

Conference Presenters

Jennifer Aitken *Director, Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction, New Jersey City University*

Ms. Aitken has served as the Director of the Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction at NJCU since July 2007, and has over 15 years of experience working in disability services in higher education. She served as Director of Project Mentor: Regional Center for Students with Learning Disabilities from 2002-2010.

Ms. Aitken serves as the chair of NJCU's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Compliance Committee and as a member of the University's Student Assistance Team (SAT). She has held leadership positions with the New Jersey Association on Higher Education and Disability (NJ AHEAD); is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jersey City Rotary Club and has presented at numerous national and international conferences.

Ms. Aitken holds a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology.

Corwin Conner *President, Rutgers Business School Diversity Programs Council*



Mr. Conner is a dynamic student leader who serves as an ambassador for the RBS Diversity Programs Council. He assists the Council in developing initiatives to recruit, retain, and graduate underrepresented multicultural undergraduate students at the Rutgers Business School. The Council utilizes its experience and expertise to develop and support methods for advancing diversity and inclusion.

As a senior Finance major, Mr. Conner believes he has an obligation to be that difference in someone's life, the type of difference that shows others what types of opportunities are available, nationally and globally. Mr. Conner also serves on the boards for the Rutgers chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants and the Rutgers Financial Planning Association. Additionally, he serves as a business news columnist for *The Rutgers Observer*.

Michael Corso *Director, Office of Financial Aid, William Paterson University*



Mr. Corso has served the people of NJ within the field of financial aid for over 25 years. In his career he has worked for the non-profit and for-profit sectors, in both community and four year+ institutions. Mr. Corso served for three years as Director of Financial Aid at Sussex County College and six years as Director of Financial Aid at Centenary College. He is an established practitioner in the financial aid arena in New Jersey and is an active member of the College Board Middle States Regional Committee and the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Mr. Corso's knowledge of how poverty affects diversity within the field is supplemented by his work as a volunteer with people in poverty in Sussex County. He holds a BA in Political Science and a Master's of Divinity.

Chris W. Fitzpatrick, PHR *Talent Acquisition Manager, Enterprise Rent-A-Car*



Mr. Fitzpatrick is the Talent Acquisition Manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in the Eastern New Jersey Region. He has worked for Enterprise for 9 years, serving in the Talent Acquisition area for eight of those years. He graduated from Montclair State University in 2004 with degrees in Business Management and Marketing, and currently serves as the chairperson of the Recent Alumni Network. It was at Montclair that he really discovered his passion for diversity, and has dedicated himself to a career in business and human resources championing diversity in the workplace.

Mr. Fitzpatrick earned his certification as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) in December, 2010.

Angela E. Guy

Senior Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion,

L'Oréal USA



In Ms. Guy's role, she is the chief diversity administrator for diversity and inclusion for L'Oréal USA, the largest subsidiary of the L'Oréal Group, the world's leading beauty company. Ms. Guy is responsible for shaping the diversity efforts for L'Oréal USA as a business imperative that highlights the value of all forms of beauty and well-being while respecting and reflecting the differences of our rapidly changing marketplace. She is a member of the L'Oréal USA Executive Committee and collaborates to align L'Oréal's global diversity efforts. Ms. Guy reports directly to Frédéric Rozé, President and CEO, L'Oréal USA.

Ms. Guy has been recognized as: *Savoy Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America" and "Top Influential Women in Corporate America"; a *Black Enterprise* "Power Player," she was named one of *Black Enterprise's* "75 Most Powerful Women in Business"; one of "The 25 Influential Black Women in Business" by *The Network Journal*; 2010 Beacon Award Recipient by the *Coalition of 100 Black Women*; a Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Award Recipient; and a Central Jersey Community Development Corporation and Chris Kjeldsen Community Service Award Recipient. In her role as Senior Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion, Ms. Guy has been acknowledged as a recipient of the Pearl Award by the Women's Academy of Excellence, Trailblazer Award by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., NYC, Legacy Award by Penn State Black Alumni Association and a recipient of the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) Trailblazer Award.

Ms. Guy has a B.A. in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University. She has attended Executive Leadership Programs at the University of California Los Angeles, Northwestern University, and the Center for Creative Leadership.

John Handal *Researcher, RIMAAL- Interdisciplinary Research Network on Latin America and the Arab World*



Dr. Handal is currently a Researcher for RIMAAL, a transnational research network. He has lived in Honduras, Kuwait and has traveled throughout Latin America and the Middle East.

Dr. Handal's dissertation explored the immigration of, and subsequent establishment of Palestinian and Jewish Diasporas in Latin America, with a comparative analysis on both groups in Honduras and Chile. He was the recipient of the Division of Global Affairs Dissertation Fellowship in 2013 and the joint Rutgers University and Department of Homeland Security Fellowship in 2014. In addition to working as a RIMAAL researcher, he is a Latino Scholar with the Latin Institute in Newark, NJ, and a member of the Sigma

Iota Rho Honor Society for International Studies.

Dr. Handal holds a Ph.D. in Global Affairs from the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University. Some of Dr. Handal's publications include, "Reverse-Migration: The Creation of Central America's Gangs" Sigma Iota Rho Journal of International Studies. Summer 2014; and "Human Rights in Kuwait: Migrant Workers and Bedoon Abuses" The Rutgers Humanist. Issue 5: Spring 2014.

Chioma Igwebuike *Communications Director, Rutgers Business School Diversity Programs Council*



Ms. Igwebuike believes in the importance of diversity because it enhances the social and educational experiences of students by giving them the opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and cultures. She has participated in the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Multicultural Teen Corporate Mentoring Program, a program geared towards promoting the benefits of diversity. During this experience, Ms. Igwebuike was able to meet students from different backgrounds and work collaboratively in creating a marketing presentation.

Ms. Igwebuike is an Accounting major who blogs about fashion, literature, photography, and pop culture in her free time. Also, she is Hall Council Vice President, and holds membership in the National Association of Black Accountants and the Organization of African Students.

Carole Lakin *Cultural Relations Manager, Enterprise Rent-A-Car*

Ms. Lakin is the Cultural Relations Manager for the New York Group of Enterprise Rent-a-Car. She is responsible for spearheading all aspects of Enterprise's Tri-State diversity and inclusion efforts. This includes: employee development, community relations, and supplier diversity. Her job is to ensure the company is creating an inclusive environment for their employees, customers, and vendors.

Internally, Ms. Lakin ensures that Enterprise is recruiting, hiring, promoting, and retaining a multi-culture workforce. Externally, Ms. Lakin upholds Enterprise's reputation as a good Corporate Citizen through local community outreach representing the company at numerous organizations, including: the African American Chamber of Commerce, Asian Women in Business, New Jersey Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners.

Ms. Lakin is a graduate from Georgia Southern University where she majored in Business Management with an emphasis on entrepreneurship; and in 2007 received her Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification.

Edward LaPorté *Executive Director, NJ Office of Faith Based Initiative (NJOFBI)*



Mr. LaPorté has served as the Executive Director for the NJOFBI for the past 8 years. His vision of moving the social sector into an entrepreneurial way of thinking is best highlighted by the changes in funding that are occurring in the NJOFBI from 2013 to the present. The NJOFBI has supported, and encourages the growth of social entrepreneur ventures and the implementation of socially innovative programs that are designed to not only measure for impact, but to achieve transformative community change.

Mr. LaPorté received his B.A. from Rutgers University and his M.P.A. from Kean University; and serves as an adjunct professor at both universities where he teaches social entrepreneurship. In 2007, Mr. LaPorté was honored by the Metuchen Edison Area Branch of the NAACP's 31st Annual Freedom Fund Award Gala where he received the W.E.B. Dubois Cultural Award.

John Melendez, Ph.D. *Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, New Jersey City University (NJCU)*



Mr. Melendez has served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at NJCU since 2007. His career in higher education spans over 30 years, including 15 years as a financial aid administrator. As the Chief Student Affairs Officer at the University he is responsible for coordinating strategic enrollment management functions and student development offices, which includes athletics; leading a division of over 90 staff members.

A native of Newark, NJ, Dr. Melendez's professional career has been focused on serving first-generation, low-income students from urban communities. From 2005 to 2009, he led the University's participation in the Building Engagement and Attainment for Minority Students Program (BEAMS), a national initiative sponsored by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) and the Lumina Foundation.

Dr. Melendez earned his doctorate in higher education administration from Seton Hall University, a M.A. in Counseling from NJCU, and a B.A. in Theater Arts from Rutgers University. In 2006 he completed a fellowship with Leadership New Jersey; and during the 2013-2014 academic year served as an American Council of Education Fellow at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Metropolitan Campus.

Dianna Morrison *Director, Pathways to Prosperity*



Ms. Morrison has over 20 years of experience in the social service field. Throughout her career she has employed the empowerment framework assisting under resourced individuals, survivors of domestic violence, adults and youth reach their highest potential.

As Director of Pathways to Prosperity, she fosters community partnerships which support marginalized populations achieve goals and secure financial independence, self-reliance and resiliency. Additionally, Ms. Morrison directs the Financial Stability Project. Through innovative financial literacy programs, the coalition builds the financial capacities of Sussex County residents of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds.

Ms. Morrison holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Thomas Edison State College. She is a certified Social Worker, a Financial Social Worker, and a certified Educator in Personal Finances.

Maureen Murphy, Ph.D. *President, Brookdale Community College*



Dr. Murphy began her career as an English faculty member at St. Louis Community College (SLCC) at Meramec until accepting an interim appointment as an academic dean at SLCC. Dr. Murphy came to Brookdale from San Jacinto College South in Houston, Texas where she served as president. Throughout her career, Dr. Murphy has distinguished herself in developing educational partnerships and championing educational innovation.

Dr. Murphy is committed to service, and on the local level she has served on the board of several chambers of commerce, and has been active in Rotary and historic preservation. On a national level, she is president of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, is a Commissioner on the American Association of Community College's Commission on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity, and is an advisory board member of the Higher Education Research and Development Institute.

Dr. Murphy received her B.A. in English from the University of Louisville, a M.A. in English from the University of Missouri - Columbia, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Saint Louis University.

Mamta Patel, Esq. *Director, New Jersey Division of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA)*

Director Patel's Division oversees approximately 45 State Departments, Agencies, Authorities, Colleges and Universities for compliance of the State Policy and Procedures Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace. The Division also provides technical assistance to the EEO community, executive level training, conducts investigations of conflict cases and monitors trends and statistics regarding the filing of EEO matter.

Before assuming her current position as Director of Division of EEO/AA, she was assigned to the Education and Higher Education Section of the Attorney General's Office, Division of Law, representing the State Colleges and Universities in all matters involving higher education from personnel issues to contractual matters. In 2000 to 2005, Ms. Patel worked in the Office of State Police Affairs as a Deputy Attorney General and was later appointed Deputy Director. The office was created to implement the mandates under the Consent Order entered into by the State to address the allegations of racial profiling against the Division of State Police. Ms. Patel revised State Police Policies and Procedures, developed training and regularly tried administrative cases on behalf of management against troopers for alleged violations of State Police Rules and Regulations. Other positions held by Ms. Patel have included Special Assistant to the Attorney General for EEO in the Department of Law and Public Safety, Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Law's Federal Civil Rights Litigation Section, and Deputy Director of the Division of Elections.

Andrew Platizky *Director of Opportunity Scholarship Program, New Jersey City University*



Mr. Platizky is the Director of the Opportunity Scholarship Program which is the name given to the University's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program. In addition to managing the EOF Program, Mr. Platizky teaches a variety of courses at the university including a Human Intercultural Relations course. Mr. Platizky is actively involved in the Educational Opportunity Fund Professional Association of New Jersey (EOFPANJ). The EOFPANJ is a non-profit organization that serves as a liaison between the EOF campus-based programs and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education in New Jersey.

Mr. Platizky received his B.A. from Rutgers University with a double major in Psychology and History, a M.A. in Social Psychology from Yeshiva University, and his Public Manager's certification from Rutgers University. Mr. Platizky serves on numerous University and community committees and boards. He has been the recipient of various awards, including the EOFPANJ service award and Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award.

Rev. Forrest M. Pritchett, Ph.D. *Director of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Program, Seton Hall University*



Rev. Pritchett is the Program Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Program. Established in 1970, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Program is the oldest and most prestigious servant leadership program at Seton Hall University and is one of the earliest such programs in the United States. Rev. Pritchett was among the early pioneers who helped to integrate administrative and faculty departments in the late sixties. He was instrumental in developing initiatives that transformed these institutions into places that were more receptive to African Americans and other diversified populations of students and staff. He also participated in curricular development that reflected the uniqueness of African culture and America's broad

ethnic heritage.

In addition to his position as Program Director, Rev. Pritchett serves as the Faculty Mentor, Freshman Studies Program and Gospel Choir Director. Rev. Pritchett is a trainer with the human relations initiative, NCBI; and has held teaching posts at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rider University, Princeton University, William Paterson University, and Seton Hall University where he serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Africana Studies, Multicultural Studies, and Religious Studies Departments.

Rev. Pritchett completed his undergraduate studies at Delaware State University with a Woodrow Wilson fellowship and completed doctoral studies in the areas of Sociology, Nutrition and Theology. Rev. Pritchett has received numerous awards and citations from Seton Hall University, including the University's highest honor, the McQuaid medal for Distinguished Service.

Carlos Rojas *Lead Immigration Organizer, Faith in New Jersey*



Mr. Rojas is the statewide Immigration Organizer for Faith in New Jersey, an organization working with faith-based communities on racial and economic justice. He arrived in the United States with his family at the age of 12 from Lima, Peru. The family's tourist visas expired 6 months after arrival, and they became undocumented immigrants. Without opportunities to obtain legal status, Mr. Rojas had limited access to healthcare, higher education, and employment. His family was also exposed to the threat of separation through deportation. As a result of his experience as an undocumented immigrant, Mr. Rojas started advocating and organizing with immigrant communities.

In February 2010, Carlos co-founded the New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition (NJDAC), a statewide organization advocating for the rights of immigrant youth. To date, NJDAC has worked on deportation prevention in an effort to highlight injustices of immigrant youth and families who have been detained at NJ deportation facilities. In 2013, NJDAC began a statewide effort for the In-State Tuition Bill, which would allow undocumented immigrants to have access to in-state rates at New Jersey colleges and universities. Through advocacy and organizing efforts, NJDAC and its partners succeeded in having the state legislature and Governor Christie sign the bill into law.

Patricia Rossman *Chief Diversity + Inclusion Officer and HR Communications, North America, BASF*



Appointed to her current position in August, 2010, Ms. Rossman is responsible for providing strategic leadership to help BASF Corporation achieve its goals of creating a more diverse and inclusive work environment, and being known internally and externally as a top company for Diversity + Inclusion. This includes leadership of the Diversity + Inclusion Council and company-wide diversity recruitment, retention and education. Under her leadership, BASF has been named by DiversityInc. as one of the *Top 50 Companies for Diversity*, ranking #26 in 2014.

Ms. Rossman joined BASF through BASF's acquisition of Ciba Corporation where she served as Ciba's Vice President, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs for the Americas Region. She also served as the Executive Director of the Ciba Foundation, a \$6 million philanthropic foundation creating science education and workforce development partnerships in communities surrounding Ciba's major site locations.

Ms. Rossman as more than 20 years of Communications and HR experience working in chemical, technology and service industries. She serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Conference on Diversity and the Board of Directors of the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering.

Craig Sashihara, Esq. *Director, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights*



Mr. Sashihara was sworn in as Director of the Division on Civil Rights on November 2, 2011. By statute, the Division is the State agency responsible for enforcing New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination (LAD). The appointment of Sashihara was recommended by Attorney General Dow and approved by Governor Chris Christie and the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Sashihara, directed the Department of Law and Public Safety's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for almost three years, has more than 19 years' experience in the public and private sectors handling a broad array of legal issues. In 1997, Mr. Sashihara worked for one of New Jersey's largest law firms, McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, in Morristown, and then Carroll, McNulty & Kull, in Basking Ridge, where he handled commercial litigation including employment, civil rights, and consumer fraud issues. In 2003, he returned to the Attorney General's Office, where he served with distinction in a number of capacities, joining the Department of Law and Public Safety's EEO Unit in April 2004, and was named Director of the unit in January 2009. As EEO director, Mr. Sashihara has overseen all aspects of the Department's anti-discrimination efforts, including employee training and the investigation of discrimination complaints.

Mr. Sashihara graduated from Boston University's College of Communications and in 1992 received his law degree from Villanova University, where he served as a member of Law Review.

Shirley J. Wilcher, J.D., CAAP *Executive Director, American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity (AAAED) and Fund for Leadership, Equity, Access and Diversity*



Ms. Wilcher is a leading authority on equal opportunity and diversity policy. In May 2005, she was appointed Executive Director, AAAED (formerly the American Association for Affirmative Action). Founded in 1974, AAAED is a national not-for-profit association of professionals working in the areas of compliance and diversity. AAAED has 40 years of leadership in providing professional training. The organization promotes understanding and advocacy of EEO/AA and related compliance laws and regulations to enhance the diversity tenets of access, inclusion and equality in

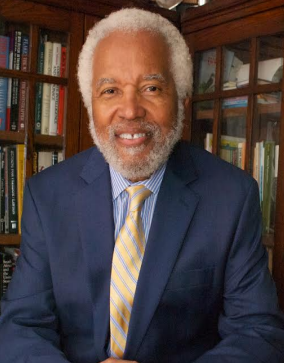
employment, economic and educational opportunities.

In 2001-2003, Ms. Wilcher served as Executive Director of Americans for a Fair Chance, a consortium of six civil rights legal organizations formed to serve as an educational resource on affirmative action. In April 2004, the American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA) gave Ms. Wilcher its "Rosa Parks" Award for her efforts to advance the cause of equal opportunity through affirmative action. During the Clinton Administration, Ms. Wilcher served a near seven-year term as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), in the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. At OFCCP, she was the chief executive of an agency that enforces President Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order 11246. While at the OFCCP, Ms. Wilcher extended the program's reach beyond the nation's borders and addressed governments and organizations seeking to promote diversity in Europe, Asia, Mexico, Canada and South Africa, where she and her staff served in a consultative role with the South

African Department of Labor. In July 2000, Ms. Wilcher received the NAACP's prestigious Benjamin L. Hooks "Keeper of the Flame Award."

Ms. Wilcher is an honors graduate of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts; holds a Master of Arts Degree from the New School for Social Research in New York, NY; a Juris Doctor from the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and a Certificate of French Language from the University of Paris, Paris, France.

Junius Williams *Director, Abbott Leadership Institute, Rutgers University - Newark*



Mr. Williams is a nationally recognized attorney, musician, educator and independent thinker who has been at the forefront of the Civil Rights and Human Rights Movements in this country for decades. As the Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, at Rutgers University, Newark, he teaches advocacy skills to parents and professional educators.

Mr. Williams' life in the Movement in the South and the North has been chronicled in the Civil Rights History Project, a collaborative initiative of the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution. He is the youngest person elected President of the National Bar Association (NBA), and as NBA President (1978-79), he presented a critique of the proposed constitution for the African Nation of Zimbabwe to the United Nations. Also, Mr. Williams was the first President of the modern day Young Lawyers Division. As an attorney in Newark NJ, he successfully represented Rev. Jesse Jackson in the historic court decision making it possible to cast one vote for the presidential candidate and all of his delegates in New Jersey in 1988.

Mr. Williams is a dynamic speaker who teaches leadership and community organization at Rutgers University - Newark, and is the author of a new book, "Unfinished Agenda, Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power."

Mr. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Amherst College and a Juris Doctorate from Yale University Law School. Mr. Williams has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church (1990-2003), and the Education Law Center (2000-2005). He was an Official Observer at the first South African National Election in 1994.

Melda Yildiz, Ed.D. *Associate Professor and World Languages Coordinator, Kean University*



Dr. Yildiz is global scholar and teacher educator in the School for Global Education and Innovation at Kean University. Dr. Yildiz served as the first Fulbright Scholar in Turkmenistan. Since 1994, she taught Media Literacy Education, Multimedia Production, Women Studies, Asian Studies, and Global Education to P-16 educators and teacher candidates. Melda published and presented featuring Educational Media, Global Education, Media Literacy, Semiotics, and Multicultural Education in many national and international conferences.

Dr. Yildiz received her Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts in Mathematics and Science and Instructional Technology. She received a Master's from Southern Connecticut State University in Instructional Technology. She majored in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at Bogazici University in Turkey.