



LOVICK

DIVERSITY CAREER JOURNAL



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Publisher's Page

RELEVANCY OF HBCUs

I bristle every time I hear someone question the relevancy of HBCUs. Truthfully, I get downright angry about it. Historically Black Colleges and Universities are vital to the landscape of higher education in the United States, and for anyone to suggest otherwise proves he or she is ignorant to the facts.

Before I go on, I must mention U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who in February while speaking to HBCU presidents and chancellors in Washington, D.C. said, "HBCUs are real pioneers when it comes to school choice. They are living proof that when more options are provided to students, they are afforded greater access and greater equality. Their success has shown that more options help students flourish." I trust that unlike our Education Secretary, everybody reading this knows HBCUs were established because African-Americans had no choice in the matter. Simply put, majority institutions would not allow us to attend their schools.

But back to the issue of relevancy. Historically black colleges



and universities have produced three-fourths of all African-Americans with Ph.D.'s, three-fourths of all African-American officers in the U.S. Armed Forces and four-fifths of all African-American federal judges. HBCUs are the leading institutions in awarding baccalaureate degrees to African-American students in the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. Moreover, 50 percent of African-American faculty at majority research institutions received their bachelor's degrees from an HBCU.

Notable HBCU graduates include Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and founder of Bethune-Cookman University (formerly Bethune-Cookman College) in Daytona Beach, Florida; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Leontyne Price; Dr. Charles Drew, a physician and

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■
Lovick Career Journal (LCJ) is a quarterly publication designed to give unique access to the professional job seeker and those who wish to explore current and available employment opportunities in these high-leveled positions that are often missed in other advertising circulars. This quarterly publication of 40,000 is uniquely targeted to increase awareness to diversity concerns and exposing opportunities to the best qualified. Its distribution to colleges, universities, employment office centers and other pertinent demographics, maximizes our ability to reach the right individual.

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HBCU News

DR. PHYLLIS WORTHY DAWKINS

Bennett College Interim President

by Laurie D. Willis

GREENSBORO, N.C. – When you're housed in a city with four larger institutions of higher learning and an emerging law school, it might be easy to get lost in the shuffle.

But one of the big draws for Bennett College, an all-women's HBCU in the Tar Heel State's third-largest city, is the institution's robust International Program. Since 2009, Bennett has sent about 200 students to 29 countries as far away and varied as Australia, Tanzania, China, South Africa, Costa Rica and South Korea.

What's more, the institution has hosted 19 international students from formal government scholarship programs from countries including Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkmenistan and Indonesia.

"We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to travel internationally and to get a chance to learn firsthand about other cultures," said Bennett College Interim President Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins. "It's one thing to read about a country or to get



information about it from the Internet, but it's something else altogether to visit that country. Students who enroll at Bennett College get the opportunity to do just that. In fact, this summer we're sending students to several countries, including Brazil, South Africa, South Korea and Zimbabwe."

Bennett's International Program rivals and in fact exceeds

programs at some much larger institutions, and Lee J. Todhunter of The Center for Global Studies is a large part of the reason. But Todhunter is quick to cite others for the program's success, including Bheki Langa, a Bennett English professor and coordinator of English & Foreign Languages, and Dr. Gwendolyn Bookman, an associate professor and interim department chair of Political Science & Sociology. Bookman served as director of the Center for Global Studies for a number of years.

During her tenure, Todhunter worked diligently to ensure Bennett students were afforded every opportunity to study abroad. "Bennett has a long history of international engagement," said Todhunter. "At Bennett, students are developed to be global citizens and leaders. Bennett graduates have attended graduate school in the United Kingdom at institutions such as Cambridge University, they have served as Fulbright teaching assistants and they have helped develop communities in Costa

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Corporate News

LA METRO CEO PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON

Phillip A. Washington was unanimously selected CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) by the LA Metro Board of Directors on March 12, 2015.

In his position as LA Metro CEO, Washington manages an annual operating budget of \$1.6 billion and is responsible for overseeing \$15 billion in capital projects and providing oversight of an agency that transports 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday, riding on a fleet of 2,000 clean - air buses and six rail lines. LA Metro also is the lead transportation planning and programming agency for LA County. As such, it is a major construction agency that oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects – together representing the largest modern public works program in North America.

Washington was a leader in the successful effort to pass a new half-cent sales tax in LA County, which garnered 71.15% voter approval. Measure M will build 40 major highway and transit projects in the first 40 years, create 778,000 jobs through construction and various

programs, and provide \$133.3 billion in economic impact.

Washington came to Los Angeles from Denver, where he



was Assistant General Manager for nearly 10 years, prior to being named CEO in 2009.

In Denver, Washington imple-

mented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transit expansion programs in the country. Under his leadership, Denver's West Line Rail was completed under budget and eight months earlier than scheduled, and the award-winning Denver Union Station was completed five months early.

Also in Denver, Washington spearheaded implementation of the first-of-its-kind \$2.2 billion transit Public-Private Partnership (P3). His emphasis on measuring and managing agency performance led to a nearly 90% on-time bus and rail service, and 96% ADA on-time performance.

Washington has had numerous prestigious assignments and honors. In 2007, he was appointed by the Mayor of Denver, to head the Host Transportation Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. In 2009, he was appointed by Governor Bill Ritter

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Editorial Page

CAN WE ALWAYS BLAME THE U.S. PRESIDENT ON HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES?

Know How to Keep Yourself Gainfully Employed.

by **Angela M. Cranon, M.A.**
Associate Publisher

Should citizens always blame the President of the United States for high unemployment rates when they happen? There are some influences that can point directly to a president, but there are other key factors that dictate the rise or fall of unemployment possibilities in America.

As with any change in a government, citizens become concerned about employment. The uncertainty of it all is enough to make many worry, especially if citizens might still struggle with the political shift of power. However, economic factors, technology advancements, corporate values, and seasonal fluctuations are influential circumstances that determine the high or the low unemployment rate for the United States.

With a new president in office, any of these factors, as well as President Donald Trump's relations

and dealings with foreign and domestic affairs, can also play a role to determine if there will be jobs available to citizens... how many or how little. Nonetheless, it is important to understand the other components that can keep you working or not. Bare with me for a moment as we analyze these elements to understand the final point that needs to be made.

First, economic factors deal directly with the national job growth. The economic climate determines if employees will stay on a job or look for work that pays more if the employment industry seems to be a little more stable. Consequently, if there are too many available jobs, it may be hard for employers to keep a staff because there are an array of employment options. But on the other side of the spectrum, in a recession, most people tend to hold on to their current jobs until



Photo Credit: Jeremiah Charles

the market changes, thus an economic factor. In a recession, however, corporations may not be able to hold on to its employees due to the lack of revenue.

Technology advances are another factor that dictates if unemployment rates will fall or rise. Corporations are moving toward the most technological advancements, instead of relying on man power. Therefore, it is advised to learn as many skills in the high-tech industry in order to move right along with the changing face of corporations. For example, in the past, factory jobs needed humans to work the assembly line. Today, humans are being replaced with technology, robots and machines, to be exact. This decreases the number of

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Commentary Page



by **Laurie D. Willis**

According to the American Association of University Women, in 2015 women were paid, on average, 80 percent of what men were paid. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there hasn't been a significant annual change in the gender earnings ratio in the last decade

Even gloomier, the AAUW predicts if change continues at this same slow pace, women won't be on par with their male counterparts until 2152—well over a century from now.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to recognize just how egregious that is.

Pay inequity has been discussed to the “nth” degree in the U.S. for years, but very little has actually

Equal Pay Equity



been done. Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton vowed to do something about pay inequity if she made it to The White House. Sadly, she did not.

Then-presidential candidate Donald Trump boasted that he pays his female executives as much, and in some cases more, than his male executives. During the election, he and his daughter, Ivanka, promised to improve working women's lives by saying they would fight for equal pay for equal work and guaranteeing six weeks of paid maternity leave.

Yet since he's assumed residence in The White House, President Trump has said very little about the gap between men's and women's salaries. Instead, on March 27 he signed an executive order rolling back the 2014 Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces order signed by President Barack Obama, which mandated companies seeking government contracts adhere to some basic

standards of pay equality and safety.

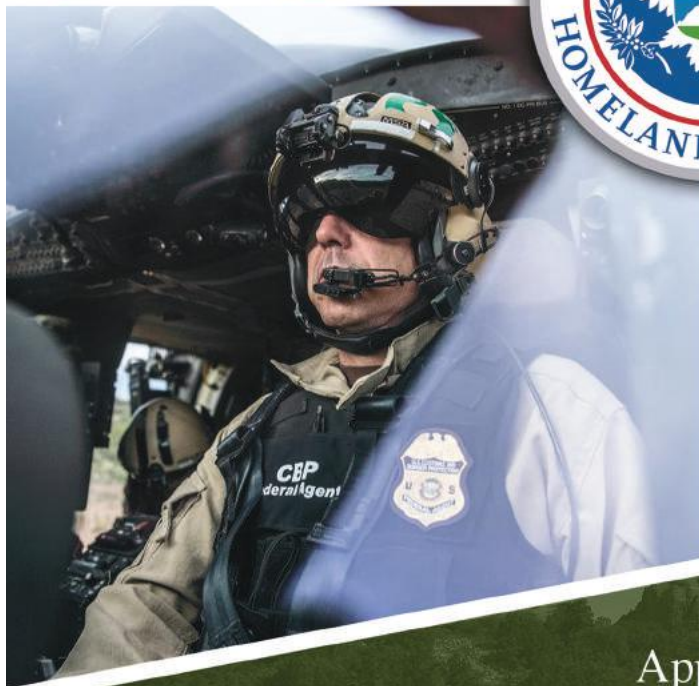
“This country has a long history of mistreating women when it comes to salaries,” said Carmen, a social worker in Greensboro, North Carolina, who asked that her last name be withheld. “It's no secret women can perform the same jobs as men, oftentimes better, yet men are still paid considerably more than we are. Many politicians talk about the problem, but nothing much seems to be done about it.”

It's an absolute shame – a damned shame if I'm really frank about it – that this country continues paying women less than men, in essence treating them like second-class citizens. We often decry the working conditions and salaries of people in other countries but for some reason have a hard time taking that proverbial look in the mirror when it comes to our own pay practices.

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Making It...

TOYOTA

DAMION TUCKER

Senior Administrator, Corporate Social Responsibility Department

By Laurie D. Willis

When Damion Tucker attended Morgan State University, he studied telecommunications with a focus on TV production and dreams of becoming the next Spike Lee.

Fortunately for Toyota those dreams didn't pan out.

What began as an entry-level job in Toyota's Baltimore call center has blossomed into a stellar, 15-year career. Today Tucker is a senior administrator in Toyota Financial Services' Corporate Social Responsibility Department, and by all accounts he's doing well.

"Damion is not only great to be around; he adds value and perspective to the team and to our strategy," said Carolyn Huber, Tucker's manager. "Coworkers and partners consistently request that Damion be involved in or attend meetings, conferences and events because they like him and he brings so much value. While he has a lot on his plate, he's always open to helping support others."

Tucker lives in Bowie, Maryland, and manages Toyota's national



partnerships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Girl Scouts of the USA and Junior Achievement. His duties include managing the budget, strategy, partnership/contract execution, driving reputation and associate engagement.

"I love being able to work with non-profit organizations that help affect the lives of children, not only in the cities where we work and live but also on a national level," Tucker

said. "It's a great feeling to be able to work for a global company that takes pride in being an outstanding corporate citizen. I'm able to have a career that involves helping improve the lives of children, and it doesn't get any better than that! It feels more like a mission to me than a job."

Tucker has been in his current role for over four years and says his biggest challenges are time constraints and having to say no to some requests.

"I never have enough time to do (everything) I want to do," Tucker said. "And there are so many non-profit organizations that reach out to us for money, so many that are doing great things, but I have to stick to our overall strategy of youth development and financial literacy."

To date, Tucker's biggest professional success is the negotiation of a major contract with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which took about 18 months. "It was my first time negotiating a contract, let alone one of this magnitude, and

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Can't Find Employment or a New Career?

by Angela M. Cranon, M.A.

It's a new year and many of you want to find a job or change a career. You might be tired of the same process of looking for a job or even tired of being rejected. No matter what the case, you might be blocking your own chance to succeed, simply because your qualifications may not have changed.

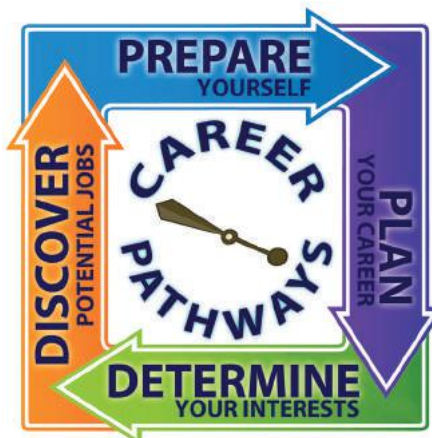
Along with the normal process of finding a new job or changing careers, seriously think about upgrading your skills. Just because you are already employed, educated, or highly skilled, employment is not just around the corner. And if it is, the salary might be the same. Why? Because you are the same. With no new skills, no new certifications, and no upgrade with your education, why should anything be different?

Don't fret, you are not alone. However, to solve this problem, if you want a change in your life, especially financially, and with a new career, prepare for it ahead of time. Don't just wake up one day and look for a job. Have a strategic plan to land employment. This plan is set in advance before searching for a job. If you know that the job you have is not your career choice or you want to make more money, or you just need to find



employment, ask yourself the following questions.

- What career would be long-term fulfilling?
- Think hard and long so that you



- don't keep changing careers.
- What skills are needed to find a desired career?

- List them one by one. This is where researching plays a major role with your preparation of find the most desirable job.
- What do I need to accomplish to obtain those skills?
- Seek ways to improve and expand your skills. What does the job require and what do you lack?
- How do I know how to enhance my skills?
- Always research what the career entails and what you can do extra to stand out from the hundreds who are also looking for the same job. This might mean going back to school, taking a few certification

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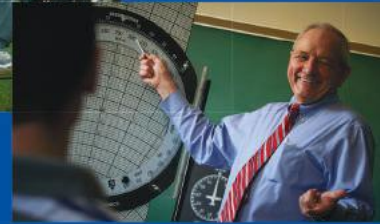
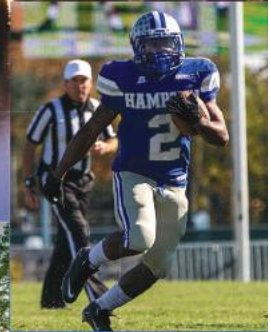
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When Politics Overtakes Relationships with Family and Colleagues

By Kimberly Durment Locke

Negotiating a salary is probably one of the most difficult parts of a job interview. It could also be one of your worse moments if you are not satisfied after accepting the offer. It's not always easy to talk about the salary at an interview, even though the employer knows that you are eager to get to that point. Somehow asking about the salary has become a major taboo, as though you want the salary not necessary the job that comes along with it. But let's face it, salaries attract job seekers, even if

the job doesn't become a long-term career. Sometimes you just want to get into the door of a company and make a good salary to start.

This forum for expression that was previously reserved, in most instances, for sharing updates and images with long-distance family members and friends, has grown into an opportunity for political rants about the current presidential administration, its selections for various positions, and its platform.

While the right to express one's views is all well and good, it might

these postings can have on your relationships with family, friends, and colleagues before jumping head first into that bucket of off-the-cuff remarks and tirades.

Realize that not everyone who voted Republican in the 2016 presidential election was, wait for it...a Republican. Some voters actually did not vote according to party lines and therefore, that cousin or friend or colleague reading your "presidential impeachment" post may be one of your own, meaning a Democrat in this instance, who switched allegiances due to an issue or issues their party candidate did not support. It does happen in presidential elections because, fortunately, voters are allowed to vote for any candidate they wish regardless of their registered party affiliation.

Administration and issue bashing could further isolate this family member, friend, or colleague not only in terms of your relationship, but also in terms of any party loyalty that person may still have lingering inside them. I've heard of many instances where these political riffs are resulting in families and friends actually

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Riverside County Sheriff's Department



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Janice Hahn

Newest Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

On December 5, Janice Hahn was sworn in as the newest member of Los Angeles County's powerful and influential Board of Supervisors. Although Janice is quick to point out that she is a brand new County employee, it's clear that she feels right at home working in Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, the building named after her father, the legendary long-time Supervisor.

"In a lot of ways, it feels like my life has been leading up to this moment. I used to visit my dad here during my days off from school and now I'm sitting at his desk. I certainly have big shoes to fill but I wake up excited to go to work every day."

For longtime followers of Janice's career, it's no surprise that one of her top priorities is fighting for good-paying jobs in LA County.

"I've spent my life in public service and every step of the way I've fought to create and protect good jobs- jobs worth fighting for," said Supervisor Hahn.

As a member of Los Angeles's City Council, she was a regular on union picket lines and fought for and won higher wages and better benefits for hotel workers employed near Los Angeles International Airport. As a member of Congress, she sat on the House Committee

on Small Business where she worked hard to level the playing field for minority and women-owned small businesses.

In her new position as County Supervisor, Janice Hahn oversees over 100,000 County employees.

"Here in the County, we're a one stop shop. We hire construction workers to repave roads and fill in pot holes; we hire Deputies to protect our communities and social workers to protect our children-- and that's just to name a few."

Because employees at the County of Los Angeles receive fair pay, generous benefits, and the opportunity to make an impact in their community, job openings are highly sought after. Forbes Magazine lists Los Angeles County as #39 on their list of America's Best Employers and it's not uncommon to meet employees who have chosen to spend their entire careers- upward of thirty to forty years- at the County.

Now in her new position, Supervisor Hahn is committed to protecting these county jobs and helping expand opportunities for populations of workers who have faced employment barriers. As a new member of the Metro Board of Directors she has already spoken out about the need to employ more women in construction jobs which



are traditionally dominated by men and her office will host meetings in coming months with Metro contractors to discuss hiring initiatives.

Hahn has also raised concerns in Board meetings about the tendency to contract out work that could go to LA County employees. In February, she co-authored a motion with her colleague Supervisor Solis to create an in-house temporary worker registry to better connect local workers, especially disadvantaged individuals, with County employment and job training. The registry is already accepting applications and connecting people with new career opportunities ■



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PUBLISHER’S PAGE
RELEVANCY OF
HBCUs

medical researcher; Patricia Harris, former HUD Secretary and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Astronaut Ronald E. McNair; Oprah Winfrey; and Thurgood Marshall. For the record, I would gladly match the brilliance and accomplishments of those

eight people against that of anyone from any majority institution of higher learning.

I know, sadly, some HBCUs have closed their doors in recent years. I also know in some states – can you say North Carolina – there have been attempts at legislation that would, in essence, result in the closing of even more HBCUs. I pray those efforts are met with the same resistance that African-Americans and people of other races exhibited during the Civil

Rights struggles of the 60’s. Whether you like it or not, this country needs its historically black colleges and universities. And while I was glad to see Trump administration officials reach out to HBCU presidents and chancellors in February, I wish the meeting had yielded more positive results – not to mention more money – for HBCUs.

Keep keeping on, HBCUs!

Calvin ■

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HBCU News
Bennett College



Rica, the Philippines and Rwanda through missionary work or formal government programs.”

Moreover, Todhunter said, Bennett Belles have been particularly active in the Peace Corps, with 37 graduates serving as volunteers since its inception in 1961.

According to a 2015 article in *The Atlantic*, which cited the Institute of International Education, only about five percent of Americans who study abroad are black. That may be, but at Bennett



College the numbers are much more encouraging.

Dawkins has been at Bennett for fewer than two years and has served as interim president since mid-August. So while she can’t

take credit for the college’s thriving International Program, she certainly plans to ensure it continues. Dawkins has traveled to all of the earth’s continents except Australia and recognizes the advantages studying abroad can bring. In fact, she’s credited with reinvigorating the International Program at Cheyney University in Pennsylvania.

“College students today have vast opportunities that weren’t available to the same extent when people of my generation were undergraduates,” she said.

“Prospective employers look favorably upon students who have studied abroad, and sometimes students who study abroad can better position themselves for overseas opportunities down the

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CORPORATE NEWS

LA METRO CEO

to serve on the State of Colorado's Workforce Development Council helping the State create a 21st century workforce. Washington was named 2013-2014 Outstanding Public Transportation CEO of the Year in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

In 2014, he was selected by the editors of Engineering News-

Record for special recognition as one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2013. In 2016, he was chosen by the National Safety Council as one of the CEOs Who "Get It" – an honor bestowed on CEOs who demonstrate leadership in safety at the highest levels. He has testified before U.S. Congressional Transportation Subcommittees and was awarded a White House Transportation Innovators Champion of Change award in 2012.

Originally from the south side of Chicago – the Chicago Housing Projects of Altgeld Gardens –

Washington is a 24-year veteran of the United States Army where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer rank an enlisted person can achieve. He retired from active duty being awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) for exceptional service to his country. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Columbia College and an M.A. in Management from Webster University. He is a past chair of APTA. ■

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Know How To Keep Yourself Gainfully Employed

"human" workers in the job market, creating a path for higher unemployment rates.

Third, corporate values can be disturbed merely through social media. Bad press will quickly change the profile of a corporation, edging people away from applying for jobs at that company. Current employees will look for other opportunities to avoid reputation issues that might play a negative role with their efforts to find future work. If employees begin to resign, this could create a serious problem for the company. Closing of businesses and corporations will

lead to a rise of unemployment rates.

Fourth, seasonal fluctuations occur every year, especially hitting agriculture and construction industries. Employees may find that they are overwhelmed with a lot of work, or overwhelmed with not having any work, especially in construction. Summer is also a season that can be invaded with more job seekers during the time students leave school to work. Part-time jobs are hit the most, which helps the unemployment rate, until this flood of students quit and return back to school.

So why is all of this important enough to talk about? While the government can do its damage to increase the unemployment rate, it is not solely the blame when the other factors are considered. The question is what can you do about

it? Be prepared. Always have your resume circulating. Let social media work for you while you are at work. Stay high-tech trained. Observe what companies required in your field of interest. Get an education. Seek to always improve your skills. Watch the job market trends, and make sure you evolve the same way. Reinvent yourself. Stay connected. Keep a door or two opened outside of your current job. Make smart career changes. Plan strategically, efficiently, and carefully.

Now that you know what factors play a role that could determine if you are working or not, do something about it. Always look for a path that leads to open doors to keep you gainfully employed, and never give up! ■

Now, go make it a great day!



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/DISABILITY/VETERAN





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COMENTARY PAGE

Equal Pay Equity

Founded in 1881 to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, the AAUW continues advocating for women's rights. According to the AAUW, in some areas of the country the pay difference is far more profound than in other areas.

And while everyone harps on the 20 percent gap in salaries between men and women, the AAUW breaks it down even more. For example, while the 80 cents women receive on the dollar to men is bad enough, it's even worse for women of color according to AAUW officials. Likewise, AAUW statistics show that the gender gap is worse for mothers and increases with age, and women experience pay gaps in virtually all occupations. Having

more education increases women's earnings, but doesn't close the gender pay gap—and the gap makes women of color have to struggle much harder to pay off student loan debts.

As a man with sisters, aunts, cousins and female friends, I'm tired of the excuses, America. It's high time we start paying women fairly. It's high time for President Trump to put his money where his mouth is. ■

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TOYOTA

Damion Tucker

we went from a three-year, \$1.5 million partnership to a five-year, \$17 million partnership.”

Hugh Haywood, senior vendor program administrator at Toyota, has known Tucker since their Morgan State days and isn't surprised by his close friend's achievements.

“I think the foundation for success is embedded in the characteristics one has, and Damion's characteristics of selflessness, determination and thoughtfulness were sure to provide a springboard for future achievements,” Haywood said. “Damion is a genuine friend and a person who's ... willing to dedicate his time and energy toward the benefit of others.”

Tucker and his supportive wife Wendy have two children, Amana, a freshman at Florida State

University, and Cameron, a fifth grader. Tucker works 40-50 hours a week on average but makes family time a priority. He also exercises at least three or four times a week and officiates high school, college club ball and AAU basketball games.

He credits his success, in part, to his parents Terence and Pamela Slater, who always believed in him and instilled good values in him. He counts John Ridgeway, Corporate Manager for Toyota Financial Services, among his mentors.

When he started at Toyota in 2002, Tucker never dreamed he'd stay so long. But now he hopes to reach a 20-year milestone with the company that he says does a good job of promoting diversity in and out of the workforce. Tucker is also encouraged that the company will continue including more people of color at the executive level.

“One of Toyota's core values is ‘respect for people,’ a value my parents preached to me and one

that I truly believe in,” Tucker said. “I also love the fact that our executives understand the value of giving back to the communities in which we work and live.”

Tucker has five years to go before reaching 20 years of employment at Toyota, which Huber says should be no problem.

“Damion's ability to build relationships and expand our key national partnerships has been critical to their success,” Huber said. “Because of him, we have thriving partnerships, engaged team members and happy customers. He seeks out and accepts feedback, makes changes quickly and continues evolving and improving. He's really defining what community partnerships at Toyota should look like, and many companies are beginning to build their programs around his models. Damion has a bright future with Toyota.” ■



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Career Development

programs, or receiving more training. This can be done through accelerated college programs, adult schools, online companies, and through your current employer.

- How can I become more focused on what I want to do?
- Along with researching for the type of career you want and the skills you need to land a job, you can also specifically focus on individual companies where you could spend the next decade or more working. Those under 50 could switch to another company when an opportunity arises, if necessary. However, the more matured

adult, in age, who is getting ready for retirement, should focus on researching a company based on retirement benefits as well as career goals, and plan to stay there until the time of retirement.

- When do I want this to occur in my life?
- Put together a realistic timetable that is detailed of what needs to be accomplished to get the job. Some might believe that a monthly plan should be sufficient, however, creating a daily or weekly schedule could keep your momentum going in order to achieve your goals sooner than later. Equally important is to avoid making the timetable too far out so that you don't lose confidence, momentum, or simply give up.

- What to do with my timetable?
- Follow it day after day, tirelessly. Take action. Make it happen.

So when all is said and done, do more than just the process of finding a job, but be prepared before you begin the search. These tips are simple, yet effective in an effort to assist with changing your unemployment status to employed, and creating a plan that will push your career in the right direction, and make your work days more profitable and rewarding. Taking the first step is the hardest, but once you get started, and see results, there will be no stopping you from succeeding. Stay confident, diligent, and positive. ■

*Now, Go And Make
It A Great Day!*

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When Politics Overtakes Relationships

disconnecting, or as they say on Facebook, “unfriending” one another, not just on Facebook, but also outside the boundaries of these social media networks.

The somewhat hackneyed question, “...can we all get along?” made known by Rodney King after he was apprehended and then beaten by police following a high-speed car chase in 1991, may sound trite, but when many have

become so immersed in their political views and feelings they cannot tolerate sharing a meal with family members or being respectful to a colleague, the phrase takes on a new dimension and reminds us all that we are all human, we all have feelings, and although we may not agree with the political choices of others, freedom of expression should not mean freedom to be mean spirited, harsh, elitist, and willing to isolate ourselves from loved ones, friends, and colleagues in the name of political expression.

If it does mean that our politics and how we voted are more

important than our relationships, then I can only hope and pray that one day we will all vote for the same presidential candidate so we can continue to value one another at home and in the workplace.

Kimberly Durment Locke is a freelance writer living in the Los Angeles area who enjoys writing about a variety of topics and issues. Her articles have appeared in the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper, Wings of Change magazine, and Pasadena magazine. She is a registered Cherokee Nation Citizen, and also is of Hispanic and European ethnicities. ■



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HBCU News **Bennett College**

road. There's no question I'm committed to Bennett College's International Program."

Rosemarie C. Igbo, also of Bennett's Center for Global Studies, said she wants the school's international program to continue thriving. "I'm trying to turn Bennett Belles into Global Belles," said Igbo, Bennett's Intensive English Language Program Manager. "My goal is to build upon the numbers of students traveling abroad. Bennett's new English as a Second Language (ESL) Program was recently approved by our accrediting body. It's also our goal to bring international students here. We want our International Program to attract students."

Jaiza Wesley, 22, a psychology major from Olympia, Washington, expects to graduate in May and is grateful for the opportunity Bennett afforded her to spend the spring 2016 semester in Cyprus, an island country in the Eastern Mediterranean.

"I'd never been out of the country before I went to Cyprus," Wesley said. "After coming to Bennett and being so far away from home I experienced culture shock, which prompted me to want to explore and see other places. Being in Cyprus was humbling because I was able to experience the life of a Cypriot as I immersed myself in the culture more so than I would have had I just been there on vacation."

Wesley said some students, particularly those from the West Coast, may think that just because Bennett is small it doesn't have much to offer. However, nothing

could be further from the truth.

"You enter Bennett College a girl but leave as the woman you were destined to become," Wesley said. "I could have attended a larger school, but I might not have gotten the chance to spend a semester in Europe had I gone to a bigger school. While I was in Cyprus I traveled to several different countries including Israel, Greece and Italy. I also went cliff jumping and tried different foods I never would have tried in the U.S."

"Another great thing about Bennett College is the sisterhood that exists here," Wesley continued. "To any high school girls who are planning to attend college, I definitely recommend they strongly consider Bennett. Likewise, any girl who enrolls at Bennett should certainly take advantage of everything our International Program has to offer." ■





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