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Community Calendar

PBMF Summer Mixer

JUNE 11—The Pittsburgh Black Media Federation will host its Summer Mixer from 5:30-9 p.m. at Savoy Restaurant, 2623 Penn Ave., Strip District. Individuals are invited to join members of the PBMF as well as other professionals for an evening of fun. Reservations are required. For more information, visit www.pbmf.org.

Father Daughter Dance

JUNE 12—Councilwoman Fawn Walker-Montgomery will host the 2nd Annual Father Daughter Dance from 6-9 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church, 1615 Grandview Ave., McKeesport. The theme is "Dance with my father again." This event is for all ages and will celebrate the bond between young girls and their father figures. Fathers, uncles, brothers, male mentors, role models, etc. are invited. Formal attire is desired. Reservations are required. For more information, call 412-440-8268.

Study Group Lecture Series

JUNE 13—Seshemet Community Council will host its Enrichment Study Group Lecture Series 2015 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at CCAC Homewood Brushston Center, 701 North Homewood Ave., Homewood. The topic is "How We Can Build A Black Wall Street in Pittsburgh." Small business consultant Gordon Manker will facilitate the session. This event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For more information, call 412-225-7654 or visit www.seshemet.com.

Sickle Cell Walk

JUNE 14—The Children's Sickle Cell Foundation Inc. will host its 6th Annual "Living Well with Sickle Cell" Walk at Kennywood Amusement Park, 4800 Kennywood Blvd., West Mifflin. This fundraiser is to support the essential programs that directly affect the lives of children and

adults with sickle cell disease. Individuals are encouraged to create a team. There will be weekly prizes given away. Also, on June 18, there will be an Applebee's Dining to Donate event at the Edgewood location only. For more information, visit www.csctkids.org.

Operation Home

JUNE 20—The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh will host its Operation Home Program from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Urban League, 2nd floor, 610 Wood St., Downtown. This intense monthly seminar on homeownership is designed to educate prospective homebuyers and arm them with the basic knowledge to navigate the path to mortgage qualification and maintaining homeownership. The program includes one eight-hour workshop and a follow-up one on one counseling session. Registration is requested. For more information, call Paulette Tarrant at 412-277-4164.

Community Festival

JUNE 27—Schenley Heights will host the Schenley Heights Community Festival from 12-4 p.m. at the Robert E. Williams Memorial Park, corner of Milwaukee and Adelaide Streets, in the Hill District. The event will include dancing, drumming, AARP information, the Story Mobile, information and vendor tables, children, music, entertainment, prizes, food and more. For more information, call 412-687-1819.

SummerFood Program

ONGOING—The Allegheny County Department of Human Services will host its SummerFood Program at more than 80 sites located throughout Allegheny County. The program provides a free breakfast, lunch and recreation program for children through 18 years old, as well as eligible individuals with disabilities. A site supervisor and accompanying staff member will be present to ensure the well

being of the children. For more information, call 1800-851-3838 or visit www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/food.aspx.

(To have items listed on Community Calendar, send information at least two weeks in advance to: 315 E. Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219; Fax: 412-481-1360 or email: newsroom@newpittsburghcourier.com.)



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State of the Hill District

JUNE 20—The Hill Community Development Corporation will host the State of the Hill District from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Kaufmann Center, 1825 Centre Ave., Hill District. This will be a lively discussion about the Hill District community and what's in store. There will be panel discussions, lively performances, the unveiling of the Centre Avenue Redevelopment Plan and more. There will also be a continental breakfast and barbecue showdown. Registration is requested. For more information, call 412-765-1820.

Study Group Lecture Series

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Series 2015 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at CCAC Homewood Brushton Center, 701 North Homewood Ave., Homewood. The topic is "Building a Pan African Nation: Break Down Barriers & Establishing Coalitions." Student and Pan African Network of Pittsburgh member Afia wa Mwenze will facilitate this session. This event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For more information, call 412-225-7654 or visit www.seshemet.com.

Fatherhood Celebration

JUNE 20—The Greater Pittsburgh Area MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction-Defending Against Drug & Social Disorder) will host its 9th Annual Fatherhood Celebration from 12-4 p.m. at Feguson Playground, Center Street and South Avenue, Wilkinsburg. This is an opportunity to for the community to have food, fun and fellowship together while offering a helping hand to those in need. The afternoon will include line dancing, games, information tables, a DJ and more. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 412-225-0139 or visit www.pittsburghmaddads.org.

Flea Market

JUNE 27—The Homewood Concerned Citizens Council will host a Homewood Community Flea Market from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hamilton Avenue Parklet, 7050 Hamilton Ave., Homewood. This is for Homewood residents, business owners,

community stakeholders and community based organizations. Tent and table space is available. For more information, call 412-512-0391 or email hccc@elitemail.org.

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Corporate diversity conference promotes mentoring

by Christian Morrow
 Courier Staff Writer

Montia Brock, a Chatham University graduate student in infant mental health counseling told the audience at the third annual Corporate Equity and Inclusion Roundtable that she faces a choice when she receives her degree—whether to stay in Pittsburgh or leave.

“I grew up in the Hill, graduated from Schenley,” she said. “I see a lot of changes in the Hill, but I am not part of it. So my question is do I stay, or do I go someplace where I’ll be welcomed and valued.”

The roundtable’s panelists agreed that Brock is exactly the kind of person—young, Black and well educated—that corporations, foundations and government agencies in Pittsburgh need to find, cultivate, hire and promote to address the city’s lack of diversity.

The half-day roundtable, hosted by Duquesne University, featured two panel discussions and two keynote speeches as well as addresses from Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Yablonsky presented data promoting the need to not only train and cultivate young African Americans, but to import racially diverse talent to address the more than 100,000 jobs that will open as the last of the baby boomers retire over the next 20 years.

“Diversity is not just a moral imperative, it’s an economic one,” he said. “We need to replace about 5,000 people a year just to stay even.”

He said his organization is working on several levels to address the problem, but like several of the other speakers, he noted it comes

SEE DIVERSITY A5
 down to making a personal commitment.

“I made the decision to double the percent of minorities on our staff—now it’s not a big staff,” he said. “But last year it was 10 per-

cent, today it’s 13 percent. And before our next funding cycle begins it will be 20 percent.”

The first half of the roundtable focused on diversification of corporate and institutional supplier chains and featured an address by Marquis Miller, vice president of the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council, and a panel discussion moderated by Doris Carson Williams, president and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of western Pennsylvania.

Miller noted that 21 percent of the firms in the country are minority-owned. They do \$1 billion a day in business and generate \$49 billion in tax revenue each year. Increasing diversity by supporting them as suppliers of goods and professional services has multiple benefits.

“They will hire more minorities, benefiting Black communities. They are self-reinforcing,” he said. “They can also, because they have already established relations, support international growth.”

Miller also noted that as a “next practice,” companies should hire individuals with not only the job they are applying for in mind, but for the job above that.

“And you should hire them for their willingness and ability to be re-skilled for needs you have not yet identified,” he said.

A second panel, moderated by Urban League of Pittsburgh President and CEO **Esther Bush** looked at hiring, promoting and retaining minorities. Local firms like PNC, Highmark and UPMC have all instituted programs to do just that. But all agreed that hiring success is—especially in these days of face-

less internet job applications—is tied to UPMC Chief Diversity Officer Candi Castleberry-Singleton’s admonition from last year’s conference: “if we only recommend people we know for jobs, we all need to make new friends.”

“But it goes beyond that, beyond the illusion of inclusion,” said Castleberry-Singleton. “It’s the difference between mentorship and sponsorship—that means you have skin in the game. It takes a conscious personal commitment from everyone.”

And Sara Oliver-Carter, vice president for Diversity Council at Highmark, acknowledged man in the audience, Jacobi Kent, who’d taken advantage of her company’s programming. He’d driven from Camp Hill, Pa., to attend the conference.

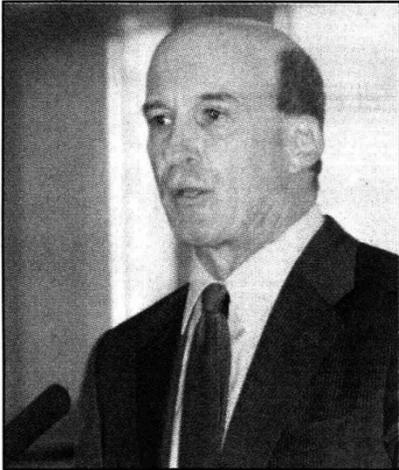
“When I came to Highmark, I had just a BA, now I have an MBA and I’m a manager in accounts receivable,” he said. “A year ago, I wasn’t invited to things like this. So, I am making new friends, like Sara—she answers my calls.”

In closing, roundtable founder and Black Political Empowerment Project President Tim Stevens thanked everyone for their time, input and dedication.

“Our goal is that Pittsburgh will be emulated and duplicated in the level of equity and inclusion we create,” he said.

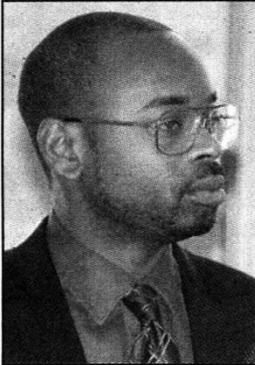
(Send comments to cmorrow@newpittsburghcourier.com.)





IMPERATIVE—Dennis Yablonsky tells the audience at the Corporate Equity and Inclusion Roundtable that increasing racial diversity in the region is both a moral and economic imperative.

NEXT PRACTICES—Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh President and CEO Esther Bush moderates a panel discussion on increasing regional minority hiring, promotion and retention. (Photos by J.L. Martello)



JACOBI KENT



TIM STEVENS

‘Do the Write Thing Challenge’ – An initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence

The Pittsburgh “Do the Write Thing” Challenge honored 130 top student writers that represented 43 schools in the greater Pittsburgh area. The celebration took place June 4 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Station Square.

A total of 1,831 middle school students accepted a difficult challenge: helping to end violence thru written expression. One important program goal is to encourage students to engage in discussion, in the classroom, which creates a sense of community responsibility. A second goal is to recognize those students that excelled in written expression. All 130 students received various prizes and, the best male and female student was chosen as “National Ambassadors” to represent Pittsburgh at the DtWT National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C., this summer. The ambassadors will have the opportunity to present their views on youth violence to national leaders such as the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior and Members of Congress.

Over the past seven months, the students representing 43 schools within the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Woodland Hills School District and the Catholic Diocese, have been led by their teachers in classroom discussions on violence and created literary works which were read by students of Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University School of Law, and then passed on to Pittsburgh’s dignitaries who

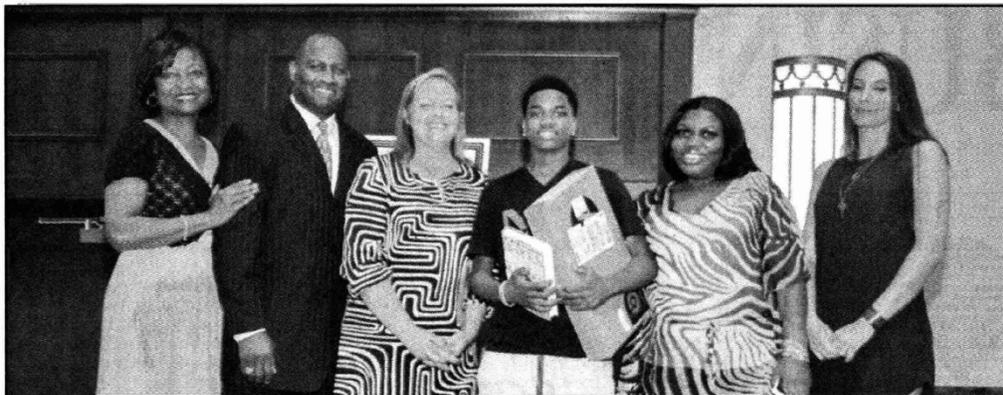
choose the finalists. Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Urban League CEO Esther Bush, Highmark BCBS’s Evan Frazier and UPMC’s Winifred Torbert all joined Allegheny County Family Court Judges in choosing the finalists and the DtWT National Ambassadors.

On behalf of the Allegheny County Family Court, Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff and wife, Joy Maxberry Woodruff, who have served as co-chairs of the Pittsburgh DtWT Challenge since its inception in 2007. The dinner celebration is unique as it brings together students, teachers and parents from all areas of Pittsburgh to celebrate a common goal: to end violence. During the event, students were encouraged to share their experiences with Pittsburgh juvenile judges and the many local dignitaries who attend.

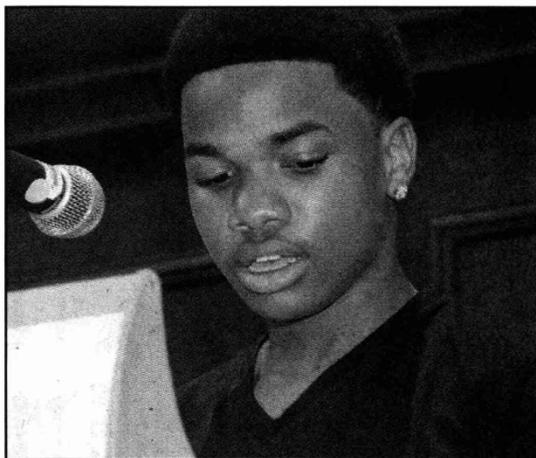
The Pittsburgh DtWT Challenge receives generous sponsorship from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Diehl Automotive Group, UPMC, Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Worgul Law Firm and Pittsburgh Barbeque Company.

(Article courtesy of the Pittsburgh Do the Write Thing Challenge.)





MAKING IT HAPPEN—From left: Joy Maxberry Woodruff, Judge Dwayne Woodruff, teacher Laura Hurst, 8th grade Pittsburgh Allegheny Traditional Academy student Nasir Stewart, mother Danielle Crowley and Kristi Heidel, judge's intern—2nd year law student at Duquesne University. (Photo supplied by Carmen Robinson)



NASIR STEWART
Male DTWT National Ambassador



TIA MILES
Female DTWT National Ambassador