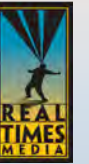


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300 W. Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219





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MIKEY HOOD CELEBRITY HOST

Mikey Hood is a co-host on KDKA-TV's "Talk Pittsburgh," a lifestyle talk and entertainment show.

She grew up in the East End of Pittsburgh and graduated from Allderdice High School. She got her start in local daytime TV through a web show she created and produced called Pghspot.com.

"I always wanted to highlight people from my community... the feel good stories, the stories of victory and success," Hood said.

She is married to Georin Oliver, who is a SAG-AFTRA actor. They have a son named Logan. She loves playing with her high energy dog, a Labradoodle named Wilson.

Her motto is, "Try and focus on the things you can change, not on what you can't."

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2024 FAB 40 Under 40 Recipients

Taliya R. Allen

Program Associate, The Pittsburgh Foundation;
Visibility Chair, Black Transformative Arts Network

Danai Battle

Program Director
ACH Clear Pathways

Tyrell Best-Savage

Deputy District Director
PA Congressional District 12

Chantal Braziel

Soprano
Classical Singer

Lytia S. Brock

Founder
Cloaked in Favor Outreach Ministries

Nathaniel Brown

Owner
Nate Brown Demolition, LLC and Brown Abatement, LLC

Fred Buckner

Senior Contract Specialist-Professional Services
Pittsburgh Regional Transit

MacKaiya Cherry

Communications Assistant/ Social Media
Pittsburgh Steelers

Danielle V. Colquitt

Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer/General Manager
Coston Funeral Homes, Inc.

Tyler Coulverson

Branch Manager, Allegent Federal Credit Union;
Podcaster, Financial Literacy with TC!

Ashley R. Comans

School Board Director-Vice President, Wilkinsburg School District;
Media & Government Relations Manager, Healthy Start, Inc.

Daylon A. Davis

President
NAACP Pittsburgh Branch

Pastor Michael Anthony Day

Founder & Senior Pastor, Legacy International Worship Center;
Founder & President, LCOP, Inc.

Brandy Daye

Principal
UNITED at Twin Rivers Elementary School

Deanna D. Dias

CEO
Daressia Industries, LLC and Bangolz Boutique, LLC

Dorin Dickerson

Host, 93.7 The Fan Morning Show
Audacy

Jhason Dixon

Controller
Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

Camille L. Edmonds

Founder & Owner
Her Salon, LLC

Jesse I. Exilus, Esq.

Deputy City Solicitor
City of Pittsburgh

Sydni Goldman

Host/Producer of The Glory Hour with Sydni Goldman
Cornerstone Television Network

Dorien Goodnight-Giddens

Senior Vice President, Principal for Enterprise-Wide Functions
Compliance
Bank of NY Mellon

Erikka B. Grayson

Project Manager, Early Excellence Project;
CEO/Founder, Bomb Moms, LLC

Dr. Sylvester C. Hanner

School Counselor, Pittsburgh Public Schools;
Mental Health Educator, SCH Counseling and Consulting

Asrael Harewood

Director of Enrollment Operations & Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University

Rashawd Hatten

Supervisor, IT Governance, Risk and Compliance,
Duquesne Light Co.;
Head Basketball Coach, Clairton High School

Tempestt Henderson-Sutton

Assistant Executive Director,
Greater Valley Community Services, Inc.;
Owner, Varie-T

Miracle Jones

Director of Policy and Advocacy
1Hood Media

Talia D. Kirkland

Reporter
WPXI-TV

Yasmeen Manyisha

Safety Press Officer
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Joan Owhe Ojo, Esq.

Deputy Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General

Danica Phillips

Principal and Founder,
Sienna Dawn Media Integrated Marketing Agency;
Assistant Director of Communications, Bridgeway Capital

Brooke Rawls, Ph.D., LCSW

CWEB Academic Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Audia Robinson, MBA, Ph.D. Candidate

Community Investment Operations Analyst,
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh;
Founder/CEO, DeSylvia Investments, LLC

Shana Smith

Assistant Principal
Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

Tiffany Stanley

Public & Community Relations Manager
AAA East Central

John A. Ukenye, J.D.

Advocacy and Policy Officer
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

Lawrence Uradu, MD

Associate Chief, Division of Emergency Radiology, UPMC;
Owner & CEO, Alfred Group, LLC

Danielle Commodore Walker

Assistant General Manager, M&J Wilkow;
Licensed R.E. Salesperson, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Darius Wallace

Administrative and Project Coordinator, Mayor's Office
City of Pittsburgh

Orlando Watson

Senior Director of Programming
The August Wilson African American Cultural Center

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

The New Pittsburgh Courier is extremely proud to present the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab 40 Under 40 "Class of 2024" and salutes these young movers and shakers for their hard work and dedication.

As we celebrate these individuals that were carefully selected from a list of many nominations that were submitted by our faithful readers, we also celebrate the diversity of job descriptions and titles now open to this generation.

Not only are these stellar individuals excelling in their professions, but they are also making an impact in the communities they serve. They represent a generation committed to making "the most livable city" a better place not only for themselves, but also for those who come behind them. Through their dedicated efforts, tomorrow's African Americans have an ever-greater possibility at procuring a brighter future than ever before.

Perhaps more than anything, those on this year's Fab 40 Under 40 list come from a generation that knows the power of collaboration across lines of race, religion, and sexual orientation. They know Pittsburgh's future is brighter when all parties work together for the greater good.

To the "Class of 2024," we hope this honor serves as an inspiration to soar to even greater heights and to encourage others to reach their highest potential. To our readers of this special section, please share it with the youth in your area so they may be inspired to continue their lofty pursuits.

From all of us at the New Pittsburgh Courier, we applaud you. Thank you for your unwavering service.

Congratulations to the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab 40 Under 40, the "Class of 2024!"



ROD DOSS

Who are the FAB 40 Under 40?

As the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab 40 Under 40 continues to celebrate and honor those who are making an indelible mark on our city, it does more than recognize achievement; it perpetuates a legacy of aspiration, where determination knows no bounds, and where Black excellence shines brightly, like a diamond in the heart of the city. These are the FAB 40 we recognize today.





TALIYA R. ALLEN

**Program Associate for Arts and Culture, The Pittsburgh Foundation;
Visibility Chair, Black Transformative Arts Network**

Taliya R. Allen is Program Associate for Arts and Culture at the Pittsburgh Foundation, beginning in October 2023. In this role, she primarily provides project management for several initiatives including Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh and the Exposure Artist Program; supports efforts to strengthen relationships with grantees and connect artists to one another as well as local and national resources that support their careers and lives.

Before joining the Foundation, she served as the Regional Manager for the Petey Greene Program which supports the academic goals of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and educates volunteers on the injustice manifest in our carceral system. Allen is also a consultant for the Black Transformative Arts Network,

and has concentrated her energy to enhance Pittsburgh's cultural and artistic landscape through direct support to artists and collaboration with small arts organizations.

Originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., Allen began her career as a 6th grade teacher at Honoka'a Elementary School in Hawaii, serving in the Teach for America 2013 cohort. She relocated to Pittsburgh in 2015 and began leveraging her experience as an educator, her academic training and her passion for social justice and human rights as a graduate intern in Pittsburgh Public School's Office of Equity, and eventually as Director of Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment for 1Hood Media. In her free time she enjoys cooking, writing, and traveling.

CONGRATULATIONS
FRED BUCKNER
 2024 NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER
 FAB 40 UNDER 40 HONOREE

For all you do both professionally and personally to promote equity and awareness for the underserved in our community.





DANAI BATTLE

**Program Director
ACH Clear Pathways**

Danai Battle, mother, daughter, sister, niece, friend, entrepreneur and Program Director, understands the importance of being a healthy part of someone's village. Battle has an eagerness to give back to her community in more ways than one. Starting as far back as 2009, Battle has spent time volunteering not only in the Hill District community, the community in which she was raised, but Garfield as well. In 2009, Battle was a troop leader in the Hill District for Girl Scouts of Western PA and in 2013 ran a girls group with Brothers and Sisters Emerging. Both groups were formed to help build courage, confidence, and character in young ladies, and in return make the world a better place. Also in 2013, Battle began volunteering with Garfield Youth Sports where she would spend her time coordinating fundraising efforts for the organization, handling participant registration, and being the cheer coordinator. Battle finds value in working with children, watching them develop into the people that they are destined to be, all while knowing that she had a positive hand in their development. These volunteer roles help shaped Battle for her current position as Program Director at ACH Clear Pathways. At ACH Clear



Pathways, Battle oversees and manages all artistic programming for community, youth, and seniors. Battle also manages the staff of ACH, assuring that they are well equipped to carry out the mission of ACH Clear Pathways. The mission of ACH Clear Pathways is to nurture creativity through visual and performing arts by providing an opportunity to youth and family within the arts. As the Program Director, Battle understands the need to meet families where they are, and she realizes that every family is not the same. Being mindful never to judge but to have compassion and love for families along their journey. Battle has compassion not only for the youth in her community but also the elderly and disabled. This passion was founded most recently when Battle found herself caring for her terminally ill father. Discovering that some people don't have the support from family prompted Battle to start NCB Passionate Home Care Agency. This agency allows seniors and people with disabilities to receive care with their day-to-day responsibilities, all while living in their own homes and maintaining their independence.

Battle's biggest accomplishment and what brings her the most joy is being a mother to her two children. She loves to be supportive of her children's development, all while being by their side every step of the way, experiencing both the highs and lows, letting them know that there is nothing that they can't do.

Her children are also the reason she volunteers. Battle never wants a child to feel that no one cares.

Battle's other passions includes cooking, singing, and traveling the world, all while keeping God the center of her life!

TYRELL A. BEST-SAVAGE

**Deputy District Director
PA Congressional District 12,
Office of Congresswoman Summer Lee**

Tyrell Best-Savage is a multi-faceted individual whose journey through life has been marked by passion, dedication, and unwavering perseverance. Born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Best-Savage developed an early love for community which laid the foundation for his passion for assisting the most marginalized and ambition to change the political landscape for those individuals.

From a young age, Best-Savage always exhibited natural leadership and a thirst for knowledge. He was raised by his mother and grandparents. Being the oldest boy in a house of five siblings, he had to accelerate his childhood to be an example for his younger kin. Difficult obstacles would be placed in his path such as gang involvement, delinquency, and his father's

incarceration. However, he persevered to overcome these trials and tribulations to learn and become more insightful due to those experiences. These early barriers are one of the major reasons why he feels called to volunteer and advocate for the youth.

Best-Savage later would meet would meet former state Rep. Jake Wheatley, who introduced him to representatives at One-Pennsylvania. There he started as a part-time door-to-door canvasser for the presidential election. In two months, he would be hired full-time as a permanent door-to-door canvasser, working on all the various political campaigns. The justice programs they offered were Education, Environmental, Housing, and Political. Also, while working with their organization, he

worked to get Mayor Ed Gainey elected. Within a year, he was promoted to Political Organizer for the organization. He would transition to work for Congresswoman Summer Lee's campaign as a field organizer soon after. Securing a primary win for her campaign, he would go on to work statewide for multiple grassroots organizations at the same time. He worked with Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture,

PA Interfaith Power & Light, and PA United as a Political Civic Engagement and Environmental Justice Coordinator.

He would transition back to working with Congresswoman Summer Lee starting as a constituent advocate for three months before being promoted to a field representative. Within another three months he would again be elevated to Deputy District Director.



JENNIFER C. BARNES

JUSTIN M. BINION

ABRAXIS BLACKWELL

JA'LISA L. BROWN, MBA

KECIA CHANTEL

AUDIE L. CHAPMAN, II

GARY J. COLEMAN

SHAMIAH COULVERSON

DR. ARMANI A. DAVIS

LAUREN DEDOMENIC

DEJANÉ DOZIER

DR. RIKELL S. FORD

JOHNNIE GEATHERS, MSW,

LSW

STANFORD GRANDY

JESSICA GURLEY

ERRICKA HAGER

SAMANTHA HARTZMAN

IESHIA NICOLE HEARN

RYAN HOUSTON

TILO JORDAN

MONICA MALIK

THOMAS MCCLELLAN

GODFREY R. MCCRAY JR.

SOLEIL MEADE

PAIGE KENDRA MITCHELL

DR. CHANNING L.

MORELAND

DELVINA L. MORROW

CYDNEY NUNN

CUE PERRY

CHARLES DAYMAR

PITTS-BONNER

WELDIANNE SCALES

ANDRE L. SCOTT

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DEANDRE TIMBERS

DR. DARLA TIMBO

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ALYSON D. BLACKBURN
DONTAE COMANS
MELVENA S. DANIELS
BRANDON DAVIS
ANTOINE DION
AARON DONALD
AKITA DONALD
SYDNEY ETHEREDGE
JAZMINE D. GRANT
DAINNA A. GRAY, M.ED
CHARONDA L. HILL
SAMSON X HORNE
DR. JULIAN HUNT
CHI ILOCHI
REESHA L. JACKSON,
MPM
JERMAINE D. JOHNSON
TIFFANY JOHNSON, DNP,
MSN.ED., RN
JALEN B. LEE
ABRIANA LOREN LEEPER
-ROBINSON, ED.D
PRINCE MATTHEWS SR.,
MPA
ARIEL MEADOWS
MORGAN JENKINS MOODY
ISABELLA MORELAND
LASHAWN R. MURRAY
BRIAN PRUITT JR.
LINDSEY RAMSEY
DARIAN D. REYNOLDS,
M.S.ED.
LATRICE "PHOENIX" ROSE
DARIUS SINGLETON
MALAYSIA SMITH
MONIQUE S. SMITH
NATASHA S. SMITH
KIARA TALBERT
DEMIA TYLER
REV. GAVIN B. J. WALTON
BRANDON J. WILES, MBA
MARCUS WOODARD
KIERRAN YOUNG

CHANTAL BRAZIEL

Soprano Classical Singer

Soprano Chantal Braziel is known for the beauty, passion, and magnitude of her voice. She infuses spirit and artistry in every performance, from arias to spirituals. Braziel has coached with the internationally acclaimed soprano, Latoria Moore, and she was a participant in Angel Blue's Opera Training Studio, and performed in the Masterclass with the international tenor, James Valenti, through Angel Blue's Training Studio.

Braziel is a passionate classical singer who has performed both locally and internationally, and she also advocated for the National Opera House in Pittsburgh, founded by classical opera pioneer, Madame Mary Cardwell Dawson, in Homewood. When the owner of the opera house, Jonnet Solomon, was searching for local artists to help with the preservation, Braziel felt obligated to help. With the help of her fellow soprano colleague, she helped create the Opera House Challenge, which was a video of

her performing on the steps of the opera house and brought awareness to internationally acclaimed artists; and this led to artists and organizations donating to the opera house.

This year, Braziel won second place in the Birmingham International Online Vocal Competition. In 2021, Braziel won the Special Mention Award in the Medici International Vocal Competition. She also received the Women of Excellence Aspiring Artist Award through the Grace City Opera Theatre. Braziel is the Encouragement winner of the 2020 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Auditions in the Pittsburgh District.

In 2023, Braziel attended the international summer training program, the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) program held in Graz, Austria. While attending the program, she was the guest soloist and performed with the AIMS orchestra; she featured soloist in the Spiritual concert and was a semi-finalist in the AIMS Meistersinger Competition. Braziel was also featured with the River City Brass Orchestra in Pittsburgh as a guest soloist in their concert of Porgy and Bess Meets Rhapsody in

Blue. She was featured on the Classical WQED-FM 89.3 radio station as a guest performer for the station's 50th Anniversary. Braziel also performed the National Anthem for both the Pittsburgh Pirates and Pittsburgh Penguins. She was the featured soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in the Lift Every Voice concert at Heinz Hall and returned in the ensemble of Lift Every Voice in October 2022 and February 2024.

In 2019, Braziel made her Metropolitan Opera Debut in the ensemble of the 2019 /2020 Grammy Award-winning production of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess; she returned in the revival of Porgy and Bess in 2021, and she performed in the chorus of the Jessye Norman memorial, held at the Metropolitan Opera. Braziel also performed in the ensemble of the world-premiere production of Pittsburgh Opera's "The Summer King: The Story of Josh Gibson."

Braziel is a native of Pittsburgh and sings at local performance venues in the area. She continues to

perform, and currently works as a full-time substitute teacher at CAPA 6-12.



LYTIA S. BROCK

Founder

Cloaked in Favor Outreach Ministries

Mother, Pastor, best-selling author, serial entrepreneur and certified life/trauma coach are just a few of the titles that Pittsburgh native, Lytia S. Brock, goes by. Her book, "Making the Most of Life's Lemons," was published in 2016 and quickly made Amazon's best-seller list. In addition to "Lemons" she has written and self-published "Self Inventory," "Day by Day," and in 2021, "Mental Help." In 2022, Brock launched a second food-based business, Soup and Bread, LLC. Soup and Bread, LLC will feature a variety of freshly made soups and bread for its customers in the Greater Pittsburgh region. Soup and Bread, LLC is a result of Brock's pivot while attending Cohort 8 of Own Our Own Academy. Her penchant for

service and compassion for God's children who don't fit the status quo led her to birth Cloaked in Favor Ministries, a not-for-profit. To date, the organization has assisted with outreach efforts in Ghana, the Philippines, Kenya, and India. Brock also continues to spread the Gospel, through her work with her father, at Narrow Way International Ministries. In addition to her work in service, Brock is an entrepreneur. She has been featured in The Washington Post, NextPittsburgh, and the New Pittsburgh Courier, and has been a guest on the #24 Hour Hustle Show with Anthony Freeze, and the Lynne Hayes-Freeland Show on KDKA-TV. She currently operates Abundant Living Life Coaching where



she encourages her clients to: "Live the Life they've imagined." Among her many accomplishments, she was a 2011 recipient of the prestigious Irene O. Bartko Award, which honors and celebrates the strides of both single and minority mothers. In 2021 Brock was awarded the Emerging Leader Award by the Onyx Women Network.

In 2023 Brock became a Founding Board member of Dominus High School.

As singer/songwriter, Brock performs under the name Tinna James and has had the honor of performing at many Pittsburgh venues such as Heinz Hall, and the Benedum Center, and headlined a concert at Heinz Memorial Chapel and the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. She is currently working on her sophomore album. Brock can be reached on social media outlets simply by searching Lytia S Brock.

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40 UNDER 40 - CLASS OF 2024

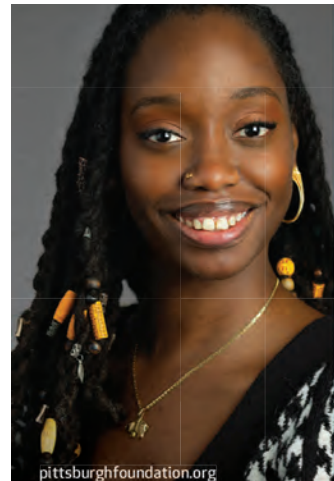
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INSPIRING DREAMS
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The Pittsburgh Foundation staff and Board congratulate our esteemed colleague, Taliya Allen, and all of the 2024 FAB 40 Under 40 awardees, for inspiring our community to pursue its limitless potential.



For a greater Pittsburgh.



NATHANIEL BROWN

Owner

Nate Brown Demolition, LLC and Brown Abatement, LLC

Nathaniel Brown is the owner and founder of Nate Brown Demolition (NBD), LLC. He graduated from Kiski Area High School in 2010 and went on to obtain his associate's degree in Business Administration from Butler County Community College in 2015.

Brown started NBD in 2018 with the goal of providing an opportunity for himself, his family and other underrepresented individuals to make an impact on the thriving construction industry in the City of Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas.

Through his passion and determination and by utilizing the guidance of mentors and the valuable resources the city offers small business owners, Brown quickly grew NBD into a team of six full-time employees and several part-time employees



that regularly completes large commercial and government-funded projects. With each project, Brown's goals for himself and for NBD continue to grow and he hopes to be able to create and inspire a future generation of leaders in the community.

In his free time, Brown enjoys hunting with his nephews, barbecuing for his friends and family with his wife, Hailey, and cheering on the Steelers with his brothers and son, Walker.

FRED BUCKNER

**Senior Contract Specialist-Professional Services
Pittsburgh Regional Transit**

Fred Buckner, a native of Lincoln-Lemington, serves as a Senior Contract Specialist for the Professional Services Group within the Procurement Department of Pittsburgh Regional Transit. In this role, he develops and solicits requests for proposals, negotiates, executes and manages consulting contracts for various professional services, including but not limited to: legal services, real estate consulting,

engineering, information technology consulting, insurance, financial services, and more.

Buckner attended Allderdice High School, which is where his passion for business and his understanding of the important role transit plays in connecting underserved communities to resources intertwined. While in high school, he partook in various programs such as Urban Youth Action, the faith/community-based health organization Center for Healthy Hearts and Souls, and Allderdice's Robotics Team.

Buckner started his college studies at CCAC majoring in Business. At this time, he joined CCAC's Pittsburgh Promise Club and undertook various internships, the most rewarding being a business/manufacturing-based internship provided through Urban Innovation21. He then transferred to Clarion University, where he served as the Vice President of Clarion's NAACP Chapter. Graduating in 2015, Buckner has strived to maintain strong core competencies within his field and continues to be a productive member of cross-functional business teams.

In addition to his professional career, Buckner has been an active volunteer for years in the



Lincoln-Lemington community, serving in various roles for the Lincoln-Lemington Community Consensus Group as well as the Registered Community Organization - The Lincoln-Lemington Collaborative. Through those community organizations, he is involved with securing funding for community projects through grants, spreading awareness of resources for neighborhood beautification, safety/security, economic development, political involvement and accountability, participating in community clean-ups, and more.

Buckner is also a member of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), which is the leading national advocate for employment diversity, inclusion and contracting opportunities in the multi-modal transportation industry.

Buckner plans to continue volunteering as well as developing both personally and professionally so that he can become a greater asset to underserved communities who need us the most.



ANDREA BARBER

CAMERON BARNETT

OLIVER BEASLEY

LACHELLE BINION

BLAYRE BRITTON

JOEL BURSTEIN

ALONNA CARTER

MELANIE CLAXTON

GRIFFANN

COLEMAN-BREWER

ASHLEY RENAE CORUM

TORREY COULVERSON

MARTELL COVINGTON

LEANA CREIGHTON

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CHRISTIAN HUGHES

MUBARIK ISMAELI

DEVON MADDEN

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BRIANA L. WHITE

TANESHYA WILLIAMS

NATASHA WILLIAMS

ALECIA DAWN YOUNG

DARNELL BONNER

SHANDIA BOOKER

CASSANDRA BRENTLEY

RICHENA BROCKINSON

MICHELLE BROWN

CATHRYN CALHOUN

STEVEN CARTER

NATHANIEL L. CARTER JR.

DR. CAMILLE CLARKE-

SMITH

RONALD COURSEY

ALONNA CUFFE

JAKIM DONALDSON

CARLTON FALCONER JR.

AMBER FARR

LEON FORD

JILLIAN GILES

JOEL GRAY

RENATA SILVA GRAY

GLENN GRAYSON JR.

RODNEY HEARD

ADRIEL A. HILTON

LASHESIA HOLLIDAY

CHARDAÉ JONES

JASON JONES

HON. SUMMER LEE

MARKESE LONG

ALYSSA P. LYON

JULE MCDANIEL

SHARISE NANCE

SIERRA PARM

BRAZITTE POOLE

LINDSAY POWELL

JULIUS RIDGLEY

TENECIA M. ROSS

ASTER TECLAY

DEBORAH M. TODD

JULLIAN TURNER

TERRI L. WHITE

KHAYREE WILSON

BRITTINI WRIGHT-BURLEY

MACKAIYA CHERRY

**Communications Assistant/Social Media
Pittsburgh Steelers**

Growing up, MacKaiya Cherry always had a passion for sports. Whether she was participating, watching, or working, sports always played a significant role in her life. Following the end of her own sports career, she knew that sports was the industry in which she wanted to pursue a career. She enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park, in the spring of 2016. She pursued a career in sports broadcasting. While in College Park, Cherry was extremely involved. She was a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Honors College, Student Success Leadership Council, Sign Language Club, and the co-president of the school's chapter of the Association of Women in Sports and Media.

While still working as a full-time student, she worked to gain essential experience in the sports world. She worked as a media relations assistant with Maryland Athletics, a training camp intern and gameday assistant with the Washington Commanders, a communications intern with the National Football League Players' Association, and a team manager with the Maryland Gymnastics team.

Upon graduating in the spring of 2020, Cherry joined Obviouslee Marketing as a Marketing Coordinator. After spending a year in this role, she wanted to return to the sports world. She was hired by the Pittsburgh Steelers in July 2021. In her current

role, Cherry is tasked with mentoring rookie and first-year athletes on practicing good social media habits and helping them brand themselves on social media platforms. She works closely with the communications intern each year to help them be successful during their time with the organization as well as following their time after the Steelers. She helps to guide the intern during their first few

months with the organization and shows continual support throughout their year-long internship.

In her first few seasons with the organization, she has worked with players to help grow their brands and find innovative ways to continue to make them marketable off the field. She has built long-lasting relationships and trust with not only players and coaches, but also members of the Pittsburgh media.

Cherry serves the Pittsburgh community by attending and organizing food drives hosted by players. She also has attended many drives to feed the homeless community and was a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers Huddle for the Holidays, which is an event held yearly to give back to children and families during the holiday season. Cherry also volunteered for Burgh Proud, a Thanksgiving meal distribution that provides turkeys and dry food boxes to families during Thanksgiving. She also attends the P.R.I.D.E parade when hosted in Pittsburgh.

Cherry currently resides on the North Shore. In her free time, she enjoys finding new places to eat, watching new shows, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family, especially with her nephew, Ishmael.



DANIELLE V. COLQUITT

**Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer/
General Manager
Coston Funeral Homes Inc.**

Danielle V. Colquitt is a Licensed Funeral Director, Embalmer, and General Manager at Coston Funeral Homes Inc. Colquitt oversees operations at Coston's East Liberty and North Side locations. She specializes in Restoration and Restorative Art. Passionate about her craft, she leads a dedicated team of six women, providing compassionate service to over 200 families annually. She also mentors interns to help them understand the funeral business.

As a scientific thinker, Colquitt's interest in human anatomy led her to study Biology and Autopsy Specialization at Carlow University. There, she found her true calling in funeral service. While performing autopsies in Dr. Cyril Wecht's program, she was drawn to the unique blend of art, science and patience involved in embalming. This landed her at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, where her passion took root.

With seven years of licensure and 10 years of experience in the field, Colquitt excels in preparing challenging cases for viewing through her restoration and restorative art techniques. Her goal is to teach the science and art aspects of embalming worldwide. As a trailblazing woman in a historically male-dominated industry, Colquitt is proud to be among

those reshaping the perceptions of "The Undertaker."

Colquitt is a proud native of Clarksville, Tennessee. She enjoys being a mother, eating at new vegan restaurants, and traveling.



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ORLANDO WATSON
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER
FAB 40 UNDER 40

THE AUGUST WILSON
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER



AERION A. ABNEY

BARON BATCH

JESSICA N. BROWN

NATHANIEL M. BROWN

COREY BUCKNER

BRIAN R. BURLEY

LAKEISHA BYRD

MELISA CHIPANGILA-CAMPBELL

DON CHARLTON

JASON FLOWERS

TYRA GOOD, ED.D

TERESA RENEE HUNT

REGINA D. HUTSON

THOMAS JAMISON

WAYMAN R. JONES JR.

KEVION LATHAM

DEVON M. LYONS

KEVIN MCNAIR

KYSHIRA S. MOFFETT, MBA

KHEIR MUGWANEZA

JAMES MURPHY

NJAIMEH NJIE

RIEAN K. NORMAN

BRIGETTE BETHEA PATTERSON

CHEYENNE L. PATTERSON

OLIVIA T. PAYNE

BRANDON E. PHILLIPS

LEIGH SOLOMON PUGLIANO

REGINA L. SCOTT

YASMIN SHAHEED

LOLA SIMS

ERIC A. SMITH

M. SHERNELL SMITH

MICHELYN HOOD TINOR

SHAKITA TRIGG

DIAMONTE WALKER

THOMAS WALLACE

ANTHONY WILLIAMS

LAKEISHA WOLF

SOSSENA WOOD

TYLER COULVERSON

**Branch Manager, Allegent Federal Credit Union;
Podcaster, Financial Literacy with TC!**

Tyler Coulverson is a dedicated advocate for community engagement and social change, with a background in finances. Coulverson has spent years on the front lines at multiple financial in-

stitutions as a Branch Manager. Coulverson uses his platforms to help educate the community on Financial Literacy. Coulverson has been responsible for overseeing the daily operations,



ASHLEY R. COMANS

**School Board Director-Vice President, Wilkinsburg School District ;
Media & Government Relations Manager, Healthy Start Inc.**

Ashley R. Comans is a passionate community advocate who has been a resident of Wilkinsburg for most of her life. A product of public schools, she's a graduate of Woodland Hills High School and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Clarion University.

Comans and her husband, Dontae, are raising their two young children in Wilkinsburg, where they are both active in the community. Comans understands that change only happens through action, and stepped up to run for Wilkinsburg School Board in 2017.

As a newlywed with future plans to start a family, she ran for school board so her own children would one day be able to receive the best public school education possible. Called to action, Comans knew she needed to do more for her community than show up to vote and was successful in her run for public office.

In December 2017, she was sworn into her first elected role as a School Board Director for the Wilkinsburg School District, where she has been a fierce advocate for public education, teachers, and fully funding Pennsylvania's public schools. That same year she was named the Project Coordinator for the Hill Youth Partnership for Enrichment (HYPE), focused on out-of-school time programming in the Hill District with the Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School (APOST), a grant-funded initiative through the United Way, where she worked on system-building efforts for after-school programs in the Hill District. Through her time with APOST, over \$10,000 in scholarships was awarded to students in the Hill District. Comans also fought for

Comans has continued to be a voice to speak out and stand up for the communities she has lived in

optimizing processes, and implementing strategies to enhance customer satisfaction and account retention.

Coulverson has a proven track record of delivering exceptional results for his clients. He specializes in financial analysis and strategic planning, helping businesses and individuals achieve their financial goals. Coulverson is known for his dedication to client satisfaction and his ability to build long-lasting relationships. In 2019 Coulverson was part of the first BankWork\$ program in Pittsburgh. He is a passionate podcaster dedicated to creating engaging and insightful content that resonates with listeners. Driven by a curiosity for exploring diverse topics, Coulverson delves into a wide range of subjects, from budgeting to establishing credit, offering listeners a well-rounded and enriching ex-

perience. Coulverson's genuine enthusiasm for learning and sharing knowledge shines through in every episode, making for a dynamic and enjoyable listening journey.

As a skilled communicator and storyteller, Coulverson has a knack for fostering genuine connections with guests and listeners alike. Whether they're interviewing industry experts, thought leaders or everyday individuals with extraordinary stories, Coulverson brings out the best in his guests, creating meaningful dialogues that leaves a lasting impact. Through his podcast, Financial Literacy With TC!, Coulverson aims to create a community where people can come together to learn, grow and be inspired. With each episode, he strives to spark curiosity, provoke thought, and encourage positive change in the world.

all her life, communities which are often counted out. Her work serving on boards such as Catapult Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project, and UNITE! has allowed her to help effect change from a community

level.

She is currently the Media & Government Relations Manager for Pittsburgh-based nonprofit Healthy Start, where she works to address maternal health disparities in our communities.



PAUL T. ABERNATHY

KAHMEELA ADAMS

OLIVIA BENSON

LaRAE DANIELLE CULLENS

AUSTIN A. DAVIS

L. DENISE EDWARDS

DAREN ANDERSON

ELLERBEE

AMBER M. EPPS

JAMES T. FREEMAN

REGINALD GOOD

DONTA A. GREEN

KRISTEN GUY

DEAVON HAMMONDS

YONA C. HARVEY

DERRIC I. HECK

MERECEDES J. HOWZE

BRANDON HUDSON

PRINCESS ROSE

HUGHES

RUFUS O. IDRIS

LLOYDINE J. JACOBS

CHEREÉ HASWELL

JOHNSON

MICHAEL A. JOHNSON

TRACI JOHNSON

MICHAEL A. KNIGHT

LaTRENDA S. LEONARD

CURTIS E. LEWIS JR.

GABRIEL McKNIGHT

JESSICA MITCHELL

JUSTIN R. NWOKEJI

TYRA OLIVER

MARINA J. OWENS

KEIHA R. PECK

TAMAIRA E. RIDGELY

RYAN S. SCOTT

DEVYN D. SWAIN

LAUREN O. WALLACE

AARON M. WHIGHAM

ELISE 'THE DIVA CHEF'

WIMS

ANQWENIQUE L.

WINGFIELD

SHEILA WOODS

DAYLON A. DAVIS

**President
NAACP Pittsburgh Branch**

Daylon A. Davis is the President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, making history as the youngest-serving president in the branch's 109-year history at the age of 28. Davis is driven by his deep passion for advocacy and social justice. His commitment to building a more inclusive and stronger Pittsburgh for all, especially for minorities who are consistently marginalized, fuels his tireless efforts in the community.

Throughout his tenure, Davis has been actively involved in various boards across the City of Pittsburgh, leveraging his networks to advance the cause of equity and justice. As

President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, his primary goal is to bring the branch back stronger and rebuild community trust.

Davis' leadership is characterized by his unwavering dedication to creating meaningful change and empowering those whose voices have been historically silenced. With a vision for a more equitable future, he continues to inspire others to join him in the slow march towards progress.



PASTOR MICHAEL ANTHONY DAY

**Founder & Senior Pastor, Legacy International Worship Center;
Founder & President, Legacy Community Options for All People Inc.**



Pastor Michael Anthony Day was born and raised in Beltzhoover. The youngest of six, he grew up as a gifted and multi-talented musician, first playing drums for his grandfather's church at the age of 5.

Pastor Day excelled in his musical studies at CAPA High School, CCAC and Duquesne University. His musical education, gift of music and passion has afforded him opportunities to travel internationally, accompanying many gospel artists and legends.

During his formative years, he spent most of his time in church where his leadership skills were

cultivated and he learned to love and serve others. Here he became a lover and student of the Word of God and accepted his call to ministry, preaching his first sermon at the age of 20.

With his lovely wife, Amber, and their beautiful daughters, Elise and Edyn by his side, Pastor Day serves as the Establishmentarian (2015) and Senior Pastor of Legacy International Worship Center (LIWC). Located on the North Side, LIWC is known as a vibrant, multi-ethnic, prophetic ministry. It's the church for everybody! In a short time, God has blessed LIWC to grow in atten-

dance, membership and community outreach efforts, maximizing the ability to spread the Gospel and love of Christ.

Pastor Day is also the Founder and President of Legacy Community Options for all People (LCOP Inc.). LCOP is a non-profit community organization whose mission is to create options and opportunities that develop, enrich and empower all families and communities to live a wholesome life.

LCOP Inc., meets the immediate needs of the community by providing over 400 free hot meals and food pantry items to families, individuals and residents of senior living facilities in need through the Legacy Soup and Soul Kitchen, in partnership with LIWC. LCOP also offers financial literacy and job-readiness training to assist working age teens and adults in addition to other various services and resources.

Pastor Day is committed to impacting the community and City of Pittsburgh through LCOP's Violence Awareness/Prevention Initiative. Through community events such as Violence Prevention Concerts and the North Side Community Back to School Bash,

over 1,000 youth and their families are able to attend and receive backpacks, school supplies, school uniforms, shoes and more each year, making a major impact in the community.

He also sits on several boards including The Center for Urban Biblical Ministry, Geneva College Pittsburgh location and

the multi-faith counsel to the FBI.

Pastor Day, recognized as the community Pastor, is dedicated to the vision of God for his life, committed to his family and is determined to expand The Kingdom of God by spreading the love of Jesus Christ through Apostolic/Prophetic ministry

and service to the community.

One of Pastor Day's favorite sayings is, "God wants you to win in every area of your life!"

Pastor is committed to seeing that!

CONGRATULATIONS!

PITTSBURGH COURIER

FAB 40 Under 40 Award Recipients

20
24

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ACKNOWLEDGES THE PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN AS THEY
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY AND REGION.



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BRANDY DAYE

Principal

UNITED at Twin Rivers Elementary School



Brandy Daye was born and raised in Rankin Borough and attended the Woodland Hills School District. Throughout her K-12 years, Daye was inspired by educators who believed in her potential and uplifted her spirit. From an early age, she had dreams of being an educator. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Clarion University in 2012. While at Clarion, Brandy received many awards and accolades for her campus engagement and academic achievement. Upon graduating, she taught Special Education in the McKeesport Area School District as well as Pittsburgh Public Schools while simultaneously earning her Master's in

Educational Leadership from Westminster College.

Robinson returned to the McKeesport Area School District in 2020 as an Assistant Principal. Within McKeesport, Robinson led the District's partnership efforts with the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation to reimagine what was possible within the walls of her school building. She was promoted to Head Principal of UNITED at Twin Rivers in 2022 and has dramatically transformed the staff and student culture since taking on this role. Robinson lives in White Oak with her daughter, Bella (11), and regularly spends time with her family and friends. In her free time, Robinson enjoys mentoring young women, reading, and traveling. Robinson is honored to receive the FAB 40 Under 40 recognition and congratulates all recipients.

DEANNA D. DIAS

CEO

Daressia Industries, LLC and Bangolz Boutique, LLC

Deanna D. Dias is a native of Pittsburgh. She was raised by her mother, the late Esther Dias, her late grandmother Esther Foulks, and grandfather, Darryl Foulks (re-married to Elma Young), and a slew of other relatives. She attended the University of Pittsburgh and now attends American Military University with a focus on Business Administration and Entrepreneurship. Dias is also currently serving as a United States Army Veteran.

Dias is a serial entrepreneur who owns a women's clothing retailer, Bangolz Boutique, LLC, a large-scale event and event marketing company, Daressia Industries, LLC, a luxury press on nail company, Press on Posse, LLC, and a business coaching company, Deanna Dias, LLC.

Her latest projects include her "How to Business" YouTube channel and organizing monthly events on behalf of her companies.

Dias' rich background comes from her tough but loving background from her family and her various experiences in the United States Army Reserve. As of today, she has served 19 years and is passionate about serving the past 20 years.

She holds in her heart and soul what her grandmother told her when she was a little girl, "You can do and be anything you want in this world."

This is a message she frequently reminds anyone she works with.

Dias loves helping people and believes in leaving someone better than how you left them. She has one daughter, aka the "Boo'rito," whom she loves so much.



JOEL ACIE

EMMAI ALAQUIVA

VERNARD ALEXANDER

MARISA BARTLEY

KENYA T. BOSWELL

SIOBHAN BROOKS

CARMEN BRUCE

CRYSTAL BYNUM

KEVIN CARTER

ROBERT CHAMBERS III

YOLANDA

COVINGTON-WARD

BELINDA CURTAIN

EUGENE CURTAIN III

CAMILLE DAVIDSON-

BAZRON

LATIKA DAVIS-JONES

BRIAN EDMONDS

TISHA GERMANY

DR. MARILYN GRIFFIN

BRANDON HOLLY II

NEAL HOLMES

REV. CORNELL JONES

NICOLE MANNS

BETHANY MILLER

MARIMBA MILLIONES

KHARI MOSLEY

VINCENT D. MOYE JR.

ALLYCE PINCHBACK

JARVIS POWERS

JESSICA BROOKE

RUFFIN

LES SCALES

ORONDE SHARIF

PAUL DAVID SPRADLEY

TAMIKO STANLEY

KEZIA TAYLOR

IYANA TENNON

NATALIA THOMAS

SONYA M. TILGHMAN

MELISSA WADE

ERICKA WINGFIELD

SSG LANCE ALTON

WOODS

ANGELA D. ALLIE

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ROXANNE EASLEY

KEZIA L. ELLISON, MAWH

SEAN R. FARR

CINDY E. FERNANDEZ

ALI FINLEY

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KIMBERLY GILL

ANGEL GOBER

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SHAWN HICKS

MAISHA HOWZE, MS

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

DARRELL S. KINSEL

AYANA LEDFORD

TIFFANY T. LUMPKIN

LIANA MARTINA MANEENSE

BERNICE D. MARTIN

MICHELLE McMURRAY

SHAUNDA MILES

ANTHONY M. MOORE

NEIL PARHAM, M.ED

SHARENE SHEALEY

JADA SHIRRIEL

DARRELL E. SMALLEY

WADRIA LOIS TAYLOR

TONY J. THOMPSON

FRANK TORBERT III

DONALD G. WALKER III

DANTE WORKS

DOWNIE B. YAWN

DAMON YOUNG



DORIN DICKERSON

Host, 93.7 The Fan Morning Show
Audacy

Dorin Dickerson started his football career in Western Pa. and was a High School All-American and Pennsylvania Player of the Year in 2005 at West Allegheny.

He played for the University of Pittsburgh and was First-team All-American tight end in 2009.

Dickerson was a seventh-round draft pick to the Houston Texans in 2010 and played six seasons in the NFL for the Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, Buffalo Bills, and Tennessee Titans.

He is the father of three boys.

He joined 93.7 The Fan (KDKA-FM) in Pittsburgh in February 2017 as an on-air personality and now is co-host of its popular morning show. He is also the sideline analyst for Pitt Football on the Panthers Radio Network, and Steelers analyst for WPXI-TV (Channel 11).

RENEE ALSBERRY
BRANDEN BALLARD
JASON BELL
KENYON BONNER
JESSICA BROOKS
ONDREA BURTON
BRIAN COOK
ROLAND COSTON-CRISWELL
KIMBERLY ELLIS
INGRID FULTON-EDWARDS
VANESSA GERMAN
DAVID HALL
RAYMAR HAMPSHIRE
LISA HOLD
BOMANI HOWZE
JEREMIAH JACKSON
CYNTHIA JAMES
WILLIAM JAMES JR.
STACY JOHNSON
CHAZ KELLEMEPRYL KING
DR. MONICA LAMAR
NATHANIEL MITCHELL
AYISHA MORGAN-LEE
RYAN PATRICK PARKER
CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON
SABRINA SAUNDERS
VLADIMIR ST. SURIN
FRANCES TAGGERT
KIYA TOMLIN
REV. MARKS TOOKES
TAMARA TORBERT
BERNADETTE TURNER
CARLTON WATSON
EUGENE WILLIAMS III
DAWNITA WILSON
DR. BARRETT WOODS
ROYCE WOODS
NATALIE YANNOTTI

JHASON DIXON

Controller

Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County



After graduating high school in his hometown of Chester, Pa., Jhason Dixon moved to Pittsburgh to pursue an accounting degree at the University of Pittsburgh. While attending Pitt, he became a fellow of the Community Problem Solving program of the Coro Center for Civic Leadership. During his fellowship, Dixon became an intern at the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA). The internship led to a part-time accountant position, followed by a full-time position after Dixon graduated from Pitt.

As a staff accountant, Dixon was involved in projects such as the construction of PPG Paints Arena and the redevelopment of the Lower Hill. Outside of work, Dixon was active with the Urban League Young Professionals, Pitt's Young Alumni Council, and P3R, where he was an ambassador for the Pittsburgh Marathon due to his love of running.

In 2019, Dixon became senior accountant of the SEA, then controller in 2022. Currently he remains engaged with Pitt as a board member of the African American Alumni Council and is a board member of the Partners Board of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.



CHARLIE BATCH
ELIZABETH BIRRU
MELANIE BROWN
DAVID CAMPBELL
ANJI CORLEY
LEE DAVIS
JARA DORSEY
BRIDGETTE DRIVER
EDDIE EDWARDS JR.
EDDA FIELDS-BLACK
NATISHA FRYE
OLGA GEORGE
BENJAMIN GORDON
JADA GRANDY
SEAN GRAY
AMANDA GREEN
WILLIE HARPER
F. DOK HARRIS
RAHMON HART
KEENAN HOLMES
SANTONIO HOLMES
CONSTANCE HORTON
DEMETRIUS IVORY
STEFFANIE JASPER
SEAN JONES
AYANNA LEE
MONTY MEZA-CLAY
ANDREA MOORE
DANIELLE NOTTINGHAM
K. CHASE PATTERSON
JANERA SOLOMON
TAMMY SPENCER
JUSTIN STRONG
DUANE WELLS
ISHA METZ WILLIAMS
JAMES WILLIAMS
DAMION WILSON
JENYCE WOODRUFF
JASIRI X
SHAVONTE ZELLOUS

CAMILLE L. EDMONDS

Founder & Owner
Her Salon, LLC



Camille L. Edmonds is the owner and founder of Her Salon, LLC. She has been in business going on six years, although she has been in the beauty industry for more than 10 years. She always enjoyed styling hair as a child, and it even became her first job while in high school.

Edmonds attended Empire Beauty School in 2012 and while in school she worked in a few beauty salons to get experience. Although Edmonds was unfulfilled, she knew that her passion was to operate her own salon. Therefore, with prayer, Edmonds decided to go for it in 2018. While working in the healthcare industry to help to support building her salon, Edmonds would work crazy odd shifts to make the time to get her salon up and running. It wasn't easy. Today Edmonds runs a four-chair salon with

an amazing supportive team, located in Penn Hills. Edmonds currently is a mentor to young women and girls on their journey in the hair industry. Edmonds enjoys volunteering with her husband, Christopher E. Edmonds, during the holiday season, running a turkey drive in the Braddock area, along with a toy drive.

Edmonds is a proud mother of two amazing kids: Brandon, who is 16, and Ariane, who is 8. While operating a business, Edmonds attends all her son's football and basketball games, her daughter's dance recitals and cheerleading.

Edmonds is determined to show them that if you work hard with good intentions, anything can be done!

JESSE I. EXILUS, ESQ.

Deputy City Solicitor
City of Pittsburgh

Jesse Exilus is the Deputy City Solicitor of the City of Pittsburgh. He started with the city as an Assistant City Solicitor focusing on real property and construction law.

As Deputy Solicitor, Exilus uses his legal expertise to assist the city in all legal matters, including contract negotiations, mediations and litigation. Some of his major accomplishments include advising City Council on district reappointment to ensure fair and equal voting across the city and

negotiating with state and federal agencies to support large infrastructure projects to keep the city a safe and thriving community.

Beyond his work with the city, Exilus endeavors to make the Pittsburgh legal community an inclusive community for all attorneys in the region. As a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, he has served as the Chair of the Homer S. Brown Division, which focuses on addressing local issues for African Ameri-

can and Black attorneys in the ACBA. He currently serves on the Board of Governors of the ACBA. He also serves as a councilmember on the ACBA's Young Lawyer Division, where he recently received the 2024 Outstanding Young Lawyers award.

In addition to this job and volunteer activities, Exilus focuses on raising his two daughters, Kettly and Zuri, with his wife, Tara, in Greenfield.



SYDNI GOLDMAN

Host & Producer of 'The Glory Hour with Sydni Goldman'
Cornerstone Television Network

Sydni Goldman is a producer, media personality and speaker who loves to inspire others and bring joy wherever she goes. She is the creator, producer, and host of "The Glory Hour with Sydni Goldman," an inspirational podcast featuring culturally relevant conversations from a spiritual perspective. Goldman hosted Cornerstone Television Network's flagship program, "Hope Today," for five years. The program launched after she pioneered, produced and hosted "Coronavirus: Hope For Today," a daily program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Goldman worked as an Associate Producer for WPXI-TV (Channel 11) in Pittsburgh. She started her career as a Field Producer/Production Assistant at NBC Philadelphia. Goldman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from Temple University.

Goldman is the CEO/Founder of Free Light Media, a production company purposed to create spiritually-engaging, life-changing content. In 2022, God called her to pioneer the media venture to help thought leaders, organizations and non-profits elevate their purpose and mission through the power of storytelling. Free Light Media works with a team of diverse, cultural creatives to bring hope and inspiration by creating content to empower, educate and enlighten people of all colors and walks of life.

She is an ordained minister at Petra International Ministries where she serves others by providing prayer, encouragement and love to the brokenhearted in her community so they can experience deliverance and freedom through the power of the Holy Spirit.



DORIEN GOODNIGHT-GIDDENS

Senior Vice President, Principal for Enterprise-Wide Functions Compliance
Bank of NY Mellon

Dorien Goodnight-Giddens has spent over 13 years within the financial services industry, serving in various leadership roles across sales, operations, and compliance. He is currently a Senior Vice President, Principal within the Compliance Corporate Function supporting Americas Operations at The Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon. In this role, Goodnight-Giddens is a team lead, and has responsibility for supporting the various operational business units within Canada, the United States, and the Cayman Islands (collectively, the "Americas") for the organization. Most recently, Goodnight-Giddens leads Regulatory Change Management where he is responsible for driving implementation of the regulatory change management process for Compliance for Americas Operations and Digital Assets to determine applicability of regulatory changes as they impact the firm. Additionally, Goodnight-Giddens is the Operations Compliance lead for Market Operations Business Units at BNY Mellon where he is embedded into various projects to support the businesses in maintaining compliance with global regulations. Goodnight-Giddens is an active member of BNY Mellon's IMPACT Pittsburgh, a multicultural Enterprise Resource Group, which works closely with leaders across the organization on corporate-wide initiatives to help foster a workplace that values and appreciates cultural diversity and was a member of the inaugural cohort group of BNY Mellon's Retaining and Advancement of Black Leadership (RABL) program.

Goodnight-Giddens previously held several roles in management within Enterprise Client Onboarding overseeing several teams within Client Activation. Prior to joining BNY Mellon, he worked at Dollar Bank in various roles within its sales department.

Goodnight-Giddens is the Executive Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Maple Unified Student Academy (MUSA) and is a committee planning member of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest who, annually, raise funds in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. He

was previously a mentor for the organization and was selected as an honoree for the 2019 Class of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest where he raised over \$15,000 to help find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. He also served as a mentor for the Sigma Tau Gamma, Delta Beta Chapter Fraternity at Duquesne University; after having served in various leadership positions within the fraternity while obtaining his undergraduate degree.

Personally, Goodnight-Giddens enjoys mentoring and developing talent, spending time with his ever-growing family and friends, as well as traveling. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and an M.B.A. in Finance from Duquesne University.



Pitt School of Social Work

CONGRATULATES

faculty member **Brooke Rawls**
and alumna **Miracle Jones**





ERIKKA B. GRAYSON

**Project Manager, Early Excellence Project;
CEO & Founder, Bomb Moms, LLC**

Erikka Grayson, a Project Manager at Early Excellence Project, holds a degree in Health Information Management from the University of Pittsburgh and earned her Master of Business Administration from Point Park University in 2013. Originally from Washington, D.C., she now proudly calls Pittsburgh home. As a devoted wife to Glenn Grayson Jr. and mother of three, she endeavors to excel both in her family life and as an advocate within her community.

Passionate about creating positive change, Grayson actively supports Miller Elementary School as a dedicated community advocate. In her role as a Parent Helper with The Center That Cares, she provides invaluable support and encouragement to students and families every morning. Collaborating closely with parents, teachers, and administrators, she works tirelessly to enhance the educational experience for every child, fostering a sense of community pride and empowerment.

Grayson's commitment to uplifting mothers extends beyond her professional life. Through her Instagram platform, Bomb Moms, she cultivates a supportive space for moms to share and discuss their unique journeys in motherhood. Additionally, her Cold Coffee Podcast, a part of Bomb Moms, features insightful IG Live interviews covering diverse topics in motherhood, aiming to connect and empower mothers by amplifying their voices and providing valuable support and wisdom.

DR. SYLVESTER C. HANNER

**School Counselor, Pittsburgh Public Schools;
Mental Health Educator, SCH Counseling and Consulting**

Dr. Sylvester C. Hanner is a recent graduate of Duquesne University's Counselor Education and Supervision Doctoral program and a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC). His research initiatives focus on developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive school counseling programs to promote African American students' academic success, college and career readiness, and social-emotional growth through multicultural frameworks. Dr. Hanner's dissertation titled: "Social Justice Informed School Counseling: A Conceptual Model For Promoting Academic Achievement and Equality among Dual Enrolled African American Students," was selected for presentation at the International Conference on Urban Education, for its utilization of research that produced evidence-based outcomes for urban students.

Dr. Hanner has worked as a school counselor for 10 years and currently serves as a school counselor at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12. He has worked in various K-12 public and private school systems while implementing and

evaluating data-driven school counseling programs. While at Pittsburgh Westinghouse, Dr. Hanner utilized culturally relevant Social Emotional Learning to increase the proficiency of students' standardized state test scores by 70 percent. In addition, Dr. Hanner collaborated with community partners to design a student-led college readiness program which concluded with Pittsburgh Westinghouse having the most students dual enrolled in college courses in the Pittsburgh Public School district, averaging 20 transferable college credits upon graduation and a 3.4 cumulative GPA.

Dr. Hanner also has experience working in various higher education settings, including academic affairs, teaching, supervision, and professional counseling. He currently serves as an adjunct professor in the Dept. of Psychology at California University of Pa., where he teaches clinical skills in Counseling and Childhood Trauma. While working for Duquesne University's Gussin Spiritan Division, he was responsible for providing psychosocial, academic, and career

counseling for a diverse population of over 100 freshmen annually. He now supports the program by referring African American students from Pittsburgh full scholarship opportunities to attend the university through their endowment program.

Dr. Hanner is a prominent mental health advocate and believes that students can achieve success when the focus on their education is holistic. Dr. Hanner was featured on WPXI, where he championed access to mental health resources within Black communities.

With his passion for dismantling disparities of Black people entering and sustaining careers in technology and promoting a better quality of life for underserved students, Dr. Hanner was recently appointed Chief Science Officer (CSO) for Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, a consultant for Counselors 4 Computer Science (C4C) northeast region, and a Dove Self-Esteem project trainer.

Dr. Hanner continues to advocate and contribute to the field of academia. This includes frequent conference presentations and consultant work for the American School Counseling Association (ASCA), Day of Service liaison for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) division of the American Counseling Association (ACA), and his work with the Anti-Racist Commission (ARC) for ACA which challenges and promotes systematic change of inequitable practices in the counseling field.

In recent years, Dr. Hanner was nominated School Counselor of the Year by the Pennsylvania School Counseling Association (PSCA), received the Black Excellence in Education Award from the State of Black Learning and received the Scholarship Award from the Iota Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.



ASRAIEL HAREWOOD

Director of Enrollment Operations and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University

Asrael Harewood is a passionate and dynamic educator whose impact has spanned K-12 public schools and institutions of higher education. She is the inaugural Director of Enrollment Operations and Strategy at Carnegie Mellon University, where her duties include coordinating high-level initiatives and special projects for the Office of Enrollment Management and overseeing the work of the administrative support staff. She also collaborates with campus partners to enhance efficiency in recruiting, enrolling, and retaining a diverse and talented student body. Harewood's leadership on campus was recognized at the 29th Annual Andy Awards, where she was nominated in the Spirit category, celebrating staff members who enhance campus life with enthusiasm, dedication to the university community and commitment to exceptional service. The category highlights those that foster an inclusive, collaborative and welcoming workplace that transcends organizational and professional boundaries through positive and constructive approaches. On campus she is a member of the Sankofa – Black Faculty and Staff Alliance and serves on a number of advisory councils.

Prior to joining the team at Carnegie Mellon, Harewood worked as an Educational Advisor with the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Scholars Program and supported students from historically underrepresented populations in receiving acceptances to prestigious institutions including Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Brown, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and the University of Chicago. Harewood's professional career started in Charlotte, where she was a two-time district Teacher of the Year finalist and recipient of the Outstanding First-Year Teacher award at ARMS International Baccalaureate in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. In Charlotte, she mentored new teachers participating in the North Carolina Beginning Teachers Support Program and supported Teach for America alumni in navigating careers after the classroom as a Leroy "Pop"

Miller Fellow.

Harewood actively serves her community as a member of the Board of Directors at the Woodland Hills Foundation, where she has appointments on the H.U.G.S., gala and scholarship committees. She regularly collaborates with the Woodland Hills College and Career Center to offer college-prep programming for students and families in the district. Harewood is a Judge of Elections for Allegheny County and proudly serves the borough of North Braddock, where she grew up. She is a member of several national and professional associations, including NACAC, PACAC, PASFAA and NASFAA. Harewood is a national Coca-Cola Scholar and stayed connected to her alma mater through engaging with Cardea Fellows, volunteering for Duke reunions and serving on the Duke Women's Forum Steering Committee. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, traveling and spending time with loved ones.

Harewood is the daughter of Barbadian immigrants and a proud first-generation U.S. citizen and college graduate. She graduated with honors from Woodland Hills High School, completed her Bachelor of Arts with distinction in cultural anthropology and a minor in education at Duke University and pursued graduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education, where she earned a Master of Science in Education. This spring, Harewood received a Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business certificate after completing The Advanced Leadership Institute's Emerging Leaders Program.

RASHAWD HATTEN

Supervisor, IT Governance, Risk and Compliance, Duquesne Light Co. ;
Head Basketball Coach, Clairton High School

Despite being a former standout athlete in his community, Rashawd Hatten always saw himself as more than one with an athletic gift. While he serves as head basketball coach at his alma mater (Clairton High School), he always finds himself trying to motivate the young men and women in his community. His efforts serve his community in a multitude of ways. Some of those activities includes volunteering as a coach in the little league baseball, football, and basketball programs and community engagement efforts with The Unity Group of Clairton.

Hatten has been working in the Information Technology field for the past 12 years in various areas. His hard work and dedication over the years has led to him being promoted to a leadership role at Duquesne Light Company, where he oversees the change and configuration management program. Hatten is currently working to launch his own podcast titled "Corporate Athletes – The 5th Quarter," where he plans to share insight on how he was able to transition success in the sports world to success in the corporate space.

Prior to his work experience, Hatten

played basketball at Cal-U and graduated with a bachelor's degree in science and technology in 2011. He later obtained a Master of Science degree from Purdue University Global in 2014. He currently resides in White Oak with his lovely wife, Chevell, and their son, Carmelo (11). Hatten enjoys watching his son's sports endeavors, traveling, and playing video games in his spare time.



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TEMPESTT HENDERSON-SUTTON

**Assistant Executive Director, Greater Valley Community Services Inc.;
Owner, Varie-T**

Tempestt Henderson-Sutton is a dedicated human services professional with over nine years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She currently serves as the Assistant Executive Director of Greater Valley Community Services Inc., supporting the agency's mission in the areas of case and crisis management, program development, and policies & procedures. Henderson-Sutton brings vision and expertise in her oversight of critical programs such as Foster Care, In-Home Crisis, and Outreach for Violence Prevention. Her leadership has been instrumental in providing support, education and resources to those in need, and ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equitable community.

Driven by her passion for social justice and community development, Henderson-Sutton pursued higher education at Duquesne University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology (2009) with a concentration in Criminology. She continued her academic journey, obtaining a Master of Science in Social and Public Policy (2012), further expanding her skills in creating impactful change at the policy level. Her educational pursuits have earned her a lifetime membership with the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society. In addition to her academic achievements, Henderson-Sutton holds a Strengths-Based Leadership certificate from Temple University, highlighting her continued pursuit of personal and professional growth.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Henderson-Sutton is actively involved in volunteer work, serving as a Parent Mentor with Parent-to-Parent of Pennsylvania and sits on the board of the Pennsylvania Education & Athletic Training Association (PEAT).

Outside of her professional endeavors, Henderson-Sutton currently volunteers her time as a parent mentor for Parent-to-Parent Pennsylvania and sits on the board of the Pennsylvania Education & Athletic Training Association (PEAT). She is also the owner of Varie-T Custom Apparel, a business that reflects her creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Outside of her professional and charitable commitments, she is a devoted wife and mother, finding joy in her family life with her husband and two children.

Driven by her strong faith in God and commitment to making a positive impact in the community, Henderson-Sutton continues to leverage her skills and experience to drive meaningful change and foster a culture of empowerment and inclusion.



MIRACLE JONES

**Director of Policy and Advocacy
1Hood Media**

Miracle Jones is a writer, community organizer, and queer activist who works in the Pittsburgh area to advocate for equity along the intersections of gender, race, and class. She currently serves as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at 1Hood Media. She received her Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) and Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) from the University of Pittsburgh and her Bachelor's from Georgia State University.

Her work focuses on implementing abolition-based principles and transformative justice through writing, policy, and advocacy and finding joy in times of trouble.

TALIA D. KIRKLAND

**Reporter
WPXI-TV**

Talia Kirkland is a reporter at WPXI-TV (Channel 11), with a big personality and an even bigger heart. Before coming back to her hometown of Pittsburgh, Kirkland worked at CBS21 in Harrisburg and Fox News in Philadelphia.

As a local news reporter, Kirkland works to provide fair and balanced reporting to the community through empowering narratives, informed reports, and engaging content.

When she joined the WPXI team in January 2022, she quickly went to work covering some of the most impactful news stories of this region, such as the Fern Hollow Bridge Collapse, the 12th Congressional District Race, and provided live updates during Kennywood's Fall Fest shooting. During her time with WPXI, she has worked tirelessly to elevate the stories and issues

of Black and brown people through an ongoing series, "Pittsburgh Gets Real."

Outside of work, Kirkland devotes her time to bettering her community. She serves as a mentor to college students studying broadcast journalism at local universities.

A Duquesne University graduate, she earned an undergraduate degree in Journalism and a Master of Science in Media Technology and Arts.

Kirkland is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and the National Association of Black Journalists.



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From McKeesport Area School District and School Board of Directors

YASMEEN MANYISHA

**Safety Press Officer
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**

Yasmeen Manyisha has served as the Safety Press Officer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Pittsburgh region since 2016. In her role, she uses her public speaking skills to represent the organization as their spokesperson in the media, as well as her community outreach involvement and creativity to educate those of all ages in the Greater Pittsburgh area on an array of traffic safety topics. Through her position, she brings free educational programs to schools and communities to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Manyisha has made it her goal to introduce these services and other free resources to under-served communities facing equitable transportation challenges.

Manyisha has had the honor of being a presenter on both a statewide and national level at various transportation focused conferences between Pennsylvania and New Mexico. The Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation has also awarded her with the Communicator Innovator Award twice during her PennDOT career.

In 2017, Manyisha created PennDOT's first regional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. Today as the committee's president, she leads dozens of members, all dedicated to fostering an inclusive work environment and collaborating with the diverse communities they serve. As part of the committee, she also started the semi-annual Open House, a program which invites high schools into PennDOT and introduces students of varying cultures and backgrounds to a variety of paths that can lead to a career in transportation.

Outside of work and volunteering, Manyisha enjoys spending time with her supportive and inspiring friends and family. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Manyisha loves the city and attending events in the area. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. She received her Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Point Park University.

Manyisha and her husband have developed a passion for mentoring minority youth. They volunteer with several local organizations, which engage students by providing experiences that encourage them to think about their education and future. Manyisha is also a member of the Diversity & Inclusion Professionals of Central PA.



JOAN OWHE OJO, ESQ.

**Deputy Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General**

Joan E. Owhe Ojo is employed with the Office of Attorney General and currently serves as the Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In this position, she conducts civil litigation and represents the Commonwealth and its agencies, officials and employees in Federal and State Court.

Prior to working at the Office of Attorney General, Ojo worked at the Education Law Center as a Staff Attorney. During her work there, she advocated for education justice for students underserved by public education, advanced the education rights of Black girls and supported policy changes to create welcoming and affirming schools.

Ojo also worked at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office in New York for nine years. During her work there she worked in the Special Victims Bureau. There she prosecuted felony adult sex crimes, crimes of violence against the elderly, and physical and sexual child abuse.

She was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to

serve on the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board's Hearing Committee. In this capacity, she is responsible for assisting the court in disciplinary and reinstatement proceedings. Ojo is also a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association's 2023 CDI Pathway to Leadership Cohort.

Ojo graduated from Maurice A. Dean School of Law at Hofstra University in 2013. She also received a Bachelor's Degree from

New York University.

Joan Ojo resides in McDonald, Pa., with her husband, Kelvin, and their two children, Talia and Sofia. She is an active member of World Restoration Center and is also the President of Hope Emmanuel Foundation Inc., which provides financial and educational support for children who have been abandoned, abused or orphaned.



DANICA PHILLIPS

**Principal & Founder, Sienna Dawn Media Integrated Marketing Agency;
Assistant Director of Communications, Bridgeway Capital**

Danica Phillips began her journey in public relations while serving on active duty in the Navy, where she honed her skills and developed a deep passion for service and effective communication. With a remarkable 12 years of experience in public relations and public affairs, her career has been nothing short of diverse.

From leading a multimedia journalism team to covering academia, crafting tourism and hospitality marketing strategies, serving as a public information officer for a local county government, and thriving in the fast-paced agency environment, Phillips' professional journey is a testament to her versatility, expertise, and unwavering dedication to service and the art of storytelling.

These days, Phillips is still serving in the United States Navy Reserve as a public affairs manager. She is also the assistant director of communications at Bridgeway Capital, and she owns her own integrated marketing agency by the name of Sienna Dawn Media. In her spare time, she is soaking up time with her husband and three kids. Phillips is a volunteer at Faison Elementary School where she reads to first graders, a mentor with Strong Women, Strong Girls, where she mentors a freshman at University of Pittsburgh, and she serves on the board of directors for the nonprofit, Assemble. She is also a part of the alumni council, mentoring students at her alma mater, Florida State University.



BROOKE RAWLS, PH.D., LCSW

**CWEB Academic Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work**

Dr. Brooke Rawls is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Slippery Rock University, an MSW from California University of Pennsylvania and, in 2019, earned her Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership from Robert Morris University. Her dissertation focused on the impact of secondary traumatic stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue on bereavement doulas.

Dr. Rawls has more than 13 years of diverse experience within the field of social work. She has worked as a caseworker for Children, Youth, and Families; managed the social work departments at both Forbes Hospital and Magee Women's Hospital; and provided individual & couples counseling during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also has provided free LCSW supervision to 14 social workers in the Pittsburgh area, supporting them in advancing their careers by obtaining their licensure.

Currently, Dr. Rawls is the CWEB Academic Coordinator and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. She provides career guidance, social support, and academic advisement to undergraduate students. As the CWEB academic coordinator, Dr. Rawls works with 15 different universities across Pennsylvania to recruit social work students to enter the field of child welfare with the goal to strengthen the Pennsylvania Child Welfare System by increasing the number of educated professionals and equipping them to deal with the complex demands of public child welfare practice. Through this program, Dr. Rawls helps to prepare students to become educated, empathetic, and culturally competent child welfare case workers. Additionally, she is an adjunct professor for Purdue

Global within their College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Rawls has developed and facilitated several trainings and presentations to help bring awareness to crucial social issues, including topics on perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, trauma-informed care for teen parents, racial disparities impacting Black maternal and infant health, and post-hire support for social workers. These training sessions and presentations accentuate Dr. Rawls' commitment to addressing critical social issues and equipping professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to make a positive impact in their respective fields.

When not at work, Dr. Rawls is an active member of her community. She is the vice-president of cheer for the Gateway Midget Football and Cheerleading Association (GMFCA) in Monroeville.



She has held this position for the past eight years, holding a head coach position for the two years prior. During the 2023 season, Dr. Rawls introduced the first MSW intern from the University of Pittsburgh; together, they explored ways to strengthen the social support provided to the families within the GMFCA. Additionally, Dr. Rawls coaches for the Gateway Youth Track Club and is a certified official for the USATF (USA Track & Field). She also volunteers for FOCUS Beyond the Field; a free strength, conditioning, speed, and agility program for youth ages 8-18. As a community volunteer within these programs, Dr. Rawls helps provide a supportive and empowering environment for our youth that is dedicated to instilling values of discipline, resilience, and teamwork, while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

AUDIA ROBINSON, MBA, PH.D. CANDIDATE

**Community Investment Operations Analyst,
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh;
Founder & CEO, DeSylvia Investments, LLC**



Audia Robinson is a driven and accomplished professional born and raised in Pittsburgh. With 10 years of rich experience in the banking industry, she has carved out a distinguished career at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, where she honed her skills and expertise in finance, community investment, and strategic planning. Beyond her corporate endeavors, Robinson is a visionary leader and a catalyst for positive change in her community. As the CEO and founder of DySylvia Investments, she seeks to inspire others to grow and sustain generational wealth while raise awareness around the importance of financial education.

In addition to her professional pursuits, Robinson is a dedicated scholar and a lifelong learner. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in community engagement with a focus on understanding the lived experiences of building and sustaining generational wealth among Black communities, she is delving deep into the intersection of finance, social impact, and community development. Armed with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Penn State

University and an MBA from Point Park University, Robinson's academic background complements her practical experience, allowing her to approach complex issues with a holistic perspective.

When she's not immersed in her work or studies, you can find her exploring new destinations around the world, spending quality time with loved ones, experimenting with diverse cuisines in her kitchen, or engaging in thought-provoking conversations about financial literacy and wealth-building strategies. A true advocate for change and empowerment, she continues to stand on her faith and inspire others with her unwavering commitment to creating a more prosperous and equitable future for all.

SHANA SMITH

Assistant Principal
Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

Shana M. Smith is a devoted educator with a lifelong passion for fostering a love of learning. Her journey into teaching began in middle school, fueled by a desire to positively impact students' lives. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary & Special Education from Clarion University. She continued her academic journey with a Master's Degree focused on Community Mental Health and Special Education Support from Duquesne University.

Smith's teaching career flourished at Baden Academy Charter School, where she progressed from Teacher Facilitator to Lead Classroom Teacher over five fulfilling years. Seeking new challenges, she relocated to Pittsburgh and joined the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School. There, she served as Special

Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer before earning her Principal certification from Point Park University.

For the past four years, Smith has excelled as Assistant Principal, assisting with the execution of Urban's instructional vision, Federal Programs management, and special projects coordinator such as Middle States Accreditation and charter renewal compliance.

Outside of education, Smith finds joy in spending genuine quality time with her husband, kids, family, and friends. Smith has achieved fulfillment both personally and professionally, embodying dedication to the growth of young minds and the communities she serves.



TIFFANY STANLEY

Public & Community Relations Manager
AAA East Central

Tiffany Stanley serves as the Public and Community Relations Manager for AAA East Central. As the spokesperson of the organization, Stanley is responsible for promoting traffic-safety messages and leading initiatives that increase awareness of dangerous traveling behaviors such as driving under the influence, distracted driving and the Move Over Law. She manages a team of traffic reporters who broadcast morning traffic reports on KDKA Radio (1020 AM, 100.1 FM). Stanley also serves as the diversity, inclusion and belonging coordinator. She partners with executive leaders to host diversity trainings, create volunteer opportunities in underserved communities, recruit diverse candidates and deliver meaningful communications about diverse groups.

Stanley is the Chair of the AAA Lift Every Voice business resource group. She assists in creating an inclusive environment dedicated to giving African Ameri-

can/Black AAA employees a voice while increasing advancement opportunities and supporting initiatives that promote belonging and respect.

Stanley's prior experiences at AAA East Central included Branch Manager Trainee, where she managed up to 25 AAA employees in several branches across the Greater Pittsburgh area. She coached them to meet goals through proven sales approaches.

She also served as an insurance agent, where she learned to develop rapport with new and existing clients to deliver a superior product and assign the appropriate risk-management solutions as a licensed property and casualty agent. Through the organization, Stanley enjoys the opportunity to volunteer with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, Open Doors Academy in Cleveland, the Boys & Girls Club and more.

Stanley is an entrepreneur who invests in real estate. Her properties range from single-family to multi-family properties and are located in Westmoreland County. She prides herself in acting with integrity by treating her tenants with respect. She enjoys traveling with friends and family, going to the gym, playing tennis and spending time with her cat, Serene.

Stanley received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Natural Science, with a concentration in Pre-Pharmacy and a minor in Business Administration. During her studies, she served as the Success Networking Team Coordinator of The National Society of Leadership and Success, as well as the Fundraising Chair for the national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega -- Mu Chi Chapter.



JOHN A. UKENYE, J.D.

Advocacy and Policy Officer
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

For years, John Ukenye has dedicated his time to uplifting others. It began with his upbringing, being raised by immigrant parents from two different parts of the world: Nigeria and Cuba. They instilled in him the values of hard work, collaboration, and giving back to the community.

He completed his undergraduate education at Florida International University with two Bachelor's degrees in three years. During his time in college, he served on Student Government, served as Vice President of his Amnesty International chapter, Vice President of his Order of Omega chapter, and served as president of his Omicron Delta Chapter Leadership Honor Society chapter. He then attended Washington University School of Law, where he balanced his studies while also serving as president of the 7,000+ graduate student body.

Today, he serves as president of the Young Democrats of Allegheny County, with membership that stands at over 100. He also serves as one of the youngest members of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee. Through his civic engagement work, he actively works to get more young people like himself involved in our region's political community. The local Young Democrats host candidate forums and meet and greets, a respected candidate

recommendation process, and a safe, networking space for young people to engage with one another, ask questions, and volunteer for candidates and causes that speak to them.

Professionally, he works as the Advocacy and Policy Officer for the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. He is building a policy apparatus to allow the Urban League to lead on activism around the issues of today locally and beyond. He serves as the organization's, both its staff and broader constituency's, bridge to local, statewide, and federal officials. He hosts events such as informational townhalls with the City of Pittsburgh Police Chief, facilitates conversations with families facing issues at their local school district, and the non-partisan civic engagement campaign from the National Urban League called "Reclaim Your Vote."

Throughout his life, he has volunteered for his community. In high school, he completed over 1,000 hours of community service. Today, as president of the Young Democrats of Allegheny County, he has brought community service opportunities back into the group's repertoire of ongoing work. His group has volunteered with organizations such as Tree Pittsburgh and Friends of the Riverfront.

John Ukenye is dedicated to giving back to his community, just as it has given so much to him.



LAWRENCE URADU, M.D.

**Associate Chief, Division of Emergency Radiology, UPMC;
Owner & CEO, Alfred Group, LLC**

Lawrence Uradu was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and embarked on a journey marked by academic excellence. He pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at Morgan State University before earning his Doctorate in Medicine from Marshall University School of Medicine. Driven by a passion for Radiology, he completed his residency at the University of Louisville Hospital and further honed his expertise through fellowship training at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). Motivated by a desire to bridge the gap for underrepresented students in medicine, Uradu founded project PREMED (Providing Real-World Experiences for Marshall Educated Doctors) at Marshall University. This initiative introduces underrepresented college students to the field of medicine. To show his commitment to fostering diversity and accessibility in healthcare education, Uradu donated \$25,000 towards scholarships for participants in the program. In his professional career, Uradu serves as a distinguished radiologist at UPMC and holds the position of Associate Chief of the Division of Emergency Radiology. Additionally, he serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the UPMC Imag-

ing Services Center, where he advocates for equitable representation and opportunities within the medical community. Beyond medicine, Uradu is a dynamic entrepreneur. He is the owner and CEO of Alfred Group, LLC, a thriving real estate investment and management company. Through this company, he spearheads projects aimed at revitalizing communities and providing affordable housing solutions. Recent endeavors include the transformation of abandoned properties in the Homewood community into vibrant establishments. His company, Alfred Group, LLC is a recent recipient of the American Rescue Plan Act grant to fund construction and development of a restaurant and lounge/event space in the Homewood community. Uradu's interests reflect his unwavering dedication towards an equitable society. His multifaceted approach to effecting change, both professionally and through community initiatives, underscores his commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.



DANIELLE COMMODORE WALKER

**Assistant General Manager, M&J Wilkow;
Licensed R.E. Salesperson, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices**

Danielle Commodore Walker is a determined, hard-working, goal-oriented individual who strives for excellence with every opportunity given. Working in performance-based positions for many years, she has obtained the ability to bring out the best in every client and co-worker, which allows for her to effectively lead and motivate others. Most importantly, she has a respectable dedication to teamwork and an unwavering drive to succeed.

A graduate of Indiana University of Pa. with a B.S. in International Business, Walker joined the CRE industry working in multi-family property management as a Leasing Consultant with Amore Management Company. She became an On-site Property Manager at Brandywine Communities managing a 198-unit apartment community for three years and then moved into the corporate office where her portfolio grew to 11 properties with over 600 units combined. Walker obtained her Real Estate Salesperson license in 2018 and has successfully assisted many clients with their residential real estate needs over the years. After almost 10 years in the industry, Walker transitioned from multi-family to office property management, joining M&J Wilkow in 2022 as the Property Management Administrator for their 20 Stanwix property. In less than a year, Walker was promoted to her current role as Assistant General Manager for the 11 Stanwix and 20 Stanwix properties. Walker is an active

member of several organizations including NAIOP, BOMA, National Association of Realtors, and sits on the Professional Standards and Arbitration Committee for the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.

Walker has also been a volunteer/participant in several organizations that support the educational advancement of minority students. Being an active member of NAIOP, she was given the opportunity to participate in the 2023 RMU-CRE Immersion Program as a panelist.

She also is an active member of the F.A.M.E. Parent Advisory Committee, which provides regular parental input and support to the CEO. The advisory committee also encourages a community experience through communication and events with the fellow parents of F.A.M.E. Scholars.

Walker is a wife to a wonderful husband, and a mom to three beautiful girls. On her down time, she enjoys reading books, exercising, shopping for any and everything, and cooking meals of all varieties.



DARIUS WALLACE

**Administrative and Project Coordinator, Mayor's Office
City of Pittsburgh**

Darius Wallace was born and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia, before moving and settling in Pittsburgh. From a young age, he showed a keen interest in government, law, and civil service. Throughout his childhood, Wallace excelled academically, displaying a natural curiosity for learning. This passion led to pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Norfolk State University before obtaining his master's degree in Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

During his time at Norfolk State University, Wallace became involved in various extracurricular activities, including his local NAACP Chapter and Young Democrats. He also embarked on internships and research projects, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the law field. After graduating with honors, Wallace began his professional career at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, where he quickly distinguished himself through his dedication and innovative thinking.

Today, Wallace works in the Office of Mayor Ed

Gainey, where he gets to make significant positive contributions to the communities in Pittsburgh. As the Administrative and Project Coordinator, Wallace is the lead staffer on special initiatives like My Brother's Keeper and MADE Health Justice as well as providing supports across all the Mayor's Of-

ice teams.

Wallace continues to pursue his professional endeavors while enjoying quality time with his wife, family, and friends. He remains committed to lifelong learning and is always seeking new opportunities to grow and evolve, both personally and professionally.



ORLANDO WATSON

Senior Director of Programming August Wilson African American Cultural Center

Orlando Watson has established himself as an emerging lyricist and recording artist whose signature baritone voice is known to weave through words with uncanny rhythmic delivery. In 2015, Watson was awarded the prestigious "Kente Cloth" by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion at The Ohio State University alongside acclaimed political commentator, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill. Watson's debut project, "Everything's Personal," was released in 2017 and peaked at #18 on iTunes R&B/Soul charts, which led him to open for Lalah Hathaway and Chantae Cann's respective tours in 2018. His full-length album, "Corner Stories," was released in December 2021 and peaked at #14 on iTunes top 20 R&B/Soul charts upon its release on Watson's independent label, "Well Said Records," attributed to his firstborn son, Maxwell.

Furthermore, Watson has been privileged to record with Emmy, Oscar and Grammy winners such as: Terence Blanchard, Keyon Harrold, Braxton Cook, John Clayton, and Bobby Sparks II of Snarky Puppy to name a few. His knack for storytelling led him to co-write Terence Blanchard's "Our Voices: Democracy Revisited," which was livestreamed on NPR's "Jazz Night in America" hosted by acclaimed bassist Christian McBride. Watson was selected as one of the top

eight national finalists to compete at the 2019 "Jazz in the Gardens" poetry slam in Miami.

His poetry has been published in Linden Avenue Literary Journal as well as Five 2 One Magazine. As an arts and entertainment executive, Watson has served as the Associate Director of Cleveland's Tri-C Jazz Fest from 2019-2022 and he currently serves as the Senior Director of Programming at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, where he manages the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival in addition to curating several signature events that have presented the likes of: Nikki Giovanni, Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Chef Eric Adjepong, Rapsody, Slum Village, Keyon Harrold, Gregory Porter and Ledisi.



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DLC DUQUESNE LIGHT CO.