

## PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS AND HARD WORK RESULT IN IMPRESSIVE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PONTIAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Full Article on Page (3)

Volume 5, Issue 3 | April 28 - May 09

# The Pontiac News

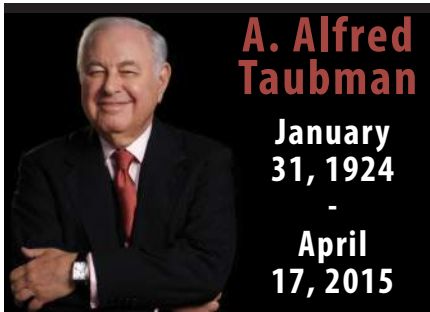
A Positive News Source with a Local Flavor.

## SPOTLIGHT

A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS OF MUSIC EDUCATION



**Mr. Clifford Sykes**  
Director of Bands  
- See Page 15



**A. Alfred Taubman**

January 31, 1924

April 17, 2015

A. Alfred Taubman, the self-made Michigan billionaire whose philanthropy and business success — including weaving the enclosed shopping mall into American culture passed away on April 17, 2015. The Pontiac Native and Pontiac High School graduate was 91 at the time of his transition. Taubman, who donated hundreds of millions of dollars to universities, hospitals and museums, died on April 17th at his home of a heart attack, according to son Robert S. Taubman, president and CEO of Taubman Centers, Inc.

See Article on page 14



U.S. Senator Gary Peters - Michigan

**Peters Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Increase Small Business Lending in order to ensure continuation of Key Small Business Loans**

See Article on page 7

## FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH SPECIAL ISSUE

### AME Church Leaders Cite Black Economic Empowerment as 2015 Goal

By Hazel Trice Edney



Rev. Johnathan Weaver

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he and other protestors had won passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Therefore, his agenda had turned toward the next major issue — economic empowerment for Black people. Therefore, on April 3, 1968, planning a march on behalf of oppressed sanitation workers, Dr. King told preachers at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn., “It’s all right to talk about long white robes over yonder, in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here!.”

-See **Pontiac** Page 4



Congresswoman  
Brenda Lawrence - MI (14)

### Rep Brenda Lawrence (MI14) to Co-Chair Congressional Investment in American's Skilled Workforce Caucus

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (MI-14) and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09) are proud to announce the formation of the Congressional Investment in America's Skilled Workforce Caucus. Congresswoman Lawrence established this caucus to invest more broadly and more effectively in the skills of America's workforce through our nation's workforce development, youth, adult education, career and technical education, and industry-targeted higher education programs. This will ensure that more people can develop the market-ready skills required to meet the needs of U.S. industries and the larger U.S. economy.

-See **Pontiac** Page 7



## Loretta Lynch Sworn In As First African American Woman U.S. Attorney General

### Kenneth R. Burch Attorney At Law

Personal Injury  
Auto & Truck • Wrongful Death •  
Medical Malpractice  
Premises Liability • All Accidents &  
Serious Injury

Phone: (248) 338-1242



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION & PCH BAND REUNION MR. CLIFFORD SYKES – SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015 ..see page 15

**EDITORIAL** by R. Frank Russell, Publisher

In the previous 2 issues of this publication (March 31-April 10, 2015 - Volume 5 Issue 1 and April 15-April 28, 2015 Volume 5 Issue 2) this writer respectfully requested that the Black Clergy and other concerned citizens of this community consider reading a book that May be helpful to us in solving the myriad (countless, numerous, many) problems that we and the masses of our people are now struggling with that keeps us from being as productive as the wider community. This current issue makes a similar plea and request that the black clergy and other concerned citizens take a look at two publications/books by Dr. Claude Anderson that May help solve the specific problems of poverty, lack of jobs and business ownership in OUR community. In the first book, Black Labor,

White Wealth, Dr. Anderson examines history and shows how racism has locked and boxed blacks into a near permanent underclass. Picking up where Black Labor, White Wealth left off, PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America may be the missing link between the historical analysis of problems facing blacks and the strategies needed to correct those problems. Dr. Anderson's books are a phenomenon in the publishing industry. His work is distinguished because he has turned books that are serious, non-fiction, and heavy on black history, into best-sellers. See a review of Dr. Claude Anderson's books below Check these books and other material by D. Anderson out for yourself and let me know what you think? [thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net)

**An Economic Solution? PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America by Dr. Claud Anderson**

PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America is a plan to make Black America a prosperous and empowered race that is as self-sufficient and competitive as other racial groups in this country and the world. In this book, Dr. Anderson obliterates the myths and illusions of black progress and brings together data and information from many different sources to construct a framework for solutions to the dilemma of Black America. In PowerNomics: The National Plan, Dr. Anderson proposes new principles, strategies and concepts that show blacks a new way to see, think, and behave in race matters. The new mind set prepares blacks to take strategic steps to create a new reality for their race. It offers guidance to others who support blacks self-sufficiency. In this book, Dr. Anderson offers insightful analysis and action steps blacks can take to redesign core areas of life - Education, Economics, Politics and Religion - to better benefit their race. The action steps in each area require new empowerment tools that Dr. Anderson presents - a new group vision and a new culture of empowerment - tools designed to counter, if not break many of the racial monopolies in society. Vertical integration and Industrializing black communities are other major concepts and strategies that he presents in the book.

Dr. Anderson places a great deal of importance on building industries in black communities that are constructed upon group competitive advantages. At the same time he announced the release of PowerNomics: The National Plan, he also announced that he has established several models of the strategies he proposes in the book. PowerNomics: The Plan, is infused with Dr. Anderson's trademark creative thinking and answers questions such as: - Why are blacks the only group that equates success with working in a White corporation, government or the entertainment industry? - How did power and wealth - businesses, resources, privileges, income and control of all levels of government get so disproportionately distributed into the hands of White society?

Dr. Anderson argues that - Industrialization brings many economic benefits to the geographic locations where it occurs and wonders...Why has Black America never been industrialized and how can it be done? - Why do visible blacks and black leaders avoid blackness, identifying the focus of their work instead for people of color, minorities, women, gays, the poor, Hispanics, and other immigrant groups? - What enables a constant stream of immigrant groups to politically, economically and socially dominate blacks? - In politics, how is it that blacks can be monolithic and loyal political supporters yet their group receives no quid pro quo benefits? - In his first book, Black Labor, White Wealth, Dr. Anderson examined history and showed how racism has locked and boxed blacks into a near permanent underclass. Picking up where Black Labor, White Wealth left off, PowerNomics: The National Plan is the missing link between the historical analysis of problems facing blacks and the strategies needed to correct those problems. Dr. Anderson's books are a phenomenon in the publishing industry. His work is distinguished because he has turned books that are serious, non-fiction, and heavy on black history, into best-sellers. PowerNomics: The National Plan continues that pattern. It is an astounding work.

**A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT GUY AND ATHLETE – Mr. Henry Thomas**

Condolences to the wife and family of Henry (Hank - Pound Cake) Thomas. Hank made his transition from this realm of existence on April 5, 2015. Hank was a great athlete (back in the day) and a great role model, mentor and coach for many City of Pontiac youth. He was an inspiration to all that he met and will be missed by this writer and I pray that the Creator/God is pleased with his work! Henry Clyde Thomas Sr. "Hank" of Pontiac departed this life on Saturday April 11, 2015 at the age of 73. Henry is the beloved son of the late Louis and Leatha Thomas. He is the husband of Maude Thomas, father Melvin Singleton, Jeffrey Singleton, Henry (Henrieka) Thomas Jr., and the late LaTanza Singleton. He is the Grandfather of:

Destinee (Otis), LaQuindra (Devon), Karli, Henry III, great grandfather of: LaTanza, Devon, Jordan, Cameron, also preceded in death by his siblings the late Louis T. Thomas Jr., Willie N. Thomas, Irma L. Thomas-Lavalais, Ethel Lou Thomas-Small, Elbert Faye Thomas-Jackson, Thelma Ruth Thomas-Baham, Grady Thomas, Anna L. Thomas, and Frank James Thomas, a host of other loving relatives and friends. Henry was a member of the Pontiac Knight Riders, and worked at Holland Center. The Celebration of his life was held on Friday April 17, 2015 at 1:00 pm at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church Oneida Pontiac, Michigan 48341 with Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Pastor officiating.

**INSIDE****Page 2**

Editorial

**Page 3**

Progressive Programs • Through the Eyes of Our Children

**Page 4**

Black Economic Empowerment

**Page 5**

What's Happening in Oakland County • Business Workshops

**Page 6**

Politics: We can Hear A Pin Drop

**Page 7**

Tony Brown • Peters Introduces Bipartisan Bill • Brenda Lawrence

**Page 10**

Economic Horizon for Black America

**Page 11**

Young Black Entrepreneurs

**Page 12**

The Business Advantage of Diversity

**Page 13**

Do For Yourself

**Page 14**

A. Alfred Taubman • Sheriff Pal Program

**Page 15**

Community Events

**The Pontiac News****PUBLISHER & CONTENT EDITOR**

R. Frank Russell

**CONTENTS & NEWS EDITOR:**

Elaine Smith-Wright

**AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT:**

Kofi Annorh

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:**

Elaine Smith-Wright • Rev. James Keys • Randolph Carter • Adam Polk • Brenda Canty-Carter

**PHOTOGRAPHER & ADVERTISING MANAGER**

TBD

**CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Rahim Russell**OFFICE MANAGER:** Mary C. Russell**DESIGNED BY:** Rasheed Shabazz[rasheedshabazz.com](mailto:rasheedshabazz.com)

(248) 877-3044

**PRINTED BY:** J - Ad Graphics**TELEPHONE:** 248-758-1411 **FAX:** 248-758-1412

PO Box 431412, Suite #1

Pontiac, MI 48343

[www.thepontiacnews.com](http://www.thepontiacnews.com)[ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net)



## Notice of Building & Site Sinking Fund Millage Election

★★★★★ **Vote - Tuesday, May 5, 2015** ★★★★★

PONTIAC SCHOOL DISTRICT NEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT OF OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

### PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS AND HARD WORK RESULT IN IMPRESSIVE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PONTIAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

PONTIAC, MI – April 17, 2015  
- With a new creative and aggressive teaching approach in the curriculum, as well as hard work from district administrators, staff and support from parents and the community, the Pontiac School District is seeing a noticeable improvement in education for its students.

Most of the curriculum has been upgraded and updated, some of it during the district's first year of the School District's Ten Year Deficit Elimination Plan approved by the State Treasurer and Michigan Department of Education in January of 2014. The Pontiac School District has already made significant progress on reducing its deficit. In fact, the district was able to reduce its deficit by 24 % in just one year. The reduction of \$12.6 million to \$39.1 million was two years ahead of schedule.

The district has impressively improved student learning through

effective new teaching programs, expanded the use of technology in the classroom and has seen more stable enrollment with lower class sizes, normalized at 30 or less per classroom. This has produced improved student reading and math scores for the last two years on district assessments.

The Pontiac School District has secured grants to support many positive intervention programs. These interventions include math and literacy support provided during the elementary school day, academic advisory and skill support periods in all secondary schools, a lab school partnership with Oakland University, an upcoming student attendance initiative and more. The district has also initiated many ambitious academic programs that have consistently shown positive results, such as expansion of its ITA and STEM, standing room only preschool, Early College, and

Project Excel.

The community has also had a strong hand in this improvement. There are more than 40 partners pitching in where they can to support the schools; from small churches and non-profits to local businesses to civic organizations and even mega-corporations. They support all the schools, from the elementary schools through high school, in diverse ways.

There have also been exciting and aggressive new academic initiatives that started this year, and they include a project-based/blended learning initiative with Chromebooks and internet access for high school and middle school students; a balanced calendar that extends several weeks through summer vacation that allows immediate student feedback in academics, remediation throughout the school year, and less learning lost over a longer summer break; an extend-

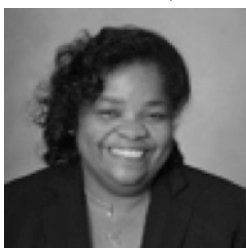
ed new year that gives students 10 more days of instruction tailored especially to their needs; start-up feeder program to the ITA with two kindergarten STEM sections; expanded offerings of electives to high school students through on-line courses, and even changes in bell schedules to make them more student friendly. All of these initiatives have had lots of favorable feedback from students, teachers and parents and have contributed to continued improving student performance.

"We are proud of our accomplishments, especially with the ambitious academic direction we chose to take and are going forward with," said Pontiac School District Superintendent Kelley Williams. "Though we still have our challenges, we know we are on the right course and we know we are keeping up well with the needs of 21st Century students."

*Please contact: Stephen Lipsen, Pontiac School District at 248-310-6893 or at [communications@pontiac.k12.mi.us](mailto:communications@pontiac.k12.mi.us)*

### THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN

*Written by*



**Brenda Carter**  
School District VP

This week, I found myself strangely drawn to the world of our children. I spent the entire week dedicated to their educational experience. I often attend functions within the district, however, this week I wanted to see our district through the eyes of our children.

It was a pleasure to visit WHRC's kindergarten class and witness firsthand the gift from Mr. Hotchstetler. Teacher Margaret Ewing created a project to bring new books and

a reading rug to her classroom. I watched intently as the youngsters neatly put up their crayons and coloring books. They then proceeded to the floor mat to listen to a story!

My next adventure to Owen/Kennedy elementary school. We are looking into a community garden collaboration between our school district and QTMC Centerstage. The garden would be community driven with an additional bonus, our children would integrate their garden project into

their curriculum! I was taught early in life to till the soil and grow my food. The Community Garden Project would be a novel learning experience for our students! We have a similar project at Herrington and Alcott!

On Wednesday, my travels took me back to the high school. Our district presented a wonderful Awards Ceremony where a room full of high school seniors received their admittance papers to major colleges, universities, and the military. I was most impressed by the number of young people who were ready to take the next step!

On Thursday, our Sinking Fund Millage Committee met to continue our strategy of passing our upcoming millage. *-See Children Page 4*

### Law Offices of Darryl P. Mitchell



30 N. Saginaw St. Suite 709

Pontiac, MI 48342

**(248) 333-2200**



# AME Church Leaders Cite Black Economic Empowerment as 2015 Goal



National Bankers Association President Michael Grant, U.S. Black Chambers Inc. President Ron Busby, and A.M.E. board member Rev. Jonathan Weaver discuss a new plan for economic development through the Black Church.

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he and other protestors had won passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Therefore, his agenda had turned toward the next major issue – economic empowerment for Black people.

Therefore, on April 3, 1968, planning a march on behalf of oppressed sanitation workers, Dr. King told preachers at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn., “It’s all right to talk about long white robes over yonder, in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here!

“It’s all right to talk about streets flowing with milk and honey, but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can’t eat three square meals a day.

“It’s all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God’s preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do.”

The next day, Dr. King was assassinated.

Nearly 47 years later, as America last month celebrated the King birthday holiday and is now celebrating Black History Month, a group of church leaders appears

to be carrying out this Black economic empowerment goal in earnest. Invited to speak to a recent gathering of pastors and leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, National Bankers Association President Michael Grant cited the words of human rights champion Paul Robeson:

“We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands,” Grant quoted. “We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.”

Grant continued in his own words: “We played a major role in growing America from a small colonial outpost to the greatest industrial giant the world has ever known. We don’t have to argue about our ability to grow wealth. We have made everyone else rich, some filthy rich. Isn’t it time that we finally make our efforts productive for ourselves?”

Grant was keynote speaker during a special session on “Economic Development through the Black Church” during the A.M.E. Church’s 2nd District Mid-year Opening Plenary Session in Raleigh, N.C. late last year. His speech preceded a panel discussion that also included

Marie Johns, former deputy administrator at the Small Business Administration; Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chambers Inc. and Rev. Jonathan Weaver, senior pastor of Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church in Bowie, Md., and board member of the A.M.E. organization that deals with economic growth and development projects.

Following the forum, Weaver says A.M.E. pastors, led by Bishop William P. DeVeaux, are now poised to carry out a specific plan that they hope will spread to other denominations and ultimately catch fire in other denominations and the Black community throughout 2015.

“Clearly where we are at this point is to actualize and implement what we discussed in Raleigh,” said Weaver in an interview. “The whole thrust was how Black churches can help to empower Black businesses.”

The starting plan, in a nutshell, is for churches located in the A.M.E. Second District – North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and D.C. – to commit to the support of two Black-owned businesses. They are Thomas Morehead, president of a BMW dealership in Sterling, Va. and Donnell Thompson, co-founder/co-owner of RWDT Foods, Inc., a chain of restaurants based in N. Snellville, Ga.

AME church members buying from those two businesses will cause the churches to benefit from those sales; then identify other businesses in and around the states and “replicate this process”, Weaver described. After tracking the sales, initiated by the churches, the hope is that other church districts will get involved and that the movement will spread to other businesses and other churches.

“And we certainly hope and pray that this will become a much larger Black faith effort and we will reach out to the Baptist community, the Church of God and Christ and the list goes on,” Weaver said. “If we’re able to affect a significant change in terms of relationship with Black businesses, can you imagine

if we’re able to boost their profit margin and therefore they are going to have to hire more people and therefore they will be reaching back to the faith community. More people will have jobs, they will have better jobs; therefore there will be less frustration, economically, in our community.”

So far, the congregations have been receptive to the idea, Weaver said. “Quite frankly, I’ve not met any resistance thus far.”

In his speech, Grant reminded the audience that a legacy of Black economic develop was at the core of the founding of the A.M.E. Church.

“I agree with that great A.M.E. historiographer, Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson, who said that the history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church – founded – by Bishop Richard Allen – reflects the black liberationist narrative of African – American history,” Grant said. “Nearly eight decades before the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Allen, a free man, was already promoting Black economic development. So it is fitting that we come to his church today with an urgent message: The time for Americans of African descent to take our place at the round table of economic opportunity is now. With each passing day, the price of not having a well – thought out economic agenda for Black America continues to extract a toll and degrade our position in this country and throughout the diaspora.”

Grant, who last year received the U. S. Department of Commerce’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his Black business advocacy, ticked off statistics that undergird the need for an economic movement to support Black-owned businesses and Black-owned banks:

There are currently 1.9 million Black-owned businesses in America, but only about one in 20 have more than one employee and less than 2 percent have annual gross receipts of more than \$1,000,000.

In terms of relative wealth, White America is 20 times richer than

-See **AME** Page 6



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OAKLAND COUNTY

## Tech248 Branding Oakland County as a Technology Hub While Connecting Hundreds of Companies

Written by



L. Brooks Patterson

Tech248 meetups attracted more than 400 technology industry professionals and students, including the founder of an Oakland County-based company who was among 50 people nationwide recently invited to the White House to talk tech.

The meetups are vital to Tech248's mission of connecting the county's 2,000 tech companies to collaborate and network while marketing Oakland County as a global technology hub. Thanh Tran, founder of Wixom-based Kidpreneur: Kids + Entrepreneurship + Technology, met with technology leaders from across the United

States earlier this month at the White House. The event was designed to create project collaboration and foster technology interconnections.

"The tech industry is prospering here," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "We have a wealth of IT innovators who are shaping the future of this dynamic global industry and it's happening right here in Oakland County."

Tran, who is also founder of D-NewTech — a group of nearly 1,200 members which foster and encourage startups — was understandably excited by his recent visit to Washington D.C.

"Among the fifty or so invited to the White House, I was the only representative from Michigan," Tran said. "Detroit is one of the fastest growing tech areas in the country. Opportunities to network with others, find jobs and learn to code is so important. Groups like D-NewTech and Tech248 help meet that need."

Tech248 meetups are scheduled monthly and have included locations in Auburn Hills, Southfield, Waterford and Wixom. Each event features a tech update, a series of speakers and an opportunity to network. Speakers have included Jason Raznick of Benzinga Networking, Brian Hudson of Templar Games, Brian Wassom of Honigman, and Kidpreneur's Tran.

The participant list is a virtual who's who of the IT industry, with representatives from nearly 200 companies, including ASG Renaissance, DASI Solutions, Eaton, General Motors, iDashboards, Lawrence Technological University, Media Genesis, SunTel Services and ThyssenKrupp.

The next meetup is May 21 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 365 Retail Markets in Troy. Speakers include Reed Bingaman, CFO of 365 Retail Markets; Lauren Bigelow, CEO of Growth Capital Network; Antoine Dubeauclard, president of Media Genesis; and Mark St. Peter, managing director and CEO of Computing Source. Most events are free of charge. To register for this or any other Tech248 meetup, go to [AdvantageOakland.EventBrite.com](http://AdvantageOakland.EventBrite.com).

Oakland County tech professionals are encouraged to join the Tech248 network at [MITech248.com](http://MITech248.com). Automation Alley, southeast Michigan's 1,000-member business technology association, is offering a 10 percent membership discount for companies that join the Alley by May 31. Joining the Tech248 network also allows Oakland County companies to have their company's Twitter feed featured on the Tech248 feed.

Oakland County has 42,000 jobs in the tech field — more than twice the number of any other county in Michigan. About 100 tech companies have located in Oakland County in the past 10 years, investing over \$586 million and creating more than 10,500 jobs. The focus

includes software development, network/data, mHealth, game development, connected cars, digital media, mobile technology, cyber security and other evolving technologies.

For more information about Tech248, visit [MITech248.com](http://MITech248.com).

## May Business Workshops Offered by Oakland County

All programs are held at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, in Waterford. [www.AdvantageOakland.com/business-workshops](http://www.AdvantageOakland.com/business-workshops) or call (248) 858-0783.

**Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion** • May 5, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • Thinking of starting a business and want to research your business idea? Do you want to identify market trends and opportunities to grow your sales? Are you looking for new customers or to diversify your market base? Business Research shows you ways to find your ideal customers, your competitors, perform competitive analysis and more. Fee: This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

**Five Steps to LinkedIn Mastery** • May 6, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • While Facebook looks like any number of reality TV shows, LinkedIn is the business documentary you need to watch. You've done the "Google myself" thing, right? Most people are surprised (and excited) to find their LinkedIn profile is the first result. Since Google uses LinkedIn, shouldn't you? When you use LinkedIn correctly, it's much easier to be found by prospective clients and/or employers, locate and learn about the decision makers you need to meet, stay current in your industry, stay top of mind with your network, check out future employees and partners, and use all of the bells and whistles you didn't know existed. Fee: \$40 per person

**QuickBooks for Business Owners** • May 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Join ATD Solutions as we explore the possibilities within QuickBooks. QuickBooks for Business Owners is recommended for owners and financial decision makers who want to explore the options available within QuickBooks. ATD Solutions will review Best Practices to limit your exposure to embezzlement or fraud within your company, the best version to use, and which industry specific reports to use to make great business decisions. Fee: \$60 per person

**CEED® Small Business Loan Orientation** • May 13, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Many small business owners face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. If your business is in Oakland County and you need alternative financing, consider the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED) Small Business Loan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a CEED small business loan. Fee: This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

**Starting a Business** • May 14, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • This workshop is designed for individuals who are at the beginning stages of starting a business. It will help aspiring entrepreneurs assess their abilities to lead and manage a company, as well as evaluate market and sales potential for their products/services. Startup costs, financing options, and business planning are introduced, along with necessary steps to getting started. Fee: This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

**Break the Rules, Close More Sales** • May 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • A business development workshop for business owners, company presidents/CEO's and professional service firms and sales people. Consider attending if you (or your team) are worried the slow economy is hurting business, concerned your marketing and prospecting activities are not putting you in front of enough qualified prospects, experiencing longer and longer sales cycles. In two hours, you'll learn how to establish trust with your prospects, shorten the sales cycle and eliminate stalls and objections. Presented by Sandler Training President Erik Meier Fee: \$40 per person

**Team SBA Financing Roundtable** • May 21, 9 a.m. to noon • Learn about the benefits and process of becoming a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE). Benefits include certification to private sector WBE's and access to procurement opportunities with major national companies. For additional information on WBE or CEED visit [www.miceed.org](http://www.miceed.org).

Fee: This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

## DENTAL ARTS COMPANY

AFFORDABLE FAMILY DENTAL CARE

Dentistry by

JEFF MARTIN, D.D.S.A.

91 N. SAGINAW

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

(248) 332-4240

*A beautiful smile takes more than just brushing!*



# Politics

## WE CAN HEAR A PIN DROP!

Written by



**Randy Carter**

Pontiac City Councilman

Let us all agree, we need a “come to Jesus talk”. Amen! Our lawmakers should be dealing with Pontiac issues. However, they remain eerily silent on city and school matters, and they will never put anything in writing. Are our legislators working in our best interest? For instance, let us talk about our City Charter. I feel that the people of Pontiac must continue to exercise the old Charter of 1983. However, there are demands for our residents to vote for a new city charter because the governor has approved it! Michigan governors approved Pontiac’s Emergency Manager and the Transition Authority Board

(TAB). Now there are hints that we can get rid of the (TAB). Excuse me, there are obvious “Super Powers” controlling the outcome of this election. Soon, the people will see those who are undermining the city.

Another issue for the voters is the school sinking fund millage. This fund is a 1 Mill reduction in taxes we are already paying. Our taxes will drop, and this fund will end in the next five years. The Sinking Fund Millage will be used for building and capital improvements only. Those of us who visit the schools realize that the uncontrollable, hot and cold classrooms are not conducive for our children to study. Our children deserve an enjoyable place in which to learn. Therefore, I will fight to protect our kids against all enemies foreign and domestic.

Understandably, our residents are angry, and may speak and vote without having all the facts. We all need to understand why some of our elected Representatives have no desire to speak or listen to us, except for when taking opportunistic photos. Michigan’s roads are in bad shape. Let us revisit the original contract, where legislators agreed to spend billions and billions of taxpayer dollars on roads with no guarantee of materials or workmanship. If we try to get answers from our legislators, we can hear a pin drop!

It is completely misleading to say that Proposal 1 will guarantee additional revenue for Michigan’s roads. The proposed ten (10) plus constitutional amendments on the May 5 ballot will not fund our roads. We are told that Proposal 1 would result in a slight net increase in the annual School Aid Fund (SAF) revenues. However, no one told us that none of these revenues will go towards our K- 12 classrooms. Proposal 1, if adopted, will alter the SAF, and will constitutionally authorize brand new spending by our legislature.

**-AME** *continued from Page 6*

Black America, according to a recent Pew Report.

In the 1960’s, we had 60 Black-owned banks. Today, that number has dwindled to only 30. What is insane about this tragic loss is this: The bank is the only institution in our community that can leverage or multiply dollars 7, 8, 9 or 10 times. That means for every \$1,000,000 dollars of invested capital in these banks, they are able to loan out 7, 8, 9 or \$10 million for economic development, business growth and job creation.

Grant said African-Americans lost significant ground in business ownership after integration, largely because African-Americans were no longer forced to support each other.

“As long as we were forced to trade with each other and barter with each other, our businesses (small as they were) thrived. But in our minds, we were never quite good enough. We had internalized the lie about our lack of inherent worth,” he said. “When the doors of integration gave us the long – awaited pass to wine and dine with our former oppressors, we enthusiastically

abandoned our own in search of an elusive White acceptance. We believed then – and many of us still do – that association would bring on assimilation.”

Dr. King concluded on April 3, 1968, the eve of his assassination: “We’ve got to stay together and maintain unity. You know, whenever Pharaoh wanted to prolong the period of slavery in Egypt, he had a favorite, favorite formula for doing it. What was that? He kept the slaves fighting among themselves. But whenever the slaves get together, something happens in Pharaoh’s court, and he cannot

hold the slaves in slavery. When the slaves get together, that’s the beginning of getting out of slavery. Now let us maintain unity.”

There is no reason to log-roll bills combining roads, schools, sales taxes, use taxes, and ten (10) Constitution Amendments, except to deceive the voters. This legislation is a joint legislative attack. A “Yes” vote gives greater unlimited power to our brain dead legislative appropriations process. The State Constitution will no longer have anything to say about the manner in which the SAF appropriates funds.

The Michigan Constitution statutes state that: “Our legislator’s decision to tie multiple Public Acts (Acts) to the statewide vote is illegal and unconstitutional.” In order for this legislation to pass, they must submit the Acts to a statewide vote. Then the legislators must declare that the Act will not take effect unless it is approved by a majority of the electorate. The law states that legislators may not submit a package of Acts to the voters in masses, tying their effectiveness to a separate, proposed constitutional amendment.

The law also states that each act to the voters must be clear, concise and in plain English, individually (1) one action per vote, as required by the state constitution. The Legislature has committed “Liar-Liar-Pants-On-Fire” fraud blazingly in our faces, by placing all 10 Acts, as a single package, on the ballot. Consider this, if the voters approve Proposal 1, legislators would be free to amend, or repeal any of the Acts at any time. The guaranteed promised of road funding would only exist if the whole package is passed. They are also eluding that there is no plan B?

Proposal 1 has more questions than answers tied to the outcome of the vote. There will be changes to the process of Michigan’s motor fuel tax where these tax revenues may be appropriated for transportation purposes, including roads and bridges. These same Acts will dedicate most of this money to pay down Michigan’s general fund service bond debt incurred the 1990’s. There are no roads to be fixed prior to 2018. We should contact our lawmakers and ask what large-scale road construction projects will begin before 2018.

**The  
Pontiac News**

**To Subscribe or advertise:**

**email:**

**theponiacnews@sbcglobal.net**

**or call:**

**(248) 758-1411**



## Tony Brown Joins The Black Business Network



Tony Brown is an American Journalist best known for his long- running TV series called "Tony Brown's Journal" which aired on TV from 1968 - 2008.

Tony Brown recorded Tony Brown's Journal TV show from 1968 to 2008, where he covered Black issues, current events, history and culture.

Tony Brown, now 81 years old, recently became a Supplier in the Black Business Network. He brought his incredible video library of more than 1,000 streaming episodes to the network for the Black Business Network to market and share with Black people all over the world, making this priceless library of Black history available for generations to come. Black people can now subscribe and have access to this amazing library, and learn Black history in a way that it has never been available before.

Tony Brown travelled to Atlanta and helped kick off and launch the program on Saturday, February 28th, 2015. Tony's delivered an empowering speech about community empowerment and self- reliance and brought the house down. Tony inspired everyone who attended and watched from around the world.

The new program is called the "Black History Vault", and is part of our TAG TEAM University program. For only \$29.99 per month (\$1 per day), you can learn priceless Black history from those who made it. You can watch the videos online, anytime, 24 hours per day on your computer, tablet or smart phone. Through this amazing streaming technology, you can access any video, any time, and no longer have to wait for it to air on television.

The first subscribers to the library are RAVING about the program. Many insist that they are learning more about the true history of our race than they have ever learned before.

Visit [www.BlackHistoryVault.com](http://www.BlackHistoryVault.com) for details on the new program. Subscribe today for only \$29.99/month (\$1 per day).

## Peters Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Increase Small Business Lending

*Bipartisan Bill Would Ensure Continuation of Key Small Business Loans*

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI), a member of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, recently announced he has introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s main lending program, the 7(a) loan program, can continue to meet the increasing small business demand for loans. In recent years, there has been an increase in demand for 7(a) loans, from \$15.2 billion in FY2012 to \$19.2 billion in FY2014, including \$1.2 billion in lending to over 2,145 small businesses in Michigan. Peters introduced the Small Business Lending Reauthorization Act of 2015 with Republican Senators Jim Risch (ID) and Cory Gardner (CO) and Democrat Jeanne Shaheen (NH).

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and ensuring that they have the resources to survive, compete, and succeed is one of my top priorities in the U.S. Senate," said Senator Peters. "Access to capital is one of the biggest hurdles facing small businesses and start-ups, and I'm proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan bill to help small businesses obtain the

loans and credit they need to grow their companies. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support lending so that critical loans to small businesses can continue."

The Small Business Lending Reauthorization Act of 2015 increases the authorization levels for the SBA's successful 7(a) small business lending program to \$20.5 billion for FY2015 and \$23.5 billion for FY2016. In FY 2014, the SBA approved 52,044 7(a) loans totaling \$19.2 billion. Recent data has shown an increase in demand with industry experts predicting that volume will reach \$20.5 billion by the end of FY15, significantly more the \$18.75 billion approved by Congress last December. Peters' legislation would allow the program to meet projected demand without having to ask for an emergency increase. Because the 7(a) Loan Guaranty program is funded entirely through fees paid by borrowers and SBA lenders, increasing the authorization level to \$23.5 billion will have no cost to taxpayers.

The SBA's primary lending program, the 7(a) loan program, provides eligible small businesses and startups with a versatile financing tool that can be used to support a wide range of business devel-

opment activities, including the establishment or acquisition of a business, business expansion, and the purchase of equipment, machinery, or supplies, as well as for short-term and long-term working capital. The 7(a) program's maximum gross loan amount for any one 7(a) loan is \$5 million (up to \$3.75 million maximum guaranty). In FY2014, the average approved 7(a) loan amount was \$368,737.

In Michigan, over 33,858 7(a) loans have been made since 1990. Over the past decade, 7(a) loans have supported at least 23,632 Michigan small businesses, totaling more than \$10.1 billion.

Peters has long been a champion of Michigan's small businesses and start-ups and authored the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), which started in 2010. Many small businesses were struggling to find the resources needed to stay afloat after the recession, and the program leverages significant private capital with targeted federal investments. SSBCI has been a huge success, supporting nearly 100,000 jobs, including 4,000 jobs in Michigan. Over 500 loans have been made here in Michigan and have leveraged more than \$430 million in private capital.

## Brenda Lawrence American's Skilled Workforce Caucus

"Right now there are more than 14 million people who can't find a job. Conversely, a large percentage of job openings remain unfilled due to a shortage in the number of workers who possess the skills these positions require," Congresswoman Lawrence said. "This caucus will commit to investing in real and innovative solutions to solve this epic problem."

The Congresswoman and her co-chair have reached out to their colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the caucus and to work together in the true spirit of bipartisanship in addressing one of our nation's most critical problems.

The timing of the Caucus' formation is particularly poignant as the President today announced that his

administration is taking new steps to help realize the full potential of America's workforce by empowering workers with the education and training they need to develop new skills and earn higher wages. Over 100 leading employers, who employ more than 5 million American workers, are making concrete commitments to empower front-line workers across their businesses, in partnership with 30 national labor unions, and accelerated by new innovative data and tools.

"We have a shared responsibility to invest in our most critical resource – the skills of our workers. I am proud to work with Congresswoman Lawrence, President Obama, my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, private businesses, colleges and universi-

ties and educators to support investments in job training and allow all of those individuals who are interested in pursuing their development to have access to education," Congresswoman Clarke said. "As a co-founder of the Congressional Investment in America's Skilled Workforce Caucus, I intend to work with both Democrats and Republicans to invest in American workers and their aspirations for the future."

Congresswoman Lawrence and Congresswoman Clarke insist that now is the time for Congress to join the President in this endeavor and to act in the best interest of all working Americans and their families.

*If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Manzer in Congresswoman Lawrence's office at [Tracy.Manzer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tracy.Manzer@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-5802.*



**WE'VE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS  
TO ENSURE YOU CAN DO THE SAME.**



**THE 2015 CHEVROLET MALIBU WITH AN EPA-ESTIMATED 36 MPG HIGHWAY.**

The Chevrolet Malibu offers seamless stop/start technology that can automatically shut off the engine when the car is stopped to increase fuel efficiency.\* So by stopping, you'll be able to keep going and going.

**CHEVROLET MALIBU**

**FIND *NEW* ROADS™**

\*Malibu with 2.5L engine 25 MPG city. \*\*The Chevrolet Malibu received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 Vehicle Dependability Study.™ Study based on responses from 34,372 original owners of 2012 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership about problems experienced in the past 12 months. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed November–December 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).



**"Most Dependable  
Midsize Car" in 2015\*\***

**CHEVROLET**







*A community update*

# Pontiac School District NEWS

SPRING 2015

*Property owners will see a decrease of at least 1.0 mill from their tax bills.*

*The average cost to property taxpayers will be less than \$12 per month.\**

\* Based on a home worth \$100,000 with an assessed value of \$50,000.

*“Schools with sound roofs, updated heating systems and upgraded security are not only less expensive to maintain, but have been proven to positively impact student learning.”*

-Superintendent, Kelley Williams

*FAQs, Ballot language, photos of building needs, and voting information is available on the Pontiac School District website at <http://tinyurl.com/PSDMay5>*

## VOTE! Tuesday, May 5th

The Pontiac Schools District is seeking 2.87 mills (\$2.87 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for five years from property owners. This is less than the current 3.87 mills for a 1991 general obligation bond set to expire in 2015. Should this millage pass, property owners would see a **decrease of 1.0 mill** from their tax bills.

## What will the funds be used for?

The State of Michigan has strict guidelines on what the sinking fund millage can be used for. Boilers and energy management systems, roof repairs, fire suppression systems, replacement of flooring tiles, lighting improvements, upgrades to bathrooms, security systems for entry doors, communication systems, building repairs, upgrades to technology infrastructure, paving and playground improvements are some of the projects on the District's list.

## What if the millage proposal doesn't pass?

The district has made significant progress on reducing its deficit. In fact, the district was able to reduce its deficit by 24 % in just one year (two years ahead of schedule). The district has also seen improved student learning, expanded use of technology in the classroom and more stable enrollment with lower class sizes. However more needs to be done. Buildings are in poor condition and are in desperate need of repairs, upgraded utilities and new roofs. The budget deficit is improving but there are still not funds available for facility improvements.

If the millage is approved, we will be able to make necessary and critical building repairs that will provide Pontiac students a safe, secure and healthy environment without compromising educational programs.

If the millage is not approved, we will have to continue to delay these much-needed repairs and address only emergency repairs using general operating funds that would otherwise be used to support educational programs for students. Eventually certain school buildings might have to close as the current funding available would not keep them safe and operable for Pontiac students. As a result, it is projected that Pontiac School District would run short on the schools needed to house all of our own students due to the deteriorating condition of our facilities.

## How will the funds be monitored?

State law requires an independent annual audit of the sinking fund and requires the district to submit the audit results to the state treasurer. The audit results are required to be posted on the district's website.

Furthermore, as the Pontiac School District is operating under a Consent Agreement, all contracts awarded by the school district after September 18, 2013 require pre-approval by the State Treasurer. This oversight and monitoring will continue throughout the terms of the Consent Agreement (ending in 2023), and therefore throughout the life of the sinking fund millage which would expire in five years. In addition, Oakland Schools provides all Business and Human Resource services for Pontiac School District, and Michigan Department of Education monitors all educational plans.

*The School District of the City of Pontiac • [www.pontiac.k12.mi.us](http://www.pontiac.k12.mi.us) • 248-451-6800*



# Financial Matters

## What's on the economic horizon for Black America in 2015?

By Starla Muhammad • Assitant Editor • Final Call

(FinalCall.com) - While the overall economic picture generated optimism for some last year, as the country heads into 2015 a majority of low and middle income Black, Brown and poor Americans still suffer from financial struggles carried over from the Great Recession.

President Barack Obama, at his end of year press conference, spoke of the creation of 11 million new jobs by businesses over a 57-month period. These gains are the result of steps taken early on by this administration to rescue the economy, said the president.

“Almost all the job growth that we’ve seen has been in full-time positions. Much of the recent pickup in job growth has been in higher-paying industries. And in a hopeful sign for middle-class families, wages are on the rise again,” said Mr. Obama to reporters Dec. 19.

According to the White House, the “U.S. economic recovery took a major step forward in 2014, achieving a number of important milestones.”

In its “Year in Review: Creating Economic Opportunity for all Americans in 2014,” among accomplishments the administration touted:

November, 2014 was the best year of job growth since 1999. Fifteen thousand jobs were added by the manufacturing sector. The U.S. has the highest graduation rate on record and more Americans earning post-secondary degrees than ever. The U.S. was on top as the leading oil and gas producer globally. There was a continued rise in home prices which cut the number of upside down mortgages from a peak of 14 million to less than 4 million. Ten million Americans are now insured under the Affordable Care Act and there is a slower rate of rising health care costs. The federal deficit has been cut by nearly two-thirds. Additionally, overall unemployment rates continued to fall, averaging in single digits while oil prices decreased globally, meaning lower prices at gas pumps for American consumers.

Growth during the last two quarters for the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is the goods and services consumers purchase, is one economic indicator analysts used when looking at the overall health of the economy noted economist Dr. Julianne Malveaux explained to The Final Call. The third quarter reflected an increase in GDP of 5 percent, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. Personal income increased \$54.4 billion, or 0.4 percent, disposable personal income increased \$42.4 billion, or 0.3 percent, private wages and salaries increased \$38.7 billion and goods-producing industries’ payrolls increased \$7.3 billion all in November, according to the department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis. Government wages and salaries also increased \$1.8 billion. “People are poised to spend. At the same time, there is a clear divide between the top and the bottom,” said Dr. Malveaux.

### Uneven economic recovery

“You have this bifurcation that says the economy is doing very well and you have people that are saying, ‘but what about me?’ Of course when White America experiences some discomfort, Black America experiences extreme discomfort,” said Dr. Malveaux. “If I were to summarize the year 2014 there have been macro-economic gains like GDP growth, etc., and micro- economic stagnancy, if not reversals. And so it has not been a stellar year for African Americans. There is vulnerability here in our community that we can’t ignore.”

Blacks continued to make up disproportionately high numbers of the unemployed, lagged behind in income equality and housing disparities

and other socio-economic areas in comparison to Whites. Double digit unemployment continued to plague Black America in 2014. In the final numbers released by the U.S. Department of Labor for November 2014, the overall unemployment rate was 5.8 percent or 9.1 million people out of work. The rate for Blacks was 11.1 percent, for Whites 4.9 percent and for Latinos 6.6 percent. December’s numbers will be released in early January 2015.

“While you see a lower unemployment rate the employment population ratio, which means the percentage of people who are actually working, for White men that number is nearly 70 percent, for Black men the number does not clear 60 percent,” said Dr. Malveaux.

If it’s wealth you see less, if it’s poverty you see more among Blacks, said Dr. Malveaux, president emerita of Bennett College for Women. Several reports and analysis released in 2014 reflected continued gaps in key areas. According to talkpoverty.org, in 2013, there were 11 million Blacks in poverty, the equivalent of 27 percent of the overall poverty rate. The Black child poverty rate stood at 38.3 percent. Blacks currently make up between 12-13 percent of the U.S. population. Much of the wealth accumulated over the last five years has been stock market gains because the Dow has gone up alongside acceleration in housing values. But few Blacks invest in the stock market and a greater percentage of Whites own their homes compared to Blacks, said Dr. Malveaux.

After the real estate bubble burst, home values finally began to stabilize between 2010 and 2013 but at a rate slower for Blacks. Between those years inflation-adjusted median home values fell by 4.6 percent for White households and 18.4 percent for Black households, according to an October report by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington D.C.-based think tank. Also, the Federal Reserve has artificially kept interest rates low which impacts the Black community, said Dr. Malveaux. “They’ve kept rates low to stimulate employment. Raising interest rates makes it more difficult for businesses to borrow and therefore more difficult for businesses to hire.” Many businesses have borrowed but the effect has not trickled down to the masses, she explained. Asians have fully recovered from the recession; Whites have about 90 percent of what they had before the recession, Latinos have 60 percent and Blacks have 50 percent, added Dr. Malveaux.

### More of the same?

Income, asset ownership and the state of Black business are key areas that must be analyzed in determining the progress of Black people, said Cedric Muhammad, an economic strategist, analyst and author of “The Entrepreneurial Secret.” “On those three measures I would say things are more pessimistic,” he told The Final Call. The Pew Research Center released a mid-December report stating that the wealth of White households was 13 times the median wealth of Black households in 2013, compared to eight times the wealth in 2010. The median wealth of Black households fell to \$11,000 in 2013 compared to Whites which actually increased from \$138,000 to \$141,000 during the same years.

The median income of Whites is also nearly double that of Blacks. There are over 2 million Black-owned businesses in the U.S. but only 100,000 of those businesses have more than one paid employee. “If you look at percentages and ratios none of those is an improvement over our historic deficit with White Americans,” said Mr. Muhammad. He referred to “A Torchlight for America,” a book by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam which pointed out the rate of gain it would take Blacks to completely close the gap in income with Whites. “It shows it would take 400 years for us to completely close the gap,” said Mr. Muhammad.

- Continued on Next Page



Dr. Malveaux expects more of the same or worse in 2015 especially now that Republicans have gained control of both houses of Congress. They will be freer to explore their policies that have been hostile to the people at the bottom, she said. “While they have increased the amount of money that corporations can give to campaigns and to PACs (Political Action Committees), consolidating power among the wealthy, they have been very parsimonious when it comes to benefits and assistance to people at the bottom.”

She expects the GOP to make cuts which will disproportionately affect Blacks like SNAP benefits, formerly known as the federal food stamp program. She expects fewer federal Pell grants to be made available which is the method many poor people rely on to pay for college. “We can expect to see some erosion of Black economic status. I don’t see anything, and I could be wrong and I hope I am, that suggests anyone is focused on the well-being of African American people. The Congressional Black Caucus has certainly been episodically effective ... but they’re an extreme minority. It has been challenging for them to influence public policy,” said Dr. Malveaux. Changes in public policy, regulations or legislation that would benefit or work for those who continue to struggle in the GOP-dominated Congress are unlikely, she added. “There is no reason for them to do anything than what they’ve always done which is take it from the needy to give it to the greedy.” Black people must begin to build wealth through asset, business ownership and land acquisition and not be distracted from focusing on real economic indicators, said Cedric Muhammad.

#### Viable solution at hand

Like his teacher the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Minister Farrakhan has consistently stressed the critical need for Black people to “Do for self or suffer the consequences.” Other communities have demonstrated this principle to their benefit. Collective economic power enables residents in various ethnic enclaves to control the politics and affairs of their communities. With over \$1 trillion in spending power for over 45 million Black people in America that is often talked about, strategic economic targeting of where that money is spent is key to progress.

In his enlightening online lecture series, “The Time and What Must Be Done,” Min. Farrakhan spoke to this very issue. “Did you know six cents of every dollar is all we spend with Black Businesses? And according to one study made by the Gazelle Index, a national quarterly survey of CEOs of high performing small businesses and businesses owned by diverse groups, if we double what we spend to 12 cents, that alone would create nearly 600,000 additional jobs for Black workers, and would reduce the Black unemployment rate by more than three points (from 13.8 percent to 10.6 percent),” said Min. Farrakhan. “Don’t tell me ‘we don’t have the power!’ We just have never used it wisely,” he continued. Under the Muslim leader’s direction, the Nation of Islam reintroduced Muhammad’s Economic Blueprint, a program designed to help end poverty and want in the Black community. The program calls for 16 million wage earning Blacks to contribute 35 cents weekly to purchase farmland and help create industry and businesses to begin providing jobs. Such a small amount of painless sacrifice would net over \$291 million in one year.

“Today guess what, collectively, we are still richer than 19 countries in the world. Just think about how rich you and I are. That’s why if we support in this year 2015, Muhammad’s Economic Blueprint, it’s only \$1.40 a week, it’s only \$18.40 a year. But collectively we would have a national treasury that we could begin to get land, because America is for sale,” Ishmael R. Muhammad, student national assistant to Min. Farrakhan and a son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad told the audience at Mosque Maryam, in a Dec. 28 address. The program would be a mechanism to buy up the empty lots and abandoned buildings and put young Black people to work to renovate these buildings put them back on the market to provide decent housing to the people, said student Minister

Ishmael Muhammad.

“Let’s open up the grocery stores that are missing in these food deserts. It’s not on government to do it for us it’s on us to do it for ourselves.”

For more information on Muhammad’s Economic Blueprint, visit [www.economicblueprint.org](http://www.economicblueprint.org).

## Young Black Entrepreneurs Suit Up to Wage New War on Inequality |

By Taylor Gordan |

Negative stigmas surrounding today’s Black youth portray them as lazy and disconnected from race issues in America. But this vast generalization misses an exciting phenomenon taking place on the ground: A wave of activist-oriented entrepreneurialism is sweeping through the millennial generation, as many emerging Black entrepreneurs hope that their personal successes lead to major victories for the Black community as a whole. They are in it not just for themselves, but for their communities.

The protests and rallies that followed the deaths of unarmed Black people like Eric Garner and Michael Brown revealed that today’s Black youth indeed possess the ability to rally together and become civil rights activists when their community needs them the most. This move to become more involved in creating change for their community, however, didn’t stop with marches through the streets and viral hashtags online. The Black youth are taking the war against inequality into offices and boardrooms. It’s a movement that may seem invisible to the naked eye and it could be hard to identify without being a part of the very culture that is producing a countless number of Black CEOs under the age of 30.

As Black leaders and civil rights organizations called for more Black entrepreneurs and business owners, many Black young people answered. It’s a trend that is perhaps most evident in a major startup hub and economic center like Atlanta. The Big Peach ranked at the top of the list for Under30CEO’s “Top 30 Best Cities for Young Entrepreneurs” in 2013, making it a great city for emerging Black entrepreneurs to thrive in.

Mattie James (right) of Mattieolo-

gy hosting Atlanta’s Young Moguls’ Mixer, an event created in part by Tiara LaRae Johnson, in 2012 “It’s hard to meet a young Black person in Atlanta that doesn’t have a clear business goal in mind,” Tiara LaRae Johnson, a 24-year-old PR maven and event planner, told Atlanta Blackstar. “Nobody is going to school thinking about working for somebody else.

You’re thinking about turning your own potential into profit through your own business.” That very thought is what inspired Johnson to launch a series of a networking events

for young professionals in the city, including The Young Moguls’ Mixer, In Popular Demand and her upcoming Meeting of the Minds.

Every event, she says, always brings out an impressive crowd. “Atlanta isn’t just a party scene,” she added. “You’d be surprised how many young people come to these networking events and want to meet other young Black people who are trying to build their own empires...Especially with everything that’s going on right now. I think young Black people realize how important that is.” Johnson pointed to the economic struggles that are making it hard for the Black community to fight back against injustice on both a political and economic scale.

Today’s Black youth are still being plagued by high unemployment rates. Nela Richardson, a senior economist from Bloomberg, revealed in an interview with PBS that nearly 40 percent of today’s Black teens are unemployed. It’s the type of statistic that speaks to the presence of systemic racism that has kept Black graduation rates down and left many Black youth struggling in low-



Porsha Antalan of Femqua Productions

-Continued Next Page

**-Continued Young Black Entrepreneurs**

opportunity neighborhoods. Today's Black youth are taking it upon themselves to change that. "I believe there are three reasons entrepreneurship has become a trend among Black youth," Porsha Antalan, the 26-year-old founder and CEO of Femqua Productions, told Atlanta Blackstar. "The first reason would have to be becoming your own boss. The second reason is job creation, especially with the height of unemployment. The third, which is a personal goal of mine, is to create generational wealth and legacy." Despite her young age, Antalan has already had some of Atlanta's biggest names, including supermodel and reality star Cynthia Bailey, hip-hop star K Camp and R&B singer K. Michelle, on the other side of her camera.

Antalan has opened up about naysayers in the past, but like many other young Black entrepreneurs, her passion propelled her forward. "It's like there are two different kinds of passion that keep you moving now," Johnson added. "You have that passion that's about you loving what you do, but then you also think about what you're doing, what does it mean to other people...to the Black community."

It's that type of passion that is driving a sense of fearlessness among the youth and encouraging them to step outside the norm. "I really believe that our generation is not scared to follow their dreams and are straying away from the typical 'go to school, get a job, work your way up, and then retire,'" said 21-year-old Justin McLeod, the founder and CEO of Event Tent, LLC, a company developing a mobile solution that phases out media clutter to simplify event discovery.

McLeod added that the sheer number of young Black entrepreneurs often drives "friendly competition" and allows even more innovative ideas to spark while also adding to a new-found passion for education.

All of the young entrepreneurs made it clear that their passion is not only rooted in their personal interest but also in the potential of what their companies could mean for their community in the future. "If you work

hard now, you think about in a few years you can be the company that gets some of these kids off the street because they have potential and they don't need to be there," Johnson said.

Antalan mirrored those sentiments and said that the desire to create more employment opportunities for the Black community is a major part of what's driving the wave of young Black businesspeople. "The creation of more businesses will unquestionably bring more jobs as long as, as a community, we make it a priority to patronize Black established businesses," Antalan said. "Support breeds growth. The benefits of financial growth can then be dispersed to others in our community in the form of employment."

Event Tent, a company developing a mobile solution that phases out media clutter to simplify event discovery, was founded by 21-year-old Justin McLeod. In addition to the vast economic benefits that could come from a new wave of successful Black businesses, the young entrepreneurs made it clear that their success is key to changing the overall perception of Black youth. "The more people that see Blacks in the founder/CEO positions will set examples for the Black youth and community to strive for the same entrepreneurial aspirations," McLeod said. Johnson agreed that welcoming more Black CEOs and entrepreneurs could help change the overall perception of the Black community but also insisted that the real key is to create economic control by utilizing Black spending power. "We have to make this a situation of, 'OK, you can't sit with us,'" Johnson said. "And make sure that our own businesses and our own community is prospering in a way that when we say 'you can't sit with us,' you're screwed. Your value is gone. Your profits are gone. You are irrelevant. Until you find a way to correct what you're doing and get back at the table, you can't eat."

As Antalan pointed out, it's through the success of the entire community, not just a select few, that will truly drive Black people to victory as they continue to wage a war on social injustices and racial inequality by targeting corporate America.

## The Business Advantages of Diversity | By David Earle |

### Summary

A worldwide study of 366 public companies finds a statistically significant relationship between a more diverse leadership team and better financial performance.



### Description

An examination of public companies across a wide range of industries in Canada, Latin American, the United Kingdom and the United States that compares financial results with the ethnic and racial composition of top management teams and boards of directors. The data shows, among other things, that:

- Companies in the top quartile for racial and ethnic diversity are 30 percent more likely to have financial returns above their respective national industry medians. The equivalent return for gender diversity is 15 percent.
- In the UK, for every 10 percent increase in gender diversity on the senior-executive team, EBIT rises 3.5 percent.

### Value

In the past, one common problem with many core HR responsibilities — finding superior job candidates, achieving diversity mandates, monitoring employee morale, and managing employee communication — was that the financial value of doing exceptional work was vague. Programs built around common industry practices and average performance were accepted because programs aimed any higher couldn't demonstrate a compelling ROI. But researchers have now discovered numerous correlations between the "soft" activities that are the foundation of HR practice and the "hard" benefits that senior business leaders and investors rely on to measure business success. In past Updates, we have reviewed research from Watson Wyatt on the financial value of internal com-

munication and from Lauri Bassi on the financial value of superior social reputation and internal talent management.

Diversity now offers one more example. Widely acknowledged to be a commendable social goal, it has too often devolved into a quota system where performance is determined by regulations and measured by percentages. Instead of becoming a tool of business advantage, diversity becomes one more administrative headache.

Diversity advocates have intuitively sensed the link between diversity and business success for some time. As the world shrinks and markets and workforces have become more diverse, thinking and acting from a limited set of perspectives seems less and less practical. Multiple voices and perspectives must be heard and understood to find profitable paths through an increasingly complicated business landscape. Now there is data to support that intuition.

### Contents

- The "Diversity Matters" project
- The relationship between diversity and performance
- Why do more diverse companies perform better?
- How can companies become more diverse?

### Quote

"We know intuitively that diversity matters. It's also increasingly clear that it makes sense in purely business terms. Our latest research finds that companies in the top quartile for gender or racial and ethnic diversity are more likely to have financial returns above their national industry medians. Companies in the bottom quartile in these dimensions are statistically less likely to achieve above-average returns. And diversity is probably a competitive differentiator that shifts market share toward more diverse companies over time."

See more at: [http://www.staffing.org/library\\_ViewArticle.asp?ArticleID=731#sthash.jbUkfnpn.9kkg9rJn.dpuf](http://www.staffing.org/library_ViewArticle.asp?ArticleID=731#sthash.jbUkfnpn.9kkg9rJn.dpuf)



# Do For Self – Understand the Forces or Get Crushed

As bad as the last recession has been for Blacks in America, recovery might be worse. In the absence of federal policy interventions and without an effective “trickle-up” stimulus plan, Blacks will not only have lost ground during this recession, they will also continue to lose ground during and after the recovery.

An April 2009 analysis of the Illinois Department of Transportation’s stimulus dollar spending shows a paltry 1.67 percent, or \$4,346,507 out of \$260,472,254, went to Black contractors. Instead of narrowing the racial wealth gap, federal stimulus dollars are actually expanding that gap!

Whether Black America is being systematically excluded from the recovery or whether Black Americans are just so far behind economically that the recovery funds will collectively slip through their fingers, the effect is the same. If everyone else benefits from the recovery more than those who need it most, then the current recovery is actually making things worse, far worse, for Black Americans.

In every economic downturn, recession or depression, Black Americans are more negatively impacted than Whites. A 2008 report by United for a Fair Economy, a research and advocacy group, shows that from 1998 to 2006, before the subprime crisis, Black Americans lost between \$71 billion and \$93 billion in home-value wealth from subprime loans. For people of color, this has been the greatest loss of wealth in history.

The official Black unemployment rate is 15.1 percent, compared with 8.9 percent for Whites. The official unemployment rate among Black Americans is projected to reach 20 percent by next year. In New York City, the official Black unemployment rate has been rising four times as fast as that of Whites. And a 2006 Joint Economic Committee Study chaired by Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., reported that 37.7 percent of Black men in the United States had no jobs.

Even before Black America sank

into the recent recession, Blacks were hovering at double-digit unemployment rates, abysmally low savings rates, devastatingly low asset and business ownership rates, and had the lowest personal wealth net worth in the country. Now with the recession, a massive, perfect storm of unemployment, mortgage foreclosure and wealth loss has hit Black America with the negative economic force of 100 Hurricane Katrinas. Black America might never return to its previous precarious perch in the old economic pecking order as a middle-class entity.

There are several ironies here. One is that America has 36 million Black American descendants of African slaves who were shipped to American shores 400 years ago for their economic value. Today, however, their heirs have lost that value and have not yet found a way to contribute substantially to the American economy. The second irony is that Black Americans can no longer cry racism or blame the “system,” since the “system” is headed by its first African American president. Even with a Black president, the United States is still a dangerous and unkind place for most Black Americans.

In 2009, and going forward, there are only two kinds of people: not Black and White, not Asian and Hispanic, not even rich and poor. In 2009 there are 1) those who understand and respond to forces of globalization and 2) those who will be crushed and destroyed by these forces! The current economic recovery is crushing Black America.

The current recovery is not designed to stop the economic free-fall of Black America. In fact, without proper controls and interventions, it will accelerate that free-fall and annihilate Black Americans economically. Because many Black Americans do not have in-demand technical skills, sufficiently high education levels, and cannot compete in the global market place, Black Americans have collectively lost value in the American economy and are being systematically ejected

from it.

In addition to what government should and must do to help ensure that Black America survives the recovery, Black Americans must take control of their own economic destiny. As a way to improve their personal finances, family wealth, community economies, and to help lift Black America out of this downward economic spiral, please consider the Ten Key Solutions for Black Economic Well-Being:

1. Start your own business. Few people acquire wealth working for someone else. By starting your own business, you will be able to hire family, friends and community members. Additionally, you will build the economy of your community. You will also be able to pass on your successful business as a family inheritance to your children and grandchildren.
2. Get as much education as you can. Higher levels of academic and technical education readily translate into more and better employment opportunities, higher income and more wealth. Education begins when you teach your children to value learning and to read well. The new hierarchy of human needs is air, water, food, shelter and education. Without education, existing viably today becomes virtually impossible. Educate or die!
3. Stop renting apartments. Save enough money to make a down-payment on a house. Then BUY A HOUSE! The largest portion of the net worth of most families is in home equity, not cash assets.
4. Open savings accounts for your children. Teach your children the value of money and how to earn, save and invest it at an early age. Take personal finance classes so that you will become the best teacher for your children on the issues of money - saving it, investing it and not buying anything on credit.
5. Invest. First, invest your money

and your time to enhance your skills and knowledge base and to improve your overall well-being - not in cars, clothes, furniture, frivolous electronics, sports, games and the lottery. Second, learn how to make big companies work for you through stock ownership, rather than you only working for them. And third, invest your money in the U.S. and global stock markets. The world is much bigger than the United States.

6. Manage your credit carefully and avoid unnecessary debt. Beware of spending excessive amounts on holidays, birthdays, vacations, weddings and funerals. Learn to pay cash for what you need OR DON'T BUY IT! And forget about what you want. Create a household budget that includes food, living space and utilities - and live by it. Save for a rainy day. It's coming!
7. Get married. Two-person headed households are more viable economically than one-person headed households. Marriage can be an economic advantage when both parties are aligned on financial priorities and fiscal realities. Sixty-five to 70 percent of Black children are born into single-parent households and begin life in poverty. Most of them never make it out.
8. Create a life-enhancing strategy. Include good nutrition, plenty of exercise, and proper rest so that you can share your good fortune and a long, healthy life with your family and friends.
9. Tithe. Give to your church or to a social cause that improves your community.
10. Create a will. Ensure that your accumulated wealth is passed on to the next generation. Studies suggest as much as 70 percent of most households' current wealth was inherited from a previous generation.

*Phillip Jackson is executive director of the Black Star Project, 3509 South King Drive, Suite 2B, Chicago, IL 60616, (773) 285-9600, blackstar1000@ameritech.net*



## SHERIFF PAL PROGRAM KICKOFF AT PALACE

About 150 people attended the Sheriff PAL program kickoff sponsored by Meijer, WalMart, Power Company Kids Club, McLaren, Hubert Distributors, and MIX 92.3, Palace Sports and Entertainment, and the Harlem Globetrotters. Attendees were treated to delicious arena style fare, a visit from the Harlem Globetrotters, and a performance by the Quest Cheer Team's Team Blackout. After the kickoff, guests attended the Harlem Globetrotters game.

## PONTIAC NATIVE A. ALFRED TAUBMAN

A. Alfred Taubman, the self-made Michigan billionaire whose philanthropy and business success — including weaving the enclosed shopping mall into American culture — was clouded by a criminal conviction late in his career, has died. He was 91.

Taubman, who donated hundreds of millions of dollars to universities, hospitals and museums, died Friday night at his home of a heart attack, according to son Robert S. Taubman, president and CEO of Taubman Centers, Inc.

"This company and all that you stand for were among the greatest joys of his life," Robert S. Taubman wrote in a message to the company's employees. "He was so proud of what this wonderful company he founded 65 years ago has accomplished."

Taubman's business success spanned from real estate and art houses to the hot dog-serving A&W restaurant chain, for which he traveled to Hungary to figure out why the country's sausage was so good. He also became a major backer of stem-cell research.

But it was his rearrangement of how people shop — parking lot in front, several stores in one stop close to home — that left a mark on American culture. Taubman Centers, a subsidiary of his Taubman Co., founded in 1950, currently owns and manages 19 regional shopping centers nationwide.



"Everything that excited me that I got interested in, I did," Taubman told The Associated Press in a 2007 interview.

Born Jan. 31, 1924, in Pontiac, Michigan, to German-Jewish immigrants, Taubman worked as a boy at a department store after school near his family's home, which was among the custom houses and commercial buildings developed in the area by his father.

He was a freshman at the University of Michigan when he left to serve in World War II, around the time he stopped using his first name, Adolph. When he returned to Ann Arbor to study art and architecture, he created small on-campus businesses to cover expenses, then transferred to Lawrence Technological University near Detroit to take night classes while working at an architectural firm as a junior draftsman.

Recognizing the booming post-war

growth of the middle class, particularly in the Motor City, he launched his first real estate development company in 1950. His first project was a freestanding bridal shop in Detroit — but he had his eyes on something bigger. He'd noticed shoppers responding to the convenience of "one-stop comparison shopping opportunity," he wrote in his autobiography.

So when a friend suggested a shopping plaza in Flint, Taubman's company did something radical for the time: stores were pushed to the back of the lot and parking spaces were put up front. It was a success, his young company took on larger-scale developments in Michigan, California and elsewhere in the 1950s and early '60s.

Taubman served as chairman of Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., parent company of Sotheby's art auction house, from 1983 to 2000, and was a partner in international real

estate firm The Athena Group before he was tangled in a price-fixing scheme. He was

convicted in 2001 of conspiring with Anthony Tennant, former chairman of Christie's International, to fix the commissions the auction giants charged. Prosecutors alleged sellers were bilked of as much as \$400 million in commissions.

Taubman was fined \$7.5 million and spent about a year in a low-security prison in Rochester, Minnesota, but long insisted he was innocent and expressed regret for not testifying in his own defense.

"I had lost a chunk of my life, my good name and around 27 pounds," he recalled in his book, saying he was forced to take the fall for others.

The case cast a shadow over Taubman's accomplishments, but it diminished over the years — and his philanthropy continued unabated. He had pledged \$100 million to the University of Michigan's A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute and its

stem-cell research by 2011. He also financed public-policy programs at Harvard, Brown University and the University of Michigan, which received several large donations.

He donated millions and spoke passionately in support of the 2008 ballot initiative in Michigan that eased restrictions on embryonic stem-cell research and enabled his namesake institute to conduct major research for diseases — including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, which claimed the life of his good friend, New York Sen. Jacob Javits, in 1986.

After turning over control of Taubman Centers to his two sons, Taubman made sustaining the Detroit Institute of Art a priority.

His knowledge of how shoppers negotiated malls was tapped to help reconfigure the flow of the museum, and he helped guide the DIA as president of the Detroit Arts Commission through chronic financial problems.



# Community Events

**YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF PREPARING TODAY'S YOUTH FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERSHIP**  
In observance of National County Government Month Students gained insight on transportation issues with a presentation from the Road Commission for Oakland County and learn about the political process.



## Learn More about Risk Factors for Stroke

May is Stroke Awareness Month. In honor of this month, McLaren Oakland invites you to a FREE presentation to learn more about stroke, including risk factors, signs/symptoms and treatment.

**WHAT:**

Free Informational Seminar on Risk Factors for Stroke

**WHEN:**

Thursday, May 28, 2015 – 2:30pm

**WHERE:**

Lockwood of Waterford  
1407 Skipper Drive, Waterford

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kristina Miller (kristina.miller@mclaren.org)

**For more info:** For more information, visit [mclaren.org/oaklandcardiacservices](http://mclaren.org/oaklandcardiacservices)

## PONTIAC REGIONAL CHAMBER CARNIVAL 2015

**WHO:**

The Pontiac Regional Chamber is a membership based business-to-business association that promotes the growth and development of Oakland County businesses while contributing to a safe, stable, and prosperous environment. Its vast network provides an opportunity for organizations to grow due to strategic focus and network support. Programs include career development, networking events and benefit support. [www.pontiacrc.com](http://www.pontiacrc.com), 248-335-9600.

**WHAT:**

The Pontiac Regional Chamber is pleased to host one of the first big outdoor carnivals of 2015 with rides, food, games and more! This year's carnival is generously presented by Forman Mills and will run Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 10. Unlimited ride wristbands are just \$20. Individual rides and food tickets are also available. Special \$5 wrist band savings coupons will be available exclusively at Forman Mills, Oakland Pointe. Coupons will be in store beginning April 30 and can be picked up while supplies last.

**WHEN: Carnival Schedule**

APRIL 30	4 p.m. – 10 p.m.
MAY 1 & 2	Noon - 11 p.m.
MAY 3	Noon – 9 p.m.
MAY 4 -7	4 p.m. – 10 p.m.
MAY 8 & 9	Noon - 11 p.m.
MAY 10 (MOM'S DAY)	Noon – 9 p.m.

**\$5 Forman Mills Discount Coupons**

April 30 – May 10 while supplies last WHERE: Oakland Pointe Shopping Center

402 N. Telegraph Rd Pontiac, MI 48341  
(NE corner of Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake Road)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Pontiac Regional Chamber, 248-335-9600

## Legal Aid and Defender to conduct free outreach clinic in Pontiac May 19

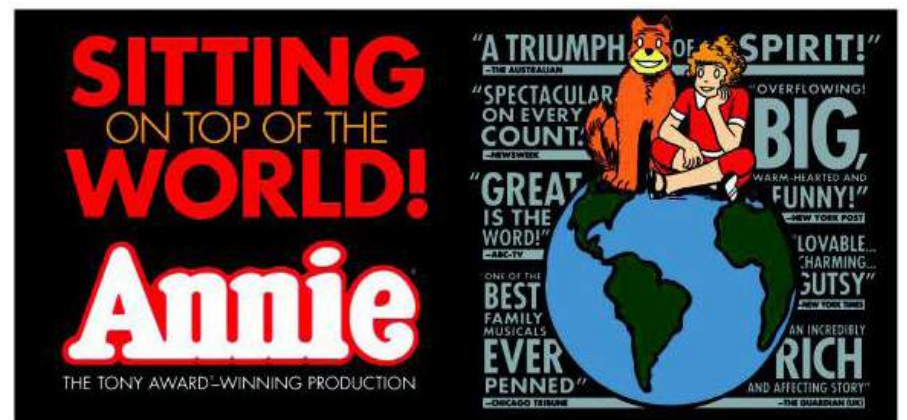
DETROIT - Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Tuesday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac. Attendees are asked to bring copies of their documents and register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time.

For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

LAD is metropolitan Detroit's premier public service law firm, serving residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit.

"We work with clients in a comprehensive manner, so that as we solve their legal problems, we help solve other problems as well," LAD President and CEO Deirdre L. Weir said. "We help people rebuild their lives and help families stay together."

Anyone seeking legal services can call (877) 964-4700 or visit <http://www.ladetroit.org>.



**AT PONTIAC ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE  
196 CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVE. - PONTIAC**

**THURSDAY MAY 7TH @ 5:30PM**

*A Special Touch Learning Center, Inc. Production*

**CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS, FRIENDS AND  
COLLEAGUES OF THE HONORABLE**

**Mr. Clifford Sykes • Director of Bands**

A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS OF MUSIC EDUCATION &  
PONTIAC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND REUNION



SATURDAY MAY 30, 2015 – 6PM – 10PM  
Cascade Banquet Hall  
29155 W. 7 Mile road Livonia, MI 48152  
for tickets email: [briteezye@gmail.com](mailto:briteezye@gmail.com)  
or call 248-894-0486



O C E D C  
Oakland County Employment Diversity Council

 **Automation Alley**  
Technology's Matchmaker for Business®

&

Oakland County  
**MICHIGAN**  
**WORKS!**

**Presents:**



## ***The Regional Career/Job Expo*** **"Connecting the Best with the Best = Success"**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

**8 a.m. – 4pm**

**Petruzzello's Banquet and Conference Center**  
**6950 Rochester Road - Troy, MI 48085**

- ☐ Are you an employer seeking to meet your workforce needs with candidates that possess the skills and qualifications necessary to help your organization grow?
- ☐ Are you an employer seeking to increase the diversity of your workforce with candidates that possess the skills and qualifications necessary to help your organization soar?
- ☐ Are you currently in the job market seeking an employment opportunity that is challenging, enjoyable and financially rewarding?
- ☐ Are you looking for an opportunity to increase your skills so that you can qualify for the career of your dreams?
- ☐ If you answered yes to either of the questions above, you can't afford to miss The Regional Career/Job Expo! There will be top employers attending from the Metro Detroit Area, job-seekers with desirable skills and abilities as well as career development and educational information to assist those wanting to improve their expertise to meet the needs of this global economy.

**VENDOR REGISTRATION FEE:**

**\$300 Employers**

**\$200 Universities, Colleges, Training Schools and Non-Profits**

**Job Seekers attend at no cost**

***Fee includes Table/Booth Space, Continental Breakfast & Lunch for 2 company representatives and Unlimited Hiring Opportunities.***

***Vendor Setup: 7:30 AM***

***Continental Breakfast served 7:45 AM until 8:30 AM***

**VENDORS PLEASE RESPOND BY May 5, 2015**

**ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 VENDORS!**

For further information please visit our website at [www.ocedc.net](http://www.ocedc.net)

Or

Contact Event Chair Reuben Daniel or Chairman Frank Russell 248-858-5204 or [russellf@ocedc.net](mailto:russellf@ocedc.net)