

**NEWS**

**American Association for Affirmative Action Announces**

**38th National Conference and Annual Meeting**

Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel

June 13 – 15, 2012

***“The Fierce Urgency of Now: the Economic Case for EEO, Affirmative Action and Diversity”***

*Demographic Changes that Face the Nation’s Educators, Employers and Decision makers will be the Focus of the Conference*

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**Washington, DC, May 24, 2012–** The American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA), an organization of equal opportunity, diversity and affirmative action professionals, announced its 38th National Conference and Annual Meeting.The conference is being held at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 on June 13 – 15, 2012. The conference theme is derived, in part, from Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and in part on the changing demographics and its implications for education systems, employment and the economy.

According to the Census Bureau, persons of color constituted the majority of children born in 2011. The time to take affirmative *action* in light of these demographic changes is now. The AAAA 38th National Conference and Annual Meeting will address this historic event. Featured speakers include **Dr. Steve Perry**, noted educator and CNN contributor. He will be joined by demographers **Drs. James Johnson** of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and **Marie Mora**, University of Texas Pan American. Addressing the implications of the demographic changes on equal education opportunity and our educational systems will be **Dr. Julianne Malveaux**, economist, writer and president of Bennett College; educator **Dr. Gary Orfield** of UCLA’s Civil Rights Project; **Dr. Richard Fry**, PEW Hispanic Center; **Professor Susan Grover**, William and Mary School of Law; **Serena Dávila** of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; and **Seth Galanter**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights..

The implications of the changing demographics on the business and employer community will be discussed by **Dr. Harry Holzer** of Georgetown University, former chief economist for the US Department of Labor; **Ernest Jenkins** of Pepco Holdings; and **Patricia Jackson** of Booz Allen Hamilton.

Finally, a distinguished panel on governmental solutions and challenges will include **Dr. William Harvey**, North Carolina A&T; **P. David Lopez**, EEOC General Counsel; **Dr. Steve Murdock** of Rice University, former Director of the US Bureau of the Census; **Dr. Greg Walton** of Stanford University; **Thomas Saenz** of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund; and **Donna Lenhoff** of the US Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. The upcoming *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* affirmative action case to be argued before the US Supreme Court in the fall will also be part of the discussion by the “Governance” panel. Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **Kenneth Cooper** will moderate. “Anti-racism” author **Tim Wise** will serve as keynote speaker at the AAAA Awards Luncheon.

The conference will offer **three pre-conference workshops**, one a refresher for equal employment opportunity professionals, a second on “the Electronic Workplace” and a third on “Unleashing the Power of an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer Brand.” In addition, there will be **fifteen workshops,** ranging from such topics as “The New World of Pay Equity Enforcement,” “Leveraging Corporate Diversity as a Competitive Advantage,” to “The Intersection of Bullying and Discrimination,” and “Revealing Unconscious Behavior.” For EEO professionals with more than ten years of experience, AAAA is offering a one-day course that will lead to a **Senior Certified Affirmative Action Professional** (Sr. CAAP) credential.

“We are excited about the training and educational sessions available,” said AAAA President Gregory T. Chambers. The conferees will also discuss strategies to promote affirmative action and diversity in the face of educational disadvantages, economic headwinds and legal challenges to end it. “This conference is filled with opportunities to galvanize and design a proactive plan to advance an agenda of more inclusion and opportunity,” said President Chambers. Tammy Currie, AAAA Conference Chair added, “This conference will appeal to all of AAAA’s member constituencies: higher education, business and government. We are offering a range of professional development opportunities that is unmatched in the EEO, affirmative action and diversity sectors.”

The AAAA Conference is open to the press. For more information, go to [www.affirmativeaction.org](http://www.affirmativeaction.org). To register for the Conference, go to: <http://www.affirmativeaction.org/conference.html>

*Founded in 1974, the American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA) is a national not-for-profit association of professionals working in the areas of affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity. AAAA assists its members to be more successful and productive in their careers. It also promotes understanding and advocacy of affirmative action to enhance access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities.*

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