



The State of Environmental Justice in America 2010 Conference



May 12–14, 2010

Howard University School of Law (Washington, DC) on May 12, 2010
Washington Marriott at Metro Center (Washington, DC) on May 13 and 14, 2010



Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen Agrees to Lead Congressional Lunch Discussion

Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen has agreed to lead a congressional discussion at the closing luncheon at The State of Environmental Justice 2010 Conference. She will moderate

the lunch discussion on jobs, clean energy, health, and economic development. Other members of Congress have been invited to participate in this discussion.

Christensen is a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands and a former family physician. She also serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and chair of the Public Health Subcommittee of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Congresswoman Christensen continues to promote the importance of open dialogue to raise awareness about the disproportionate burden of sickness and the need to mobilize a stronger and more unified advocacy to eliminate the health disparities that plague millions of Americans.

The State of Environmental Justice in America Conference, the fourth annual conference, will convene at the Howard University School of Law on May 12, and at the Washington Marriott Hotel at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW, Washington, DC, May 13 through 14.

The 2010 conference is moving to larger quarters to provide greater services to participants. This year's conference will concentrate on green jobs, clean energy, succession planning, and youth involvement. The conference continues to bring together participants from Federal agencies, academia, business and industry, non-profit organizations, and faith-based organizations, as well as local community activists and citizens to participate in dialogue on achieving equality of environmental protection.

To register for the conference, visit www.ejconference.net. Early registration is open until May 1.

Conference Panel to Address Federal Procurement Opportunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities: *Transforming and Diversifying Historically Black Colleges and Universities through Collaborative Relationships*

Description

The struggle for the right to education and equal opportunity is a constant for Black Americans throughout history. Throughout the struggle, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

have been the major source of education for Blacks in America. They have delivered education that produced leaders, shaped Black political thinking, defined art and culture, and nurtured the Black intelligentsia. However, these distinctive and unique

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institutions are at risk of becoming extinct and obsolete due to the allocation of funds for buildings instead of students, poor financial management, rising tuition costs, decline in student enrollment, and the failure of alumni and the greater Black community to donate significantly. To that end, HBCUs must be protected because they are not only an important part of our history; they are an important part of our future.

Federal agencies have a long history of providing financial support to academic institutions in the form of grants, contracts, internships, jobs, and faculty research. Unfortunately, many of the HBCUs are not beneficiaries of the relationships that Federal agencies have established with academic institutions nor do they receive a substantial proportion of the resources that Federal agencies have to offer academic institutions. According to research, HBCUs are grossly underfunded by the Federal government, receiving significantly less funding than other institutions of higher education. For example, in 2002, Federal agencies spent \$41.6 billion overall for institutions of higher education, while only \$1.7 billion was spent for HBCUs. Although President Obama signed the Executive Order—White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in February 2009, which included \$98 million in funding for the Strengthening HBCUs Program, HBCUs will most likely continue to receive a disproportionate share of funding. Nevertheless, this funding, as well as the expertise of alumni of HBCUs, could greatly reduce the ills that many of our HBCUs face. Many HBCU alumni are Federal employees and can assist in navigating the maze of opportunities and promoting the resources that are available.

Panel Goals

This panel will be focused on discussing the following:

- Challenges to accessing Federal agencies' resources
- Maintaining the current mission of educating all who desire an education while meeting the challenges of the 21st century
- Attracting and retaining the best and brightest students
- Increasing HBCU participation in Federal procurement opportunities
- Developing mechanisms to allow all HBCUs (large and small) to provide services and to compete for resources

Panel Format

The format of the panel will allow the panelists to engage each other based on the questions posed by the moderator, but also respond to questions from the audience. The panel will consist of a representative from the following organizations and will be moderated by HBCU alum Sheryl Good, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Nick Ogden, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

- Federal agency contracting manager
- Minority Serving Institution – Community of Partners Council
- Mid-Atlantic HBCU Alumni Associations Collaboration
- HBCU vice-president of sponsored programs
- HBCU professor with successful track record in securing grants, contracts, and internships

Conference Contact Information

For additional information, please contact John Rosenthal at ejinamerica@hotmail.com.