What Can I Do With A Black Studies Degree?:
1000 Answers

6th Edition

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The interdisciplinary field of Blacks Studies—alternatively called African American Studies, Afro-American Studies, Africana Studies, Pan African Studies, or Black World Studies, depending on the school where it is offered—is a relative newcomer on the academic scene and its proponents have had to defend its theoretical underpinnings and practicality, something which the traditional liberal arts fields are also challenged to do but not to the same extent. Since the establishment of the nation’s first Black Studies department in 1968 at San Francisco State University, and despite the wide acceptance and institutionalization of Black Studies in academia, there still remains the nagging question about its ability to produce outstanding citizens equal in quality to individuals who as undergraduates majored in, say, history or English or art. Black Studies has now been around long enough to notice its handiwork: men and women constructively contributing to society, employed in a wide variety of professions.

It is a difficult task to compile a list of noteworthy people who majored in Black Studies because there are so many who could easily qualify. This list merely scratches the surface. Black Studies attracts a broad spectrum of interested scholars. Not only persons of African descent, but also persons of European, Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, and Native American descent are represented in the list. Some of those mentioned are virtually household names or have received considerable local or regional attention. It is interesting to note which schools have produced large numbers of high achievers on the list, and rather surprising to learn that many medical professionals first earned degrees in Black Studies. Professions range from A (Astronaut) to Z (Zoo administrator). In short, the answer to those asking what can a person do with a Black Studies major is simple: Anything!

Everyone on this list completed a degree in Black Studies. Most of the entries contain a one-line summary of the person’s occupation, the type of degree obtained in Black Studies (typically the bachelor’s degree) and the school at which it was obtained, and additional (usually graduate) degrees in other disciplines which the person was granted. Broad headings under which persons are listed are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine &amp; Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Government</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Industry, Labor</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Decorative Arts</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature, Poetry, Drama</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Media &amp; Publishing</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Community Services</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Politics & Government

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B.A., University of Virginia.

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B.A., University of Maryland.

Niccara Campbell.......Political Director, Congressional Black Caucus PAC.
B.A., University of Maryland.

Christopher Campos.......City Councilman of Hoboken, New Jersey, prosecutor, civil servant.
B.A., Denison University; J.D., American University.
Lynn Gilmore Canton——Executive Director of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), appointed by President Bill Clinton. Also former Assistant Deputy Comptroller for management Audit for the state of New York.
B.A., M.S., SUNY-Albany.

Damara Catlett——Principal at The Raben Group, a government lobbying organization

J. R. Clairbourne——City Councilman, 2nd Ward Alderman with a seat on the City of Ithaca (NY) Common Council. Former reporter at the *Ithaca Journal*.
B.A., University of Kansas.

Bryce Coefield——City Councilman in Newberg, Oregon.
B.A., Pitzer College; M.A., Azusa Pacific University.

Bryce Coefield——City Councilman in Newberg, Oregon.
B.A., Pitzer College; M.A., Azusa Pacific University.

B.A., Howard University; M.A., Yale University.

Nthabiseng Cooper——Congressional Intern at U.S. House of Representatives.
B.A., University of Maryland.

George Cushingberry Jr——Detroit City Councilman. Former Michigan State Representative elected in 1975 at age 21. Was on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners for 16 years.
B.A., Wayne State University; J.D., University of Detroit.

Shané Darby——Wilmington Delaware City Council member.
B.A., M.A. (both degrees in Africana Studies), Temple University.

Tom Davidson——Maine State Representative (three terms, Democrat). Also a highly successful businessman as Vice President of Tyson Corners, an investment firm. Currently CEO of EverFi.
B.A., Bowdoin College.

Erica Terry Derryck——Director of Communications, Office of the Mayor of Oakland, California.
Formerly an MTV segment producer and news reporter.
B.A., Wesleyan University; M.A., University of California at Berkeley.

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B.A., Oberlin College; M.S. in public policy at The New School for Public Engagement.

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B.A., Ohio State University.

Valerie Foushee ……State Senator in North Carolina (23rd District).  
B.A., University of North Carolina.

B.A., Stanford University; Ph.D. in political science, Stanford University.

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B.A., Harvard University; J.D., Harvard University.

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B.A., William & Mary.

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B.A., M.A., University of Louisville; Ph.D., Temple University (all degrees related to Black Studies).
Alicia Hyndman…….New York State Assemblywoman for District 29 in Queens.

Makilah Z. James…….U.S. Ambassador to Swaziland.
B.A., Cornell University.

Brian C. Johnson…….Commissioner of West Park, Florida, President/CEO of Minority Builders Coalition, Inc.
B.A., Morehouse College.

Basheer Jones…….City Councilman in Cleveland, Ohio.
B.A., Morehouse College.

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B.A., M.P.A., CUNY-City College.

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B.A., Harvard University; J.D., University of California-Los Angeles.

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B.A., University of Virginia.

Robert D. Lavelle…….Pittsburgh City Councilman (District 6).
B.A., Kent State University.

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B.A., Wesleyan University.

Jinnie Lee…….Foreign Service Officer, posted to embassies in Korea, Qatar, and Iraq.
B.A., Wellesley College.

Odogwu Obi Linton…….Maryland Public Service Commissioner.
B.A., B.S., Rutgers. University; J.D., University of Maryland.

Zohran Kwame Mamdani…….New York Assemblyman representing the 36th District.
B.A., Bowdoin College.

Lee C. McDougall…….City Manager of Montclair and Riverside, California, and Chaffey College board chairman.
B.A., University of California at Riverside.
Michael McMillan…….License Collector for the City of St. Louis, City Alderman (19th Ward).  
B.A., St. Louis University.

Kimberly Melton…….Chief of Staff for the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of MULTNOMAH County (Oregon); former newspaper reporter.  

Elizabeth “Liz” Miranda…….Massachusetts State Representatives (Suffolk 5th District).  
B.A., Wellesley College.

Marc H. Morial…….Mayor of New Orleans and former Louisiana State Senator. In 2003 he became President of the National Urban League.  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Georgetown University.

Devin Murphy…….City Councilman in Pinole, CA.  CEO of DTM Strategies, marketing firm.  
B.A., UCLA.

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B.A., Wesleyan University; MPA, New York University.

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B.A., Wesleyan University; Ph.D. in sociology, The New School.

Roslynn Pedracine…….Civil Rights Investigator at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.  B.A., University of Wisconsin; MPH, J.D., Hamline University.

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B.A., Emory University.

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B.A., Northeastern University. Master’s degree in city planning, MIT.

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B.A., Kent State University.

Peter A. Shapiro…….Chairman of the Prince Georges (Virginia) County Council.  
A Truman Scholar, in 2013 he was appointed the county’s revenue authority director.  
B.A., University of Maryland.
Kevin Sibley …… Director of Boston’s Office of Returning Citizens (ex-convicts).
B.A., University of Massachusetts-Boston; MBA, Cambridge College.

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B.A., University of Missouri-Columbia.

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B.A. in Black Studies and M.P.A. both at City University of New York City College.

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B.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.A., Ph.D., Washington University.

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Business, Industry, Labor

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B.A., Lehigh University.

Kanem Johnson…….Compliance Officer at Barclay’s Investment Bank. Former financial advisor at Barclay’s Capital Inc., associate at Citigroup, and basketball star at Wesleyan College.
B.A., Wesleyan College.

Julia Baker Jones…….Director of the Chidsey Center for Leadership Development at Davidson College. Business consultant. Graduated in the top 10 percent of her business school class at Stanford.
B.A., Carlton College; MBA, Stanford University.

T. J. Jones…….Senior Director of E-Commerce at Fendi (Italian luxury goods and jewelry).
B.A., Harvard University.

Laurie M. Jonsson…….Founding Director of Expedia and former co-owner of a cruise line, an investment company, and co-founder of the University of Washington’s Center for Women and Democracy. On Board of Directors of Puget Sound Bank.
B.A., University of Washington.
Kristin R. Jordan……Book Publisher, owner of Pens Up Press.
B.A., Brown University.

Michael Joukowsky……President of Crawford High Performance Composites, Ltd., chairman of the investment committee of the Joukowsky Family Foundation.
B.A., Brown University; MBA., Babson College.

Mazuba Kapambwe……Creative Associate at Ku-Atenga Media, managing social media platforms.
B.A., State University of New York at Albany.

B.A., California State University-Northridge; M.A., Temple University.

Siphokazi Koyana……Member of the Board of Directors of the Shanduka Group Pty. Ltd. (Republic of South Africa); Director of Siyazithanda Projects, a business research consultancy.

Maya Lake……Owner of Boxing Kitten, a fashion and apparel company whose clothing has been worn by Beyonce, Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Erykah Badu, and others.
B.A., Wesleyan University.

Todd Lane……Business Funding Consultant at Freed Wealth in Houston, Texas.
B.A., Rutgers University.

Dominic Latty……Importer, owner of Beaudier Imports (Florida), founder of nonprofit Virgin Island Youth Advocacy Coalition (VIYA).
B.A. in computer science and Africana Studies, Brown University.

Travis LoDolce……Manager of Marketing & Advertising for the San Francisco Giants.
B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara.

Riana Lynn……Owner of FoodTrace, connecting restaurants to distributors and farmers.
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jay Madden……Architect, owner of Jay Madden Architect in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey.
B.A., Rutgers University.

Paula Madison……President and General Manager of KNBC (Los Angeles).
B.A., Vassar College.

Challyn Marie……Entrepreneur. Owner or Bikram Yoga Marina Del Rey. Former owner of Bubbles (children’s entertainment and activities center) in Santa Monica.
B.A., UCLA.
Ashindi Maxton…….Union Executive at SEIU International. Former Director of Research & Special Projects, Democracy Alliance, a socially responsible financial investment company. B.A., University of California at Berkeley.

Chrissa McFarland…….CEO of Patientory, a health data management company. B.A., Cornell University; MBA, Wake Forest University.

Lutalo McGee…….Real Estate Broker, owner of Ani Real Estate in Chicago. B.S., Eastern Illinois University.

Kaitlin McGaw…….Co-Founder of Alphabet Rockers, a twice Grammy-nominated children music company in Oakland, California. B.A., Harvard University.

Midori McSwain…….Strategist at Commonwealth, a McCann Erikson marketing/advertising company in Detroit. B.A., Northwestern University.

Mandla Msimang…….Founder and Managing Director at Pygma Consulting, a South African regulatory and research firm assisting private businesses and nonprofits. B.A., Cornell University; M.Sc., London School of Economics.


Russell Murphy…….Senior Director for Corporate Communications at Lime (transportation/micromobility company). B.A., State University of New York-New Paltz.

Aziza Nicholson…….Hair Stylist, owner of A II Z, Ltd., and head of the international nonprofit Women Empowerment Project promoting natural hair care. B.A., Miami University.

Ryan Nissim-Sabat…….Labor Union Organizer for UNITE HERE in Philadelphia. B.A., Ohio State University.

Robert Norris…….Executive Vice President of Century Housing Corporation. B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara; MBA, University of Phoenix.

M.A., UCLA.

Ryan Osodolor……Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual.
B.A., San Diego State University.

Taylor Parsons……Sommelier (wine steward) and jazz musician at Los Angeles restaurant
Republique.
B.A., Brown University.

Daniel R. Patton……Vice President, Digital Products at JPMorgan Chase & Co.
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; MBA, University of Chicago.

Nick Peterson……Founder of Peterson Watch Company, rugged watches for athletes.
B.A., Harvard University.

Ya-Awa Phall……Inside Sales Representative at Leaseweb in Manassas, Virginia.
B.A., M.A., University of Maryland.

Steven Phillips……Attorney. At age 28 became the youngest member of the San Francisco
Board of Education. Started his own successful high tech company, law firm, and nonprofit
company. Written numerous newspaper articles and made many television appearances.
B.A., Stanford University; J.D., Stanford U. Law School.

Carlos A. Pimentel……President of Invictus World Wide LLC, a music talent management,
booking agency, filmmaker representative and sports agency firm.
B.A., SUNY-Binghamton; J.D., American University.

Fabio Price……Self-Employed Equity Trader, former Italian restaurant general manager.
B.A., UCLA.

Nancy Rhyme……Chief Operating Officer and Director of Legislative Strategies at the
Primacy Strategy Group.
B.A., University of Wisconsin.

Dawn Ridley……President of the marketing firm Ridley & Associates LLC. Also taught
marketing at Johns Hopkins University.
B.A., Indiana University; MBA, Clark Atlanta University.

Algene T. Sajery……Vice President of the Office of External Affairs at the U.S. International
Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
B.A., Howard University.
Sunita Saligram…….Director of Strategic Response at Facebook.
B.A., New York University; MPA., Harvard University.

Detavio Samuels…….President of One Solution and CEO of The Bare Group.
B.A., Duke University; MBA, Stanford University.

P. J. Douglas Sands……Tourism Area Manager for the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.
B.A., Barnard College. L.L.B., University of London.

Chyann Sapp…….Real estate agent at the Corcoran Group, New York City.
B.A., CUNY Hunter College.

Mark Douglas Smith…….President and CEO of California Healthcare Foundation. Currently
practices HIV care at San Francisco General Hospital.
A.B., Harvard University; MBA, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business; M.D.,
University of California at San Francisco.

Angela Solomon…….Executive Talent Recruiter focused on minority-race personnel for
nonprofit organizations.
B.A., Vassar College.

Naiman S. Starks…….Vice President of Hearing Operations at National Collegiate Athletic
Association (NCAA).
B.A., University of Maryland; J.D., Harvard University.

Johnny Temple…….Publisher and Editor-in Chief of Akashic Books, winner of the 2013 Ellery
Queen Award from the American Association of Publishers, essayist.
B.A., Wesleyan University.

Craig Thompson…….Founder and President of Thompson Communications, an education and
media consulting firm. Partner in Venable LLC. Hosted radio and television talk shows in
Baltimore.
B.A., University of Maryland; J.D., University of Maryland.

Hailu Timbo…….Grocery Store Director (Hy-Vee in Waterloo, Iowa).
B.A., University of Iowa.

Nyahalay Tucker…….Licensed Real Estate Salesperson in New York and Connecticut
B.A., SUNY-Stony Brook; M.A., City University of New York.

Lucas Turner-Owens…….Fund Manager at Boston Ujima Project, supporting minority-owned
small businesses; B.A., Wesleyan University.

Dexter B. Upshaw Jr…….Director of Youth and young adults at Rising Star Baptist Church
(Conroe, Texas), and Marketing Director for Gamma Phi Delta Christian Fraternity.
B.A., Yale University.

Chas Walker…….Union organizer for SEIU District 1199 (healthcare and social service workers).B.A., Brown University.


Tytianna Wells…….Publisher. Founder and CEO of Honey Tree Publishing, LLC; Illustrator. B.A. and M.A., University of Louisville.

Daniel Weisman…….Artist Manager at Roc Nation, an entertainment company founded by Jay Z with offices in New York and Los Angeles. B.A., Emory University.

Jaandra Wheeler…….Insurance Underwriter at State Farm Insurance in Savannah, Georgia. B.A., Savannah State University.

Stephen White…….Board Member of Dubset Media Holdings. Formerly President of Gracenote, a digital media technology subsidiary of Sony Corporation of America. B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sheryl Wilkerson…….Vice President for Government Affairs at Michelin North America. B.A., Indiana University; J.D., Georgetown University.

James Williams…….Fiber Supply Associate at International Paper. B.A., Brown University; M.S. in environment and resource policy at Tufts University.

Thomasina H. Williams…….Vice President at Wells Fargo Private Bank and legal consultant. B.A., Mount Holyoke College. J.D., University of Michigan.

Trenessa Williams…….Bookstore Owner (Kizzy’s Books and More, LLC) in Orlando, FL. B.A., Florida A&M University; MBA, Nova Southeastern University; DBA, Walden Univ.

Young Williams…….Licensed Real Estate Appraiser and high school math teacher. B.A., California State University at Los Angeles.

Denequa Williams-Clarke…….Entrepreneur, Owner of Brooklyn Lit, a luxury hand-poured soy wax company. B.A., SUNY-Albany.

Robert Wilson…….Contracts Specialist for the U.S. Air Force, Wright Patterson Air Force Base. B.S., Miami University; MBA, University of Phoenix.

Carter Woodruff…….Supervisor of Operations at Des Moines Water Works. Formerly Secretary/Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees of Iowa. B.A., Luther College.

Sean Yeager-Diamond…….Personal Trainer, owner of Promethean Fitness. B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara.

Katie Zacarian…….Facebook Product Marketing Manager. B.A., Harvard University.

Performing Arts & Entertainment

Mame Adjei…….Miss Maryland USA 2015. Double major in political science and African-American Studies. She has modeled and worked in nonprofits. B.A., Virginia Commonwealth University.


Michelle H. Anderson…….Singer and beauty contestant and consultant. Was Miss Delaware 1995. Has sung at pro sports events and at Harlem’s Apollo Theater. Active in civic and political groups. B.A., Duke University.

Gabrie'l J. Atchison…….Choreographer, dancer, author. Established a production company. B.A., Brown University; Ph.D. in Women’s Studies, Clark University.

Angela Bassett…….Actress. Winner of the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in 1994 and an Oscar nominee for the movie “What’s Love Got To Do With It.” B.A., Yale University; M.A., Drama, Yale University.

Ryan Michelle Bathe…….Actress of stage, screen and TV. Appeared in “ER”, “Boston Legal”, etc. B.A., Stanford University; MFA, New York University.

Regina Bell……. Popular R&B Singer (ten albums). B.A., Rutgers University.
Kehli Faulkner Berry……Dance Instructor, founder of DIVA dance team in Compton, California.
B.A., California State University at Dominguez Hills.

Rashida Bumbry……Director of Artistic Affairs at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.
B.A., Oberlin College, M.A., New York University (both degrees in African American Studies).

Nick Cannon……Actor, TV Host, Comedian, and Rapper.
B.A., Howard University.

Andrew Case……Musician. Drummer with the 10-piece world beat Outer Circle Orchestra in Buffalo, New York. Day job is Physician’s Assistant in orthopedic surgery.
B.A., University of Buffalo; B.S., D’Youville College.

Julius Brewster-Cotton……Professional Dancer with the El Taller Coreografico in Mexico City, Mexico. Formerly with the Dayton (Ohio) Contemporary Dance Company. He was an Arts Commissioner for the city of Centerville, Ohio.
B.A., Southern Methodist University.

Rody Chiong……Actor and musician. Has appeared in Hollywood movies, plays, and accompanied Sania Twain and Celine Dion with his violin and fiddle.
B.A., Indiana University.

Harlina Churn-Diallo……Choreographer-Artistic Director. Founder and Director of Imani Dance Company. Winner of several regional awards.
B.S., University of Louisville.

Emelia Cowans……Make-up Artist, broadcast journalist, museum spokesperson.
B.A., Indiana University.

Francine Daniels……Actress, playwright, director, and producer.
M.A., Ohio State University; J.D., University of San Francisco.

Nehassaiu deGannes……Actress, playwright, poet, storyteller.
B.A., Temple University; MFA, Brown University.

Yaya DaCosta……Model-Actress. Appeared on the TV reality show “America’s Next Top Model,” winning second place, later picked to portray Whitney Houston in a biopic.
B.A., Brown University.

Andre De Shields……Actor, director, narrator, labor union activist, adjunct professor. Has appeared in a number of movies, television shows, and stage shows. He has won an Emmy and been nominated for a Tony Award. Has honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin.
M.A., New York University.
Charles Dumas……Actor, director, and theater professor at Penn State. Appeared in several popular Hollywood movies and is seen on such TV shows as “Law & Order.”
B.A., State University of New York-New Platz; J.D., Yale University.

Sonja Eddy……Actress who plays Epiphany Johnson on TV’s “General Hospital,” numerous other TV roles, also roles in the musicals “Into the Woods” and “South Pacific.”
B.A., University of California at Davis.

Annjanue Ellis……Actress (“Ray”, “Freedomland”, Undercover Brother”, et al.)
B.A., Brown University.

Christina Elmore……Actress (“Fruitvale Station,” The Last Ship”).
B.A., Harvard University; M.F.A., American Conservatory Theater.

Stacy Epps……Singer-Attorney. Hip hop and jazz singer. Entertainment attorney at Epps Harrell LLC.
B.A., University of Virginia. J.D., University of Southern California.

Jinho Ferreira……Playwright, actor, and police officer
B.A., San Francisco State University.

Angela M. Farr-Schiller……Theater Director, professor, dramaturg, and Director of Art Education at ArtsBridge Foundation for the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, in Atlanta.
M.A., New York University; Ph.D., Stanford University.

Pierce Freelon……Jazz/Hip Hop Historian, musician, band leader, Durham (N) city councilman, college professor, and journalist.
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.A., Syracuse University.

John Futrell (aka, Panama Soweto)……Spoken Word Artist, poet, emcee in Denver, Colorado.
B.A., Metropolitan State University.

Lafayette Gilchrist……Jazz Pianist. Has released four albums. Leads the band The New Volcanoes.
B.A., University of Maryland.

Ebony Grissett-Delgado……Dance School Owner (Chatham Dance Connection) in Pittsboro, North Carolina.
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

LeShawn D. Holcomb……Education/Teaching Artist at the Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY).
B.S., California State University at Fullerton.

C. J. Hunt……Comedian, middle school English teacher, founder of comedy theaters in New Orleans and Austin, Texas.
B.A., Brown University.

**Marsha Jackson-Randoph**…….Show Director at Walt Disney World.
B.A., Smith College (cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa).

**Jeremiah Jahi**…….Actor, director, screenwriter.
B.A., CUNY-Brooklyn College. B.S., CUNY-City College.

**Nathan James**…….Dramaturg at August Strindberg Repertory Theater, Actor/Poet/Playwright, First Place Winner of Amateur Night at the Apollo (2014).
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; MFA, Pennsylvania State University.

**Daniel Alexander Jones**…….Performance Artist, writer, and director.
B.A., Vassar College; M.A., Brown University.

**Donald W. King**…….Acting Director. Founder and Artistic/Executive Director of the Providence (RI) Black Repertory Company. Adjunct professor at Brown University.
B.A., Brown University.

**Yolanda King**…….Actress-Instructor. Daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. Taught theater at Fordham University and acted in stage productions across the country.
B.A., Smith College.

**Donald E. Lacy Jr**…….Actor, comedian, director, talk show host.
B.A., San Francisco State University.

B.A., UC-Berkeley; M.A., Yale School of Drama.

**Alphonso McAuley**…….Actor, appearing in movies TV and numerous commercials.
B.A., California State University at Fullerton.

**Agnes Ntow**…….TV and Radio Host-Producer in Ghana and former Miss Ghana USA.
B.A., Loyola University.

**Jeunita Weathersby Olowe**…….Professional Dancer, Choreographer, and Programs and Operations Manager at Contemporary Dance Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio.
B.A., University of Cincinnati.

**Pat Patterson**…….Miss Indiana 1971. Later known as the jazz recording artist Kellee Patterson.
B.A., Indiana University.
Michael Peace…….Christian Rap Artist with hit albums in the 1980s and 1990s, youth ministries director, president of Michael Peace and Associates.
B.A., SUNY-Brockport.

Issa Rae…….Actress, writer, producer.
B.A., Stanford University.

Brianna J. Robinson…….Opera Singer (soprano) with the Boston Lyric Opera.
B.A., Wesleyan University.

Amanda Seales…….Entertainer (actress, presenter, rapper, songwriter, comedian, author .
M.A., State University of New York at Purchase.

B.A., Yale University.

Drew Shoals…….Jazz Drummer. Award-winning drummer who has performed with top jazz artists. Composes for the Drew Shoa Collective (CD release in 2007).
B.A., Whitman College; J.D., University of Pennsylvania.

Jacob Slichter…….Grammy-nominated musician (drummer) and co-founder of the rock band “Semisonic”.
B.A., Harvard University.

Ebonie Smith…….Award-winning Audio engineer, music producer, singer-songwriter.
B.A., Barnard College.

Kenny Sultan…….Bestselling Author of blues guitar music books and instructional videos.
B.A., University of California at Amherst.

Myra Lucretia Taylor…….Actress in productions on Broadway, Off Broadway, and for awhile performed with Britain’s Royal Shakespeare Company.
B.A., Yale University.

Robin Thede…….Comedy Writer-Comedian, host of BET’s “The Rundown With Robin Thede.”
B.A., Northwestern University.

Ryan Hope Travis…….Artistic Director of the Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company, playwright, choreographer, and actor in regional theater. College instructor.
B.A., Fort Valley State University; M.A., Syracuse University; M.F.A., University of Florida.
Melissa Walker……Professional jazz and pop singer. Sang at Lincoln Center under the direction of Wynton Marsalis, the Berlin Jazz Festival, etc. Four CD albums to her credit. B.A., Brown University.

D.A. Wallach……Musician, former lead singer in “Chester French”; business investor. B.A., Harvard University.

Angela Watson……Dancer and choreographer (African specialty), storyteller. B.A., Howard University; Master’s degree in dance, Drexel University.

Visual & Decorative Arts


Lauren Tate Baeza……Curator of African Art at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. B.A., UCLA.

Brittany Ballard……Independent film producer, writer, curator, and Director of Programming for the Urbanworld Film Festival. B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara.


Rachel Bass……Award-winning filmmaker B.A., Amherst College. MFA, Chapman University

Regina Bell……Legendary R&B singer; winner of Grammy, MTV, and other awards. B.A., Rutgers University.

Jessica Bellamy……Motion infographic designer at GRIDS in Louisville, Kentucky. B.A., B.A. in drawing and B.F.A. in graphic design, all three degrees at University of Louisville.

Joi Bivins……Chief Curator at the International African American Museum in Charleston in South Carolina. B.A., University of Michigan; M.A., Cornell University.

Katherine Bowser……Art Director of Graphic Designer. B.A., Harvard University.

Rod Brown……Comic Book Artist and creator of Native Comics. B.A., Emory University; B.A., Art Institute of Atlanta.
Stanford W. Carpenter……..Comic Book Artist, anthropologist, professor. Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Institute of Comics Studies. B.A., Portland State University; Ph.D., Rice University.

Terence Carter……..Executive Vice President, Drama and Comedy Development, at Twentieth Century Fox Television. B.A., Harvard University (magna cum laude).

Tia Maria Dunkley……..Mixed Media Artist. M.A., Atlanta University.


Joy Fennell……..Fashion and Celebrity Makeup Artist. B.A., University of Maryland.

Erik Ford……..Digital Director at Heavy Heavy, a web and logo design firm in San Antonio, Texas. B.A., Wesleyan University.

Terri Gentry……..Interior Designer, owner of A Terrific Design. B.A., Metropolitan State University; MH, University of Colorado at Denver.

Joseph Geran Jr……..Sculptor, model-maker, jewelry designer and manufacturer. Also was Dean of Students at the Rhode Island School of Design. B.A., San Francisco State University.

Daisy Giles……..Portrait Painter, multimedia artist, creative consultant, writer. B.A., University of Minnesota.

Robert Henry Graham……..Artist-educator. His paintings have been displayed in more than 70 solo exhibits since 1968. He was Professor of Art at Virginia Tech. M.A., University of Wisconsin; M.F.A., University of Wisconsin.


Thelma Golden……..Art Museum Director. Director and Chief Curator at the Studio Museum in Harlem. She has contributed to books and articles on American art. B.A., Smith College.
Jean-Patrick Guichard……African Art Marketing Specialist, owner of Guichard Art Solutions.  
B.A., San Francisco State University.

Shawnya L. Harris……Curator at the Georgia Museum of Art.  
B.A., Yale University; M.A., Ph.D., University of North Carolina.

Brandon Hawkins……Visual Artist, muralist, teacher in Cincinnati, Ohio.  
B.A., University of Cincinnati.

Joanne Hyppolite……Curator at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.A., UCLA; Ph.D., University of Miami.

Eugenie J. Joo……Curator, Director of Art and Cultural Programs at Instituto Inhotim in Brumadinho, Brazil. Formerly contemporary art curator at the New Museum in New York City. Winner of the 2006 Walter Hopp Award for Curatorial Achievement.  
B.A., Vassar College; Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley.

B.A., Brown University.

Donald E. Lacy Jr……Comedian, actor, director, filmmaker in the Oakland Bay Area.  
B.A., San Francisco State University.

Dawit Lessanu……Chief Architect and Director Research and Innovation at Associated Press.  
B.A., Rutgers Univ.; B.S, in mechanical engineering, Rutgers Univ.; MBA, Univ. of Phoenix.

Newton Mayenge……Fashion Model-Actor in Los Angeles.  
B.A., University of North Carolina.

Aaron McGruder……Creator of the nationally syndicated comic strip “The Boondocks.”  
B.A., University of Maryland.

Katina Faye Mercadante……Documentary Filmmaker  
B.A., Amherst College.

Leigh Morfoot……Film Production Company Co-founder. Produced two films pertaining to media and law.  
B.A., University of Virginia.

Kelli Morgan……Independent Curator.  
Ph.D. and graduate certificate in public history–museum studies, University of Massachusetts.
Tchaiko Omawale…….Filmmaker, producer-director, screenwriter.
B.A., Columbia University.

Joel Plummer…….Sports Photographer, owner of Plummer Media & Entertainment, LLC.
B.A., Rutgers University.

Jared Richardson…….Humanities and Art Collecting Consultant.
M.A., Ph.D., Northwestern University.

Lauren Roedner…….Museum Curator/Collection Manager at U.S. Department of State.
B.A., Gettysburg College.

Ben Selkow…….Award-winning filmmaker (HBO, CNN, Weather Channel, Sundance Channel)
B.A., Wesleyan University (with honors).

Abdul Sharif…….Photographer, owner of Abdul Sharif Photography in Louisville, Kentucky.
B.S., University of Louisville.

Vanessa Broussard Simmons…….Supervisory Archivist at the National Museum of African American History in Washington, D.C.
B.A., University of Maryland; M.A., George Washington University.

Myshell C. Tabu…….Graphic Designer for the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs,
former owner of Myshell Tabu Designs, actress, dancer.
B.A., California State University at Dominguez Hills.

Hank Willis Thomas…….Conceptual Artist, photographer.

Joyce Treasure…….Artist in Birmingham, United Kingdom.
B.A., Birmingham City University.

John Trevino…….Los Angeles-based photographer.
B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara. MFA., Howard University.

B.A., UCLA.

Marco Williams…….Documentary Filmmaker.
M.A. and M.F.A., UCLA.

Yacob Williams…….Mural Artist. Paints in the Albany, New York neighborhood of Arbor Hill.
B.A., SUNY-New Platz.
Brandon Wilson……Filmmaker, screenwriter, and high school teacher.  
B.A., MFA, UCLA.

**Literature, Poetry, Drama**

Chimanmanda Ngozi Adiche……Novelist, finalist for the 2014 National Book Award for *Americanah* (Alfred Knopf).  
M.A., Yale University.

Joshua Bennett……Spoken Word Poet. He has performed at the White House, the Kennedy Center, Sundance Film Festival, NAACP Image Awards, etc.  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania (magna cum laude); M.A., University of Warwick.

Tiana Clark……Award-winning poet.  
B.A., Tennessee State University; MFA, Vanderbilt University.

M.A., UC-Berkeley.

L. Divine……Author of 15 popular novels, set in high school, aimed at black young adult (teenage) female readers.  
M.A., M.Ed, UCLA.

John G. Hall……Writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.  
B.A., University of Massachusetts at Boston; M.Ed., Converse College.

Katori Hall……Multiple award-winning playwright (“The Mountaintop,” “Hurt Village,” et al.)  
B.A., Columbia University; M.F.A., Harvard University.

Suzette Harrison……Romance Novelist.  
B.A., University of California-Santa Barbara.

Myesha Jenkins……Award-winning poet residing in Johannesburg, South Africa. Anti-apartheid activist and feminist.  
B.A., University of California at Riverside.

B.A., Harvard University.

Daniel Alexander Jones……Award-winning playwright, director, educator.
B.A., Vassar College; M.A., Brown University.

Devorah Major……In 2002 she officially became the third Poet Laureate of San Francisco. She is also a trained actress, dancer, novelist, instructor, and editor.
B.A., San Francisco State University.

Felicia Mason……..Author of 14 romance novels. Winner of Reviewer's Choice Award from Romantic Times and Affaire de Coeur Best Contemporary Ethnic Novel Award.
M.A., University of Maryland.

Ethelbert Miller……..Award-winning poet, editor, college administrator and founder of the D.C. Humanities Council.
B.A., Howard University.

M.A., Yale University, 1983.

Jill Nelson……..Novelist, freelance journalist and former staff writer at the Washington Post. Winner of the America Book Award for her memoir, Volunteer Slavery (1993). She is Professor of Journalism at the City College of New York.
B.A., City College of New York. M.A., Columbia School of Journalism.

Porsha Olayiwola……..Official Poet Laureate of Boston, Massachusetts; Artistic Director of MassLEAP.
B.A., University of Illinois.

Sandra Jackson-Opoku……..Poet-Novelist. Also award-winning educator and travel journalist.
B.A., University of Massachusetts.

Christine Platt (a.k.a. CJ Patrick)……..Fiction-Fantasy Novelist, social activist.
B.A., University of South Florida; M.A., Ohio State University; J.D., Stetson University.

Irene Smalls……..Award-winning author of 17 children’s books.
B.A., Cornell University.

Natasha Tarpley……..Award-winning author of books for children and adults.
B.A., Harvard University.

R. Kayeen Thomas……..Novelist, hip hop journalist and poet in Washington, D.C.
B.A., Carleton College.

Veona Thomas……..Playwright, Executive Director of REJOTI Traveling Theatre Productions.
B.A., Lehman College.


Angela “Sadio” Watson…….Dancer (African specialty), choreographer, storyteller; former Fulbright Scholar. B.A., Howard University; Master’s degree in dance/movement therapy, Drexel University.

Sports

Patsy Armstrong…….Assistant Athletic Director/Operations (Women’s Basketball) and former college football recruiter at Oklahoma State University. B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara; M.A., San Diego State University.

Christopher Asher…….Director of Track and Field at California State University at Los Angeles, assistant coach track coach at UCLA. B.A., California State University at Northridge.

Renee Bostic…….Athletic Director at Medgar Evers College. Formerly women’s basketball head coach at West Virginia State University. B.A., College of the Holy Cross.

Ronnie Bowman…….Athletic Director for Jefferson County Public Schools (Kentucky). B.S., M.S., M.Ed., University of Louisville.

Shannon Boxx…….Olympic gold medalist, women’s pro soccer star. B.A., University of Notre Dame.

Andre L. Brent…….Swimming Coach/Aquatic Director. B.A., California State University-Northridge.

Coretta Brown…….Women’s Basketball Head Coach at Thomas University. B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wiley Brown…….Head Basketball Coach at Indiana University-Southeast. B.A., University of Louisville.

Vince Carter…….Pro Basketball Superstar currently with the Memphis Grizzlies, formerly with the Toronto Raptors, Orlando Magic, Phoenix Suns, Dallas Mavericks, and New Jersey Nets.
B.A., University of North Carolina.

Andre Chevalier……Boys Basketball Head Coach at Sierra Canyon High School (CA).
B.A., M.Ed., California State University at Northridge.

Lewis Chitengwa……Professional Golfer who, in 1993 became the first black African (Zimbabwean) to win the South African Amateur Championship. The Lewis Chitengwa Foundation and the $100,000 Canadian Golf Tour’s Lewis Chitengwa Memorial Championship was established in his honor after his untimely death at age 26 in 2001.
B.A., University of Virginia.

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M.A., Governor’s State University.

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B.A., Syracuse University.

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B.A., University of North Carolina.

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Howard Moore……..Head Basketball Coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
B.A., University of Wisconsin.

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B.A., University of Wisconsin.

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Gold medalist in the 2014 World Championship.
B.A., Duke University.

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B.A., University of California-Berkeley; Ph.D., UCLA.

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Kim Melton…….Communications director Stand For Children Oregon in the Portland, Oregon. For seven years was education and politics reporter for *The Oregonian,* the area’s premier newspaper.
B.A., Stanford University. M.A. in journalism, University of California at Berkeley.

Terrass Misher…….TV Host and Producer of “The Savannah Business Showcase”.
B.A., University of North Carolina.

Yvette Moyo…….Publisher of *South Shore Current Magazine* (Chicago).
B.A., Eastern Illinois University.

M.A., Temple University.
**Patrice Peck**…….MSNBC Columnist.
B.A., Amherst College; M.A., New York University.

**Carron J. Phillips**…….Columnist at the *New York Daily News*.

**Sarah Rosenthal**…….Assistant Editor at Oxford University Press.
B.A., Brown University.

**Soko V. Sacko**…….Managing Editor of the *Observer National Magazine* (Nigeria).
B.A., Ohio State University.

**Bakari T. Sellers**…….Political Commentator, attorney, politician.
B.A., Morehouse College; J.D. University of South Carolina.

**Pearl Stewart**…….Professor and founder of Black College Wire. In 1992 she became the first black female to become editor of a major daily newspaper, the *Oakland Tribune*.
B.A., Howard University.

**Claire Sulmers**…….Fashion Journalist (blogger of FashionBombDaily), book author.
B.A., Harvard University.

**David Van Taylor**…….Vice President of Lumiere Production Inc. Has written, directed, and edited highly acclaimed documentary films including the 1993 Emmy-nominated “Dream Deceivers.”
B.A., Harvard University.

**Jose Antonio Vargas**…….Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, immigration reform and gay rights advocate, founder of the nonprofit Define America.
B.A., San Francisco State University.

**Hassan Wahab**…….Managing Editor of *Africa Today*, a leading journal on contemporary Africa.
M.A., University of Indiana.

B.A., Fordham University.

**Brantley Watson**…….Sports writer for the *Long Beach Register* and sports editor for three Orange County, California newspapers (*Huntington Beach Wave, The Current*, and *Fountain Valley View*).
Japhet Week……Senior Producer at Al Jazeera Media Network. Former editor and freelance writer working in Shanghai, China.
B.A., Brown University.

Bill Whitaker……CBS News Correspondent based in Los Angeles.
M.A., Boston University.

Eboni K. Williams……Attorney and TV host.
B.A., University of North Carolina; J.D., Loyola University.

Lloyd Kam Williams……Syndicated Film and Book Critic.
M.A., Brown University, MBA, University of Pennsylvania, J.D., Boston University.

Social & Community Services

Khafre K. Abif……Founder and Executive Director of Cycle for Freedom, a nonprofit helping people to fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in African American and Latino communities.

Melanie A. Adams……Managing Director of the Missouri History Museum responsible for community education and events.
B.A., University of Virginia; M.Ed., University of Vermont.

Margaret Q. Atkins……Director of NJ-Step, providing higher educational opportunities for prison inmates in New Jersey.
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.S. in criminal justice policy at Rutgers University.

Van Bailey……Director of the LGBTQ Student Center at the University of Miami
B.A., Denison University; Ed.D., California State University at Northridge.

Genny Beemyn……Director at the Stonewall Center (LGBTQ) at University of Massachusetts.
B.A., Cornell University; M.S., University of Rochester; Ph.D., University of Iowa.

George M. Bell……Area Director for South Bay/Long Beach of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.
B.A., California State University-Dominguez Hills; D.Min., Cal Pacific Sch. of Theological Studies.

Chernell Bizzell……Counselor at Free2BeSafe in Birmingham, Alabama.
B.A., University of Alabama-Birmingham; M.S., University of Montevallo.
Peter Bouckaert……Emergency Director for Human Rights Watch investigating human rights abuses around the globe.
B.A., University of California-Santa Barbara; J.D., Stanford University.

Atiim B. Boykin……Marriage and Family Therapist at the Felton Institute.
B.A., California State University at Northridge; M.S., San Francisco State University.

Markese Bryant……Environmentalist, founder of Fight for Light in Oakland, California.
B.A., Morehouse College.

Kristerfer Burnett……Community Organizer for SEIU (Service Employees International Union in Baltimore, Maryland.
B.A., University of Maryland.

Camila Camaleón……President of the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center.
B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara.

Anna Castro……Communication Strategist, San Diego County American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).
B.A., Amherst College.

Rosa Clemente……Social Activist; V.P. candidate for Green Party in 2008 U.S. Presidential Election.
B.A., University of Albany; M.A., Cornell University.

Christine Colouro……Founder and Chair of the board of Building Hope For Africa (BHA).
B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara.

Monique Cook-Bey……Chief Program Officer with Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.

Devon Countee……Field Manager/Community Organizer for Working America.
B.A., William Paterson University.

Asa Craig……Policy Analyst for the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.
B.A., Cornell University.

James Crowder……Program Officer at Philadelphia LISC, a community development organization.
M.A., Columbia University.

Malika Z. Crutchfield……Case Manager for La Raza Community Resource Center in the San Francisco Bay Area.
M.A., University of California at Berkeley.
Nikole Dangerfield-Hastings…….Center Operations Manager at USO, Okinawa, Japan.  
B.A., Howard University; M.A., Johns Hopkins University.

Maria Dautruche…….Vice President in the Partnerships and Advancement Office  
(fundraising) at the National Urban League.  
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.A., Pratt Institute.

Morgan Davison…….Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of United States Africa Sports  
and Education Foundation.  
B.A., San Francisco State University.

Maria Smith Dautruche…….Fundraiser/Strategist; Vice President, Partnerships &  
Advancement, National Urban League.  
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.P.S., Pratt Institute.

Wendy Day…….Founder and CEO of Rap Coalition, a nonprofit organization devoted to  
brokering fair deals for rap and hip hop artists.  
M.A., Temple University; MBA, McGill University.

Drakirah Diechert…….Foster Care Family Worker at EVOLVE Adoption & Family Services.  
B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara; M.A., Northwestern University.

Christopher Dobyns…….Rhodes Scholar (Cornell University).  
B.A., Cornell University.

Vickie Donaldson…….Director of Social Services/Homeless Programs in Newark, New Jersey.  
B.A., J.D., Rutgers University.

Jonah M. Edelman…….CEO and co-founder of Stand for Children, an education reform group.  
Son of Marian Wright Edelman of the Children’s Defense Fund, he graduated summa cum laude and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.  
B.A., Yale University; Ph.D. in Politics, Oxford University.

Derrick C. Evans…….Community Activist and professor. Founder and Executive Director of  
the Turkey Creek (Mississippi) Community Initiative formed after Hurricane Katrina. Teaches part-time at Boston College.  
B.A., MAT, Boston College.

Shaena Fazal…….National Policy Director for Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.  
B.A., Miami University; J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Frieda Ferrick…….Grief and Loss Counselor in California.  
B.A., Sonoma State University; M.A., University of San Francisco.

Hope Denese Freeman…….Director of LGBT Center at Tufts University.  
B.A., Smith College; M.S., Simmons College.
Francesca P. Gamber…….Assistant to the Executive Director of the Greater Homewood Community Corporation in Baltimore, Maryland. B.A., Harvard University; Ph.D. in history, Southern Illinois University.

Monique George…….Executive Director of Picture the Homeless (PTH) in New York City. B.A., SUNY-New Paltz. MPA, Metropolitan College.

Anika Goss…….Executive Director of the Detroit Future City (DFC) Implementation Office. B.A., Purdue University. M.S.W., University of Michigan.

Viki Harrison…….Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico. B.A., University of New Mexico.

Calvin Holmes…….President of the Chicago Community Loan Fund. B.A., Northwestern University.


Antoinette M. Jackson…….Habitat for Humanity Board Chairperson (Houston). Also attorney in the firm of Jones Walker focusing on real estate transactions. B.A., University of Virginia; J.D., Texas Southern University.

Eugene Jackson…….Team Member of the Reentry Network for Returning Citizens in East and Central Country (Contra Costa County, CA). Ordained minister. Spent 14 years in prison ministry. B.A., University of California at Berkeley.

Jacqueline Jackson…….2011 Social Worker of the Year (picked by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). B.A., MSW, Rutgers University.

Denalerie J. Johnson-Faniel…….President and CEO of Urban League of Morris County (NJ). B.A., Howard University; Ph.D., Capella University.

Raphael G. Johnson…….Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, specializing in Depressive Disorders. B.A., UC-Riverside; MSW, U. of So. Cal.; Ph.D., Cambridge Graduate School of Psychology.

Katherine Kennedy…….Was Executive Director of the San Francisco office of the Summer Search Foundation which identifies at-risk youth and shows them a way to a better future. B.A., University of Pennsylvania.
Brian J. Kreiter…….Co-Founder of the National Student Partnership. Winner of the Samuel S. Beard Award for Greatest Public Service by an Individual 35 or Under. B.A., Yale University; MBA, Harvard University.

Portia Allen-Kyle…….Member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Resource Institute which supports social services for the poor, disabled, and the addicted in New York City. B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Columbia University.

Justin D. Laing…….Senior Program Officer at The Heinz Endowment in Pittsburgh, PA. B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.A., Carnegie Mellon University.

Khary Lazarre-White…….Executive Director & Co-Founder at The Brotherhood/Sister Sol in New York City (Harlem). B.A., Brown University; J.D., Yale University.

Maureen E. Lee…….Executive Director of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. M.A., Ph.D., Clark Atlanta University.

Chelsi Lewis…….Case Manager at Salvation Army. B.A., Howard University.

Stevon Lewis…….Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Los Angeles County. B.A., California State University at Fullerton; M.S., Cal State-Long Beach.

Allen Lipscomb…….Licensed Social Worker and adjunct college faculty member. B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara; M.S.W., University of Southern California.

Stacey Long Simmons…….Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. B.A., Vassar College; J.D., University of Wisconsin.

Wekesa Madzimoyo…….Community Activist and organizer in Atlanta, co-director of the Aya Educational Institute, founder of Justice@Home combating homeowner scams and wealth transfer, and head of Uhuru Esusu, a home buying collective. B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Karena Malko…….Coordinator for the Hudson County (New Jersey) Coalition for Drug-Free Communities. B.A., Columbia University.

Ashindi Maxton…….Director of Research and Special Projects for Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (ALIPAC). B.A., Vassar College; MPP, University of California at Berkeley.
Bil Mooney-McCoy…….Director of Safe Families for TechMission. Also professional musician.

Alysha McElroy…….Private Wealth Management Analyst at Goldman Sachs.
B.A., Williams College.

Todd S. McFadden…….President of the Association of Black Culture Centers. College administrator.
B.A., Oberlin College; M.Ed., West Virginia University.

Michael P. McMillan…….President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.
B.A., St. Louis University.

Emily M. Mediate…….Rhodes Scholar (2015), Director of Presidential Affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.
B.A., University of Notre Dame; M.A., MPP, Oxford University.

Sonja Okun…….Founder of exalt, a juvenile crime prevention agency in Brooklyn, NY.
B.S., MBA, Harvard University.

Jimi Orange…….Director of Youth Development at the Chicago Urban League.
B.A., University of Iowa; MPA, Governors State University.

Eshawn Peterson…….CEO of Onward Hope concerned with foster care, and CEO of Peterson and Associates, Consulting and Training.
B.A., University of Arizona; MBA, University of Phoenix; Ph.D., Capella University.

Sanetta Ponton…….Managing Director of Academic Programs at Legal Outreach (New York). Homeless Advocate. Was Executive Director of SonRise House.
B.A., Columbia University.

Erica Prosser…….Co-Founder of Philanthropy Playmakers in Chicago.
B.A., Lehigh University.

Wendy D. Puriefoy…….President of the Public Education Network, the nation's largest network of community-based school-reform organizations.
M.A., Boston University.

Lincoln Restler…….Managing Director of the New York Employment and Training Coalition, 50th State Assembly District Committeeman.
B.A., Brown University.
Ilenna Robbins……..Director of the Mental Health Advocacy Project, Lawyers for Children (New York); social worker.
B.A., Vassar College; M.S.W., Hunter College.

Cory J. Rodgers……..Rhodes Scholar (2012), adviser to Americans for Informed Democracy.
B.A., University of Pittsburgh.

Pier Rogers……..Director of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management.

Otis Rolley……..Senior Vice President at the Rockefeller Foundation.
B.A., Rutgers University; MCP, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sam Sachs……..Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Portland, Oregon, diversity instructor.
B.A., Portland State University.

Zulayka Santiago……..Executive Director of El Pueblo, a Latino advocacy organization in North Carolina. Currently an independent social entrepreneur.
B.A., Barnard College.

Wendy Sawyer……..Research Director at Prison Policy Initiative.
B.A., University of Massachusetts.

Jennifer A. Scott……..Director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago, preserving the progressive social legacy of Jane Addams.
M.A., UCLA., M.A., University of Michigan.

Nikki Silvestri……..Environmentalist, President of Green For All.
M.A., University of California at Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Siwo-Okundi……..Founder of Orphan Wisdom Inc., a non-profit organization that assists orphans in Kenya.
B.A., Denison University, M.T., Harvard Divinity School.

Jaryd Spann……..Business Coordinator for Moveable Feast, providing meals to Maryland’s poor.
B.A. and M.A. both in Afro-American Studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jacci Thompson-Dodd……..Founder and Chief Executive of WeSpeakLoudly, a women’s health education and advocacy group in Seattle, Washington.
M.A., Boston University.

Josephine Tucker……..Director of New York Urban League’s Staten Island chapter.
B.A., State University of New York-New Paltz.
David Walker……Executive Director of the Morristown Neighborhood House. Teaches program evaluation at Columbia University’s School of Social Work. B.A., Stanford University; J.D., Georgetown U. M.S.W., Columbia University.

Jason Walker……HIV/AIDS Community organizer and housing coordinator for VOCAL-NY. B.S., University of Louisville.

Jason Warwin……Co-founder and co-director of Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sol which counsels and teaches black and Latino adolescents in New York City. B.A., Brown University.

David Weiner……Union Leader, president of CWA Local 1081 (Greater New York City). B.S., Seton Hall University.

Tinnycua Williams……Director of Programs at Homes for the Homeless (New York City). B.A., Colgate University.

Heidi Williamson……Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for American Progress. B.A., Georgia State University.


Religion


Sandras Barnes……Director of Seminarians, at City Mission in Boston, Massachusetts. B.A., University of Massachusetts-Boston; Master’s and Ph.D. at Lesley College.

Alise D. Barrymore……Co-Founder and Lead Pastor of The Emmaus Community a non-denominational Christian faith community. Was Dean of University Ministries and Campus Pastor at North Park University in Chicago. Winner of academic and preaching awards. B.A., Yale U.; M.Div., McCormick Theological Seminary.


Gloria D. Bowden…… Director and Episcopal Chaplain of Absalom Jones Student Center and Chapel at the Atlanta University Center. B.A., Emory University; M.Div., General Theological Seminary.

Joseph A. Brown…….Catholic Priest. Poet and author of books on religion who teaches at Southern Illinois University. M.A., Yale University; Ph.D., Yale University.

Lina Cabrera…….Arts Teacher at Al Akhawayn School of Ifrane in Morocco, Africa. B.A., City College of New York.

Chad Collins…….Pastor of Valley View Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.Div., Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

France Davis…….Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. A.A., Merritt College; B.A., University of California at Berkeley; B.S., Westminster College; M.A., Univ. of Utah; M.M, Northwest Nazarene College.

Celia Exposito-Noy…….President of Solano Community College in California. B.A., San Francisco State University; M.S., Stanford University; Ph.D., Mills College.

Ilana R. Foss…….Jewish Rabbi at Temple Beth Emunah in Brockton, Massachusetts. B.A., Amherst College.

James M. Hairston…….Episcopal Priest, campus minister at Boston College. B.A., Boston College; D.Min., Nashotah House.

Charley Hames Jr…….Senior Pastor Beebe Memorial Cathedral in Oakland, California. B.A., Chicago State University; D.Min., Southern Methodist University.

Suhail Hasan…….Muslim Chaplain and Director of the Los Angeles Khalil Center. B.A., California State Univ.-Northridge; M.S., UCLA; B., Al-Azhar University (Egypt).

Janelle Hooper…….Lutheran Pastor. Pastor of St. Martin Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. B.A., University of Texas-Austin; M.Div., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.


Wilma J. Johnson…….Executive Director of Greater Love Inc., Christian Educational Institute. B.A., San Jose State University.

Shaykh Suhail H. Mulla……Resident Scholar at the Islamic Center of Orange County (California).
B.A., California State University at Northridge.

B.A., Denison University; M.Div., Boston University.

Sanetta Ponton……Pastor of Justice, Advocacy and Compassion at Metro Community Church and Director of Metro Community Center in Englewood, New Jersey.
B.A., Columbia University; J.D., Harvard University; M.Div., Duke Divinity School.

Alice C. Price……Executive Pastor at Central Baptist Church in St. Louis.
B.A., Carlton College; Ph.D. in American studies at St. Louis University.

Danny Pyon……Ministry consultant. Youth group pastor at the First Korean Church of New Jersey. Founder of the nonprofit OURS, Inc.
B.A., Brandeis University; D.Min., Westminster Theological Seminary.

Angela M. Redman……Pastor of New Rochelle United Methodist Church in New York.
B.A., Lehman College; J.D., CUNY; M.Div., New York Theological Seminary.

Frank M. Reid III……Senior Pastor of Bethel AME Church in Baltimore. Prolific author, heard or radio and seen on television, and founder of Frank M. Reid Ministries.
B.A., Yale University; D.Min., United Theological Seminary.

W. Franklyn Richardson……Senior Pastor of the 4000-member Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York. Chairman of the Board of National Action Network.
M.Div., Yale U.; D.Min., United Theological Seminary.

Paul T. Roberts Sr……President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.
B.A., Princeton University; M.Div., Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

Stephen P. Samuel……Pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Gainesville, Georgia.
B.A., Morehouse College; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary.

Cheryl J. Sanders……Professor of Christian Ethics at Howard University. Senior Pastor of Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C.
B.A., Swarthmore College; D.D., Harvard University.

B.A., Denison University; D.D., Union Theological Seminary.
Martin de Porres Smith…….Roman Catholic missionary, former campus minister at Morgan State University.  
B.A., Xavier University; M.S.W., Loyola University.

Kishauna Solijour…….Historian, 2020 winner of the prestigious Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in Humanities and Fine Arts.  
B.A., M.A., MPhil., Ph.D., Syracuse University.

Lakeya Stewart…….Director of Spirituality/Chaplin at Signature Healthcare in Bluffton, Indiana.  

Alesha Thomas…….Outreach Coordinator at Old First United Church of Christ in Philadelphia.  
B.A., Temple University.

B.A., University of Maryland; J.D., Georgetown University.

Conrad Tillard…….Senior Pastor of Nazarene Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York.  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania.

Richard Toliver…….Rector of St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church in Chicago, former Peace Corps administrator and university professor. Profiled in *Ebony* and *Business Week*.  
M.A., Boston University; Ph.D., Howard University.

Travell Travis…….President of National Youth for Christ (The Way of the Cross Church).  
B.A., University of Virginia (double major, history and AAS); J.D., Howard University.

**Military**

Germaine Calvin-John…….Air Force Unit Training/Deployment Manager in Elkridge, MD.  
B.A., University of Tennessee.

Larry Carmon…….Marine. Deputy Provost Marshal, MCAS, Cherry Point, North Carolina.  
B.A., Indiana University.

Raquel Davila…….Marine Corps Lieutenant in Quantico, Virginia.  
B.A., University of Buffalo.
Charise Fogle……Navy 1st Lieutenant Surface Warfare Officer.
B.A., Savannah State University.

Kendall James……Naval Engineering Repair Officer in Norfolk, Virginia.
B.A., University of South Carolina; MBA, Regent University.

Kaleem Johnson-Bey……Military Policeman, District of Columbia National Guard.
B.A., University of Delaware.

James J. Miller……Air Force Master Sergeant; AFJROTC aerospace instructor.
B.A., SUNY-Brockport.

Kenneth J. Nixon……Command Master Chief Petty Officer, Navy Recruiting District.
B.A., University of South Carolina; M.A., American Military University.

Danielle Salley……Army 1st Lieutenant, basketball athlete.
B.A., University of Wisconsin.

Michael Sawyer……Navy cryptographer and university professor.
Ph.D. in Africana Studies, Brown University. B.S. in political science, U.S. Naval Academy.

B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Neil Williams……Captain, United States Air Force.
B.A., University of Northern Colorado.

Miscellaneous

Penny Babb……President of the board of directors of Soroptimist International (160,000 members), former Maricopa County sheriff.
B.A., Eastern Illinois University.

Abena Bediako……Crisis Intervention Team Clinician at Durham, NC Police Department.
B.A., College of William and Mary; MSW, Howard University.

Liam Daniels……Fashion model with Next Management.
B.A., Howard University.

Alecia Deon……Freelance copywriter in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
B.A., University of South Florida.
Mukaji Diazabakana……Grower at the Food Project in Lincoln, Massachusetts.
B.A., Temple University.

Patti Freeland……Assessment Specialist at Education Testing Service (ETS).
B.A., Univ. of Wisconsin; M.S., University of Pennsylvania; M.A., University of Rhode Island.

Jeri Green……U.S. Census Bureau advisor and National Urban League consultant.
B.A., University of Maryland; M.A., Washington University.

Kate Kapstad……Speech & Learning Pathologist in Massachusetts.
B.A., University of Massachusetts; M.S., Columbia University.

Baba Ifa Karade……Author of several books on Yoruba/Ifa culture.
B.A., Rutgers University.

Genet Lakew……Digital Content Manager at National Urban League; Philanthropist, founder of the Mekonnen Family Scholarship.
B.A., Howard University, M.A., New York University. (both degree in Africana Studies)

Olivia Lopes……Yoga and meditation instructor.
B.A., Scripps College.

Van McKellar……Machinist in Denver, Colorado.
B.A., Metropolitan State University.

Sedinam Moyowasifsa-Curry……Director/Project Manager, Gyimah Institute of Viticulture & Enology Research and 2016 Green Party Candidate for President of the United States.
B.A., B.S., California State University at Long Beach.

Hannah Murray……Forestry Specialist at Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.
B.A., Harvard University; Master’s degree in forestry science, Yale University.

Taylor Parsons……Sommelier at République Restaurant in Los Angeles.
B.A., Brown University.

Charon D’Aiello Sandoval……Member of the Board of the Italian American Museum of Lao Angeles; former Affirmative Action Officer at California State University at Los Angeles.
M.A., California State University at Los Angeles.

B.A., Howard University.

LaTress Snead……Chief Program Officer for the National Parks Foundation.
B.A., San Francisco State University; MPA, Georgia State University.
Anna Swanson……Gardener-Enviromentalist, Common Ground Country Fair Coordinator. B.A., College of William and Mary.