

Biographies for Panelists

8th Annual Black Women's Roundtable Policy Forum Series

Black Women Leading the Way in 2016 and Leveraging Their Vote in the First 100 Days of 2017

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Room 207 AB at the Washington Convention Center, Mt. Vernon Square, Washington, DC

Hazeen Ashby, Esq is the Director for Technology & Telecom Policy at the National Urban League, Washington Bureau. Ms. Ashby monitors policy developments related to technology, telecommunications and the decennial census and directs advocacy strategies that advance the Urban League's legislative agenda in these areas. She has served as the Executive Editor of the *State of Black America* (SOBA). Before joining the Urban League, Ms. Ashby was the Senior Policy Counsel for the Culture Program at Third Way, a centrist think tank where she specialized in immigration policy. Prior to Third Way, Ms. Ashby was the Associate Director of Student Chapters at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS). Ms. Ashby earned her J.D. from the Howard University School of Law and her Bachelor's degree in Social Policy from Northwestern University.

Diane Babineaux joined the IAM Executive Council on July 1, 2013 as the first African-American woman to serve as a General Vice President. Her assigned duties as General Vice President include coordinating and administering the activities of several IAM Departments at Headquarters and continue promoting the IAM's mission to expand Women's and Human Rights and the Young Machinist Program. She also has responsibility for expense management and budgetary controls. Ms. Babineaux started her career at IAM in the MNPL/Political Department and she later moved to the Research where she worked in virtually every position. Much of Diane's work focused on economic and political trends and their impact on working families. She was appointed Chief of Staff, formerly Executive Assistant, to the International President in 2000.

Cora Masters Barry is a community builder, dream maker, tennis & educational entrepreneur, and a trailblazer who has literally changed the lives of over 15,000 inner city youth through the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center (SETLC). As former First Lady of the District of Columbia, Mrs. Barry founded the Recreation Wish List Committee (RWLC) in 1994 to provide safe, state-of-the-art recreational environments for underserved DC youth. SETLC opened in 2001 with a \$5.1 million grant from the city and was remodeled in 2015 as an \$18 million facility located in the heart of Southeast Washington, DC-Ward 8—the City's most under resourced community. She envisioned the SETLC as a place where children could go to be provided with a supervised and structured environment; but also, where they could learn the sport of tennis and life skills, while receiving academic tutoring.

Salandra Benton's community work involves educating youth in churches and on college campuses about why the labor movement is important and vital to all people. She educates them on why they need to become activists in the workplace and in their communities. Salandra serves as the Florida State Convener for the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, which works with other coalitions to turnout the youth vote and to encourage them to engage in civic participation. In 2008 she was elected by her peers at Harvard to deliver the class speech for the Harvard Trade Union Program and in 2010 she was recognized for her successful work by the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Florida State Chapter. Ms. Benton is the proud recipient of the NAACP Benjamin Hooks and NCBCP Spirit of Democracy Awards.

Carmen Berkley is the Civil, Human and Women's Rights Director at the AFL-CIO. She also serves as a Principal Consultant at Can't Stop Won't Stop, LLC, Lead Trainer for Campus Camp Wellstone, and is a proud member of the Black Youth Project 100. Carmen has dedicated her life to advocacy and justice for people of color, women and the LGBTQ community. She has served as the President of the United States Student Association, Regional Field Director for NAACP, Digital Strategist for American Federation for State County and Municipal Employees, Field Director for Choice USA and Executive Director of the Generational Alliance.

Clayola Brown is President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Her lifelong commitment to labor activism began in her hometown of Charleston, South Carolina, where she—alongside her activist mother—campaigning to organize the Manhattan Shirt Factory. Ms. Brown's tremendous commitment to her community and her fellow man is apparent through the many boards and organizations on which she currently serves, including America's Agenda: Healthcare for All, the National Board of the NAACP (including chairing both the NAACP Image Awards Committee and co-chairing the Labor Ad-Hoc Committee).

LaTosha Brown is an award-winning community organizer, philanthropic consultant, advisor, political strategist and professional jazz singer with over twenty years of experience working in the non-profit and philanthropy sectors on a wide variety of issues related to social justice, economic development, leadership development, wealth creation, and civil rights. She is the founder of TruthSpeaks Consulting, Inc., a philanthropy advisory

consulting business based in Atlanta, GA. She has worked as a consultant and advisor for individual donors, various public foundations and private donors. She is a founding member of the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors' Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health and also served as the fund's first Executive Director. Under her leadership the Gulf Coast Fund gained national recognition, created strategic national partnerships and distributed over \$2.5 million in re-granting dollars for community and coastal organizations in the gulf coast region.

Melanie Campbell is President/CEO of the **National Coalition on Black Civic Participation** & National Convener, **Black Women's Roundtable**. Campbell is known for her unique ability to build intergenerational coalitions and networks to empower Black women, girls and young Black men to live their best lives. Campbell is a nationally recognized expert in civic engagement, black voter participation, election reform, voting rights, census and coalition building. She has served in the civil rights, social justice, youth and women's rights movement for over 20 years. One of her most rewarding accomplishments has been creating an innovative, youth-focused leadership development program, Black Youth Vote! (BYV), for which she received the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Emerging Leaders Legacy Award. A veteran at leading and managing highly successful multi-million dollar civic engagement and issue-based campaigns and is recognized as one of the hardest working leaders in today's Civil Rights, Women's Rights and Social Justice Movements.

Glynda C. Carr is the co-founded of Higher Heights, a national organization focused on inspiring Black women to be change agents by harnessing their political power and leadership potential to increase the number of Black women in elected office. Carr is the former Executive Director of Education Voters of New York, a leading independent voice for school reform in the state. Prior to Education Voters, Carr was Chief of Staff to New York State Senator Kevin Parker (Brooklyn), and served as campaign manager for two of his successful re-election campaigns. Her articles have appeared on TheRoot.com, BET.com, Ebony.com and Feminist.com. She is a contributor on *The SPIN: All Women's Media Panel* and has appeared on NewsOne, Fox News Live, MSNBC and several other media outlets. She was named a "Rising Star" in The Capitol's 2009 "40 Under 40" edition.

Waikinya Clanton has risen to become one of Washington's youngest women to watch. With several years of Capitol Hill experience, Clanton currently serves as the Executive Director of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded to increase and promote the presence of Black women in government, corporate and nonprofit leadership roles. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Pre-Law from Tougaloo College where she graduated Cum Laude. Most recently, Waikinya was named by emPOWER magazine as a 2014 Rising Political Star, in addition to having been named by the Capital Cause as a Featured Young Philanthropist and as an Emerging Leader by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She is member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Natalie Madeira Cofield is Founder of Walker's Legacy, an organization she created to inspire, equip and empower professional and enterprising women. Cofield's began her career working three jobs in high school, she started her first company at 26, growing to become a three-time CEO by age 30. A millennial that found inspiration at the nexus of business, community and politics, Cofield has carved a niche for herself as a serial entrepreneur, advocate, and speaker on all things start-up and diversity. Her work has been featured in *CNN*, *NYTimes*, *FastCompany*, *Forbes*, *BusinessInsider*, *Black Enterprise*, *Essence* and *Ebony* among others. In 2015 Cofield was named one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans in the America by The Root 100. In 2013 Cofield was named the **Technology Diversity Evangelist of the Year by Google** and one of the **Top 10 Black Innovators** by MVMT50, an initiative of South by Southwest. In 2013 she was featured on the **cover of Black Enterprise**. Cofield is a graduate of Howard University and the Baruch School of Public Affairs in New York.

Dr. Menna Demessie is the Vice President of Policy and Research for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) She is also an adjunct professor at the University of California, Washington Center. In her latest publication, *Toward A More Inclusive America: African Americans & Voting Rights*, she discusses the significance of restrictive voting law changes in the context of the Voting Rights Act and recent age discrimination. Prior to joining CBCF's staff, Dr. Demessie worked for U.S. Representative Barbara Lee focusing on unemployment legislation, poverty, and foreign policy. Dr. Demessie holds a joint doctorate in Public Policy and Political Science and a Master of Arts in Political Science and Certificate in African American, African and Black Transnational Studies from the University of Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Law and Society from Oberlin College.

Vanessa K. De Luca is Editor-in-Chief of ESSENCE where she is responsible for overseeing the content and vision for the preeminent magazine for Black women, as well as ESSENCE.com, the daily online destination for African-American women. De Luca joined ESSENCE more than a decade ago as Beauty and Fashion Features Editor. In 2003, she was named Lifestyle Director and was promoted to Executive Editor in 2005. De Luca was named to her current post in July 2013. Prior to joining ESSENCE, she served in a variety of editorial capacities at publications such as *Life* and *Glamour*. She is also the coauthor of the best-selling beauty and empowerment book, *Tyra Banks Beauty Inside & Out*. De Luca received her Bachelor of Arts degree,

cum laude, in English and American Literature from Harvard University, and her Master of Science in Magazine Concentration from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Heather Foster recently served as both Associate Director and Advisor in the White House Office of Public Engagement. Foster served as both Associate Director and Advisor in the White House Office of Public Engagement. During her tenure she managed all of the President's meetings and speeches with the African American and civil rights communities and worked internally with other offices to develop the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. She participated in weekly radio broadcasts, visited regional cities and spoke at a number of national conferences using them as a platform to inform the public on the implementation of the ACA, college accessibility, immigration reform and economic mobility. Before her service in the White House, Foster was a Policy and Outreach Adviser at the US Department of Education, managing outreach to community based organizations working to close achievement gaps and improve educational opportunities for children. Foster continues to work to empower young people of color to become involved in public policy by speaking at local universities and mentoring young women. She is a proud graduate of Northwestern University and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Alicia Garza is the Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation's leading voice for dignity and fairness for the millions of domestic workers in the United States, most of whom are women. She is also the co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter, a national organizing project focused on combatting anti-Black state sanctioned violence. Alicia is an organizer, writer, and freedom dreamer whose work challenges us to celebrate the contributions of Black queer women's work within popular narratives of Black movements, and reminds us that the Black radical tradition is long, complex and international. Her activism reflects organizational strategies and visions that connect emerging social movements without diminishing the specificity of the structural violence facing Black lives.

Holli L. Holliday is the Campaign Manager for the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) and she chairs the Research Committee for NCBCP's Black Women's Roundtable. In March 2015, the committee released "The State of Black Women 2015", which included exit poll data from the 2014 elections. In 2003, first, as a consultant and ultimately as National Director, Holli worked with Project Vote to craft, test, and evaluate voter registration and get out the models, which would inform industry best practices to ensure that people were not only properly registered, but that they also voted. In 2007, as the We Are America Alliance first Executive Director, Holli led an effort that directed over \$20 million in combined resources from 14 key partners to support one of the largest voter contact programs for Latino, Asian Pacific Islanders and other immigrant communities. Holli has recruited, trained and supported women and people of color to join public service resulting in 171 progressive victories, roughly 45% women, almost 30% people of color and 30% under 35. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, Holli is a graduate of Howard University and the University of Missouri –Kansas City School of Law.

Janaye Ingram has spent her career empowering people and creating change for marginalized communities. She has engaged communities throughout the United States and internationally on issues like civil rights, voting rights & democracy, health care, education, economic empowerment, women's rights and activism. Most recently, Janaye served as the National Executive Director of the civil rights organization National Action Network. Prior to her work with NAN, she held positions with nonprofits and corporations in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. She currently consults with nonprofits to help maximize their impact. She is a National Board Member for the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN) and a Leader with 20/20 Leaders of America.

Avis Jones-DeWeever is the Author of *How Exceptional Black Women Lead*, Founder of the *Exceptional Leadership Institute for Women*, and President of *Incite Unlimited*, a Washington, DC-based boutique consultancy specializing in diversity consulting, communications strategy and the development and implementation of impactful research. Dr. Jones-DeWeever is the author or co-author of numerous publications, a selection of which include: **The State of Black Women in the U.S. 2014, 2015, and 2016; Beyond Broke: Why Closing the Racial Wealth Gap is a Priority for National Economic Security**; and **Black Girls in New York: Quiet Strength, Bold Resilience**. Dr. Jones-DeWeever is a regular Guest Host and Contributor to TV One's *NewsOne Now with Roland Martin*, PBS' *To the Contrary*, and Sirius XM Radio's *The Agenda*. She's also a contributor to the *Huffington Post* and *Black Enterprise*, and her views have been shared on a variety of additional outlets including CNN, C-Span, BET, BBC, NPR, the Washington Post, the Atlantic and many more.

Tracy L. Jones is the National Director of Advocacy Campaigns & Midwest Regional Director at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation with more than 20 years of experience in non-profit management and HIV/STI prevention education. Tracy has spent her career working to educate marginalized populations on the importance of HIV/STI prevention. As the Program Director of HIV prevention funding for the City of Cleveland Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Unit, she directed 14 HIV Prevention Programs for women, men who have sex with men, at-risk teens and chemically dependent adults. Tracy served for many years at the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland and helped shepherd the organization into a new era as the regional affiliate of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Today her service area stretches from Chicago, IL to Columbus, Ohio. She recently added National

Advocacy Campaigns to eradicate HIV and STI transmission her roles and responsibilities. She holds a master's degree in the Management of Non-Profit Organizations from Case Western Reserve University and BA from Kent State University.

Carol Joyner is the Director for the Labor Project for Working Families (LPWF), in partnership with FV@W. With more than 20 years of experience, she works to address the policy and programmatic solutions for improving workplace standards. Prior to the LPWF work, Carol provided consultation on work and family and trust fund administration issues. She is also the founding Director of the 1199SEIU/Employer Child Care Fund and past President of the 199SEIU Child Care Corporation, a labor/management benefit fund negotiated by 1199 United Healthcare Workers East, SEIU and 400 health care employers in New York State. Ms. Joyner is the recipient of work and family achievement awards including the Alliance of Work Life Professionals' Innovative Program Award and; the LPWF Annual Award. She is a founding member of the NY Union Child Care Coalition; founding partner of the Work and Family Strategy Council and; a member of the NCBCP, Black Women's Roundtable.

Tamika Mallory is the former National Executive Director of the National Action Network (NAN), one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations founded by Reverend Al Sharpton. Ms. Mallory has become a nationally recognized progressive leader and a fierce advocate for social justice and civil rights, and has been publicly applauded as "a leader of tomorrow" by Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, Valerie B. Jarrett.

Dr. Jacquie Hood Martin, PhD is a full-time servant leader and a woman "with a yielded spirit." Hood Martin inspires people to action with her matter-of-fact teaching and leadership style. As owner of J. Hood & Associates "A Life Management Firm™", she offers a range of personal enrichment, professional development, and strategic planning. She is a former Dean of Career Programs, and College Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs within the City Colleges of Chicago system. Highly skilled and educated book author, Hood Martin is also an ordained minister helping people to set priorities which lead to smart, sound, decision-making.

Janice Mathis, Esq. was named Executive Director of NCNW in 2016. Previously, she was V.P. of the Citizenship Education Fund, where she directed diversity and civil rights initiatives. In 2015, Janice succeeded in an effort to include diverse contractors in \$3 billion dollars' worth of Georgia transportation projects. Janice testified before the U.S. Sentencing Commission on the crack/powder cocaine disparity and in Geneva before the UN Commission to End Torture. She organized a national effort to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2005. She served on Georgia Power and Coca-Cola diversity advisory councils. Janice and her sister Davida Mathis host Sisters in Law on News and Talk 1380 WAOK. Janice formerly served as a member of the Rules Committee of the DNC and on the national board of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Janice practiced law in Athens, GA with the firm, Thurmond, Mathis and Pickett. She earned Bachelors of Arts degrees in both economics and Public Policy Studies at Duke University and a J.D. from the University of Georgia.

Minyon Moore was chosen by Washingtonian Magazine as one of DC's most powerful women, Minyon Moore, is considered one of the nation's top strategic thinkers. She currently serves as a partner at Dewey Square Group (DSG), managing the State & Local Affairs and Multicultural Strategies practices since 2002. Prior to DSG, she served as CEO of the Democratic National Committee. Prior to the DNC, Minyon served as Assistant to the President of the United States and Director of White House Political Affairs; and Director of White House Public Liaison. She serves as a board member for the Writers Guild Foundation, School of Global Journalism & Communication at Morgan State University, and National Council of Negro Women. A native of Chicago, Illinois, she attended the University of Illinois at Chicago as well as Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts.

Laura Murphy is President of Laura Murphy & Associates. She is influential national civil liberties and civil rights leader and a consummate policy strategist. She brings more than 35 years of experience in government and advocacy, including 17 years as Director of the ACLU Legislative Office where she advanced legislation on free speech, criminal justice reform, national security, reproductive rights, LGBT and civil rights, and Internet privacy before Congress and the White House. She has testified more than a dozen times before Congress and has been celebrated for building effective bipartisan coalitions. In 2016, Harvard University elected her as one of its Advanced Leadership Initiative fellows, a year-long program for highly accomplished and experienced leaders who are interested in tackling new challenges in the social justice sector. In 2015, Murphy received the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award "for selfless and devoted service in the cause of equality" from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Brianna Patterson is Black Youth Vote National Coordinator at the NCBCP. Prior to joining NCBCP, Brianna she served as NAN's Youth Move Chapter President of DC and as the Northeast Regional Director, where she oversaw youth initiatives from Maine to Virginia under Mary Pat Hector's leadership. In 2013, Brianna was named one of the top 25 young activists to watch by the Root.com and acquired over 10k social media tweets and shares to win their social media contest. Brianna is the founder and principal of The Millennial Coalition, which is an organization that helps the world see millennials through a different lens. Brianna is working on her first book entitled "**From Pain to Victory**". Her Slogan has become "Saved 2 Serve!" She is a graduate

of Oxon Hill High School and attended UDC Community College. Brianna is a three time award winning activist and "Change Agent" with great depth and perception.

Elizabeth Powell is the National Secretary-Treasurer for APWU, making her the first woman executive officer in the union's history. In the 2010 National Officer's Election, she ran unopposed and was elected to serve a three year term. Liz believes that the membership is the most important faction within the APWU and has consistently extended herself to provide the state and local unions any and all of the assistance necessary to give maximum representation. Education and information is a top priority with her and is shared with all state and local officers through mailings and seminars. She believes that *"A Woman's Place is in Her Union"* and *"In Unity There is Strength, and Together We Can and Will Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow."*

René Redwood is an expert on diversity and advocate for equity and inclusion. For more than two decades, Ms. Redwood has informed the debate on access and equal opportunity while directing initiatives for public, non-profit, and private sector organizations. René is the CEO of Redwood Enterprise LLC, a consulting practice that provides data informed strategies to deliver sustainable solutions in support of the clients' missions. Changing organizations and societal institutions to be inclusive and respect individuals for their humanity is her company's purpose and speaks to its impact. Redwood sits on the board of Directors of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and NARAL Pro-Choice America. She has received numerous awards and honors, including being named by the US Black Chamber as one of the "Top 100 African American Business Leaders in 2012" and in 2013 she received the "Women-Owned Business, Servant Leadership Award".

Ebonee Rice is a women's rights advocate and non-profit professional. In her role as National Director of Young American and Women's Engagement at Enroll America, she leads efforts to engage a diverse group of national partners in significant health coverage outreach and enrollment-related efforts. Her professional portfolio includes women's interests groups, youth and millennial coalitions. Recently named one of KYS DC's Top 30 Under 30, Ebonee is most proud to serve a group of millennial, women leaders as the Chief Ambassador of the International Black Women's Public Policy Institute's Global Ambassadors Program. This program focuses on bolstering national conversations to evaluate the impact of current public policies, and to initiate new policies that address major threats to the well-being of Black women in the U.S. and the diaspora.

Elsie L. Scott, Ph.D., former President and Chief Executive of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, is the Founding Director of the Ron W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center, a focal point for leadership development and public policy research and analysis into the areas of African-American contributions to U.S. national and foreign policy, and the role of African Americans in U.S. presidential and congressional politics. In her role, she will oversee seminars, conferences, symposia, visiting scholars, executive programs, internships, publications and public events, which will play a critical role in developing leaders; providing resources to political leaders, policy-makers and nonprofit leaders; and serving as an epicenter for policy discussion on issues critical to the global black community.

Yandy Smith-Harris is the star of the VH1 reality series Love and Hip Hop. She is an entertainment powerhouse and entrepreneur who is a part owner, President, and brand manager of the lifestyle brand Everything Girls Love. She is an agent for rapper Bianca Bonnie. Earlier in her career, she worked as an executive assistant at Violator Management and later was a manager for rapper Jim Jones. Yandy also worked with LL Cool J, 50 Cent, Missy Elliott, and Busta Rhymes during her time at Violator Management. She earned a position on Billboard Magazine's Top 30 executives under 30. She was born in Harlem, New York. In 2015, she married fellow Love and Hip Hop star Mendeecees Smith. She and Mendeecees have two children. Yandy is a graduate of Howard University.

Makani Themba is Chief Strategist at Higher Ground Change Strategies based in Detroit, Michigan. A social justice innovator and pioneer in the field of change communications and narrative strategy, she has spent more than 20 years supporting organizations, coalitions and philanthropic institutions in developing high impact change initiatives. Higher Ground Change Strategies is her newest project, which she describes as "a place where change makers can get the support they need to take their work to the next level." Higher Ground helps partners integrate authentic engagement, systems analysis, change communications and more for powerful, vision-based change.

Jennifer Tucker is a women's human right expert with more than two decades of experience bringing the diverse voices and needs of women and girls into the policy arena at the national, state, local and international levels. Ms. Tucker is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Black Women's Roundtable where she provides support and expertise on policy issues that advance economic security for Black women and their families. Prior to BWR, Ms. Tucker was Vice President at the Center for Women Policy Studies where she led initiatives that examined the connections among women's educational opportunities, employment options, economic status and family roles and was instrumental in developing a network of women state policymakers and the internationally acclaimed GlobalPOWER (Partnership of Women Elected/Appointed Representatives) program. Ms. Tucker serves as the Board Chair of the LEAD Fund,

Hon. Sheila Tyson is the Birmingham City Councilwoman, passionate community advocate, and proud citizen of Birmingham's District 6. Sheila has dedicated her life to causes that uplift members of her community and has served over 60,000 residents and has worked with various community partners to develop programs that revitalize and empower the community. Sheila was elected to the Birmingham City Council on August 27, 2013, receiving 60 percent of the vote in a field of 6 opponents.

Robin Williams is from a new generation of workers who are assuming leadership roles at the UFCW. As the International Vice President and Director of the Civil Rights and Community Action Department, she brings years of experience to her role of coordinating with UFCW Local Unions and Region Directors to mobilize community support for campaigns and programs that give voice to UFCW members. Robin has received numerous awards and honors for her tireless efforts on behalf of workers and communities. She has been recognized by the AFL-CIO Washington Metropolitan Central Labor Council, Jobs with Justice, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and has received the NAACP "Keeper of the Flame" award.

Thomasina Williams works at the intersection of family dynamics, family leadership development, business management and ownership to help enterprising individuals and families craft enduring legacies, by being as intentional in cultivating their human capital as they are in growing their financial capital. She became a partner in one of Florida's top full-service law firms in a record three years, and then started the first Black-owned law firm in Miami with a primarily corporate clientele. She was recognized as one of the *Top 250 Lawyers in South Florida*. Thereafter, she served as a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, making over \$42 million in grants to help non-profits defend voting rights and increase voter participation."

Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner is President of Skinner Leadership Institute (SLI). Skinner Leadership Institute works to produce a new generation of leaders who are technically excellent and spiritually mature. Dr. Williams-Skinner has written numerous articles including "The Power of Love," "Been There, Done That: Why African American Christians Resist Racial Reconciliation," "Why and How Would Jesus Vote" and "Obama, the Black Church, and the Promise of Reconciliation". She has also published two leadership training workbooks, *Becoming An Effective 21st Century Leader* and *Personal Transformation Through Biblical Reconciliation*.