



**Bettye Davis**

## **African American Summit**

**Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM, Clark Middle School (150 Bragaw Street)**

### **Moving Towards Hope Together**

The Bettye Davis African American Summit sponsored by Shiloh Community Development, Inc. (SCDI) will occur on Saturday, Feb 16, 2019 at Clark Middle School, 9 AM. The theme for the summit is "Moving Towards Hope Together."

One goal of the summit is to connect culturally, building a network of support and possibilities together. EMPOWER All workshops (Economics, Justice, Education, Health, and Politics and Youth) are designed to inspire attendees to build up and stand out as communities of color.

EMPOWER allows participants to embrace their cultural identity by developing trust, unity, and support by gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills necessary to create strong and authentic communities of color.

EMPOWER hopes to attract leaders within. Through self-exploration, community empowerment and civic engagement, attendees will be able to develop a vision for community, increase visibility of communities of color, and advocate for one another.

The African American Summit is free and open to the community.

The overall goal of the summit is to serve as the principal forum and voice for the African American community in addressing critical issues of public policy and government. The summit aims to reach thousands of African American participants from membership organizations across the state.

At the summit, attendees will discuss strategic opportunities and challenges, listen to memorable keynote speeches, hear reports from political leaders and presentations from expert panels, and share stories, resilience, experiences, strengths, knowledge and hope for the future. The annual Bettye Davis Prayer Breakfast will kick off the summit and although youth are encouraged to attend the forums, youth will host and organize the NAACP Youth Empowerment Luncheon.

Over time, resolutions passed by the attendees set the priorities for the year and guide the African American community efforts. The summit will be the largest representative annual gathering in Alaska of the African American community.

In addition to the plenary sessions as the summit grows, it will feature full entertainment, exhibits, worship services, vendor opportunities for Black-owned businesses, etc. Evening cultural performances will showcase traditional cultural experiences. In partnership with sponsors, donors, churches, businesses and organizations, the summit will offer a health fair, worship services, a walk-in legal clinic and more. In the future, the closing banquet will provide an opportunity for leaders and partners to gather for a social evening of entertainment and celebration.

Shiloh Community Development, Inc. is the main organizer of the summit. The Anchorage School District is allowing credit for students to participate in the summit. We are working to partner with UAA so students can also receive credit. We are working to make this an annual effort, occurring once a year in February in celebration of Black History Month. To secure free tickets

## **Bettye Davis Kickoff Prayer Breakfast - 9:00 AM**

Bettye Davis Prayer Breakfast – kickoff to the Bettye Davis African American Summit - includes breakfast, prayer and worship, tribute to Bettye Davis, presentations by local and state dignitaries, performances and more.

## **Economics Forum - 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

### **Planned, Scalable Approaches to Economic Development; Activities in Both the Public and Private Sectors**

#### **Facilitator & Presenter: Louie Overstreet**



Louie Overstreet, former president of the Alaska Black Caucus; renowned author of several books, including *Black on a Background of White: A Chronicle of Afro-American's Involvement in America's Last Frontier*. Dr. Overstreet also served as the editorial columnist for the *Times* and the *All Alaskan*. Overstreet has over 45 years of senior management in project management, planning, engineering design, construction development, and program administration.



**Jasmin Smith** is a multifaceted entrepreneur. Named a 2017 Top 40 Under 40 by the Alaska Journal of Commerce, she runs The Business Boutique, a certified, licensed small business development firm that handles everything from business plans to taxes. A member of the Association of Accredited Business Consultants, Smith organizes monthly networking events and the Alaska Black Business Expo. Smith taught classes through Career Academy and the University of Alaska Anchorage's Small Business Development Center. Smith's newest company, EKT Unlimited plans on providing baby supplies to hospitals and other birthing centers; inspired by the Finnish baby box tradition and her own experience as a new mother.



**Bill Popp** spent 45 years in both the Alaska private and public sectors. As President & CEO of the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation since 2007, he sets the strategic direction in marketing Anchorage and Alaska to companies and global industries considering Anchorage as a place in which to do business and assists local businesses looking to expand both within Anchorage and Alaska as well as Lower 48 and international markets. Prior to joining AEDC, Popp was a special assistant in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor's office focused on oil and gas and mining policy. Popp was also an elected municipal government official for the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) and presided over the KPB Assembly as president in 2000. Popp has over 25 years of private

industry experience working for large national and regional businesses and as a small business owner. His also served as project coordinator of the Challenger Learning Center for Alaska.



**Dave Reaves** was born and raised in Alaska and was initiated into the IBEW in 1997 where he began in the lineman apprenticeship program. As a journeyman he worked in construction and at utilities throughout Alaska while serving on the local apprenticeship training trust. In 2010 he came on staff with Local 1547 as a Business Representative until 2015 when he became the Assistant Business Manager in Anchorage. He is a trustee and the Co-Chair on the local's Pension, Health and Welfare, Legal, and Apprenticeship Trust Funds, and previously served on the Governors Alaska Safety Advisory Council. He is involved in the community coaching youth sports and serves on several associated boards. Dave and his wife have three active boys and three large breed dogs including two Great Danes that keep their grocery bills ridiculously high.

## Education Forum – 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

### Facilitator: Sonya Hunte



**Sonya Hunte** serves as the Vice President of Education Impact for the United Way of Anchorage and oversees the 90% Graduation by 2020 initiative, a community based approach that aims to reach and sustain an Anchorage high school graduation rate of 90 percent or more by 2020. The initiative helps children from birth to five, kindergarten to eighth grades, and from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> in developmental and academically based targeted programs. A career social worker, Hunte serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers an organization committed to the development of its 140,000 members and the communities they serve. Hunte's genuine love for disenfranchised communities and people is both recognizable and contagious. Prior to relocating to Alaska, Hunte worked for the Atlanta Public Schools as the Director of Family Engagement where she promoted family and alumni strategic initiatives through district-wide and school based engagement models. As the inaugural APS Employee Engagement Coordinator and certified Gallup Strengths Coach, Hunte promoted organizational culture transformation through performance management, communication, and Employee Assistance programs for over 6,100 employees. Hunte also worked as the school district's Homeless Education Liaison managing the funding, policies, and initiatives serving 3000 homeless students. Hunte also worked in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice.



**Kevin McGee** is the president of the NAACP. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.



**Dr. Deena Bishop**, Superintendent of ASD focus is on student achievement and success backed by her experiences in teaching and educational leadership. Dr. Bishop is firmly committed to the ASD's vision to have every child prepared for the work force or post-secondary education. Dr. Bishop began her Alaska educational career in 1991 and proudly served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent of the Mat-Su Borough School District before being named ASD's superintendent in July 2016. Dr. Bishop holds a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in learning assessment and system performance and was part of the first graduating class for the AASA National

Superintendents Certification two-year program. Dr. Bishop is active in several local and civic organizations and she serves on several non-profit boards. Dr. Bishop enjoys spending time with her family, snow and water skiing, running, and interior painting – she is married and has two college-age daughters.



**Vonnie Gaither** came to Alaska in 1970 and attended University of Alaska Anchorage from 1970 to 1975 majoring in art and minoring in journalism. Gaither’s educational career began at Bartlett in 1994 as a Career Resource clerical sub and was hired full time as the Career Resource Advisor at East Anchorage High School in 1996. Gaither was responsible for helping students receive thousands of dollars in financial aid, advising students and parents of post-secondary opportunities locally and nationally. Due to the elimination of the Career Resource Advisor position in 2012, Gaither retired. In retirement Gaither has given financial aid workshops for community organizations and the Fairview Recreational Center and helped create the African American Scholarship Awards Program held March 2018 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Gaither is the Executive Director for First CME Community Development Center’s Steps2 Success.



**Tim Parker** is an English teacher from Fairbanks who is currently serving as the president of NEA-Alaska. Parker has taught middle school and high school students in Fairbanks for the past 20 years and is passionate about creating fantastic learning experiences for Alaska students. Parker has served as president of NEA-Alaska since 2016, and will return to his position as a teacher in 2020. Prior to serving as president, Parker has been the association's vice president and NEA-Alaska's representative on the NEA board of directors.

## **Health Forum – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

### **Facilitator Karen Turner, Providence Health & Services Alaska**



**Karen Turner** is a lifelong Alaskan with more than 25 years of Human Resources experience with a demonstrated history of working in the health care industry and government. Skilled in Equal Opportunity, Benefits, Business Planning, Leadership, Employee/Labor Relations, Coaching and Government, Turner is a strong human resources professional with a MBA focused in Health Services from Alaska Pacific University.



**Dr. Christopher Gay** is an Anesthesiologist and Pain Management Physician who provides exceptional service to his patients throughout the state at the Alaska Center for Pain Relief. Patients benefit from Dr. Gay’s expertise in pain relief techniques including epidural injections, spinal cord stimulation, regenerative medicine, joint injections and kyphoplasty. Originally from North Carolina, Dr. Gay brings a mix of southern charm and northern wit. An accomplished interventional pain specialist, Dr. Gay earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and subsequently completed his residency and fellowship training at New York's Presbyterian Hospital at Columbia University, one of the top medical centers in the country. Dr. Gay is a Diplomat of the American Board of Anesthesiology, with board certification in both Anesthesiology and Pain Management.



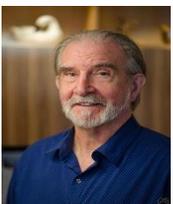
**Valerie Davidson** graduated from University of Alaska Southeast with a Bachelor of Education and holds a degree in law from the University of New Mexico, obtained in 1998. After she graduated, Davidson worked as a lawyer for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Davidson previously served as Senior Director of Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and as Chair of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for ten years. Part of Davidson’s work there included getting veterans in rural areas access to healthcare through tribal clinics, and creating rural dental clinic programs employing mid-level dental professionals to improve access to dental care. In December 2014, Davidson was appointed Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. During Davidson’s tenure there, she worked on Alaska’s Medicaid expansion alongside Governor Walker. On October 16, 2018, Davidson was sworn in as Alaska’s first Alaska Native female lieutenant governor.



**Dr. Jillian Woodruff** decided to become an Obstetrician and Gynecologist because she enjoys “providing care and education to patients throughout their lives.” Dr. Woodruff is also humbled by the role she plays in one of the most special events in her patients’ lives, the birth of their children. Dr. Woodruff has had the privilege of caring for women from different cultures and backgrounds, first in Brooklyn, NY where she practiced following residency; then in her 4 years working in the DC area at Kaiser Permanente. Currently, in Dr. Woodruff’s practice she has a special interest in adolescent education, minimally invasive procedures and the care of women with fibroids and/or abnormal vaginal bleeding. Dr. Woodruff and her husband are excited to join the Anchorage community, which she has found welcoming. Dr. Woodruff looks forward to welcoming new patients to her practice at Anchorage OB/GYN.



**Jewel Jones** has built a longstanding career in local government and community non-profits, dedicating her efforts and the Municipality’s attention to underserved populations for the past several decades. Jones grew up in Harlem and started her career in Anchorage over 34 years ago. While holding leadership positions under six mayors, Jones focused on creating opportunities for minority Alaskans and empowering young people. While in local government, Jones held high-level positions in several departments, including the City of Anchorage Social Services Department and Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services. Jones focused on high-need populations, recruiting minority residents into public health careers, establishing the Anchorage Senior Center and advocating for services to low-income families. After leaving the public sector, Jones briefly operated her own consulting firm and provided management advice to local businesses. In 2007, Jones accepted a temporary role as Interim Executive Director of Anchorage Community Land Trust, a local non-profit focused on developing and supporting Mountain View—the nation’s most diverse census tract. Jones accepted the position full time later that year and while serving as director, helped revitalize the neighborhood by converting an abandoned warehouse into modern office space, creating affordable studio space for area artists and bringing the first bank back to the neighborhood in 20 years. In 2014, the community center at Ridgeline Terrace – a 70-unit mixed-income housing complex off Mountain View Drive – was named in Jones’ honor.



**David Molletti**, BS, NCACI, CFTP. Molletti is a lifetime Alaskan and was born in the Territory of Alaska before statehood. Molletti’s diverse professional background includes experience in the music industry, television production, public facility management, IT management and the Anchorage School District. Embracing his own life in recovery, he was led to clinical counseling work in the addictions field. In addition to state and national certifications for substance use

counseling he has advanced training as a Certified Family Trauma Professional (CFTP) and numerous other tools that support his mission. Molletti currently serves as Director of Your Personal Recovery, providing recovery coaching for individuals and families, Vice president of REAL About Addiction, a non-profit with a mission to support all those impacted by addiction and he is a member of the Anchorage Opiate Task Force.

## **NAACP Youth Empowerment Luncheon** 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM



(Luncheon includes keynote, Clark Drumline, recitals, Clark Informers, and more. Show your support of our young people by hearing directly from them as they make several presentations.)

**Ken Miller** is the president and founder of Denali Fundraising Consultants, a nonprofit fundraising and management consulting company located in Anchorage, Alaska. Miller moved to Alaska in 1975 and attended Bartlett High School graduating in 1980. Miller attended and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1984 and began working in the field of nonprofit fundraising and development upon his return to Alaska in 2010 and was the director of development for Bean's Café for four years before starting Denali Fundraising Consultants in 2014. Miller is the founder, past president and member of the Dartmouth Alumni Club of Alaska, the past president and member of the Anchorage Gateway Rotary Club, and past chairman of the Rotary District 5010 public information committee.

## **Justice Forum - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

### **Contemporary Trends in Criminal Justice**

#### **Facilitator & Presenter: Rex Butler of Rex Butler & Associates**



**Attorney Rex Butler** earned a reputation for success in the criminal trials and appeals as well as in personal injury litigation. Butler is a recognized litigator who has used his extensive legal knowledge to teach as an adjunct professor at the UAA for decades.



**Senator Bill Wielechowski** serves Northeast Anchorage and JBER in the Alaska Legislature and is an attorney by profession. First elected to the Senate in 2006, Senator Wielechowski has served on the Judiciary Committee, Joint Armed Services Committee, Resources Committee, and presently sits on the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Wielechowski's recent policy interests have included preserving full PFDs, public safety, consumer protection and privacy rights. Senator Wielechowski earned a bachelor's degree in business management and finance from Seton Hall University and a juris doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law.



**Wade Henderson**, is the former president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and Counsel to the Leadership Conference Education Fund, Professor of Public Interest Law at the David A. Clarke School of Law, University of the District of Columbia. Henderson has authored numerous articles on civil rights and public policy issues and is the former Washington Bureau director of the NAACP.

## Political Forum 4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

### Facilitator Walt Furnace



**Walt Furnace** served in the United States Air Force and spent his final two years of service in Anchorage, Alaska. After his U.S. military service, Furnace was hired as a management trainee at the National Bank of Alaska. He was named assistant vice president and branch manager of the bank, a position he held for over nine years. After his graduation from the University of Alaska, Furnace was elected President of the Chester Valley Elementary School PTA. As President of the PTA, Furnace was appointed to the Anchorage School Board to replace resigning School Board Member Ed Rhodes. Nine months later, he was elected as president of the School Board. During his time on the School Board, Furnace spent a great deal of time “lobbying” for educational initiatives in the state capital, Juneau. In 1982, Furnace was elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives. He served a total of four terms as a state representative and focused on funding education programs within the state. Furnace returned to the financial services industry as the assistant vice president and branch manager for Nations Bank Mortgage. In 1998, he left Nations Bank and joined American Airlines Federal Credit Union in Dallas, Texas as the government and industry relations manager.



**Chuck Bremer** is the former national executive director of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), Washington, DC. Bremer also worked for the International Union of Electronics Workers in New York, NY as the Assistant Director of Social Action, Responsible for building coalitions among political and labor union activists and editor of the union’s newsletter. Bremer served as the executive director for the A. Philip Randolph Education Fund, heading up the fund’s employment training, political education, voter registration and mobilization activities. Bremer worked as a colleague with civil rights leader Ernie Green of the Little Rock Nine. The NBCSL’s primary mission is to develop, conduct and promote educational, research and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of its members, as they consider legislation and issues of public policy which impact, either directly or indirectly upon "the general welfare" of African Americans.



**Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson** began her public service career with the Municipality of Anchorage at the Public Transit Department 36 years ago. In 1988, Gray-Jackson began working for the Anchorage Assembly; first as an Administrative Assistant, then as Senior Budget Analyst and, finally, as Director of the Budget and Legislative Services Office. In 2005, Gray-Jackson worked for Municipal Light and Power as Director of the Alaska Energy Railbelt Authority; a joint action agency with three member electric utilities. Gray-Jackson served on the Anchorage Assembly (*Midtown-District 4*) from 2008 to 2017 and was Vice-Chair from December 2015 to April 2016 and Chair from April 2016 to April 2017. In November 2018, Gray-Jackson was elected to the Alaska State Senate, Senate District I. Gray-Jackson serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club; the Woodside East Homeowners Association; the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors, and the NLC Finance and Investment Advisory Committees. Gray-Jackson is a recipient of many prestigious awards including the Women of Achievement Award and is a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage. Gray-Jackson has one son, Ramon.



**George Martinez** is Special Assistant to Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and an award winning artist, activist and educator. Martinez is a former adjunct professor of political science at Pace University and former Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the New York State Attorney General. He served for 10 years as a Cultural Envoy for the U.S. Department of State and has been recognized by the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and the Department of Defense. Martinez is founder of the Global Block Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated

to connecting resources, communities and individuals around the world through: innovative economic development; data and material management; research and development, and arts programming. He is a civil society member of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, a member of the Multicultural Education Concerns Advisory Committee of the Anchorage School District and sits on the UAA Chancellor's Advisory Board. George is a member of the Education Policy Advisor Network of the National League of Cities and the co-author/editor of, *The Organic Globalizer: Hip Hop, Political Development and Movement Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2015).



**Cal Williams** is a community activist who was born in Monroe, Louisiana. After graduating from college, Williams served in Vietnam in the United States Air Force. Williams moved to Alaska in 1965 and devoted himself to political and civic activist work with the Alaska AdHoc Democrats, as well as serving as the NAACP Alaska president. Williams served as a 2008 Democratic National Convention Alaska Delegation member and in 2012 ran for Alaska House of Representatives. Williams served as St. Anthony's Catholic Church Filipino choir director and Chappie James American Legion Post 34 chaplain. Williams was an Anchorage Senior Activity Center board of director member beginning in 2016. Williams received the St. Francis of Assisi Award in 2017 and was named a Grand Knight of the Council of Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's Church. Williams was named chair of the Alaska Democratic Party District 22 in 2018 and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NAACP and past NAACP Political Action Chair.

## **RSVP on Eventbrite:**

**Summit** [tinyurl.com/BDAASummit](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summit-tickets-123456789012)

**Breakfast** [tinyurl.com/BDAASummitBreakfast](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-tickets-123456789012)

**Luncheon** [tinyurl.com/BDAASummitLuncheon](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/luncheon-tickets-123456789012)

*\* The Bettye Davis Prayer Breakfast and NAACP Youth Empowerment Luncheon are FREE, but there are only 100 tickets for each. RSVP to claim your ticket.*

## **Close Out Plenary Session - 5:30-6:00 PM**

Next Steps by community leaders of African American organizations, which includes planning for the Bettye Davis 2020 African American Summit.

## **Social/Reception & Awards - 6:00-7:00 PM with music by**



and more!

Reception sponsored by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Shiloh Community Development, Incorporated wishes to thank those that made this first Bettye Davis African American Summit possible. We're so thankful to the planning committee: Louie Overstreet, Walt Furnace, Brenda Tyler, Cessilye Williams, Marvin Jones, Della Johnson, Nate Rivers, Dr. Kristina Bellamy, Dr. Andre Thorn, Jean Pollard, Dr. Jill Bradway, Diane Disanto, Mary Showers, Aileen Martin-Green, Hugh Brown, Paula Williams, Justin Zagorski and Valarie Smith.

We're extremely thankful to our donors:



If you would like to donate or sponsor the Shiloh Community Development, Inc. Bettye Davis African American summit, please contact Executive Director Celeste Growden at [cghodge1@gmail.com](mailto:cghodge1@gmail.com) or donate online at [scdialaska.org](http://scdialaska.org). In exchange for your donation, your company will be recognized at the summit, on printed material and possibly on media outlets, depending on your level of contribution. Call (907) 229-4228 for more information.