



8TH ANNUAL
HBCU
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE



YEARS IS ENOUGH!

APRIL 13 - 16. 2022 | MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS



**DEEPSOUTH
CENTER FOR**
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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Welcome

Greetings from Our Founder



April 13, 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

There is no greater challenge to our future, than the impacts of climate change. African Americans, other people of color, and the poor are most vulnerable to climate change. For many, this vulnerability is compounded by the injustice of racially disproportionate pollution burdens and health disparities. Therefore, their involvement in mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts is critical. However, after years of attending international summits on climate change, I found the presence of African American youth and college students to be quite limited. I have resolved to change this dynamic.

Creating an opportunity for African American youth and students to learn about climate change has driven me, along with Dr. Robert Bullard of Texas Southern University, to organize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Climate Change Consortium. Through this consortium, we launched the 1st Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference in April 2013. The goal we set for this inaugural conference, which remains to this day, is to bridge the gap between climate change theory and experience.

This year's conference theme, "Fifty Years is Enough" speaks to the urgency of a response to climate change and environmental justice communities that is both sustainable and just. It has become abundantly clear that Justice, Democracy and Climate Change go hand in hand. We are unable to meet the challenges of right now and the future without a democratic system that includes the voice of all people in a manner that results in community-driven solutions to our problem. It is the lack of value that exists for only certain people in society that breeds injustice. Together, non-democratic decision-making that leads to cruel injustices has produced climate change impact that put us all in peril. Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and fires are upon us in durations and intensities we never believed possible. Indeed, the earth is becoming a hostile environment for humans.

And so, when we look back 50 years to the enactment of the Clean Air Act and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970 and the enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972, what we see is the failure of regulatory system whose legacy is one of sickness and death resulting from chemical exposure and a landscape filled with mostly people of color communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollution across the country.

It is time for transformative change that is only possible by dismantling the vestiges of structural racism that has facilitated the pollution of environmental laws and regulations that perpetuate unequal protection of environmental justice communities.

This year, the conference will focus on the state of the climate and the condition of environmental justice and climate impacted communities and their health, but will also be forward-looking with emphasis on solutions that are community-driven; government programs that support justice and community resilience, and transitioning to a just, sustainable and renewable economy. Last but not least, we will focus on building wealth through workforce development and "Black and Green" entrepreneurship.

The upcoming lineup of conference events you will experience over the next few days is a amazing and we are excited to come together in person, after two years of a COVID-19 forced sabbatical, as safely as possible. The support for the conference this year from the federal, academic and the environmental communities has been overwhelming. We thank all of you for your support, and most importantly, our HBCU and other students, who are our future, thank you as well.

Sincerely,

Beverly L. Wright, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Welcome

Greetings from the Father of Environmental Justice



BARBARA JORDAN-HICKEY LELAND
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING &
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
OFFICE: 713-313-6640; FAX: 713-313-1981

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 CLEBURNE STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

713-313-7011

April 13, 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I bring you welcome and greetings from the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice Texas Southern University and our HBCU Climate Change Consortium. A lot has happened since we held our last in-person Conference in 2019 pre-COVID-19. We are back! And we are excited about convening the Eighth Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference in New Orleans this year with the theme “**Fifty Year is Enough!**”.

I have worked on environmental, health, housing, transportation, jobs and economic development, land use planning, regional equity, sustainability, disaster response, community resilience and climate and racial justice for more than four decades—long before the vast majority of our conference attendees were born. We don’t have four decades to get it right. The climate crisis is an existential threat to humanity. That’s why we must act with the urgency of now—and act as if our lives depended on it—because it does.

Our HBCUs, researchers, centers, community based organizations and environmental allies helped uncover and build the voluminous body of knowledge documenting the harmful and disproportionate impact of environmental burden borne by people of color and poor people. The climate crisis will hit every region of the country. However, the South—the poorest region of the country and where a disproportionate share of HBCUs are located and where more 55 percent of Black Americans live—is especially vulnerable to the climate crisis.

HBCUs must step up in training the new leaders and support a diverse intergenerational Environmental and Climate Justice Movement with equity and racial justice at its core.

We thank you for joining us this year and encourage you take action. We are the change.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Bullard
Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning
and Environmental Policy
Director of the Bullard Center

Drs. Beverly Wright and Robert Bullard founded the **HBCU Climate Change Consortium** in 2011 with **2 main goals**:

- 1. To help raise awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable and marginalized communities**
- 2. To develop HBCU students as leaders and advocates for environmental justice**

The Consortium sponsors activities that provide opportunities for HBCU students to learn about climate change science, policy and advocacy and to present their research projects on topics relative to climate change issues.

The **Annual HBCU Student Climate Change Conference**, sponsored by the Consortium since its inception, is designed to educate and train students, empower communities and build the capacity of HBCUs to work within their communities.

The Consortium has also participated in strategy sessions for the implementation of state clean power plans and worked to mobilize teams from HBCUs and EJ communities to work on stakeholder state's clean power plans.

More recently, efforts have been focused on air quality and flooding in Louisiana and Texas. Working diligently with community partners to build their capacity to advocate, plan, organize and mobilize around economic, environmental and climate justice, the Consortium has made significant progress in addressing these issues.

Over the years since the inception of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium, **33 HBCUs** have participated in the initiatives and activities which the Consortium has undertaken. Our reach continues to grow to other institutions of higher learning, noting the promise and effectiveness of our students, community leaders and residents who are educated and trained to work within neighborhoods, cities, states and regions to find viable, equitable solutions for addressing the devastating impacts of climate change.



Participating Institutions

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Alcorn State University
- Arkansas Baptist College
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Claflin University
- Dillard University
- Fisk University
- Florida A & M University
- Grambling State University
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Huston- Tillotson University
- Jackson State University
- Lincoln University
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Morehouse College
- Morgan State University
- North Carolina A & T University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- Paul Quinn College
- Prairie View A&M University
- Savannah State University
- South Carolina State University
- Southern A&M University Baton Rouge
- Spelman College
- Tennessee State University
- Texas Southern University
- Tougaloo College
- Tuskegee University
- Virginia State University
- Xavier University of Louisiana

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Daniel Blackman was appointed as the Regional Administrator for EPA’s Southeast Region (Region 4) on November 29, 2021. In this role Daniel is leading EPA efforts to protect public health and the environment for the region spanning Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee Daniel has dedicated his career to creating economic opportunities for marginalized communities throughout the South.



Daniel has spent over a decade advising policymakers at the state capitol, and advocating on behalf of Georgia ratepayers and small businesses in energy-related matters before Georgia’s Public Service Commission. He has served as chairman of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club and board member to the ACLU. During the Obama Administration, Daniel worked closely within EPA Region 4 on issues including water infrastructure, clean air, and land/emergency management policies that impacted the southeast. He leaned heavily on his civil rights background to amplify the Region’s Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy and convened stakeholders with federal agencies to address a multitude of community concerns strategically and comprehensively.

His work in addressing groundwater contamination at nuclear plants and its impact on public health and safety has given him the opportunity to testify numerous times before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and his commitment to working throughout the Southeastern United States to push for legislation that addresses toxic ash left behind from burning coal has given him the opportunity to play a key role in the transitioning from coal to clean energy in the United States.

He is the son of immigrants from Barbados and is an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University. Daniel and his wife Jeanelle are the proud parents of four children, and the family resides in Forsyth County, Georgia.

Dr. Robert D. Bullard Dr. Robert D. Bullard is often described as the father of environmental justice. He is the former Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University 2011-2016. Dr. Bullard is a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning & Environmental Policy and Director of the Texas Southern University Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice. Before joining TSU, he founded the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University and is an



award-winning author of eighteen books addressing sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, and community resilience, smart growth, and regional equity.

One of his many books, *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* (Westview Press, 2000), is a standard text in the environmental justice field. He is co-author of *In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster and Race After Katrina* and *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007*. His latest books include *Race, Place and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina* (Westview Press, 2009), *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States* (American Public Health Association Press, 2011), and *The Wrong Complexion for Protection* (New York University Press, 2012).

In 2013, he was honored with the Sierra Club John Muir Award, the first African American to win the award. In 2014, the Sierra Club named its new Environmental Justice Award after Dr. Bullard. In 2015, the Iowa State University Alumni Association named him its Alumni Merit Award recipient, an award also given to George Washington Carver (1894 ISU alum) in 1937. In 2017, the Children Environmental Health Network presented him with the Child Health Advocate Award. He is co-founder of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. Dr. Bullard is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Robin Morris Collin was appointed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be EPA's Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice. Collin advises Administrator Regan as the Agency works to advance environmental justice and civil rights in communities that continue to suffer from disproportionately high pollution levels, including low-income communities and communities of color.



Collin is nationally recognized for her leadership and scholarship in the areas of sustainability, energy, and environmental justice, and joined the Agency after serving as the Norma Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University in Oregon. Collin was one of the first U.S. law professors to teach sustainability courses in a U.S. law school and served as founding chair of the State of Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force, among other positions on local, state, and federal environmental justice organizations.

Prior to her time at Willamette University, Collin held professorships at Tulane Law School, McGeorge School of Law, and the University of Oregon, and visitorships at Washington & Lee Law School, and Pepperdine Law School. Her work on environmental justice has been published in numerous academic journals. Throughout her career, Collin has been recognized for creative and

entrepreneurial leadership and her ability to develop equitable solutions, receiving the EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award, the Leadership Award by Oregon State Bar as founder of the Sustainable Futures section of the Bar, the Judith Ramaley Award for Civic Engagement, and the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Calvin Mackie is an award-winning mentor, inventor, author, former engineering professor, internationally renowned speaker, and successful entrepreneur. In 2013, Dr. Mackie founded STEM NOLA, a non-profit organization created to expose, inspire, and engage communities in the opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



STEM NOLA has engaged over 70,000 K-12 students in hands-on project-based STEM activities. In 2021, he launched STEM Global Action to advance K-12 Stem education across the U.S. and world.

A lifelong resident of New Orleans, Dr. Mackie graduated from high school with low test scores requiring him to take special remedial classes at Morehouse College. In 1990, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Morehouse College with a B.S. degree, as a member of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. Simultaneously, he was awarded a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech, where he subsequently earned his master's and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1996.

While pursuing a doctorate degree, Dr. Mackie served as an instructor of mathematics at Morehouse College. Following graduation, he joined the faculty at Tulane University, where in 2002, he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure until June 2007, when Tulane University disbanded the engineering school in response to financial hardship induced by Hurricane Katrina. Mackie has also served as a visiting professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan. He enjoyed a respected academic career, before pivoting towards entrepreneurship, consulting, and professional speaking.

Mackie is the President and CEO of the Channel ZerO Group LLC, an educational and professional development consulting company he co-founded in 1992. He has won numerous awards including the 2019 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board's Chair Phoenix Award, and the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. Mackie is the author of two award-winning books: *A View from the Roof: Lessons for Life and Business* and *Grandma's Hands: Cherished Moments of Faith and Wisdom*. Dr. Mackie is a devoted husband to his wife, Tracy, and father to his two sons, Myles and Mason.

Dr. Beverly Wright



environmental justice scholar, advocate, author, civic leader and sociologist, is the founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her work addresses environmental and health inequities along the Gulf Coast using community/university partnerships to provide education, training and job placement for underserved environmental justice communities throughout the U.S. Her work also embodies her commitment to the involvement of community in the furtherance of the Center’s mission. Her personal commitment to preparing the next generation of environmental justice professionals has involved the development of the HBCU Climate Change Conference held on an HBCU campus for six of eight years. Dr. Wright strongly believes that building a legacy of educated African-American climate conscious professionals will contribute to the viability and sustainability of our planet for generations to come. Her current focus is on research and policy efforts connecting HBCU students and faculty with leaders and residents of EJ and climate impacted communities to translate research, to knowledge to action.

Dr. Wright is the accomplished author of numerous scholarly books and articles. Most recently she authored two books with Dr. Robert Bullard; *Race, Place & the Environment After Hurricane Katrina* from Westview Press, and most recently, *The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How The Government Response Endangers African-American Communities* from New York University Press. Wright continues to serve as a strong voice in the grassroots environmental justice movement.

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.



is the President & CEO of Hip Hop Caucus, a minister, community activist, U.S. Air Force veteran, and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. He founded Hip Hop Caucus in 2004 with the goal of building a powerful and sustainable organization for the culture’s role in the civic process and empowerment of communities impacted first and worst by injustice. Hip Hop Caucus holds elected officials accountable, shapes policy, and builds more diverse and powerful movements to ignite positive change. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Rev Yearwood established the award-winning Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign where he led a coalition of national and grassroots organizations to advocate for the rights of Katrina survivors.

In 2008, Rev Yearwood led Hip Hop Caucus’ launch of *Respect My Vote!*, a campaign and coalition that continues to work today with Hip Hop artists to engage young people in the electoral process. As a national leader within the

Green Movement, Rev Yearwood has been successfully bridging the gap between communities of color and environmental issue advocacy such as divestment from fossil fuels causing climate change, increasing diversity in the climate movement, ensuring everyone has clean water and air, and international efforts to address climate change. He has also fought on the frontlines for vulnerable communities, including efforts to fight new oil pipeline developments in Maryland and at Standing Rock. In 2018, he helped launch Think 100%, Hip Hop Caucus' award-winning climate communications and activism platform.

PLENARY SESSION SPEAKERS

Monique Harden, Esq. is the Assistant Director of Law and Policy at the



Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc. Ms. Harden manages strategic litigation, community engagement, and public policy advocacy to defend and advance environmental justice in the Gulf Region of the United States. She also serves as the Community Engagement Program Manager. Ms. Harden has more than 20 years of achievements in the practice of law that have helped predominantly African American communities win significant environmental justice victories. She is the former co-director and attorney of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, an innovative public interest law firm in New Orleans, Louisiana, that won an important international ruling on environmental racism in the United States as a violation of basic human rights. In the aftermaths of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil drilling disaster, Monique Harden spearheaded coalitions advocating for governmental adoption of human rights standards to ensure the recovery of people displaced by climate-induced disasters and harmed by industrial hazards. Ms. Harden received a BS from St. John's College and a JD from The University of Texas School of Law.

Marianne Engelman Lado joined Earthjustice in 2010 as Chair of the



Environmental Health Practice Group, focusing on toxics, pesticides, waste, the health impacts of industrial agriculture, civil rights enforcement, and the effects of environmental contamination on vulnerable and overburdened populations. She previously served for ten years as General Counsel at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a non-profit civil rights law firm, where she directed a legal and advocacy program focused on racial and ethnic disparities in access to health care, environmental justice, and disability rights. She began her legal career as a staff attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), where she represented clients attempting to break barriers of access to health care and quality education. Marianne lectures widely and currently teaches a course on Environmental Health and Environmental Justice at Columbia Law School.

She holds a B.A. in government from Cornell University, a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, and an M.A. in Politics from Princeton University. Her publications include “Unfinished Agenda: The Need for Civil Rights Litigation to Address Continuing Patterns of Race Discrimination and Inequalities in Access to Health Care,” “Breaking the Barriers of Access to Health Care: A Discussion of the Role of Civil Rights Litigation and the Relationship Between Burdens of Proof and the Experience of Denial,” and “A Question of Justice: African-American Legal Perspectives on the 1883 Civil Rights Cases.”

Dr. Delta Merner is the lead for the Science Hub for Climate Litigation at the



Union of Concerned Scientists. In her role, she provides timely, scientific evidence to support legal cases that hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate-related damages. Dr. Merner reviews legal communications for scientific accuracy, connects legal teams with technical experts, and leads trainings for scientists working at the intersection of climate science and law. Prior to joining UCS, she was a senior scientist

at the American Institute of Physics, where she most recently conducted a global survey measuring the gender gap in science. Delta earned a PhD in geography and environmental systems from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She also holds bachelor of science degrees in geography and environmental science and policy from Clark University.

Jacqueline Patterson is the founder and executive director of The



Chisholm Legacy Project, a resource hub for Black frontline climate justice leadership. Previously, she was senior director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007, Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate, and activist working on women’s rights, violence against women,

HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women’s Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women’s rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies. Patterson holds a master’s degree in social work from the

University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, The Hive: Gender and Climate Justice Fund, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, Greenpeace, Bill Anderson Fund, People's Solar Energy Fund, and the National Black Workers Center Project.

COMMUNITY PANELISTS

Calvin Avant, pastor and Executive Director of Unity In The Family Ministry is a native of Pensacola, Florida and a veteran of the U. S. Navy.



His academic accomplishments are a Bachelor of Science in Education University of West Florida, Masters in Management and Leadership Webster University and a Doctor of Ministry Faith Bible Theological Seminary. Dr. Avant relocated from Pensacola, FL to the Washington, DC in 1979 where he conducted a Church Based Substance Abuse Program

CATAADA HOUSE. In 1995 he and his family relocated to Brevard County, Florida (Space Coast) where he was the director of Covenant House Florida Orlando Program. Dr. Avant's wife, Jolene passed suddenly of an aneurism in 2001 and Dr. Avant returned to his home in Pensacola. Dr. Avant has owned and operated a training firm for the past 35 years training individuals who work with at-risk youth population. He also, is a Certified State of Florida School Teacher, Certified After Care Specialist, Certified Parent Instructor, and a Licensed Addiction Counselor. Dr. Avant has authored several books such as "So You Are Raising a t Raising a Knucklehead" (parenting curriculum), "Youth Exposed To Success" YES Program (social skill curriculum), "It's Just Prison Telling Teen The Real Deal" and "Steps to Evangelizing a Dieing World."

Katherine Eglad is the co-founder and Program Director for the Education,



Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO). She chairs the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee for the National Board of Directors of the NAACP. Her committee is charged with the governance and oversight of the NAACP ECJ policies and publications. Kathy's environmental and climate policy background extends from the Gulf South to the Global South and beyond. She has represented the EEECHO

and the NAACP internationally at United Nations conferences. She was honored with a special invitation from former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to attend the high-level discussions and historic high-level signing of the Paris Climate Agreement in New York, N.Y. in 2015.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

As a resident of Gulfport, Mississippi, she is a survivor of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the BP Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill in 2010, contaminating Gulf waters located within four blocks walking distance of her home. She was engaged in a coalition effort which successfully shut down the coal burning function at a former coal plant near her home. She was also involved in a campaign against a now failed experimental \$7.5 billion carbon capture sequestration plant in her energy service area and is now involved in a campaign against toxic wood pellets manufacturing plants in Mississippi. Kathy has been working extensively to address water contamination, flooding and toxic industrial developments in neighborhoods mostly populated by people of color.

Rashida Ferdinand is the founder and executive director of Sankofa. A



fifth-generation homeowner and visual artist in the Lower 9th Ward, Rashida comes from a family of community health practitioners and social justice leaders. She founded Sankofa with a team of community stakeholders in 2008 to create a local environment that promotes positive health and environmental sustainability. Sankofa's food access programs focus on building a healthy food system in vulnerable communities of New Orleans. These efforts are designed to ensure resilience, community empowerment, and equity. Rashida is a graduate of the fourth cohort of Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses program and currently represents Sankofa on the Xavier University LaCats New Orleans Community Advisory Board, the LSU and SU Ag Center, Orleans Parish Advisory Leadership Council, Mid South Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center on Health Disparities, Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative, and New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee.

Dawn Hebert is President of the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory



Commission and has been a dedicated Advocate for her community for over 14 years. She is very active, continually working with community members in sharing information and assisting in addressing their concerns. Other involvements include working with several organizations that work to improve not only her community, but the residents of the City of New Orleans. She is also a member of Keep New Orleans Beautiful, Energy for New Orleans, Commissioner with the Lakefront Management Authority, President, Lake Willow Neighborhood Association and a Community Member with the Deep South Environmental Center for Environmental Justice. She is a graduate of Xavier University and retired from the United States Postal Service.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Sharon Lavigne is native to St. James, Louisiana, a small country town along the Mississippi River. Growing up, Sharon lived off the land. Sharon was a Special Education teacher for 38 years in the St. James Parish school system. In 2018, Sharon founded RISE St. James, a faith-based, grassroots, nonprofit organization fighting for clean air and water as well as the eradication and expansion of petrochemical industries in St. James Parish. She hosted the first meeting in her den with approximately 10 individuals present. In 2019, Sharon retired to dedicate herself full-time to the fight for environmental justice. In June 2021, Sharon received recognition when she was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for her environmental activism in her community. Sharon, a mother of six, has become an iconic activist in the protection and eradication of air, water, and land pollution in majority Black communities.



Bridgette Murray has many years of organizational experience both in a professional and community setting. She has a Bachelor of Science Nursing (Baylor University) and Masters in Business Administration (University of Houston). She has led groups in a managerial capacity since 1981. Ms. Murray's community activism dates back to 1986 serving in various community roles. Her journey to form the non profit group ACTS was based on her religious belief in ACTS 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea..."



Tracy Stephens was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He is the president of Sunnyside Civic Club and a team member of the Harris County Community Flood Resilience and the Deep South Consortium for Environmental Justice. In addition, he is a retired member of the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering division, a vice-chair of the Gulfgate TIRZ 8 Board, and a chair of the South Park Super Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehab. He retired 26 years ago from City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Drainage and Transportation Department, having specialized in maintenance In streets, drainage and right of way rehab and construction. He is currently a member of Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS) serving as Research Coordinator and Board Member; the Harris County Flood Control District CFRT, Community Flood Resilience Task Force; and the State of Texas General Land Office CDBG-MIT/Community Development Block Grant; Mitigation of Flooding Board. He also serves as the Sunnyside Civic Club President and the chairman of the South Park Super



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehab and Development; is the Board Vice Chairman of the Houston Gulfgate TIRZ, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Board V; and is a member of the Southeast Houston Mobility Steering Committee.

Robert Taylor grew up in Reserve, Louisiana in St. John Parish. His community is located in "Cancer Alley" between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, where a proliferation of petrochemical plants spew pollutants that have driven the rates of cancer to 1,500 times the national average. Taylor founded the Concerned Citizens of St. John Parish in 2016, and has dedicated his later life to continuing the fight against the onslaught of pollutants in this African-American community. At 80, he is still fighting for health and a better quality of life for his family, friends and community environment.



Rachel White Roy received her Bachelor of Science in Marine and Freshwater Biology from The University of Texas at Austin in 2015, her MPH in Epidemiology from The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) in 2017, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Epidemiology minoring in biostatistics and environmental and occupational health at UTSPH. Her dissertation topic is looking at the association between PM2.5 exposure and COVID-19 mortality. She was activated in the COVID-19 Response while in her role as an Environmental Epidemiologist at Harris County Public Health (HCPH). In August 2021 she became the Disaster Epidemiologist for HCPH. Rachel is passionate about environmental justice and is contributing efforts to address this issue as a member of Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS). She is contributing to data-to-action efforts by completing a community disaster assessment to prepare the vulnerable communities that ACTS serves.



Joe Womack was born in 1950 in historic Africatown, Alabama (where the last shipment of slaves landed in The United States). He graduated from historic Mobile County Training School in 1968 and graduated from Saint Paul's College, in Lawrenceville, Virginia, with a degree in Business Administration in 1972. Joe entered the United States Marine Corps in 1973 and served 2 years active service and 18 years reserve service before retiring in 1993 with the rank of Major.



Joe returned to Mobile, Alabama in 1975 and worked in finance for Shell/DuPont for 16 years. He was the first black professional to be promoted at that chemical facility. He also worked six years as a Financial Consultant and 12 years in the trucking business before retiring.

Joe is the co-founder and first president of the African American Summit of Mobile County. Co-founder of The Mobile County Training School Alumni Association. Co-founder and first president of The Black Military Workers of America, Inc. Co-founder of The Africatown Community Development Corporation and co-founder and current vice president of The Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition of Mobile County. Currently, Joe operates a non-profit organization Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community, Inc. (C.H.E.S.S.) and is currently working with the Deep South Center on environmental justice issues in Africatown.

EXPERT PANELISTS

Sharon D. Beard is the director of the NIEHS Worker Training Program



which supports development and delivery of safety and health training programs for workers involved in hazardous waste cleanup and emergency response throughout the nation. An industrial hygienist, Beard has worked with the program for over 25 years, first becoming involved with responsibilities to coordinate, evaluate, and improve initiatives surrounding the Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP),

formerly known as the Minority Worker Training Program. Beard uses her expertise to provide review, guidance, and leadership in managing a diverse, multi-million-dollar portfolio of NIEHS-funded worker training grants in the areas of hazardous waste handling and transport, emergency response, and nuclear and radiation safety. She also works with colleagues in the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training to facilitate research translation through the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) Program. Notably, Beard is also active in helping address issues surrounding diversity and inclusion at NIEHS. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in business from Western Carolina University in North Carolina.

Shelley A. Francis, MD, a former Medical School Faculty member, is a public



health executive and entrepreneur. Her vision led to the co-founding of the Nation's largest network of diverse EV drivers and enthusiasts, EVHybridNoire, a nonprofit is the first national multicultural organization focused on increasing EV adoption and awareness in under-represented communities. Dr. Francis is also the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of EVNoire Mobility Intelligence Group (EVNoire). EVNoire, a national, award-

winning, minority-owned and led organization, works at the intersection of environmental health, transportation, and energy equity. The EVNoire Team specializes in providing engagement to next-generation vehicles (electric vehicles) through equity mobility models, education and outreach, expanding the charging

infrastructure, marketing/launches, workplace charging, and public policy advocacy. In addition, they are intentional about providing resources and access to underserved and diverse communities as well as frontline communities around affordable, clean and sustainable energy vehicles and platforms. Dr. Francis and Co-Founder Terry Travis are recognized as national thought leaders in the E-Mobility space. EVNoire works with utilities, non-profits, government agencies, public health organizations, and regional and national organizations to expand this market share. EVNoire also engages communities on workforce development opportunities in the alternative fuel/electric.

Julian Gordon is a Fall 2019 Master's Degree Graduate in Physics. He received a B.S. degree in Atmospheric Science and Meteorology at North Carolina A&T State University. Julian established a passion in Environmental Justice after participating in the HBCU Climate Change Conference. Now he works heavily with Skyline Video Pros, High Class Solar, Gordon Innovative Enterprises as well as other environmental justice organizations such as the NCA&T Environmental Science Club, Sol Nation, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Foster Beelief, and the Sierra Club's Student Coalition. As an Eagle Scout, Julian has taken the initiative to enhance his character completing projects for his community and appreciating the natural sciences. In order to help more disaster victims, he chose to study atmospheric science and meteorology focusing on aerial videography and climate research with Skyline Video Pros.



Warren Jones, MD Warren Jones, MD, FAAFP is the Chief Health Officer for The Jones Group of Mississippi. He was most recently the Chief Health Officer at Hampton University and prior to that was the NIH Endowed Chair in Health Disparities Research at Dillard University. He was 55th President of the American Academy of Physicians and is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, serving as Chair Emeritus of the Family Medicine Section of the National Medical Association. He has served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Medicaid Program and at his retirement from the U.S. Navy, after a 28 year career, was Senior Medical Director for the World-Wide TRICARE program. As Mississippi State Medicaid Director, he was responsible for providing health care for over 768,000 Mississippians with a budget of \$4 billion dollars per year and created the Mississippi Medicaid Medical Home, which focused on prevention and early access. He also served as the Head of the Mississippi Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program. He provided direct patient care in the United States Navy as a Family Medicine Physician and Adolescent Medicine Specialist and served as the lead electronic medical record (EMR) physician champion at three different duty stations. He currently serves on the Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans for the Secretary



of Veterans Affairs and the Health Resources Services Administration's Council on Graduate Medical Education which plans the health professional workforce for the future. He serves as Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, on the Board of Directors for the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, and has served on the Advisory Committee on Chiropractic Care and the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation which researched and updated criteria for disability awards for veterans.

Dr. Rao Kotamarthi serves as a Chief Scientist in the Environmental



Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory. At the University of Chicago, he is a senior fellow at the CASE and holds complimentary positions as an expert at the Energy Policy Research Institute (EPIC). He has PhD in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering from the University of Iowa and holds a certificate in strategic laboratory leadership program from the Booth School of Business, University of Chicago. Dr. Kotamarthi has nearly 30 years of experience in regional- and global-scale modeling of Air Quality and Atmospheric Composition, atmospheric aerosols and regional scale climate change. His work leverages HPC and applied mathematics to develop models for environmental problems. He has authored over 150 journal articles and technical reports. He serves as a principal investigator for projects funded by DOE on climate and wind energy and private sector entities. He has contributed to the IPCC assessment report 2 and serves on peer review panels for DOE, NSF and NASA. He is the author of a book titled *'Downscaling Techniques for High-Resolution Climate Projections: From Global Change to Local Impacts.'*

Dr. KiTani Parker Lemieux is an Associate Professor in the Division of



Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, at Xavier University of Louisiana, where she also serves as the Director of the Center of Excellence (COE) Scholars Program. She received her B.A. degree in Biology from Fisk University, her M.S. degree in Biology, from Tennessee State University, and her Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Lemieux completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center at LSU Health Sciences Center. She has served as faculty at Dillard University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Since joining the faculty at Xavier in 2007, Dr. Lemieux has focused her research to better understand the role of the noncancerous microenvironment in breast cancer metastasis, especially in triple negative breast cancer, which disproportionately impacts African American women. She has published in the field and is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Society for Cell Biology, and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Paul Mohai is a professor at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability. Professor Mohai's teaching and research interests are focused on environmental justice, public opinion and the environment, and influences on environmental policy making. He is a founder of the Environmental Justice Program at the University of Michigan and a major contributor to the growing body of quantitative research examining disproportionate environmental burdens and their impacts on low income and people of color communities. He is author or co-author of numerous articles, books, and reports focused on race and the environment, including "Environmental Racism: Reviewing the Evidence", "Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards", "Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty", and "Which Came First, People or Pollution?".

His current research involves national level studies examining the causes of environmental disparities and the role environmental factors play in accounting for racial and socioeconomic disparities in health. Through a grant from the Kresge Foundation, he is also examining pollution burdens around public schools and the links between such burdens and student performance and health.

Professor Mohai is currently a member of the Governor's Environmental Justice Work Group charged with developing an Environmental Justice Plan for Michigan. He is also currently a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Environmental Justice Movement Project (ENVJUSTICE) which is documenting and mapping environmental justice conflicts around the world.

Marcus Sabbs' passion for community stems from his family's commitment to Servicing his hometown of Americus, Georgia. For over 125 years with their business, Barnum Funeral Home, the south east region's oldest black owned funeral home business. As a graduate of Morehouse college, Marcus' dedication to empowering his community started in a traditional education role where he excelled for three years as a teacher for Uncommon Schools in NYC. His classroom experience helped

him to more easily identify a gap in some of our education systems; namely representation. He then transitioned into a role that allowed him to assist with the advancement of diversity job placement in education. In 2017, Marcus started his own Consulting Agency, working with organizations such as the City of Atlanta, CARE, The United Way of Greater Atlanta, The United Way of Southwest Georgia, and Purpose Built Schools of Atlanta where he's been working to tackle challenges and leading global initiatives in education, community engagement and disaster relief. Most recently Marcus has worked closely with creating food programs in partnership with CARE, Doordash, UPS and TaskRabbit to deliver

over 12 million meals to families throughout the pandemic, along with connecting organizations with communities across the US to distribute over \$1 million in direct cash assistance. He also has worked with community organizations to create workforce development programming specializing in environmental justice in response to disasters such as the Houston Ice Storm, Hurricane Ida, and the recent tornado devastation in Kentucky resulting in over \$1.2 million in wages to underemployed community members.

Dr. Robin Saha is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana and its Climate Change Studies Program.



He is an environmental sociologist with a policy studies background. He is among the leading scholar-activists conducting quantitative studies of environmental inequality for a wide range of industrial facilities using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). His teaching and research focus on the intersection of environmental justice, health and policy with an

emphasis on community engagement and empowerment. He and his students conduct community-based research for and provide technical assistance to contaminated communities. Professor Saha works actively on tribal environmental issues, and he consults on environmental justice legal and regulatory cases, conducts expert reviews for government agencies and provides technical support for nonprofit advocacy organizations performing environmental justice analyses. He also works actively on municipal and campus sustainability issues particularly as related to climate change.

Nicky Sheats, Ph.D, MPP, Esq., is the director of the Center for the



Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University, and has defined the primary mission of the Center as providing support for the environmental justice community on both the state and national level. Among the many issues Sheats is working on are particulate matter air pollution, climate change, cumulative impacts, developing legal strategies and increasing the

capacity of the environmental justice community to address these and other issues.

Sheats was a founding member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA), and has served within the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum, the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, the Coalition for Healthy Ports and the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy among other groups. He has been appointed to federal and state advisory councils including the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. He is currently serving on the newly

created White House EJ Advisory Council. In 2017, Sheats was recognized by Grist magazine as one of 50 people in the U.S. performing important environmental and environmental justice work.

Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for



Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community-based planning and campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally. She has successfully combined grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, and environmental health community-based participatory research to become a national leader in advancing environmental policy and the perspective of environmental justice in urban communities.

Joel Tickner is a leading researcher and strategist in making chemistry safer



for people and the environment. His research focuses on the development of innovative scientific methods and policies to implement and accelerate the design and application of safer products and manufacturing processes. He is also a leading expert on environmental health, green chemistry, chemicals policy, and pollution prevention. His research has led to the establishment and growth of the field of chemical alternatives assessment, the process of comparing alternatives for chemicals of concern.

He is the founding Executive Director of the Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment and the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council (GC3), a powerful network of more than 120 companies, bringing together the entire value chain from chemical producers to major brands and retailers.

Tickner is a professor of environmental health at University of Massachusetts Lowell, and is Co-Director of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute, which provides resources and tools to help businesses, municipalities, and communities in Massachusetts find safer alternatives to toxic chemicals.

Bill Walsh is the Founder, and a Board Member, of Healthy Building Network (HBN). Currently serving as Strategic Advisor to the organization, Bill created Healthy Building Network in 2000 to define the leading edge of healthy building practices that increase transparency in the building products industry, reduce human exposures to chemicals in building materials, and create market incentives for healthier innovations in manufacturing. He has been Visiting Professor at Parsons School of Design, was a founding member, and currently serves on, the Advisory Board of the Healthy Babies Bright Futures initiative, and was a founding member of the Health Product Declaration Collaborative. In 2012 Bill received the US Green Building Council's Leadership In Advocacy Award and was named a Fellow at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts. In 2013 Bill was awarded the Healthy Schools Hero by the Healthy Schools Network, and in 2018 he was awarded the WE ACT for Environmental Justice Leadership Award. Bill Walsh is currently transitioning into a new position at the Passport Foundation.



Donele Wilkins is a leader, visionary, and the result-oriented founder of Green Door Initiative. Donele has demonstrated servant leadership in her hometown of Detroit, Michigan for nearly 20 years. First by leading the local movement for environmental justice on the front-lines, and secondarily expanding to achieving true sustainability for all. Her leadership style has motivated many to take their place in a truly transforming movement. Her achievements include: participating in the development and adoption of an Environmental Justice Policy in the state of Michigan, and conceiving and launching the first Green Jobs Training Program in the city! She's been an advocate for citizen involvement in Brownfield Redevelopment as well as other environmental policies, placing environmental stewardship on the agenda of many community leaders and decision makers. Ms. Wilkins is noted for inspiring young people to take a lead in their communities. As the founder of The Green Door Initiative, Donele plans to take not only the city of Detroit to the next level of environmental stewardship but the nation. GDI stands out as a national model for sustainable living through civic engagement for everyone!



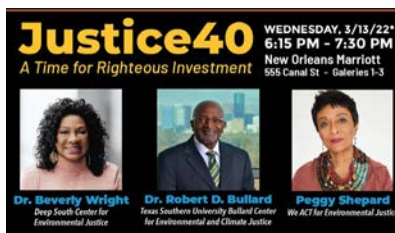
Dr. Sacoby Wilson is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health where he directs the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH). Dr. Wilson has 15 years of experience as an environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-engaged research including crowd science and community-based participatory research (CBPR), water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action.



SPECIAL SESSION PRESENTERS

Community Forum Speakers

Dr. Robert D. Bullard, of the Texas Southern University Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, **Peggy Shepard** of WE ACT for Environmental Justice based in Harlem, NY and **Dr. Beverly Wright** of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice in New Orleans, will participate on panel during the Community Forum, addressing the topic **“Justice40: A Time for Righteous Investment”**. Their full biographies can be found on pages 7, 10 and 25 respectively.



Interactive Workshop Presenters

Kim Dunn, MSPH is an environmental professional who has worked in the field of construction and traditional Industrial Hygiene (IH) for over 34 years. Throughout her career, she has performed industrial hygiene and occupational, safety, and health activities for academic, healthcare, institutional, legal, engineering, and industrial facilities across the southeast United States. Kim is a native New Orleanian and graduate of Xavier University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre-Med Chemistry. She obtained a Master of Science in Public Health degree with a specialty in Toxicology from the Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. She is currently employed as the Technical Training Director at the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice and has performed environmental training for the Center since 2000.



Dr. Denaë King is an Associate Director in The Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice housed in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University (TSU). Her work focuses on environmental justice projects designed to address community-identified environmental health concerns in Houston's underserved people of color communities. Dr. King's additional interests include the role of neighborhood effects in the onset of disease and community capacity building in underserved areas. She received her B.S. degree in chemistry from Texas Southern University, as well as, a M.S. and Ph.D. degree in environmental science/toxicology from the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, School of Public Health.



Bruce McClue is a native New Orleanian and graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans. He has worked in the environmental field since 1986 and with Deep South for Environmental Justice since 1999. He is a member of the local Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (CHMM) chapter. He has managed hazardous materials and waste throughout the southeastern portion of the United States. He has helped manage underground storage tanks, above ground tanks, one co-generator plant and heads the emergency response team. He worked for Tulane University where he was responsible for the management of hazardous materials and waste for over 500 research labs, one medical school, the school of public health and one primate research center. He has also worked as an environmental trainer and consultant for over 15 years. During this time he has trained over 5,000 trainees in the areas of Hazwoper, Asbestos, Lead and Mold Abatement and remediation.



Dr. David A. Padgett is an Associate Professor of Geography, and Director of the Geographic Information Sciences (GISc) Laboratory at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. He has developed a Geography/Environmental Justice curriculum with a strong emphasis on service learning. Since establishing the GISc Lab in the summer of 2000, Padgett has supervised several undergraduate research assistants on a variety of service learning projects the topics of which include: community-based global positioning systems (GPS) mapping to improve public transit accessibility, GIS-supported homeless population mapping, and GIS mapping of Nashville's Red Cross emergency shelters. The GISc Lab has developed working relationships with a variety of grassroots groups, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Many students Padgett has taught over the past 20 years have graduated and are now actively engaged in environmental and climate justice occupations and research.



Generation Next Presenters

Simone English is a Ph.D. candidate at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) School of the Environment, with a concentration in Environmental Science, Policy and Risk Management. Prior to the Ph.D. program, Simone completed a Master in Architecture (M.Arch) degree at FAMU School of Architecture and Engineering Technology (SAET). Her main interests include community resilience, environmental and climate justice for marginalized and vulnerable groups, climate impacts and mitigation, environmental protection, affordable housing, resilient and appropriate architecture/ infrastructure. Her goal is to become an expert in the improvement of resilient communities, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups, as well as for displaced victims of natural and man-made disasters, while promoting equity, environmental education, advocacy, awareness and resilient built environments. As a student mentor with the HBCU Climate Change Consortium, she has the great privilege of working alongside esteemed community members and organizations conducting collaborative scientific research in Gulf Coast communities, including Africa Town, Alabama, Pensacola, Florida, New Orleans, Louisiana, Gulfport, Mississippi, and Houston, Texas. Simone is also a Train-the-Trainer member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) CARAT Teams.



Joy Semien Joy is the founder of Tutoring by L.E.E.D. With Joy. While she primarily tutors Science, Social Studies, and English courses she also offers professional development coaching sessions. Joy received her Bachelor of Science degree from Dillard University in 2015, where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry. While at Dillard she studied and conducted research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, in Lope National Park in Gabon, Africa, and Kingston, Jamaica. Joy holds a Master of Science degree in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy from Texas Southern University (TSU). While at TSU she conducted research on disaster training approaches for multi-hazard communities. As a graduate student Joy worked with top researchers within the Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs conducting a vast array of environmental justice research. Currently, Joy is a doctoral student at Texas A & M University studying Urban and Regional Sciences. Semien has been involved with the HBCU Climate Change Conference since her days as a student at Dillard. Joy's research interest is in increasing the ability of multi-hazards communities of low income and of color to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.



Payton Wilkins was raised in the Environmental Justice movement. Growing up in one of America's most segregated municipalities, Detroit, he developed an intimate relationship with justice, race, and place at a young age. Since his early youth, he's remained active in the pursuit for justice and equity. When he was 13, he organized a group of his friends and registered over 3,000 people to vote in Detroit in a three-month period. At 18, he partnered with the city of Detroit and organized over 100 of his peers to complete remediation efforts on Belle Isle. Wilkins attended Dillard University in New Orleans where he graduated with a BA degree in Political Science, and minors in Finance and Economics. He was the founder of the Dillard University Environmental Justice Club.



Payton is an original member and alumni of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. He is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' Education Center, and a Program Manager for Environmental Careers and Workforce Development at the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

Middle and High School Student Presenters

Jayden Lewis lives in New Orleans East, He is an eighth-grader. He is an outstanding student at Benjamin Franklin Middle/Elementary School. Jayden' extracurricular activities include playing basketball and football for his school. He has an interest in a STEM Career in the Environmental Sciences. Jayden believes being an Intern in the CSED Environmental Research Internship Program allows him to gain more knowledge about the environmental problems that plague our communities and what he can do to correct them.



Aaran Hogan, Jr. lives in Gentilly New Orleans. He is a tenth-grader and an outstanding student at George Washington High School. His extracurricular activities include Art and Computer games. He has an interest in a STEM/Law career. Aaran's goal in participating in the CSED Environmental Research Internship Program is to gain knowledge of the environmental health issues in his community and learn how he can work at resolving them.



Territh Ridley lives in New Orleans and is a 9th Grader at Benjamin Franklin High School. He loves science and has an interest in pursuing an education leading to a STEM career. Territh loves playing sports.



Bryce Black resides in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is an 8th Grader who attends NOLA Micro School, an innovative open-walled, socially embedded environment school focused on creating personalized, relevant, and contextualized learning opportunities for its students. Bryce sees a STEM career in his future. He enjoys learning and spending his free time playing sports.



Jonathan Smith Lives in the Pontchartrain Park in New Orleans. He is a tenth grader and an outstanding student at the New Orleans Charter Mathematics and Science High School "SCI High". Jonathan's extracurricular activities include theatrical, musical, and visual arts, along with swimming. Jonathan has an interest in a STEM career in the Environmental Sciences. He feels that the CSED Environmental Research Internship at Dillard is an opportunity to understand the environmental issues in his community and how he can help to resolve them.



Workshop Presenters

Dr. Morewell Gasseller of Xavier University of Louisiana and **Dr. David Padgett** of Tennessee State University will be conducting a workshop session with the Generation Next middle and high school attendees on the topic **Monitoring Air Pollution**. They also serve as mentors for their HBCU students presenting research at this year's conference. Their full biographies can be found on pages 42 and 25 respectively.



STUDENT RESEARCHERS



Darrell Esnault is a Senior at Dillard University majoring in Biology. A New Orleans native, Darrell is looking forward to graduating from Dillard in Environmental Science this spring. He enjoys pursuing academic endeavors and presenting his research at conferences and gatherings on the environmental sciences including the annual HBCU Climate Change Conferences.



Jeremiah Nichols is a junior majoring in African American Studies at Florida A & M University. He is an emerging scholar and activist from Orlando, Florida with an interest in the history and culture of African peoples, and African centered social psychology.



Kimorah John is a recent valedictorian of Grambling State University and currently pursuing her master's degree of social sciences with a concentration in psychology at the same institution. She is from Dominica, the Nature Isle of the Caribbean. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and hiking. She is a member of several professional and academic organizations, including Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society (Louisiana Eta Chapter), Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Social Research Club, Association of Gerontology and Human Development at HBCUs and Earl Lester Cole's Honor College. Her career goals is to become a clinical psychologist and to create a foundation that helps individuals to cope from psychological distress, such as the psychological impact of climate change.

Biographies for **Tiona Baker**, **Madison Kennedy** and **Olivia Venn** were not available at printing.



Karis Thomas is a senior Psychology major, Afro-American Studies and Sociology double minor from Dallas, Texas currently attending Howard University. Along with research experience, Karis has also served as a nurses' aid at a pediatric psych hospital, a behavioral therapist, a Racial and Equity liaison for the Dallas Independent School District, and a teacher for a non-profit organization offering educational services to children experiencing housing insecurities. After completing undergrad, Karis plans to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology in order to become a licensed psychotherapist. Her goal is to offer quality mental health services to underserved Black and Brown communities. Karis also, plans to continue her research as she hopes to become well-versed in non-traditional and non-Western-centered techniques of mental

health care. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, being a plant mom, reading, and painting (for fun).

Biographies for **Nyeema Caldwell** and **Paloma Wood-Asseman** were not available at printing.



Tabaris Smith is a National Program Manager at Emerald Cities Collaborative. He develops strategies to demonstrate the value of Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises participating in clean energy and infrastructure projects that support small contractors to decarbonize America's building stock in cities including Chicago, DC, California, Boston, and Seattle. Smith is passionate about building strategic partnerships to support disadvantaged communities. He has been an organizer on local, statewide and national campaigns including that of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. Smith holds a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Alabama A&M University and is pursuing a PhD in Urban Regional Planning with concentration in Community Development and Housing.

A biography for **John-Vincent Holden** was not available at printing.



Onaje Cunningham, raised in Middletown, Delaware, is a senior studying Biology at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. On campus, he serves as the President-Pro Tempore of the Student Government Association and is actively engaged in the Minority Association of Pre-health Students. Upon graduation, he will be attending medical school to become a physician with a special interest in orthopedics. Onaje is currently researching how to improve student engagement within Lincoln's community garden. Throughout the next year, Onaje plans to continue studying how access to organic foods can prevent the development of chronic illnesses prevalent in minority communities. When he is not studying or conducting research, Onaje spends his free time playing basketball with friends.



Marlo Maddox is a 20-year-old computer science major at Lincoln University (PA) with an interest in gaming. He is originally from Baltimore (MD) but now resides just outside of DC. At a young age, Maddox was introduced to video games at a time when video games had a bad reputation for influencing young people. Playing video games gave him a second world in which to live, and there, he realized he can change the virtual world however he may

please unlike in the real world. Marlo enjoys finding ways to gamify life positively because there are platforms like social media which all have secret mini-games in them. Mr. Maddox works from time to time in the garden with his father. Gardening opened his eyes up to how beautiful nature is. Although shoveling up the mulch and getting rid of weeds was a very tiring process, watching the garden come together was amazing. This is when he believed everyone should have the chance to experience what he did. Mr. Maddox figured it would be nice to have some type of sustainable living within all Lincoln University dorms. It would be a way to get students involved and participating in community development and also inform them on a more substantive life. Mr. Maddox thinks that coming up with a more sustainable lifestyle while living in college can bring the better out of someone and can also calm the soul. Gardening, harvesting, planting, and learning about their environment is a skill that can be obtained in the process and can promote better living.

A biography for **Cyonnie Certain** was not available at printing.



Onnr Grogan is a senior biological engineering student at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, originally from Raleigh, North Carolina. As an Undergraduate Research Scholar, most of her time goes to working on school and her project. Onnr is passionate about her major, and enjoys giving most of her time to school. Her dream would be to stay in school forever. Given that she can't afford to receive a formal education nonstop, Onnr hopes to stay in school by becoming a professor. When not working at school, her hobbies include working on puzzles, painting, and playing board games with her friends. Still though, nothing seems to make her happier than learning in school.



Karimah Preston is a first-generation senior biological engineering student at North Carolina A&T State University. Her hometown is Chicago, IL. Her research specialization focuses on air quality and energy efficiency and would like to contribute to sustainable urbanization. Growing up with her siblings on Chicago's southside, she noted from a young age the difference in environmental conditions between communities and fueled her determination for solutions. Karimah serves on the Student Government Association student senate and as the Ms. ASABE for her universities chapter of the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers. In her free time, she enjoys shopping, working out, traveling, and attending concerts. She is currently studying to take the fundamentals of engineering exam (environmental discipline) upon graduation.



Imani Badillo is a fourth-year student at Oberlin College studying Studio Art and Environmental Studies. They are from Cleveland, OH and have spent much of their childhood in Northeast Ohio. Imani is a fiber artist, specializing in crocheting, bookmaking, and sewing; Imani also works on the George Jones Farm in Oberlin as well as a few community gardens in Oberlin and in Cleveland. They fully believe that liberation of people must come through a reconnection with the land. Imani has been involved with the Africatown project since late Spring 2019; they have helped to conduct and transcribe oral history interviews for the digital archive project, and they have been working for the past year on a series of paintings documenting the history of Africatown. Imani loves to read books in their free time (especially Afrofuturism, fiction, and anything growing-related), make art, and work in various gardens.



Rebecca Kukushkin is a third-year Environmental Studies major with a pathway in Sustainable Communities and minors in French and Economics. Their parents moved from Russia and Kazakhstan before settling in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Rebecca was born and raised. Since joining the Oberlin Africatown Collaboration in April 2020, Rebecca has worked on the story map with Major Joe Womack and transformed it into a walking tour guide for the Africatown Heritage House as well as preparing the digital archive for publication. They are particularly interested in the capacity our built environments have for centering community care and sustainability. In their free time, Rebecca can be found consuming pop culture and baked goods, playing bass, and analyzing their birth chart.



Brandon Lopez Toro (he/him/his) is a first generation Environmental Studies major at Oberlin College. He was born and raised in the city of Chicago, Illinois, but his family originates from the state of Jalisco in Mexico. He enjoys playing sports in his free time and is a member of 3 sports teams at Oberlin College: soccer, bowling, and rugby. He also enjoys participating in community building activities whenever possible. He has worked on the Africatown collaborative project since the Fall of 2020. He has specifically focused on Mobile County Training School (MCTS) in the context of being a Rosenwald School and helping to connect MCTS with other Rosenwald contacts, such as active schools and alumni. Aside from working on the collaborative project between Oberlin and Africatown, he is also a peer mentor for incoming first year students who want more assistance in adapting to college life.

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Vera Grace Menafee is a writer, community organizer, and aspiring educator, from Dayton, Ohio, searching for liberation through art, research, and decolonial solidarity. They are in their second-year at Oberlin College majoring in Africana Studies with a concentration in Education Studies. Vera is inspired to use their voice to address issues of racial inequalities throughout the United States, such as the school-to-prison pipeline, food apartheid, and other environmental injustices against Black and Indigenous communities. They created a community-based research project, titled *“Grasping at the Roots: A Study of Sustainable Food Justice and Racial Healing through Black Agrarian Histories”* to study the environmental, historical, and cultural landscape of Black agrarianism in the American Midwest. Vera is dedicated to the work of uplifting and healing Black and Indigenous communities so that “we can thrive, not just survive.”

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Howard Sinclair is a third-year Environmental Studies and History double major at Oberlin College. Howard originates from Lilburn, GA and his hobbies include playing video games, walking through parks, collaborating with students and the local community in the student organization Students for Energy Justice, watching films, and being a novice at the cello. This is Howard’s first year working on the Africatown project, and his work there has involved assisting in the establishment of a food pantry in Africatown and the organization of the oral histories on the website. Howard’s career goals are oriented towards learning about the history of racial and environmental injustices, particularly those against Black people, and applying that information in ways that can benefit those affected communities today.

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Monique “Mo” Singletary is from Boston, MA and is a second year student at Oberlin College, majoring in Africana Studies and Environmental Studies. They are most interested in studying community organizing, particularly in relation to Black liberation, environmental racism, and food justice. This is Monique’s first year being involved with the Africatown project, and she is currently researching how to protect the Africatown community from gentrification. Monique is a freedom dreamer, an avid gardener, and lover of the moon, sun, stars, ocean, and all things green. Their career goals are centered in mutual-aid work & Black agrarianism.

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Elise Steenburgh is from Rockville, MD. They are a fourth-year at Oberlin College, with an Environmental Studies and Biology double major and Comparative American Studies minor. They have been working in the Africatown Collaboration since their second year,

focusing on transcript reviews with historians and building the digital archive website. They also work with the Office of Undergraduate Research, providing peer support to research students in the humanities. Outside of school and research, Elise is an avid cook, movie enthusiast, musician, and storyteller. They are interested in pursuing a career that takes them outside of the United States to collaborate internationally on climate justice issues.



Isabel Tadmiri is a recent graduate of Oberlin College ('21) with a B.A. in Neuroscience and minors in Environmental Studies and Politics. Isabel has worked as a student on the Africatown-Oberlin collaboration since 2019 and feels much joy, inspiration, and gratitude for all she's learned from mentors and elders in Africatown during her time helping to coordinate the development of the Africatown Oral History Digital Archive, supporting grant writing, and more. While at Oberlin, Isabel could often be found making ice cream, eating ice cream, or hanging out with Students for Energy Justice, an anti-extraction/anti-frack action group. Isabel finds home in New York, NY, where she spent this summer as the remote 2021 Oberlin EnviroAlums Fellow to Africatown C.H.E.S.S., working under the mentorship of Major Joe Womack to research and expand modes of land-based community empowerment in Africatown. Isabel is actively seeking job opportunities to work the intersections of food, health, environment, science, and justice. Isabel is interested in relationship building, transformative justice, and resource access as environmental justice, and aspires to do work which uses care to radically expand resource access and create more loving and safe realities.



Aara'L Yarber is a PhD candidate in Meteorology and Atmospheric Science at The Pennsylvania State University. She is an inaugural 2017-2019 Diversity and Inclusion fellow for the University Corporation for Atmospheric, an ADVANCEGeo contributor, and a member of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. Her current work uses WRF-Chem, the Weather Research and Forecasting model coupled with chemistry, to examine the chemical composition and sources of air pollution in West Africa and its relationship to adverse health outcomes. She holds a MS in Meteorology and Atmospheric Science from Penn State and a BS in Physics from Howard University.



Amara Davis is a Master's student studying Marine Sciences at Savannah State University. Her research is interdisciplinary, examining the effects of temperature on a virus that causes mortality in juvenile spiny lobsters and analyzing fisher knowledge

of the virus and their opinions of the spiny lobster fishery. She is currently completing a Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship with NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program as a Communications Specialist. Amara is originally from Freeport, Grand Bahama. She is a proud wife and mother and loves making all sorts of things, from crafts to cakes to furniture. Amara also loves diving, swimming, and hiking, and is a former Bahamian national track and field athlete, having participated in the 2012 Olympics and 2013 IAAF World Championships.



Ryan Jinks is from Savannah, Georgia and is currently a high school science teacher at Windsor Forest High, where he teaches Physics and Environmental Science. In addition, is a graduate student pursuing a Masters in the Marine Science Program at Savannah State University. Ryan plans to graduate and pursue employment in marine sciences within Georgia focusing on the impacts anthropogenic to coastal waters. Until he obtains that position, he plans to make a contribution to the problems that face our communities. Ryan enjoys learning via reading how science impacts the world, both now and the expectations for the future. His hobbies include weight training, reading, and spending time with family. When he is not enjoying his hobbies, Ryan's time is spent with his beautiful wife and two daughters.



Monét Murphy is native to the small town of Leesburg, Georgia. Since childhood, she has had an infatuation with the sea, becoming truly captivated by creatures as delicate as the jellyfish and as enigmatic as the giant deep-sea tubeworm. Having tenacious dreams of exploring, researching, and protecting the environment, she promptly recognized her scientific calling. This year she answers that proverbial phone with the completion of her undergraduate studies at the illustrious, "university by the sea" Savannah State. In earning degrees in both Marine Science and Environmental Science, Murphy plans to attend graduate school in pursuance of her Master's and PhD in the aforementioned fields. She finds particular interest in marine micropaleontology and deep-sea biology when not engulfing herself in countless books, kayaking Savannah's estuaries, or hiking Georgia's forests. Murphy reminds others that success is not final, failure is not fatal but it is the courage to continue that counts.



Sade Shofidiya is a MPA student with a concentration in Museum Administration at Savannah State University from Chicago, Illinois. She's passionate about helping communities, environmental stewardship, and interdisciplinary research with education backgrounds in Information Technology, Psychology, Business

Administration, and Accounting. She is also the founder of Foster Beelief, a honeybee and environmental justice charity.

Biographies for **Abigail Clark, Sasha Mays, Elana Nellis, Takayuki Nitta, Ian Sainvil** and **Dhruvi Shah** were not available at printing.



Shawn Vanderpool Jr. is a senior biology major at South Carolina State University from Rock Hill, South Carolina. His goals are to attend medical school to become a general practitioner. Shawn enjoys gardening and planning events that the student body at South Carolina State University will learn from and enjoy.



Anthony Bowden, II is currently in pursuit of my Master of Science in Agricultural Science with a concentration in Agribusiness Management at Tennessee State University. Originally from Suffolk, VA, I obtained a bachelor's degree in Business from Virginia Wesleyan University. In my spare time I enjoy reading self-help books and donating my time and resources to causes in my community.



Maia Payne is a first-year graduate student pursuing a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science degree with a concentration in Geospatial Sciences at Tennessee State University. She is from Nashville, Tennessee by way of Greenville, Mississippi Her primary research interests lie in the area of geospatial analyses for risk assessment and mitigation, and she plans to pursue a career doing so. She is currently working on a transboundary project on how the cowpea can change the issue of hunger across the Americas. When she is not working, Maia enjoys tutoring, trying cuisines from different cultures and listening to true crime podcasts.



Devin Ross is a 3rd semester Masters student at Tennessee State University studying Environmental Science with a Natural Resource concentration. Devin's hobbies include going for hikes, swimming, reading, and cooking. He is very passionate about the environment and human impact towards it, which has led him to pursue a career in environmental planning. More specifically, Ross would like to help facilitate change in overlooked and overburdened communities, typically those having a high percentage of racial minorities and/or low income communities. As someone who belongs to multiple minority groups, Devin understands the importance of representation especially in fields that don't have much diversity such as environmental science which leads to certain groups of people not being advocated for. Devin plans to be that advocate for not only his community but other communities as well, by ensuring

they all have a fair chance at safe access to green spaces, reliable public transportation, access to healthy food options, safe drinking water and clean air.



Stephen Pinkney is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Program at the Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs Department at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. Stephen concentrates in Environmental Justice and Community Building in his research and career goals. He is originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, and lived in Lafayette, Louisiana for ten years, so he has strong ties in Louisiana. Stephen moved to Houston, TX in 2003 making Houston his home. He also assists with building gardens in the Third and Fifth Ward communities in Houston, Texas. Furthermore, he volunteers with numerous African American groups in Houston, Texas. He often travels globally to connect with African Diaspora who have like minds and goals. In his future career as a professor at an institution, he looks forward to working in a collaborative learning and teaching environment with both faculty and students, where he can develop courses incorporating innovative teaching techniques and the most recent theories and research through an interdisciplinary approach.



Rayford Richardson is a Ph.D. candidate in Urban planning and Environmental policy at Texas Southern University. His research focuses on Transportation Policy, specializing in the Built Environment and the Driverless Shuttle. In addition, Richardson is working with TSU and the Urban Institute on Climate Migration after Hurricane Katrina. He is a native of San Antonio, Texas, where he enjoys music and restoring vintage cars.



Dr. Frederick L. Hunter, Jr., serves as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Work and the Director of QEP and Faculty Development at Tougaloo College. He is originally from Chicago, IL. Dr. Hunter completed his Ph.D. at Jackson State University, his Masters of Arts in Sociology from Western Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research converges at the intersection of food sovereignty, health disparities, critical consciousness, and environmental justice. His dissertation looked at county-level planning around food insecurity and considered the impact of macro and micro-level processes and strategies used to link community members with food access. Dr. Hunter is a cyclist that enjoys long bike trails to take in the rural Mississippi landscape. He has recently become a painter and sold several works, which have been shipped as far as England.



Debra M. Butler is a PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Her transdisciplinary climate-centric research explores (1) the ecological, cultural, geo-spatial and local knowledges of tribal, African American and indigenous communities of the Gulf Coast; (2) the historical and ongoing federal, state, local and corporate policies of institutionalized removal, displacement and migration; and (3) local and regional community-based capacities directed toward equitable climate futures. Debra has worked collaboratively with communities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Cuba. Her goal is to foreground HBCUs and Tribal colleges at the center of climate and environmental planning, policy and funding. Through the American Association of Geographers, she participates in the Race, Ethnicity and Place forum, as well as the Geechee/Gullah Sea Island Coalition and the Climigration Network. Debra is a native of Mobile, AL. Her hobbies include landscaping native plants, baking and Mardi Gras.



Jarell Hines is a recent graduate from the Chemistry Department at Virginia State University (VSU), of Petersburg, Virginia. She is from Emporia, Virginia where she graduated from Greenville County High School as a dual enrollment student. Some of her research interests include: air pollution, solid waste, water quality and climate change. Jaeewll's hobbies include making music and traveling. Her current plan for the future is to complete her graduate studies and participate in further research.



Latia Jackson is from South Chesterfield, Virginia and has always had a passion for environmental science. Miss Jackson recently graduated with her Master's in Interdisciplinary Science from Virginia State University (VSU) in the Spring 2021. Currently, she is working as a teaching assistant, under Dr. Shobha Sriharan in the Department of Agriculture at VSU, alongside Mr. Jarell Hines and Miss Jenille Jade Llorico. After two years of working, Miss Jackson plans to pursue a doctoral degree in natural resources to enable her to pursue research on climate studies with reference to social justice. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, hiking on nature trails, biking, and computer animation.



Jenille Jade Llorico is a Junior at Virginia State University (VSU), studying Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry. Miss Jenille is currently a research student under the Department of Agriculture. Her research involves collecting satellite images, analyzing them, and classifying the different land cover features. Jenille plans to attend a dental school or apply as a Laboratory technician after she graduates from VSU. Jenille has always wanted to be in the science field growing up. She wants to contribute to science and be of help in its progression. In Miss Jenille's leisure time, she enjoys baking and watching movies and TV shows with her friends and family.



Hiba Abdelaziz is a 19-year-old from Louisiana. She was born in Saudi Arabia and came to the United States in 2014. In addition to her basic knowledge of Arabic, she is learning Spanish. At Xavier University of Louisiana, she is a student and a student researcher. Currently, she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and plans to get her master's degree later. In addition to cooking, playing piano, paper craft, drawing, baking, and learning coding in Java, she is very creative and has many hobbies. She also enjoys helping others.

Biographies for **David Brooks**, **Timothy Glaude** and **Kennedy Jeffrey** were not available at printing.

Since the inception of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium, faculty members at HBCUs have nurtured and guided students in the pursuit of their research goals, affording them opportunities to work with environmental justice communities and to present the results of their work at the Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference. As members of the Consortium, their work has helped to elevate the discourse among People of Color on climate change within their communities as well as on global and national platforms.

Research Mentors

Dr. Florence Anoruo is a faculty member in the Department of Biology at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg South Carolina.



She is known for her exemplary teaching, research and leadership role in many university capacity building initiatives, especially in the areas of plant and environmental sciences, sustainability, wellness and nutrition. Notable among her research endeavors are Establishment of Biofuel Research Station, Bioremediation of heavy metals, Investigating the anti-microbial and anti-viral properties of plants many tropical and African plant species. Dr. Anoruo has served as a mentor and member of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium since its inception.

Dr. Janelle Burke is an Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the



Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program at Howard University. Trained as a botanist, her research expertise is in plant evolution and diversity. At Howard University, she has served in a leadership role to develop and grow the Environmental Studies and Science program, which was launched in 2016. She has also been instrumental in securing multiple grants and partnerships to support this program and its associated student opportunities. She has a passion for developing innovative, interdisciplinary curricula that prepare young Black scholars for leadership roles in environmental and sustainability careers.

Dr. Farrah Cambrice is Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences at Prairie View A&M University.



She holds degrees from University of North Texas and Grambling State University. She earned her doctorate in Sociology from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Cambrice's research interests include race, disaster recovery, community building, emerging adulthood and education. Dr. Cambrice has served on the faculties of Xavier University of Louisiana, and Alcorn State University. Her research on Hurricane

Katrina has resulted in several peer-reviewed publications in the Journal of Black Studies, and The Journal of Global Policy and Resilience and Journal of Urban History. In recognition of her teaching effectiveness and research expertise Dr. Cambrice received the Norman C. Francis Excellence in Teaching Award, Junior Faculty (2010) and the Henry C. McBay Fellowship (2012).

Dr. Manuel DeLeon is a proud alumnus of Florida's community college



system. He received his Doctorate in Philosophy from Florida International University, in Miami, Florida and is an Assistant Professor of International Studies at Bethune-Cookman University, in Daytona Beach, Florida. His areas of teaching include International Political Economy, International Security Studies, International Development Studies, Diplomacy and International Law among other academic disciplines. DeLeon's

research focuses on sanction-regimes as instruments of coercive diplomacy. He has been actively advocating for environmental sustainability on the Bethune-Cookman campus and in his community. Dr. DeLeon publishes op-eds in Hispanic media in Florida, and in his spare time, writes short stories and paints. An avid reader, he loves all kinds of books, from history to politics, economics and fiction. He enjoys listening to jazz music on vinyl records while relaxing with a good book.

Dr. Kwasi Densu is an assistant professor of political science in FAMU's



College of Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities with research interests in environmental politics, agrarian social movements and Africana political theory. As an affiliated faculty member of the Sustainability Institute, Dr. Densu helps steer multi-stakeholder engagement through the Indaba Council.

Dr. Morewell Gasseller is an Assistant Professor of Physics at Xavier



University of Louisiana. His academic training is in experimental condensed matter physics, where he used scanning probe techniques (Scanning tunneling and atomic force microscopy) to study nanoscale systems and structures. Dr. Gasseller is highly motivated to pursue innovative research and teaching environmental monitoring issues and their impact on public health. In the past 5 years Dr. Gasseller has been very active in the GLOBE community and is involved with the GLOBE International Virtual Science Symposium (IVSS) as a member of GISN (Globe International Stem Network).

Dr. Berneece Herbert is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning. She is an experienced educator and planner with over 20 years of academic, research and community engagement experience. As an Urban Planner, she focuses on socio-economic development, strategic planning and management, and public sector investment planning and policy formulation. Her research areas include urban health indicators, sustainable economic development and social equity focusing on food security, climate change, and community engagement. In service to her local community, she served as a mentor for the 2016 State Department's Young Leaders of America Initiative and as President of the Caribbean Association of North Alabama, 2018/2019.



She is currently working on a number of initiatives with local organizations in Jackson MS, such as Hope Credit Union, One Voice, the Center for Social Entrepreneurship, MURC and the William Winter Institute. She is a member of the City of Jackson's Climate Change Taskforce and Harword Public Innovators Lab task force. She has also been asked to serve as Associate Director, Community Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion for a Mississippi State Lead NSF planning grant focused engineered green housing.

Dr. Anna Hull is an Associate Professor of Biology in the College of Science and Technology at Lincoln University. Dr. Hull teaches Genetics, Molecular Biology, Botany and the plant section of an introductory Biology course for majors. Her research interests are in the areas of plant-people interactions. Current funding supports metabolomics and genetics research in the field of nutrition and cancer susceptibility in minority populations. In collaboration with the Chemistry Department at Lincoln University, she leads a population-based research project that aims to understand the combined contribution of genetics and environmental modulators such as smoking and cruciferous vegetable consumption on cancer risk in minority and majority populations. Her passion for fostering scientific curiosity among young people is, beyond the walls of the classroom and research laboratory, fed by volunteering in the local school district and serving as the Principal Investigator on collaborative grants that fund summer internship positions for Lincoln University students at local research centers. In addition, she leads a campus gardening project and serves on the board of the Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens, a local friends group that works to conserve native Serpentine Barren grasslands. Dr. Hull has served as a mentor and member of the Consortium for several years. She brings a passion for young people, science and their intersection with the community.



Dr. Dorothy A. Idleburg is Professor and Chair, Department of Social



Work at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. She has over thirty (30) years of teaching, administrative and practice experience in Social Work and Sociology, Substance Abuse, Cultural Diversity, Case Management and Gerontology. Over the course of her career, she has worked on several environmental issues and projects in the community and classroom. Dr. Idleburg previously served as professor & chairperson at several institutions including Mississippi Valley State University, Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS, Jackson State University and the University of Tennessee. Dr. Idleburg received her undergraduate (BA) and graduate (MA) degree in Sociology from Jackson State University with special emphasis in Alcohol and Drug Studies. The Master of Social Work (MSW) and Ph.D. were awarded from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She is currently a member of several professional organizations including the Association of Addiction Professionals, Council on Social Work Education, Mid-South Sociological Association, Association of Social and Behavioral Scientist, Association for Gerontology and Human Development in HBCUs and the National Association of Social Workers. Dr. Idleburg currently serves as president of the Association of Gerontology and Human Development at HBCUs. Additionally, she is currently working on two publications centering on aging and substance abuse.

Dr. Glenn S. Johnson is a professor at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland



School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. Prior to this position he was the Associate Dean of Graduate Research within the School of Public Affairs, and prior to that research associate in the Environmental Justice Resource Center and associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Clark Atlanta University. He coordinated several major research activities including transportation

racism, urban sprawl, smart growth, public involvement, facility siting, toxics, Emergency Response and Community Preparedness, and regional equity. Dr. Johnson's areas of specialization include Community Impact Assessment, Community-University Partnership, Emergency Response and Community Preparedness, Environmental Justice, Environmental Policy, Environmental Sociology, Historical Sociology, Land Use, Political Development, Political Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Regional Equity, Smart Growth, Social Movements, Transportation Equity, Urban Sprawl, Urban/Community Studies, Waste Management and Toxic Reduction

Dr. Yuh-Lang Lin is a professor in the Department of Physics and Department



of Energy & Environmental Systems, at North Carolina A&T State University, and has been serving as a coordinator for the atmospheric science programs in both departments. Dr. Lin obtained his Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from Yale University in 1984. Since joining NCAT in 2008, he has served as the Distinguished Scientist for the NOAA ISET Center during 2008-

12 and has been very active in both teaching and research. He has been advising a large number of graduate students. He has published a textbook, *Mesoscale Dynamics* (Cambridge U. Press), and a large number of journal papers. Dr. Lin's research interests include Atmospheric Dynamics and Modeling, Mountain Meteorology, Tropical Cyclone Dynamics, Moist Convection and Storm Dynamics, Gravity Waves and Turbulence, Cloud Microphysics and Dynamics, and Forest Fire Dynamics. Dr. Lin has prepared his students from North Carolina A&T University for participation in the conference for four years.

Evelyn Mayo is the Urban Research Initiative Fellow at Paul Quinn College,



an HBCU in Dallas, Texas, which joined the HBCU Climate Change Consortium in 2021. Mayo began the fellowship in January of 2021. The Urban Research Initiative connects researchers generating data and analysis on the most difficult urban problems with students, grassroots groups, elected officials, and others in need of trustworthy data and analysis. The initiative elicits course proposals and creates

research partnerships with interdisciplinary experts working on the key components of urban resilience: public health, environmental quality, political and cultural self-determination, and equitable economic growth. Ms. Mayo is an experienced Community Educator with a demonstrated history of working with low-income people on housing, environmental and community advocacy concerns. She is skilled in Grassroots Organizing, Facilitation, Environmental Justice, and Strategic Advocacy. Ms. Mayo received her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), from Columbia University with a focus on Environmental Science, and a Concentration in Race and Ethnicity from Barnard College. Currently Ms. Mayo is pursuing a Masters in City and Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Arlington. While at Paul Quinn College, Evelyn has stepped up to the plate to serve as a research mentor for Paul Quinn students who will present at future HBCU Climate Change Conferences.

Dr. Elica Moss, a native of York, Alabama is a 1998 graduate of Alabama A&M



University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science with a minor in chemistry. Dr. Moss then obtained her PhD in Environmental Toxicology and Environmental Microbiology from Michigan State University. Dr. Moss is currently employed at Alabama A&M University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. She is actively involved in environmental research, teaching, and outreach. Dr. Moss is coordinator of the Environmental Health Science Program, the National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program in China, NSF's Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program and the BES Scholars program. She currently teaches Environmental Toxicology, Hazardous Waste Management, Environmental Health Science, Epidemiology, and Biology Lab. Dr. Moss also serves as advisor to the Environmental Science Club.

Dr. David Padgett is an Associate Professor of Geography, and Director of



the Geographic Information Sciences (GISc) Laboratory at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. He has developed a Geography/ Environmental Justice curriculum with a strong emphasis upon service learning. He has previously developed and taught geography and geographic information systems (GIS)-related courses at Austin Peay State University (Tennessee) and Oberlin College (Ohio). He has conducted

faculty GIS workshops at the annual HBCU Faculty Development Conference, the National Service Learning Conference, and at several colleges and universities including Howard University, Virginia State University, and the Charles R. Drew University of Science and Medicine. Since establishing the GISc Lab in the summer of 2000, Padgett has supervised several undergraduate research assistants on a variety of service learning projects the topics of which include: community-based global positioning systems (GPS) mapping to improve public transit accessibility, GIS-supported homeless population mapping, and GIS mapping of Nashville's Red Cross emergency shelters. The GISc Lab has developed working relationships with a variety of grassroots groups, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Many of the students Padgett has taught over the past 20 years have graduated and are now gainfully employed in environmental science and GIS-related occupations.

Dr. Kristie Perry is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge. She received her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. Her research interests include: Race and Ethnicity, Religion and Social Change, Family Dynamic Deviant behavior, Social Movement, and Qualitative Sociology. Dr. Perry has been an involved member of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium since 2015.



Dr. Carol Pride majored in Environmental Science at Wesleyan University, including research on the imprint of Mediterranean climate on the marine fossil record. Similarly, her Marine Science PhD thesis at the University of South Carolina examined the record of El Niño events and the rapid cooling of the Younger Dryas in sediments of the Gulf of California. She completed postdoctoral research on Southern Ocean silicon isotopic records at the University of California Santa Barbara before serving as a visiting professor at the College of Charleston. Carol joined the faculty of Savannah State University in 2002 and now serves as chair for SSU's Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences. She teaches and mentors undergraduate and graduate students in research on temporal variability of our estuarine and salt marsh ecosystems, with focus on the imprint of climatic and anthropogenic pressures on these systems. Dr. Pride serves as mentor to Savannah State University students presenting this year.



Dr. Fatemeh Shafiei is an associate professor of political science at Spelman College and Fellow at the Southern Center for Studies of Public Policy. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside. Her dissertation was titled *Global Ecopolitics: The Looming Crisis and the Role of Transnational Corporations—A Case Study of the Union Carbide Tragedy in Bhopal, India*. Dr. Shafiei wrote chapters on “Environmental Policy” for the Georgia Legislative Review, published by Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy. She teaches courses in the International Relations Track. Her special teaching and research interests are in the areas of Woman and Development and Environmental Politics. She is project director for the Spelman College/US Environmental Protection Agency Teachers Environmental Institute, an Environmental Protection Agency-funded project.



Dr. Bernard Singleton is a native of New Orleans and an Associate Professor of Biology at Dillard University as well a Dillard alumnus. He earned his DVM, a Master of Science in Microbiology, and a second B.S. in Animal and Poultry Sciences at Tuskegee University. Dr. Singleton's research in Environmental/Microbiological/Toxicological Health Sciences has contributed to the knowledge, expansion, and the quality of life in his community. His work with his students has encouraged additional research and has gained national attention. His work includes the 2010 B.P. Oil Spill™ and the 2015 Santa Barbara, California Pipeline Oil Spill Environmental Toxicology, and the 2016 Louisiana Multi-Parish Flooding/Air Quality study. Dr. Singleton established and currently directs the university's Research in Environmental Health Sciences Program. He is the Assistant Director/Coordinator of the DU-LS-LAMP Research Mentoring Program. Additionally, he founded the 21-year-old Turner/Singleton Scholarship Foundation in which he gives students funding to assist with the high cost of college education. Dr. Singleton has won the mentor of the year and outstanding mentor for research for the last eleven years. He received the National Role Model Award in 2015, and has been in a collaborative relationship with the University of Colorado Boulder for the last nine years and recently with the LSU-Louisiana Cancer Research Center.



Dr. Shobha Sriharan is Professor of Environmental Science at Virginia State University (VSU), Department of Agriculture Ecology. Her research interest is in using remote sensing and GIS techniques for land cover mapping, change detection, and other ecological and environmental applications. She has led several efforts to integrate remote sensing and GIS in curricula at high-school, undergraduate and graduate levels, and bringing these technologies to the communities for decision-making.



Dr. Frances Staten has taught at Grambling State University since 1986 in the Department of Sociology and Psychology. Her teaching is focused specifically in the areas of sociology, family, social theory, and social gerontology. She is the founder of Grambling's Longevity Project and the co-founder of the University's Project Black Empowerment Apprenticeship Program (BEAP) established in 1996. Her vast experience in the field of Sociology has inspired countless students whom she has mentored over the years. Dr. Staten is a member of the Association of Gerontology & Human Development, Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Mid-South Sociological Association, Southern Sociological Association, and the Rural Sociological Association. She brings her considerable expertise to her role as mentor with the HBCU Climate Change Consortium.



Dr. Lijun Wang is a professor of biological engineering at North Carolina A&T University and a licensed professional engineer. (PE) in North Carolina and Nebraska. He has 20 years of experience in advancing bioprocessing and biofuel research, with current efforts focused on converting biomass, agricultural and food wastes into biofuels and bioproducts, and food-energy-water nexus analysis. He is one of three thrust leaders of the interdisciplinary NSF CREST Bioenergy Center to lead biomass gasification research. His research has generated 2 books, 52 book chapters and 87 peer-reviewed journal articles with over 3500 citations. His research interests include Bioenergy processing technologies; Wastes-to-energy technologies; Biorefinery design and analysis; Energy efficiency and management in processing facilities; Computational process engineering and process control. Dr. Wang has served as mentor to NCAT students presenting at the last three conferences.



Dr. Joan M. Wesley, associate professor, is now serving in the role of chair for the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University. Dr. Wesley brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in community development and housing as well as serving as a member of the Executive Committee for the Mississippi American Planning Association.



Mary I. Williams, M.Ed. is the Assistant Director for Community and Student Engagement for the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc. She serves as the in-house research mentor for the Center and coordinates many of the student activities through the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. Her work is focused on the community-based participatory research model to address environmental community concerns as it relates to adverse human health impacts, economic disadvantage, stress, and policy. She develops and administers programming of outreach activities and establishes linkages with diverse faith-based, community, civic and nonprofit organizations to assist with outreach and education activities. She received a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration from Southern University at New Orleans and a Masters of Counselor Education from the University of New Orleans.



Dr. Robert C. Wingfield currently serves as Associate Professor and Discipline Coordinator in Chemistry at Fisk University. He is currently serving as the Director of the Fisk Community Environmental Toxics Awareness and Sustainability Program. He also serves as the Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator for Academic Affairs. He is a B.S. graduate of Fisk University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati in Physical Bioorganic Chemistry. He has had over twelve years of industrial experience in chemical process and product development. Dr. Wingfield has been involved with the HBCU Climate Change Consortium since 2014.



Other HBCU Faculty Mentors

In addition to the mentors who have previously worked with the HBCU Climate Change Consortium, other HBCU faculty members have committed to serve as mentors to students presenting at this year's conference. Their work has been instrumental in preparing these students to articulate their research and to hone those skills necessary to successfully translate it into action. *This year, we thank these mentors for their efforts.*



Michelle Dovil
Howard University,
PhD Candidate
Visiting Assistant Professor
Sociology & Criminology



Dr. Sue Ebanks
Savannah State University
Assoc. Professor
Marine & Environmental
Science



Dr. Melina McConatha
Lincoln University,
Associate Professor,
Psychology & Human Services



Dr. Kenneth Sajwan
Savannah State University
Professor, Marine &
Environmental Science



**Uzoma James
Chikwem, MS**
Lincoln University,
Instructor Department of
Computer Science



De'Etra Young
Tennessee State University,
Associate Dean of Academics
& Land-grant Programs, Assoc.
Professor Dept. of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences



Dr. Niroj Aryal
North Carolina A&T University,
Assistant Professor, College of
Agriculture & Environment



Reginald Archer
Tennessee State University
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences

Majority Institution Mentors

As our conference grows in stature, more and more majority institutions are sending their students to benefit from the wide variety of opportunities to present their research on climate change and environmental justice topics; even from as far away as Quebec. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have scaled back the number of schools participating in the conference. The following faculty members of majority institutions have mentored and prepared their students to participate.

It is of note that **Dr. Jay Fiskio** brought a stellar group of students from **Oberlin College & Conservatory** to the conference in 2019 and returns this year. Additionally, **Dr. Gregory Jenkins** from **Pennsylvania State University** has worked with his students and brought them to the conference for several years. We also welcome students and mentor, **Dr. Maureen Scully** from the **University of Massachusetts Boston School for the Environment**.



QUILT EXHIBIT

2nd Floor Galleries 1 - 3

THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE

The Environmental Justice Quilt Project Exhibit

The Environmental Justice Quilt Project was initiated to bring awareness to the environmental concerns impacting African American communities across the United States. The panels that comprise the main focus of the quilt were submitted by members of some of the impacted communities.

Local artisan Mrs. **Herreast Harrison** added beading and embellishments to the quilt in the Black Masking Indian tradition, with beading techniques learned from her late husband, Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. Now in her mid 80s, she continues to create Carnival dress for her family and community rooted in the “Masking Indian” tradition.



Wednesday, April 13, 2022

COMMUNITY FORUM

2nd Floor Galleries 1 - 3

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

JUSTICE40 – A Time for Righteous Investment

This convening explores the impact and implications of President Biden’s Justice40 initiative, a plan to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of climate investments to disadvantaged communities, environmental justice communities that historically have been left behind economically and overly polluted. Forum panelists will explore how participation in their organizations’ Justice40 projects impact African American communities combating the ravages of climate change and economic and environmental injustices.

Thursday, April 14, 2022

KEYNOTE

2nd Floor Galleries 1

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Keynote Address and Meet the Authors Book Signing & Reception

Conference participants will be able to network with students, mentors and conference speakers following the **Keynote Address of Rev. Lennox Yearwood**, noted HipHop Caucus founder and climate change activist.

Authors, **Dr. Robert Bullard and Dr. Beverly Wright** will be on hand to sign your books and bring their insights to conversation during the reception.

The Union of Concerned Scientists and the Sustainable Communities Initiative have generously sponsored the reception for this event.



Friday, April 15, 2022

CONCURRENT INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

4:40 PM – 6:00 PM

Mapping Flood Risks Inequity in Your Community

During this workshop, presenters will discuss recent flooding disasters that have occurred, particularly within the Gulf Region of the United States. They will provide an explanation of Flood Plain Descriptions and discuss disparities in disaster recovery funding. Participants in the workshop will engage in an interactive exercise on how to identify flood risks within a community.

Emergency Response Preparedness for Disasters

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to various types of personal protective equipment (PPE) used during emergency response efforts after a disaster, told how it is selected, and demonstrations on how to properly don and doff the equipment will be performed. Some participants will be given the opportunity to put on and take off PPE in order to understand its proper use.

Saturday, April 16, 2022

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

9:45 AM – 5:30 PM

Generation Next

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice has incorporated projects to respond to the needs of children and young adults throughout its programming. The Center partners with schools, churches and organizations to develop programs that target at-risk youth, tailored to the specific needs of the community. Programs include: 1) the development of an Environmental Justice educational curriculum for K – 6th Grade teachers, 2) Climate Change Training Workshops for middle and high school students that address the social and emotional wellness of youth in the aftermath of environmental and climate disasters, and the impacts of climate change on their communities.



CLIMATE JUSTICE SEEKERS. PROBLEM SOLVERS.



Navigate Nola is the social and emotional community wellness division of Center. The division takes an asset based approach to cultivating an environment where New Orleans youth can thrive. Navigate Nola utilizes existing strengths in the New Orleans community to create sustainable positive youth development programming. Area middle and high school students will participate in select conference activities alongside college students and will present their own climate change related research during Generation Next sessions and the Poster Session all taking place on Saturday, April 16th.

EXHIBITS AND CAREER FAIR

2nd Floor Galleries 1 – 3

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Over the years, conference staff have been working to increase not only the participation of students, community members and HBCU faculty, but also the participation of exhibitors and sponsors. Many of our sponsors have opted to join us as exhibitors in 2022. During the Career Fair/Exhibit session, they will have the opportunity to speak with students about the options for working in environmental, climate science and other related fields as well as connect with representatives from universities concerning post-undergraduate educational opportunities.

(Exhibitors on next page)

Our exhibitors for this year are as follows:

- » American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact
- » Argonne National Laboratory
- » Columbia University
- » Environmental Defense Fund
- » EvHybridNoire
- » Gulf Research Program
- » Healthy Building Network
- » IBM
- » Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
- » Mount Holyoke College
- » National Audubon Society
- » National Center for Atmospheric Research, Computational & Information Systems Laboratory
- » Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods
- » Ocean Conservancy
- » Ocean Conservancy
- » Southern Environmental Law Center
- » Stanford Earth: Stanford School of Energy & Environmental Sciences
- » US AID
- » U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- » University of Oklahoma - College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DISPLAY EVENT

Porte Cachere 1st Floor Garage

Conference attendees will be introduced to the variety and technology of zero-emission electric vehicles. This brand-neutral display will feature local members of EVHYbridNOIRE's membership organization and local EV drivers displaying their vehicles and educating students about EV's.

6:00 – 7:00 PM



Conference Session Descriptions

Plenary Session Descriptions

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

- 9:20 AM** **PLENARY: CLIMATE CHANGE, WHERE ARE WE NOW?**
- 9:40 AM This session explores the current state of climate science in a manner that conference attendees can understand the reality of how climate change affects their daily lives and communities.
Galleries 1-3
- 9:45 AM** **PLENARY: AN EXAMINATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT, CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS** Panelists will examine the Clean Air Act, civil rights and human rights laws and their implications for communities of color as they struggle for racial, environmental and climate justice in 2022 and beyond.
- 11:00 AM
Galleries 1-3

Expert Panel Descriptions

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

- 4:15 PM** **EXPERT PANEL: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH**
- 5:30 PM This panel will explore the implications and impacts of environmental justice issues on human health facing communities of color in the United States. Panelists will share their research and experiences in providing solutions for these beleaguered communities.
Galleries 1-3

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

- 8:55 AM** **EXPERT PANEL: ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY THROUGH RESEARCH** Panelists will engage conference participants in presenting the importance of research in achieving environmental equity. The panel will explore the connections between research and equity as it relates to community engagement and action.
- 9:55 AM
Galleries 1-3
- 2:30 PM** **EXPERT PANEL: COVID-19 VARIANT AND VACCINE FACTS: EMPOWERING BLACK COMMUNITIES TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS** This panel is designed to present the science and facts involving COVID-19, its variants and the efficacy of vaccines in order to relay the importance of making informed choices as related to their health and the impact of COVID-19 on Black communities.
- 3:20 PM
Galleries 1-3
- 3:30 PM** **EXPERT PANEL: TRANSITIONING TO A RENEWABLE ECONOMY** This panel is designed to take a look at how the country can transition to a renewable economy through use of emerging technologies and systems, particularly in the transportation and energy sectors; as well as strategies for sustainability and what this means to the US, in particular for uplifting the economic outlook for African-American communities.
- 4:30 PM
Galleries 1-3

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

- 8:30 AM** **EXPERT PANEL: TRANSITIONING TO A RENEWABLE**
- 9:45 AM **ECONOMY** This panel is designed to take a look at how the country can transition to a renewable economy through use of emerging technologies and systems, particularly in the transportation and energy sectors; as well as strategies for sustainability and what this means to the US, in particular for uplifting the economic outlook for African-American communities.

Galleries 1-3

Community Panel Descriptions

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

- 1:30 PM** **COMMUNITY PANEL: THE GULF WATER JUSTICE**
- 4:00 PM **PROJECT** The Deep South Center designed the Gulf Water Justice Project to advance racial equity in stormwater management and flood mitigation policies through effective and sustained participation of eight Black climate-vulnerable communities located in frequently flooded areas in Houston, TX; New Orleans, LA; Gulfport, MS; Mobile, AL; and Pensacola, FL. Panelists will present their communities' experiences with the project and the challenges their communities are facing as well as their successes in dealing with these problems.

Galleries 1-3

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

- 10:00 AM** **COMMUNITY PANEL: LIFTING OUR VOICES FOR**
- 11:15 AM **ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**
This panel will explore one of the key elements of working with communities, namely capacity building. The DSCEJ designed its communiversity model of working with, valuing and elevating community leaders in helping them to effectively fight environmental injustices and to become self-sufficient as they pursue their causes. Panelists will share the benefits of using this model as well as tell their stories about individual communities in Louisiana and Texas.

Galleries 1-3

Student Panel Descriptions

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

- 1:45 PM** **STUDENT PANEL: CLIMATE JUSTICE, ADAPTATION AND**
- 2:30 PM **MITIGATION** This panel of students will share their research on cultural mindsets and biases surrounding climate change; issues of food security; various climate change mitigation strategies and how their university and EJ communities can adapt to the ever increasing threat to the health and viability of institutions and people living in coastal areas

Galleries 1-3

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

- 1:00 PM** **STUDENT PANEL: FOOD SECURITY** This student panel focuses on the use of community gardens as a strategy for sustainability at universities; using unique research to address food insecurity; as well as the concept of sustainable food justice and the importance of relating the history of the black farmer within the conversation to promote racial healing.
- 2:15 PM**
- Galleries 1-3**

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

- 9:45 AM** **STUDENT PANEL: ENERGY SOURCES AND AIR QUALITY** This student panel delves into research involving the production of new and unique energy sources to reduce greenhouse gasses; and investigative research surrounding the use of low cost equipment to determine the distribution of particulate matter over distance and time.
- 10:30 AM**
- Galleries 1-3**
- 3:15 PM** **STUDENT PANEL: WATER QUALITY AND FLOODING** Panelists will present their research on the quality of the water New Orleans residents use in tracing its path from the Mississippi river to the tap; and the effects of flooding on farming in the Mississippi Delta
- 4:00 PM**
- Galleries 1-3**
- 4:00 PM** **STUDENT PANEL: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE** The focus of this panel is the presentation of research involving community engagement on the preservation of history supported by storytelling and using digital methodologies for recording the remarkable story of Africatown in Alabama; and the use of a mobile app technology to inform, educate and provide vital information on beekeeping which underlines the importance of the population of bees in relation to climate change mitigation.
- 5:00 PM**
- Galleries 1-3**

Student Poster Session Description

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 2022

- 10:45 AM** During the poster session, student researchers will present their posters to conference attendees and anonymous judges, explaining their findings and answering questions posed. Their presentation will be scored and winning posters will be awarded trophies, certificates and cash prizes. This year, the DSCEJ has instituted the Cecil Corbin-Mark Award for Graduate Research and the Hazel Johnson Award for Undergraduate Research which will go to first place winners in each division. The Generation Next poster contest first place winners will receive cash prizes in the middle and high school divisions.
- 12:30 PM**
- 2nd Floor**
Galleries 5-6

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
2nd Floor Galerie Booth
Conference Registration

6:00 PM – 6:15 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
Conference Co-Conveners
Welcome

Dr. Beverly Wright, Founder and Executive Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)

Dr. Robert Bullard, Executive Director, Texas Southern University Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
COMMUNITY FORUM:
JUSTICE40: A TIME FOR
RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENT

*Moderator: Danielle Wright,
Ph.D, Navigate NOLA*

Dr. Beverly Wright, Founder and Executive Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)

Dr. Robert Bullard, Executive Director, Texas Southern University Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Peggy Shepard, Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

7:30 – 7:45 PM
Closing Remarks

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

7:15 AM – 8:00 AM
Galleries 5-6
Breakfast

8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON
2nd Floor Galerie Booth
Conference Registration

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
WELCOME

Dr. Beverly Wright, Executive Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Dr. Robert Bullard, Executive Director, Texas Southern University Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Oliver Thomas, New Orleans City Council District E

John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (*via video*)

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
COVID-19 Instructions & Protocols

Kim Dunn and **Bruce McClue**, DSCEJ

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
Moderator: Dr. Fatemeh Shafiei, Spelman College

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS
SETTING THE STAGE: FIFTY
YEARS IS ENOUGH!

Dr. Beverly Wright, DSCEJ

9:20 AM – 9:40 AM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
Moderator: Dr. Florence Anoruo, South Carolina State University

PLENARY: CLIMATE CHANGE,
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The State of Climate Science

Dr. Delta Merner, Union of Concerned Scientists

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Dr. Anna Hull, Lincoln University, Pennsylvania

PLENARY: AN EXAMINATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT, CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS

Monique Harden, DSCEJ

Jacqui Patterson, Chisholm Legacy Project

Marianne Engelman-Lado, US Environmental Protection Agency

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Dr. Beverly Wright, DSCEJ

VIDEO GREETING: MICHAEL REGAN EPA ADMINISTRATOR

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ROBIN COLLIN EPA SENIOR ADVISOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Dr. Beverly Wright, DSCEJ

DAMU SMITH POWER OF ONE AWARD LUNCHEON PRESENTING THE 2022 RECIPIENT

Commemorating Cecil Corbin-Mark
Vernice Miller Travis, Metropolitan Group

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Latia Jackson, Virginia State University

STUDENT PANEL: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Climate's Silent Killer? An Extreme Heat Project on the Gulf Coast

Debra Butler, University of Massachusetts Boston

Environmental Justice and Food Security Policy Planning: An Evaluation of Community Strategic Food Planning in the Mississippi Delta

Frederick Hunter, Tougaloo College

Connect Autonomous Shuttle Transit: An Additional Transportation Mode for Transporting Students, Faculty, and Staff at Texas Southern University

Rayford Richardson, Texas Southern University

Our Mind Controls Our Future: Examining the Connection between Cultural Orientation and Varying Support For Climate Crisis Mitigation

Karis Thomas, Howard University

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Monique Harden, DSCEJ

COMMUNITY PANEL: GULF WATER JUSTICE COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY WATER PROBLEMS

Dr. Calvin Avant, Unity in the Family
Joe Womack, Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe and Sustainable (CHESS)

Tracey Stephens, Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)

Katherine Egland, Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate, and Health Organization (EEECHO)

Dawn Hebert, East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC)

Rashida Ferdinand, Sankofa

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Dr. Carol Pride, Savannah State University*

**EXPERT PANEL:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE &
HEALTH**

Dr. Nicky Sheats, Kean University
Center for the Urban Environment

Dr. Robin Saha, University of Montana
Environmental Studies

Heather Toney, Environmental
Defense Fund

6:30 PM – 7:00 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Dr. John Warford, DSCEJ*

**BOOK SIGNING KEYNOTE:
REV. LENNOX YEARWOOD
HIP HOP CAUCUS**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

**BOOK SIGNING AND
RECEPTION**

*Sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists
and Sustainable Communities Initiative*

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

7:30 AM – 8:15 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 4-6

Breakfast

8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

2nd Floor Galleries Booth

Conference Registration

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Dr. Glenn Johnson,
Texas Southern University*

**KEYNOTE: DR. ROBERT
BULLARD** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BULLARD
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CLIMATE JUSTICE

8:55 AM – 9:55 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Dr. Michelle Dovol, Howard University*

**EXPERT PANEL: ADVANCING
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY
THROUGH RESEARCH**

Dr. Paul Mohai, University of
Michigan School for Environment and
Sustainability

Dr. Rao Kotamarthi, Argonne
National Laboratories

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, University of
Maryland School of Public Health (Virtual)

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Della Wright, DSCEJ*

**COMMUNITY PANEL:
LIFTING OUR VOICES FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

Sharon Lavigne, RISE St. James

Robert Taylor,
Concerned Citizens of St. John

Bridgette Murray, Achieving
Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)

Rachel White, Achieving Community
Tasks Successfully (ACTS)

11:25 AM – 1:00 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Dr. Joan Wesley,
Jackson State University*

**LUNCHEON KEYNOTE:
DANIEL BLACKMAN**
EPA ADMINISTRATOR REGION 4

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: *Aara'L Yarber
Pennsylvania State University*

**STUDENT PANEL:
FOOD SECURITY**

**Lincoln University's Community
Garden and Its Impact on
Sustainability**

Onaje Cunningham
Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

Mapping Away Food Insecurity with the Cowpea

Maia Payne

Tennessee State University

Grasping at the Roots: A Study of Sustainable Food Justice and Racial Healing Through Black Agrarian Histories

Vera Grace Menafee, Oberlin College

Sustainable Lincoln University Gardens

Marlo Maddox

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

2:20 PM – 3:20 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Evelyn Mayo, Paul Quinn College

EXPERT PANEL: COVID-19 VARIANT AND VACCINE FACTS: EMPOWERING BLACK COMMUNITIES TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

Dr. Warren Jones, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Dr. KiTani Parker Leimeux
Xavier University of Louisiana

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

*Moderator: Dr. Melina McConatha
Lincoln University*

EXPERT PANEL: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR A RENEWABLE ECONOMY

Sharon Beard, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (*virtually*)

Donele Wilkins, Green Door Initiative

Marcus Sabbs, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)

4:40 PM – 6:00 PM

CONCURRENT INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Moderator: Asti Davis, NBEJN

**MAPPING FLOOD RISKS
INEQUITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Dr. Denae King,
Texas Southern University

Dr. David Padgett,
Tennessee State University

2nd Floor Galerie 4

Moderator: Payton Wilkins, DSCEJ

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE
PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS**

Kim Dunn, DSCEJ

Bruce McClue, DSCEJ

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

Breakfast

7:45 AM – 8:45 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 5-6

Poster Set Up

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM

**WELCOME: CONGRESSMAN
TROY A. CARTER, SR.**

LOUISIANA'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

*Moderator: Dr. Manuel DeLeon
Bethune-Cookman University*

**EXPERT PANEL: TRANSITIONING
TO A RENEWABLE ECONOMY**

Dr. Joel Tickner, Lowell Center for
Sustainable Production

Bill Walsh, Passport Foundation

Julian Gordon, Skyline Video Pros

Shelley Francis, EVHYbridNOIRE

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

2nd Floor Galleries 1-3

*Moderator: Stephen Pinkney, Texas Southern
University*

**STUDENT PANEL:
ENERGY SOURCES & AIR QUALITY**

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

Incorporation of Simulated Flue Gasoline into Long Term Performance of Tubular Photobioreactor to Analyze Abatement of CO₂ as a Result of Microbial Biomass Production

Karimah Preston

North Carolina A & T State University

Investigation of the Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Particulate Matter Using Low Cost Arduino Based PM Sensors

Hiba Abdelaziz

Xavier University of Louisiana

**10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
BREAK**

**10:30 AM – 12:30 P
2nd Floor Galleries 1-4 Foyer
EXHIBITS AND CAREER FAIR**

**10:45 AM – 12:30 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 5-6
STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

**12:30 PM – 12:45 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3
HBCU CLIMATE CHANGE
CONSORTIUM GROUP PHOTO**

**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3 Foyer
LUNCHEON BUFFET:
COMMEMORATION OF
DEBORAH BATES ROBINSON**
Mary Williams, DSCEJ

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3**

*Moderator: Dr. Kwasi Densu
Florida A & M University*

**KEYNOTE:
DR. CALVIN MACKIE, STEM NOLA**

**3:15 PM – 4:00 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3**

Moderator: TBA

**STUDENT PANEL: WATER
QUALITY AND FLOODING**

A Comparative Study of New Orleans' Community Water: From the Mississippi River to Tap Water, What gets through System
Darrell Esnault, Dillard University

Flooding and Farming in the Mississippi Delta

Jon-Vincent Holden
Jackson State University

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3**

Moderator: Karis Thomas, Howard University

**STUDENT PANEL:
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

BEenevolent

Sade Shofidiya,
Savannah State University

**Africatown Community History
Digital Archive**

Elise Steenburgh, Oberlin College

Africatown Story Map

Rebecca Kukushkin, Oberlin College

**5:00 – 5:30 PM
2nd Floor Galleries 1-3**

**AWARD CEREMONY:
STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

**6:00 – 7:00 PM
Porte Cachere 1st Floor Garage
ELECTRIC VEHICLE DISPLAY EVENT**

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

**4:00 AM
Shuttle Service Pick up from Marriott
New Orleans to Louis Armstrong Airport**

generation NEXT

CLIMATE JUSTICE SEEKERS. PROBLEM SOLVERS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

2nd Floor Galeries 5-6

POSTER SET UP

*The Crescent City Chapter of the Links,
Incorporated Members*

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

2nd Floor Galeries 5-6

STUDENT POSTER SESSION

*The Crescent City Chapter of the Links,
Incorporated Members*

12:30 PM – 12:45 PM

2nd Floor Galerie 4

GENERATION NEXT GROUP PHOTO

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

2nd Floor Galeries 1-3 Foyer

LUNCHEON BUFFET

Commemorating Deborah Bates Robinson

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

2nd Floor Galeries 1-3

**KEYNOTE :DR. CALVIN
MACKIE, STEM NOLA**

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

2nd Floor Galerie 4

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Simone English, PhD Candidate,
Florida A&M University

Monitoring Air Pollution Session

(Live remote presentation)

Dr. David Padgett

Tennessee State University

Dr. Morrell Gasseller

Xavier University of Louisiana

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

2nd Floor Galerie 4

**WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE AND
HOW DOES IT IMPACT MY HEALTH?**

Joy Semien, PhD Candidate

Texas A & M University

Simone English, PhD Candidate

Florida A&M University

Payton Wilkins, DSCEJ,

Program Manager, ECWTP

**VIDEO: CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH
DISPARITIES PRESENTATION AAAS**

**GENERATION NEXT STUDENT
PRESENTATIONS**

**Environmental Injustice: Train Up a Child
to Fight Against And Make A Difference:**

Presented by Student Interns at Dillard
University/ The Lower 9th Ward Center for
Sustainable Engagement & Development
(CSED) Environmental Research Internship

Aaran Hogan, Jr., 10th grade, George
Washington Carver High School

Jayden Lewis, 8th grade, Benjamin
Franklin Elementary

Jonathan Smith, 10th grade,
Benjamin Franklin High School

**The Great Mississippi River and The
Louisiana Coastal Wetlands-The value
to the State, to the Country-Land loss**

Bryce Black, 8th grade, NOLA Micro School

Territh Ridley, 9th grade, Benjamin
Franklin High School

5:00 – 5:30 PM

2nd Floor Galeries 1-3

**AWARD CEREMONY:
STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

Damu Smith

1952 - 2006

At a forum, he reminded the audience that the former South African president Nelson Mandela was once considered a terrorist and that federal officials stood by as southern politicians and the Ku Klux Klan terrorized black people during segregation. "As I recall, there were no Arabs riding horses terrorizing black folks," he said. Love him or not, he spoke with clarity and whether you agreed with him or not, you had to take notice.

Mr. Smith was such a tireless activist for others that he ignored his own health. In March of 2006, after complaining of stomach problems off and on for years, he fell ill while leading a delegation for Palestinian rights in the Middle East. After his return to Washington, doctors told him that he was in the end stage of colon cancer. He was given three months to live.

Damu's legacy lives on in the lives of the thousands of people he touched through his work. His voice still echoes in the halls of justice and rings clear and loud on the streets of broken communities worldwide.

**It is our
footsteps now
that take the
place of his
as those of
the younger
generation
will someday
overtake ours.**

**Let's live true to
Damu's legacy.**

**One can make
a difference.**



His Legacy

Damu Smith was an internationally known D.C. peace activist who advocated for a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in the 1980s, fought chemical pollution on the Louisiana Gulf Coast in the 1990s and campaigned against the war in Iraq in the 21st century. Mr. Smith was one of the city's preeminent civil rights activists, the voice of a thriving local movement. He co-hosted the show "Spirit in Action" on WPFW, where his advocacy continued up to his death in 2006.

Born LeRoy Wesley Smith, he was a native of St. Louis who came to DC in 1973 to study at Antioch College. As a child, he was curious and was drawn to science. He was a natural organizer who became active in school politics. When Mr. Smith was 17, he took a field trip to Cairo, Ill., and attended a black solidarity rally that showed him the power of community service. Shortly after arriving in Washington, Mr. Smith was drawn into two causes: the fight for a national King Holiday and the battle against South African apartheid. He took the name Damu, which means "blood, leadership and strength" in the Swahili language of Kenya.

Damu Smith was sometimes controversial. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Mr. Smith cautioned Americans and the U.S. government against targeting Arabs.

Let that one be you...

The Damu Smith Power of One Award

Honoring Peggy Shepard

Friday, April 14, 2022

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT
555 CANAL ST.



Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community based planning as well as campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally.

She has successfully combined grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, and environmental health participatory community research to become a national leader in advancing environmental policy and amplifying the perspective of environmental justice in urban communities – to ensure that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment extends to all.

She has been named co-chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) and was the first female chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA). She also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Black Environmental Justice Network and the Board of Advisors of the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.

Her work has received broad recognition: the Jane Jacobs Medal from the Rockefeller Foundation for Lifetime Achievement, the 10th Annual Heinz Award For the Environment, the William K. Reilly Award for Environmental Leadership, the Knight of the National Order of Merit from the French Republic, the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, and Honorary Doctorates from Smith College and Lawrence University.

In Memoriam

CECIL CORBIN-MARK

Cecil, former Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives at WE ACT for Environmental Justice based in New York, passed away on October 15, 2020. To this day, his presence, purposeful action and powerful drive for justice for marginalized communities is missed within the Environmental Justice arena. Cecil joined WE ACT while in its infancy, and over the following 26 years, he became one of the most recognized and respected leaders in the movement. His leadership and advocacy improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, not just in Harlem, where he was born and raised, but throughout the country.

His body of work was a thing of beauty; from the bills passed to the people he mentored and the knowledge he imparted through numerous presentations he delivered. Friends and colleagues alike, all remember his laughter, his smile and the pure passion that fueled his drive to seek justice within EJ communities. His fearless advocacy in fighting to protect and uplift the health and well-being of frontline communities is spoken of often within our circles.

Cecil left us much too soon at the age of 51 and at this time, during a conference in which he participated many years, we felt it fitting that we honor his work and the legacy he left behind. As the Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives at WE ACT, he helped develop and pass numerous bills in New York City and the State, while managing WE ACT's Washington, DC federal policy office. He advanced the work – especially on energy and toxics. Cecil served on numerous environmental boards, coalitions, and committees during his lifetime



1969-2020

A political science major at his beloved Hunter College, C.U.N.Y., Cecil always had a passion for local, national, and international politics. His graduate degree in political science at Oxford University in the United Kingdom focused on radical political traditions of Africans of the Diasporas in the Americas. He lectured on the environment and environmental justice at Hunter College, Teacher's College, The College of Mount St. Vincent, Buffalo State, Cornell University, Yale School of Forestry, and Columbia University School of Public Health.

A pilot and a skydiver, Cecil had taken up sailing prior to his untimely passing. He also devoted a great deal of time to mentoring young people and working with the Friends of Island Academy, a program to assist formerly incarcerated teens. Additionally, he financed and ran several summer basketball teams for neighborhood youth.

He is mourned and recognized by the environmental justice community nationwide for his leadership, technical assistance, and devotion to those he served. So, as we gather here at the 8th Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference, please join us in our pledge to honor Cecil's legacy by continuing the fight for environmental justice for all.

**Rest in Power, Cecil.
We love you.**

In Memoriam

DEBORAH BATES ROBINSON

It is with a great measure of sadness and joy that take this moment to celebrate the work of Deborah B. Robinson, former Program Manager for the Environmental Career Worker Training Program of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc.

Deb, as she was affectionately known, joined the staff of the DSCEJ in October of 2007. She came to us with a wealth of experience from obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Southern University in Baton Rouge, to numerous certifications in Lead Paint Inspection, Human Resources Management, Training Facilitation, Neuro-Linguistics Programming Practices, OSHA 1910 Guidelines and Chemical Operator Trainer, to name a few. Although a native New Orleanian, Deborah spent much of her early professional career gaining this experience in New York and Texas; with Houston being the home of one of the primary sites of the Center's current ECWT program. She was at ease with staff and her travels and learning made it easy to understand the character and culture of the sites for which she most recently served as Lead Program Manager and Liaison.



1953-2020

Deborah cheerfully lent her valuable experience and know-how to the program over the last thirteen years, beginning as a Program Specialist and graduating to Program Manager. Deborah was loved by her students and those who worked with her. She made certain that student needs as well as site and staff concerns pertaining to her role within the program were addressed.

Graduation at the New Orleans site was a most special time for Deborah during the program year. As the culmination of activities finalizing each year's training cycle, Deborah relished putting together, along with the staff, a memorable event for the graduating trainees, complete with certificates, trophies, and prizes to aid these young men and women as they moved into their new careers. Some had never graduated before nor had many been honored for a single accomplishment. There was always a bright smile and a warm hug (pre-COVID-19) for each proud graduate.

Deborah B. Robinson's passing has left a void in our hearts and she will be sorely missed.

*Always in
Our Hearts*

**Job well done, Deb.
We love you.**

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Location

During your stay at New Orleans Marriott, you'll be centrally located in New Orleans, steps from Canal Street and within a 10-minute walk of Jackson Square. This 4-star hotel is 0.6 miles from Cafe Du Monde and 0.6 miles from the famed French Market.



Rooms

Marriott rooms feature refrigerators and flat-screen televisions. Your bed comes with down comforters and premium bedding. Wireless Internet access (surcharge) keeps you connected, and cable programming is available for your entertainment. Private bathrooms with showers feature designer toiletries and hair dryers.

Amenities

Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an outdoor pool and a 24-hour fitness center. This hotel also features complimentary wireless Internet access, concierge services, and gift shops/newsstands.

Dining

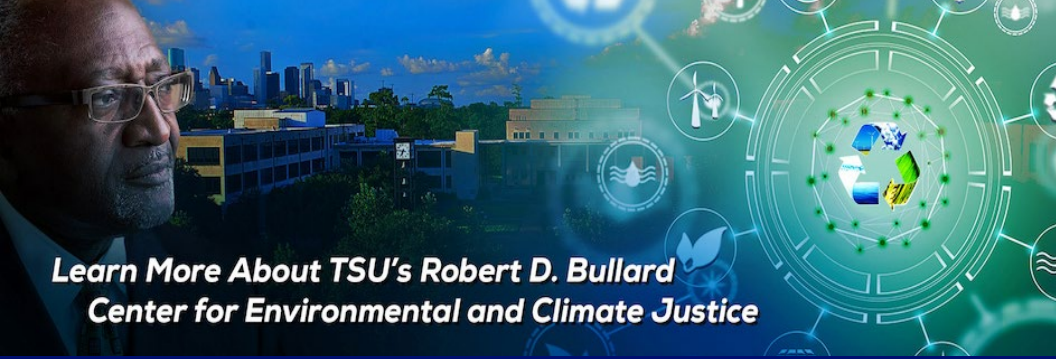
Enjoy a meal at the restaurant, or stay in and take advantage of the hotel's room service (during limited hours). Buffet breakfasts are served on weekdays from 6:30 AM to 11:30 AM and on weekends from 6:30 AM to noon for a fee.

Business Amenities

Featured amenities include a business center, express check-in, and express check-out. Limited parking is available onsite.

Conference Provided Shuttle Service

On Sunday, April 17, 2022, conference conveners will be provided shuttle service to the Louis Armstrong Airport leaving from the Marriott at 4:00 am.



**Learn More About TSU's Robert D. Bullard
Center for Environmental and Climate Justice**

Texas Southern University Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Mission

The Bullard Center's primary mission is to confront systems that create and perpetuate environmental, climate and racial injustice.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Vision and Goal

The Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University combines scholarship and action to dismantle systemic inequality and structural racism that cause disproportionate pain, suffering and death in Black and other people of color communities.

Policy Priority Areas

The Bullard Center uses a data-driven approach and applies a racial justice and equity lens in seeking solutions to the multiple converging threats and challenges facing Black people and their communities.

Priorities include:

- Environmental and Climate Justice
- Health and Economic Well-being
- Equitable Development and Infrastructure
- Housing
- Land Use, Urban and Regional Planning





Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Mission Statement

The mission of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) is to provide opportunities for communities, scientific researchers and decision makers to promote the rights of all people to be free from environmental harm as it impacts health, jobs, housing, education, and a general quality of life. The DSCEJ strives to achieve partnerships among universities and communities; as well as interactions among its various program components and legacy. Research/policy, community assistance/education, and primary, secondary and university education are the components the Center uses to reach its objectives.

Who We Are

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) was founded in 1992 in collaboration with community environmental groups and universities within the Southern region of the United States to address issues of environmental justice. The DSCEJ has developed and embraces a model for community partnership called "communiversity." This model emphasizes a collaborative management of partnership between universities and communities. The partnership promotes bilateral understanding and mutual respect between community residents and academicians. In the past, collaborative problem-solving attempts

that included community residents and academicians were one-sided in terms of who controlled the dynamics of the interaction, who was perceived as knowledgeable, and who benefited.

The essence of this approach is an acknowledgment that for effective research and policy-making, valuable community life experiences regarding environmental insult must be integrated with the theoretical knowledge of academicians. Either group alone is less able to accomplish the goal of achieving environmental sustainability and equity; but the coming together of the two in a non-threatening forum can encourage significant strides toward solutions. The Center has become a powerful resource for environmental justice education and training. A major aim of the Center has been the development of curricula that are culturally sensitive and tailored to the educational and training needs of the community.

A major goal of the Center is the development of minority leadership in the areas of environmental, social, and economic justice along the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor and the Gulf Coast Region. Over the years, The Center has made great strides in the accomplishment of its goals; we have observed the incredible metamorphosis of local grassroots community residents into national and international leaders, advocates, and spokespersons for

environmental justice. Additionally, the DSCEJ provides educational seminars to college-level students and integrates environmental scholars, and student interns into its programs, research and community outreach to provide motivational lectures and inform students about environmental careers and to provide scholarship/research opportunities at the Center.

The DSCEJ has directed its programmatic components and research efforts toward finding solutions and providing technical assistance to communities along the Gulf Coast. Community projects specifically directed toward environmental clean-up, rebuilding, and worker training programs for displaced residents and individuals affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav, and the BP Oil Crisis represent the Center's efforts to be a long term investment in the restoration of the devastated communities.

The DSCEJ has three components for reaching its goals objectives:

- **Research and Policy Studies**
- **Community Outreach Assistance and Education**
- **Primary, Secondary, University Education.**

Since its inception the DSCEJ has implemented numerous grants in the areas of research, capacity building, and education and training. These grant programs have been conducted in the areas of community assistance and education, research and policy, and primary, secondary, and university education. In its long-standing history of providing service to communities that have sustained negative environmental impact, the DSCEJ has continued to forge ahead, training communities and the building capacity of community residents to effect change where they live and work.

STAFF

Beverly Wright, Ph.D.

Executive Director and Founder

Kim Boyd, BS

Executive Assistant

Kim Dunn, MSPH

Technical Training Director

Asti Davis, JD

NBEJN Network Coordinator

Monique Harden, Esq.

Assistant Director of Law and Public Policy

Michael Hubbard

Finance Manager

Ginger LeBlanc, BA

Director of Communications

Bruce McClue, BS

Technical Training Manager

John Warford, Ph. D

Assistant Director of Operations & Training

Payton Wilkins, BA

Program Manager for ECWTP

Darian Williams, BS

Technical Trainer

Mary Williams, M. Ed

Assistant Director of Community & Student Engagement

Della Wright, MPH

Evaluator

Danielle Wright, Ph.D.

Navigate NOLA, Division Director

EDUCATIONAL FELLOWS/ASSOCIATES

Simone English, M.Arch

Pre-Doctoral Fellow

Shelbi Gatlin, JD

Law and Policy Associate

CONSULTANTS

Celeste A. Cooper

Administrative/Special Events Consultant

Croscina Crockett

Special Events Consultant

Patrece Daniels

Operations and HR Consultant

Michelle Dawkins

Technical Training Consultant

Brigitte Sabbs

Organizational Management Consultant

Funders & Sponsors

Funded in part by:

The following companies, organizations, private foundations, and government agencies have provided invaluable financial support for this year's conference. Their commitment in support of the goals of this conference is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank our funders who have chosen to remain anonymous. Their most generous support has played a significant financial role in making this conference a success.

The mission of the **Environmental Defense Fund** is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends. Guided by science and economics, we find practical and lasting solutions to the most serious environmental problems.



The mission of the **JPB Foundation** is to advance opportunity in the United States through transformational initiatives that empower those living in poverty, enrich and sustain our environment, and enable pioneering medical research.



The **Kresge Foundation** was founded by Sebastian S. Kresge in 1924 with a single but extraordinary mission: To promote human progress. For more than eight decades, we did so through capital challenge grants, helping to establish educational, cultural and health care facilities across the country.

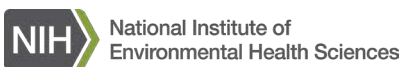


The **League of Conservation Voters** "advocates for sound environmental laws and policies, holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions, and elects pro-environment candidates." The organization pursues its goals through voter education, voter mobilization, and direct contributions to political candidates.



The **Levi Strauss Foundation's** philanthropic work is grounded in the **LEVI STRAUSS & CO.** company's values of originality, integrity, empathy and courage. Its mission is to advance the human rights and well-being of underserved people in places where Levi Strauss & Co. has a business presence.

The mission of **National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences** (NIEHS) is to discover how the environment affects people, in order to promote healthier lives. The Vision of the NIEHS is to provide global leadership for innovative research that improves public health by preventing disease and disability.



National Science Foundation mission s to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense; and for other purposes. NSF envisions a nation that capitalizes on new concepts in science and engineering and provides global leadership in advancing research and education.



Rothy's understands there's a better way to do business, and that it should start by putting the planet and its people first. This innovative apparel company transforms eco-friendly materials into wardrobe staples that look just as good as they feel. Sustainability is more than a buzzword at Rothy's. From their goal of achieving a closed-loop production model by 2023, to the inclusive environment fostered at their headquarters and stores, moving toward a sustainable future is at the heart of everything they do. We are proud to welcome this creative business as one of our conference funders.

The **Sierra Club's** mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the planet; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.



The mission of the **Union of Concerned Scientists** is to use rigorous, independent science to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.



Windward Fund describes its mission as "seek[ing] to build a more impactful environmental movement by connecting people across diverse geographies, sectors, and communities, enabling them to share expertise and resources, and providing a vehicle for effective, community-based, grassroots grant[making]."



Conference Sponsors, Partners & Friends

We would like to thank our conference sponsors, academic partners and friends who have provided their most generous support to this event. Our consortium students and communities have benefited greatly over the years. In today's world, it is most important that we continue our mission of educating tomorrow's leaders both in institutions of higher learning and in grassroots communities. The struggle continues for justice and equity. We thank you for undergirding us in our work at the Convener, Partner, Advocate and Friend of the Conference levels.

Convener Level Sponsors

Argonne National Laboratory is a multidisciplinary science and engineering research center, where talented scientists and engineers work together to answer the biggest questions facing humanity, from how to obtain affordable clean energy to protecting ourselves and our environment. Ever since we were born out of the University of Chicago's work on the Manhattan Project in the 1940s, our goal has been to make an impact – from the atomic to the human to the global scale.



Ceres is a nonprofit organization transforming the economy to build a just and sustainable future for people and the planet. We work with the most influential capital market leaders to solve the world's greatest sustainability challenges. Through our powerful networks and global collaborations of investors, companies and nonprofits, we drive action and inspire equitable market-based and policy solutions throughout the economy.



The mission of **INROADS** is to deliver innovative leadership development programs and creative solutions that identify, accelerate and elevate underrepresented talent throughout their careers.



IBM seeks to be an environmentally responsible neighbor in the communities where they operate, and to act promptly and responsibly to correct incidents or conditions that endanger health, safety, or the environment.



The **National Audubon Society's** mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.



The **National Academies of Sciences Engineering & Medicine Gulf Research Program** is dedicated to Enhancing Offshore Energy Safety, Environmental Protection, and Human Health and Community Resilience



In supporting a safer, more resilient, and sustainable future for the Gulf and all those who call the region home, the Gulf Research Program uses science, engineering, and medical knowledge to empower its citizens and to enhance the following areas: Gulf Offshore Energy Safety; Gulf Environmental Protection and Stewardship; and Gulf Health and Resilience.

U.S. Geological Survey has the mission to monitor, analyze, and predict current and evolving dynamics of complex human and natural Earth-system interactions and to deliver actionable information at scales and timeframes relevant to decision makers.



Verra catalyzes measurable climate action and sustainable development outcomes by driving large-scale investment to activities that reduce emissions, improve livelihoods, and protect nature.



Partner Level Sponsors

American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact has a singularly clear mission; to work toward closing equity gaps across America by investing in visionary entrepreneurs who are building scalable social enterprises in these areas: economic opportunity for all, healthy youth development, equity in education, and resilient communities.



The **Columbia Climate School**'s mission is to develop and inspire knowledge-based solutions and educate future leaders for just and prosperous societies on a healthy planet.



Vision, values, and strategy are what distinguish the **Deloitte** culture. Their **Deloitte.** vision and strategy, developed in collaboration with leadership and member firm partners from around the world, focuses on working together as one across geographic, functional, and business borders to deliver excellence in all of the services provided by their member firms.

It is the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**'s mission "To drive advances in science, technology, and exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, economic vitality, and stewardship of the Earth." NASA is an agency that leads by example and will continue to spur profound changes in our knowledge, culture, and expectations.



Ocean Conservancy works to protect the ocean from today's greatest global challenges. The Conservancy works with its partners and constituents to create science-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.



Restore the Mississippi River Delta has adopted as its mission the advancement of an equitable, safer, and flourishing coast for Louisiana's communities, ecosystems, and economy.



The mission of **USAID** on behalf of the American people, is to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America's foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance.



Advocates Level Sponsors

EvHybridNoire, based in Atlanta, GA, is a non-profit geared towards the multi-cultural community with two main missions: To connect owners and operators of hybrids and electric vehicles (EV) and to educate about hybrid and EV.



Mount Holyoke College's mission is to provide an intellectually adventurous education in liberal arts and sciences through academic programs recognized internationally for their excellence and range; to draw students from all backgrounds into an exceptionally diverse and inclusive learning community with a highly accomplished, committed, and responsive faculty and staff; to continue building on the College's historic legacy of leadership in the education of women; and to prepare students, through a liberal education integrating curriculum and careers, for lives of thoughtful, effective, and purposeful engagement in the world.



The mission of the **Southern Environmental Law Center** is to protect the basic right to clean air, clean water, and a livable climate; to preserve our region's natural treasures and rich biodiversity; and to provide a healthy environment for all.



The mission of the **University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences** is to provide a world-class academic experience that promotes convergent, innovative and inclusive education and research at the intersections of weather, climate, and sustainability.



Friends of the Conference Level Supporters

The **American Efficient** mission is to work towards a world where energy efficiency creates reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for all. Their culture is built on collaboration, and they believe American Efficient must be a welcoming place for all.



Earthjustice is the premier nonprofit public interest environmental law organization. The organization wields the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change. "We are here because the earth needs a good lawyer."



HBCU Green Fund is a non-profit (501 C3) that works to advance campus-wide sustainability at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). We are working to finance energy efficient buildings and infrastructure upgrades. Investment in HBCUs generates multiple dividends advancing social justice and equity.



The mission of the **Healthy Building Network** is to advance human and environmental health by improving hazardous chemical transparency and inspiring product innovation.



Healthy Gulf's purpose is to collaborate with and serve communities who love the Gulf of Mexico by providing the research, communication and coalition-building tools needed to reverse the long pattern of over exploitation of the Gulf's natural resources.



The mission of **Seven Star Academy, Inc.** is to empower communities across the world through Family advocacy, Christian values, Educational forums, Economic seminars, Civic awareness, Open Communication, and Celebration meetings.



The **Stanford University School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences** develops the knowledge, talent and leadership to understand the changing Earth and to help solve the enormous resource and environmental challenges facing the world now and, in the decades, ahead.



The mission of the **World Resources Institute** is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.



Special Thank You's
Bernard Singleton, Ph.D.,

Associate Professor of Biology, Dillard University

Since the inception of the HBCU Climate Change Conference, Dr. Bernard Singleton, faculty member at Dillard University has been a dedicated mentor and guide for Dillard University student researchers. He also serves as mentor to secondary school students involved as interns with the Dillard University/ The Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development (CSED) Environmental Research Internship. We thank him for his most generous professional and financial support.

National Center for Atmospheric Research, Computational & Information Systems Laboratory

We send out a special thank you to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Computational & Information Systems Laboratory who provided travel scholarships for students to attend the conference this year. We appreciate the commitment of NCAR-CISL to the goals of the HBCU Climate Change Conference.

Thank you!



9801 Lake Forest Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126
Phone: 504.272.0956
Website: www.dscej.org



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, TX 77004
Phone: 713.313.7011
Website: www.tsu.edu