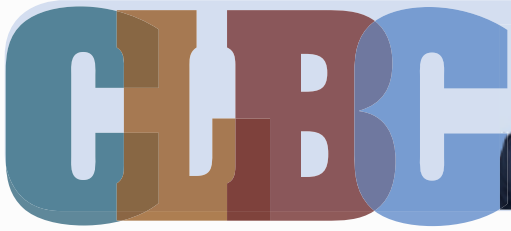




# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS



POLICY INSTITUTE

2013-2014

# Biennial Report







## Letter from the Chairwoman

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and our Policy Institute from 2013-2014.

Over these past two years we marked the anniversary of four pivotal moments and movements in African American history and in our nation's history: the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education.

The members and partners of the CLBC commemorated these landmark events by honoring unsung heroes of "the movement," exhibiting literary, photographic and artistic retrospectives, hosting cross cultural as well as economic dialogues and expanding educational opportunities for African American youth. Equally important, however, we commemorated these pivotal moments in our history by leading the way on public policy matters that impact African Americans in California. In the words of the late Representative Shirley Chisolm, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

Over the past two years CLBC members fought hard to restore critical cuts to education and social services; enact laws to secure procurement opportunities for small businesses; address student accountability, absenteeism and truancy; make kindergarten a reality for every child in California; protect the rights of our healthcare providers and the safety of patients; address inequities in public safety and discrimination in housing; confront discrimination against students of color at institutions of higher education; and, expand civic engagement via support for early voting programs.

It is apropos that during the years we observed such meaningful historical anniversaries the CLBC did so by 'implementing ideas' that strike at the core of civil rights, voting rights, educational parity and ending discrimination. That we did so collectively, collaboratively and effectively.

This work was done with the recognition that it is not a "one-off" but rather part of an agenda, our agenda, the "2020 Agenda" which is an Education and Economic Development public policy platform through the year 2020 that we developed in 2013.

This work was done with the insight, initiative and participation of all of the members including the three extraordinary lawmakers who will end their service in the Assembly and Senate this year: Assemblymember Steven Bradford, Assemblymember Isadore Hall, III and Senator Roderick D. Wright. These men have contributed far more to the leadership space in California than paragraphs on a page can describe. With their unique style, perspectives and legislative leadership they will be missed not only by their respective houses of the legislature but by this Caucus.

As we seek to continue the progress of the past two years within our Policy Institute: expanding scholarship award amounts to and college preparedness opportunities for African American students; reducing our overhead and creating a reserve fund for CLBC Policy Institute programs; and, expanding our programming on issues from women's history and health to building a business and labor roundtable in partnership with the National Black Caucus of State Legislators we do so with remembrance of our past and a mindfulness towards our future.

To those of you who have supported our efforts we sincerely and profoundly thank you.



*Senator Holly J. Mitchell  
2013-2014 Chair, CLBC/CLBC Policy Institute*



# The CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

2013-2014



## Hon. Holly J. Mitchell

Senator, 26th District

Chair, California Legislative Black Caucus

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Budget and Fiscal Review, Rules, Insurance, and Public Safety



## Hon. Roderick D. Wright (Ret.)

Senator, 35th District Vice Chair, California Legislative Black Caucus

**Past Standing Committee Assignments:** Governmental Organization, Energy, Utilities and Communications, Budget and Fiscal Review, Human Services and Joint Rules, Insurance, Public Safety



## Hon. Steven Bradford

Assemblymember, 62nd District

Treasurer, California Legislative Black Caucus

Chair: Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

Chair: Select Committee on the Status of Boys & Men of Color in California

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Local Government, Appropriations and Insurance



## Hon. Isadore Hall, III

Assemblymember, 64th District

Secretary, California Legislative Black Caucus

Chair: Assembly Governmental Organization Committee

Chair: Assembly Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity & Race Relations

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Appropriations; Elections and Redistricting; and Human Services

**Select Committee Assignments:** Asia/California Trade & Investment Promotion; California-Mexico Bi-National Affairs; Community Colleges; Foster Care; Gun Violence in the East Bay; Job Creation for the New Economy; Ports; Youth & California's Future; Fairs, Allocation & Classification



## Hon. Cheryl R. Brown

Assemblymember, 47th District

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Rules; Housing and Community Development; Veterans Affairs; Arts Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media; and Aging and Long Term Care



## Hon. Christopher Holden

Assemblymember, 41st District

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Appropriations; Business, Professions & Consumer Protection; Labor & Employment; Transportation

**Select Committee Assignments:** Community Colleges; Innovative Green Financing Mechanisms; Legislative Ethics; Small Business Financing & Development Opportunities

**Boards:** Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board of Governors



## Hon. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

Assemblymember, 59th District

Chair: Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5 (Public Safety)

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Budget; Governmental Organization; Higher Education; Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security; and Public Safety

**Subcommittee Assignments:** Budget Subcommittee #6 (Budget Process, Oversight and Program Evaluation);

**Select Committee Assignments:** Addressing Out of School, Unemployed Youth; Higher Education in San Diego County; Human Rights, Diversity and Race Relations; Status of Boys & Men of Color in California

**Joint Committee Assignments:** Joint Legislative Budget



## Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas

Assemblymember, 54th District

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Appropriations, Health, Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security, Public Safety, and Rules



## Hon. Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 79th District

Chair: Assembly Select Committee on Higher Education in San Diego County

**Standing Committee Assignments:** Appropriations, Banking and Finance, Education, Higher Education, and Rules

**Select Committee Assignments:** Agriculture and the Environment; Biotechnology; California's Clean Energy Economy; California-Mexico Bi-National Affairs; Community and Neighborhood Development; Domestic Violence; Increasing the Integration of Science, Technology and Engineering in California K-12 Schools; Out of School, Unemployed Youth; Regional Approaches to Addressing the State's Water Crisis; Regional Transportation Solutions; and Women of Color: Engagement, Opportunity and Progress



# 2014 CLBC Policy

**CLBC celebrates MLK Day**  
January 2014

**Civil Rights Leadership Breakfast & Floor Ceremony  
Honoring Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement**  
February 2014

**Exhibition of Ebony and Jet magazines from the Civil Rights Era**  
February 2014

**Community screening of the award-winning film American Promise**  
February 2014

**The Second Annual Heritage and Horizons Women's History Month Breakfast**  
March 2014

**Empowering African American Women through  
the Continuum of Care: Susan G. Komen and the CLBC**  
May 2014

**CLBC Hosts Kenyan Delegates at Capitol**  
June 2014

**CLBC Hosts Elected Officials and Business Executives Delegation from  
Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verdes and Portugal**  
June 2014



In recognition of Black History Month, the CLBC honored activist and author Dr. Clarence Jones along with eight other California civil rights luminaries.



In support of our 2020 Initiative and our goal of increasing dialogue around creating educational opportunities for African American students, CLBC members sponsored a screening and discussion of American Promise.



Recognizing two distinguished African American women in celebration of Women's History Month: Faye Washington, CEO, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles; and, Renata Simril, Sr. Vice President, Los Angeles Dodgers.



Addressing the health disparities among African American women, the CLBC partnered with Susan G. Komen to educate and inform African American communities about breast cancer.



In a cross cultural exchange and dialogue, the CLBC hosted elected officials from Kenya.



# Institute Programs

## TO LEARN AND GROW, TO WORK AND EARN



CLBC members celebrate CA Scholars



Announcement of the 2014 CA Scholars recipients. Each scholar received \$2,500 and a laptop computer donated by HP.



Students participating in the 2014 AALT leadership training and college readiness program that engaged more than 60 high school students on the campus of CSU Dominguez Hills.



Celebrating the contribution of African Americans to the fields of arts and entertainment, the CLBC hosted a screening of the James Brown biopic Get on Up.



CLBC members and the Silicon Valley Foundation held a hearing regarding African American students and educational disparities.

**CLBCPI Summer SOULstice CA Scholars Reception**  
June 2014

**African American Leaders for Tomorrow (AALT)**  
July 2014

**CLBC Screening of Get on Up**  
August 2014

**Increasing Wireless Access to Low Income Californians**  
August 2014

**"Young, Black and Unarmed" Press Conference**  
August 2014

**"Math Misplacement" Briefing**  
September 2014

**Silicon Valley Leadership Forum and Tour**  
October 2014

**Sixth Annual CLBC Policy Institute Leadership Symposium**  
October 2014

# CLBC AGENDA 2020



## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS POLICY INSTITUTE

### **CLBC Agenda 2020**

The California Legislative Black Caucus Agenda 2020 is our effort to focus our legislative, political and community engagement efforts on two pivotal areas of California life: learning and earning.

Through our policy initiatives in education and black enterprise, we intend to create new opportunities for excellence and success for California African American residents of all ages.

#### **'To Learn and Grow'**

As CLBC members, we keenly appreciate the power and the promise of a quality education.

Education is the critical foundation for learning, understanding and growth for African American children and youth in California. Education is the gateway to advanced learning, lifelong skills, specialized trades, professional capabilities and upward mobility for California's African American adults.

Because education is so important to the future growth and potential of our state's African American children, you and adults, we have established concrete education goals and made supporting a culture of excellence through education the first of our twin public policy pillars for our CLBC Agenda 2020.

#### **CLBC Education Initiative**

- Protect and improve access to high quality pre-school for every African American child.
- Increase the African American high school graduation rate by 50% by 2020.
- Increase the number of African American students matriculating out of community college, California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) by 25% by 2020.
- Conduct informational hearings in Los Angeles, San Diego, Inland Empire, Bay Area and Central Valley to elevate the emphasis on educational outcomes.
- Convene a task force to focus on closing the education achievement gap experienced by African American students

#### **'To Work and Earn'**

As CLBC members, we are constantly reminded of our African American history and contributions to our state's progress through our labor and entrepreneurship.

The ability to work and earn a living is fundamental to the exercise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in California. While California represents the sixth largest economy in the world, economic fluctuations can often quickly send our state careening from 'Boom Times to Bust'.

Because we believe that no population of Californians knows the fast-changing, long-lasting impact of these economic forces better than our state's African American residents, we have established a Black Enterprise Economic Development Initiative as the second of our twin public policy pillars for our CLBC Agenda 2020.

#### **CLBC Black Enterprise Initiative**

- Increase the number of African American contractors doing business with the State of California.
- Reduce African American unemployment rates by addressing the challenges in the small business community.
- Protect and preserve home ownership
- Promote training and vocational education opportunities, especially in economic sectors likely to grow in the future

Support workforce development efforts in human service occupations.

925 L Street, Suite 1402  
Sacramento, CA 95814





# CLBC 2014 CALIFORNIA SCHOLARS

In June, the nine-member California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) announced their 2014 California Scholars, which comprised of a group of 30 deserving high school and college students determined to achieve their post-secondary educational goals.

The CLBC California Scholars selected this year for the highly competitive statewide program received a \$2,500 CLBC California Scholars Financial Assistance Scholarship and a Hewlett Packard laptop computer.

CLBC Chair, Senator Holly J. Mitchell said, "The CLBC California Scholars program is part of our commitment to achieving one of our collective legislative priorities, which is increasing access to post-secondary education for African American students. By providing deserving students with financial aid to college, will

help overcome some of the monetary hurdles that may block their pathway to graduation and successful careers."

"The CLBC California Scholars 2014 program received 145 amazing applicants whose incredible stories of perseverance and determination have restored my faith in the future of our great state. Even though we could only provide 30 scholarships, the quality of the applications have shown that California has strong future leaders in our pipeline, whose success we must nourish."

Each CLBC member selected two deserving college-bound high school students or college attendees from applicants representing their legislative districts. Twelve additional students were selected from this year's statewide list of CLBC California Scholars program applicants:

## SENATOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL (D-26)

**Deja Edmon** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of St Mary's Academy. Admitted: Xavier University.

**Paris Paterson-Garner** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Culver City High School. Admitted: University of La Verne.

## SENATOR ROD WRIGHT (D-35)

**Christerbell Ahaiwe** (Los Angeles) – Graduate Crenshaw High School – Admitted: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

**Kahlil Young** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Santa Monica Catholic High School. Admitted: University of Arizona.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER STEVEN BRADFORD (D-62)

**Kimberly Rochard** (Inglewood) – Graduate of Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies. Admitted Loyola Marymount University (LMU).

**Martin Brown-Gaines** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Inglewood High School. Admitted: Morehouse University

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER BROWN (D-47)

**Aaliyah Ricks** (San Bernardino) – Graduate of Arroyo Valley High School. Admitted: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

**Malik Boyd** (Rialto) – Graduate of Wilmer Amina Carter High. Admitted: Northern Arizona University.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER ISADORE HALL (D-64)

**Matthew Elam** (Corona) – Graduate of Santiago High School. Admitted: DePaul University.

**Ryan Higgins** (Los Angeles) – Attending: California State University Dominguez Hills.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER HOLDEN (D-41)

**Chelsea Larsuel** (Altadena) – Graduate of Mayfield Senior School. Admitted: American University

**Daylon Davis** (Pasadena) – Graduate of John Muir High School. Admitted: San Jose State University

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER JONES-SAWYER (D-59)

**Tiffany Parker** (Lancaster) – Graduate of Quartz Hill High School. Admitted: Clark Atlanta University.

**Jordyn Holman** (Los Angeles) – Attending: University of Southern California (USC).

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER RIDLEY-THOMAS (D-79)

**Jaliya Cash** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Crenshaw Arts/Tech Charter School. Admitted: California State University, Monterey Bay.

**Donovan Kimsey-Wade** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Hamilton High School. Admitted: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER WEBER (D-79)

**Amanda Chandler** (La Mesa) – Graduate of Grossmont High School. Admitted: Temple University.

**Lane Griffith** (La Mesa) – Graduate of Grossmont High School. Admitted: University of Alabama.

## DARNELL COOLEY SCHOLAR 2014

**Arielle Brumfield** (Los Angeles) – Graduate of Westchester Enriched Science Magnate. Admitted: Loyola Marymount University (LMU).

## STATEWIDE RECIPIENTS

### Greater Sacramento Area Recipients

**Damian Chambers** (Sacramento) – Attending: Berklee College of Music.

**Angelique Hill** (Sacramento) – Graduate of Sacramento Charter High School. Admitted: Hampton University.

**Zaria Watkins** (Sacramento) – Graduate of Christian Brothers High School. Admitted: New York University (NYU).

### Northern California

**Zaire Bailey** (Rohnert Park) – Graduate of Rancho Cotate High School. Admitted: Spelman College.

**Samori Roberts** (Antioch) – Graduate of Antioch High School EDGE Program. Admitted: Morehouse University (Multiple College Offers).

### Central Valley

**Khyri Brown** (Fresno) – Graduate of Edison High School. Admitted: Lincoln University.

**Matthew Culberson** (Stockton) – Attending: University of California Davis.

### Southern California

**Jasmin Dodd** (Palmdale) – Graduate of Bishop Academy. Admitted: University of California Riverside.

**Ayanna Joshua** (Palmdale) – Graduate of Quartz Hill High School. Admitted: California State University Northridge.

**D'Angelo Ross** (La Puente) – Graduate of South Hills High School. Admitted: California State University Fresno.

**Zakkiyya West** (Pomona) – Graduate of Pomona Senior High School. Admitted: San Diego State University

# Retropective

## 2013 CLBC Policy Institute Programs

TO LEARN AND GROW,  
TO WORK AND EARN

**CLBC celebrates MLK Day**  
January 2013



Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a Senate and Assembly Floor session; and, a pictorial exhibit of the King monument in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington.



Recognizing two distinguished African American women in celebration of Women's History Month: Carla J. Peterman, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as a commissioner on the California Public Utilities Commission; and, Laphonza Butler, president of the SEIU State Council and SEIU United Long Term Care Workers Union.

**Civil Rights heroine Myrlie Evers Honored**  
February 2013



In recognition of Black History Month, Senator Roderick D. Wright and the CLBC honored a great heroine of the Civil Rights movement Myrlie Evers. Ms. Evers was recognized in the Legislature and also met with Governor Jerry Brown and Assembly Speaker John Pérez.



CLBC members and students are joined by the president of California State University-Dominguez Hills, Dr. Willie J. Hagan, for the opening night of the AALT program.

**Kliptown Youth Program (KYP) of Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa visit to the Capitol**  
February 2013



A visit to the State Capitol by educators from the Kliptown Youth Program (KYP) of Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, a much-heralded after-school tutoring, sports and arts program. Sponsored by Assembly member Shirley Weber and the CLBC.

**Reception Celebrating California's Black Vintners**  
February 2013



Students participating in the 2013 AALT leadership training and college readiness program during an intensive three-and-a-half-day seminar that engaged more than 50 high school students in hands-on activities, thought-provoking discussions with senior business professionals and noted academic leaders on the campus of CSU Dominguez Hills.

**The First Annual Heritage and Horizons Women's History Month Breakfast**  
March 2013

**CLBCPI Summer SOULstice CA Scholars Reception**  
June 2013

**African American Leaders for Tomorrow (AALT)**  
July 2013

**Fifth Annual Fall Leadership Symposium and Business Roundtable**  
October 2013



Senator Rod Wright and Assemblyman Isadore Hall, III co-hosted a reception open to the Capitol community in support of and featuring wines provided by the Association of African American Vintners (AAAV).



The 2013 Fall Leadership Symposium Business Roundtable featuring CLBC Chair Holly Mitchell, National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) President Rep. Joe Armstrong (TN) and business, labor and legislative advocates.

*Thank you for  
your support!*