State promoting Beauty products and Fashion for privately owned businesses. Her passion has been more devoted to the Fashion Industry. For many years, she has walked the Catwalk for many Celebrity Designers (Michael Costello, Walter Mendez, Elie Madie, Rocky Gathercole, Justin LeBlanc, Nicci Hou, David Tupaz, Stevie Boi) in Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, NYFW, Philadelphia Fashion Week, Art Hearts Fashion Week New York, Style Fashion Week NY, Atlanta, Charlotte Fashion Week, NCFA Style Week to name only a few.

Chelsea has been published in many Beauty and Fashion Magazines (Model World Magazine, Charlotte Style Magazine, Walter Magazine, Durham Magazine) to name only a few.

Chelsea spends part of her time, when she is not modeling, working at the Duke University Faculty Club. In her spare time she enjoys supporting charity events and socializing with her friends.



distinction...

*excellence that sets someone or
something apart from others*

JEWELS BY



Business Enterprise....Lesleigh Maus, M.Ed.

Lesleigh Maus, M.Ed. is an Entrepreneur, Award-Winning Educator and Writer. She is Co-Founder and Vice-President of The DOME Group, LLC, an entertainment promotions company producing first-class concerts and events throughout North Carolina and the Midwest. Her company secures top names in music for venues and for university homecoming shows in both markets. In March of 2018, Lesleigh and her husband purchased the Durham-based Art of Cool Music Festival, making her the owner and vice-president of one of the country's premiere weekend music festivals and hosting over 10,000 attendees.

An educator for over 22-years, Lesleigh has impacted thousands of public school children in North Carolina and Michigan as an English teacher and High school administrator. Her career spans teaching vocal music and English Language Arts at the elementary and middle school levels; to leadership as assistant principal of Jordan High School in Durham. In 2013, she piloted a gender-empowering reading program to support high-school students with foundational reading struggles. For this work, Lesleigh was nominated for the *Spectacular Magazine's* "Woman



distinction...

*"riches never fascinate me unless
combined with humility, grace
and integrity"*

of the Year" Award for Education in 2014. In 2015, she presented her work at the Congressional Black Caucus Education Town Hall in Washington D.C. In 2016, Lesleigh was named "Assistant Principal of the Year" for Durham Public Schools. A life-long educator, Lesleigh continues to mentor women and girls through annual vision-building workshops and seminars. In 2016, Lesleigh felt a shift in her life, and obediently responded by retiring from her career in public education at the age of 42.

She then joined her husband's side as Vice-President of their company, The DOME Group. Lesleigh believes she has a 3-fold distinct gift: to help women take leaps of faith, to encourage women to walk in obedience of their gifts, and to model and honor the role of an anointed wife. Creatively, Lesleigh is a writer and classically trained pianist. She has served as Minister of Music and choir director for churches and recorded musical projects;

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written, directed and performed an original spoken word stage production, "His Praise, Her Prose" at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. Her published works have appeared in the *Detroit Free Press*, and her most recent anthology, *Black Girls Hear*. Lesleigh holds a B.A. in Communications/Journalism from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and is a tithing member of Raleigh North Christian Center in Raleigh, NC. She lives in North Carolina with her husband of 19 years, Sulaiman, and their sons, Sulaiman Jr. and Ahmad.

Medicine....Desiree T. Palmer, DMD



Dr. Palmer is a practicing dentist and the owner of **Desiree T. Palmer, DMD, PA and Associates**. In August of 2015, she opened a second practice, **Bull City Dental**, on Historic Parrish Street, downtown Durham. A Washington, DC native, she graduated with a degree in biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College and received her professional education from Tufts School of Dental Medicine. After graduating, she practiced for four years in Boston, Massachusetts as a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service Corp.

distinction..."a quite confidence that screams loud with humility, leadership and greatness"

In 1985, invited by Dr. Thomas B. Bass, Sr., a close family friend, she started her dental practice in his office at 1212 Fayetteville Street. She was the first African American woman to establish a private practice in Durham. In 1992, she relocated her practice to northern Durham. Dr. Palmer and her all female team of fifteen professionals strive to provide their patients with excellent, state of the art, dental care and exceptional service. As a team, they are committed to community service and have done projects such as: back to school back pack/supplies drive, coats/scarves and hats for kids, adopted families for Christmas and volunteered at both Urban Ministries and the Baptist Men's Dental Bus.



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Dr. Palmer has served on the boards of the Community Health Coalition, Project Access and the Thomas B. Bass, Sr. Academy. She holds professional memberships with the American Association of Women Dentist, the Academy of General Dentistry, National Dental Association and the Spear Education Study Club.

In her spare time, Dr. Palmer lectures on dental health and especially enjoys mentoring young women who plan to enter the dental profession. She belongs to several community service organ-

izations including, the Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Durham (NC) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. She is an active member in her church, Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Dr. Palmer is married to Michael J. Palmer and they have three adult sons: Austen, Brandon and Colton. They are the proud grandparents of Brianna Lillie Palmer.



BLACK BUSINESS EXPO 2019

CONNECT, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNITY

The Black Business Expo (BBE) serves a statewide community using business as a force for change. Its vision is that all companies compete to be the finest in North Carolina, and also the best for North Carolina businesses.

As a decision maker, you know the power of making critical connections. Your existing business is likely the result of connecting, communicating and creating community with other like-minded professionals. The Black Business Expo (BBE) is coming to the Triangle at the Marriot Durham Convention Center and we also know the power of our approach to business impacts the economy, families and our community.

The BBE leverages community to make business a force for good where we serve. The mission of the expo is to give scholarships to area students to go to college in the areas of business administration, public relations, hospitality, marketing and advertising! The Expo is for corporations, businesses and the community at large to share and connect in a powerful way. The BBE encourages networking and also provides business-to-business marketing opportunities plus business-to-consumer marketing opportunities. The Expo is a community event connecting businesses, corporations, and consumers to foster good will and to experience the power of collaboration. Black Business Expo held on **NOVEMBER 30, 2019** from 10 am to 5 pm at the Durham Marriott Downtown Durham NC. Come and enjoy Seminars, keynote speakers, business workshops, fashion, pitch competitions, and much more! We are asking your company to partner with us as a **TITLE SPONSOR or VENDOR**.

To view Title Sponsorship visit us at <http://www.blackbusinessexpo1.com/corporate-registration.html> and to view other sponsorship opportunities.

To view Vendor Registration visit us at <http://www.blackbusinessexpo1.com/vendor-registration.html>.

Call today @ 919-308-9090 to reserve your prime booth space location at this years Expo! Black Business Expo one of the largest business showcases in the history of black America in North Carolina Over 300 booths available and over 3000 expected attendance!

We thank you in advance for your participation,

Eric Kelly, Executive Director

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