



SPOTLIGHT

On New Mexico Leadership

Office of African American Affairs



William Scott Carreathers has been appointed the Executive Director of the State Office of African American Affairs, by the Honorable Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on January 1st, 2019. Prior to his appointment he had been at the University of New Mexico for 25 years, of the 25, 18 have been in African American Student Services. During his 18-year tenure in African American Student Services, he has helped grow and expand the services and has cre-

ated several programs for Black students. Scott has a passion for Black student success in education and he is a strong advocate for them on campus, this passion will remain in the State Office as well.

Here are just a few of the many academic and cultural programs Scott has helped create for Black students over the years:

- The BEST Program, which stands for Black Excellence in Science and Technology-the original one was an agreement with Los Alamos Labs, UNM-Los Alamos campus and African American Student Services. Now, the BEST program is a summer academic program that prepares and exposes 8th grade students to higher education and introduces

them to the STEM programs at the university.

- The ZEAL program, stands for Zest for Excellence in Athletics and Learning – is an agreement with the ABQ Black community, UNM-athletics and African American Student Services.
- The SCOPE program- (Several Community Organizations for Preventive Education)- is a collaboration with African American Student Services, and the ABQ black community organization on educating our community on various health issues.
- The Procurement Internship-is an agreement that places students interested in business in a paid internship, sponsored by African American Stu-

dent Services, the Office of African American Affairs and the UNM Procurement office.

- He established The Black Cultural Conference, which occurs every year during the spring semester.
- Scott is one of the co-founders of the Ralph J. Bunche Charter School. The 1st Afro-Centric School in the city.
- He established the very first African American Summer Bridge Program at UNM called the Summer Scholars Academy.
- He established the Black Student Alliance and he works very closely with them on social justice issues on campus.

Interview with Executive Director William Scott Carreathers:

1. The number of employees in the Department?

There are 7 full time staff members.

2. Where are your offices located?

The office is located 310 San Pedro Dr. NE Ste. 230, Albuquerque, NM 87108.

3. The mission of the Department?

To study, identify, and provide change through advocacy, resources, and support to the African American community.

4. Top goal?

To elevate The Office of African American Affairs to a departmental status.

5. Largest challenge?

To ensure that everyone understands that we are a statewide agency.

6. Biggest misconception?

That the Office of African American Affairs is a Civil Right office.

7. How can the public (New Mexicans) assist with your overall objectives/what would you like the public to know?

By showing support and empowering the office through communications of knowing that The Office of

African American Affairs is a viable resource in the greater NM Communities.

8. Opportunity to recognize an individual or group of individuals who exemplify excellence within your department.

There are two ladies that I would like to acknowledge for their great work with The Office of African American Affairs and throughout the State of New Mexico.

- Nicole Bedford, Deputy Director

Nicole Bedford is the Deputy Director with the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs in Albuquerque, NM. She has many years of experience working with youth and families. Nicole graduated with a B.S. in Sociology in 1993 from Eastern New Mexico University. After graduation, Nicole worked for Youth Development Inc. for over 15 years. Within those 15 years she served in different capacities as a Program Coordinator for the Wise Men & Women Mentorship Program, Lead Service Specialist for Head Start, and finishing up as an Educational Facilitator for a program that dealt with single couples who were either pregnant or had a new born baby called Caring Couples



Healthy Children.

She has served on several organizations like the Teen Pregnancy Coalition and United Way. She now serves on sever-

al committees; ABC Community Schools Unidos Project, Removing Barriers Strategy Group, HLAAC, and American Graduate. She has 2 children, a daughter, a son, and one grandson Jayden. Most of her free time is spent chaperoning her son from one sport to another.

Nicole started with the office in 2012 as the Education Outreach Coordinator for several years. She was then promoted to Deputy Director. She has worked in many capacities of this office. She has been with the office for 7 years. During the transition of the new administration, she has been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition for both the Executive and the staff. She works diligently to ensure that the Office of African American Affairs continues to move forward throughout the state.

- Beverly A. Jordan, Lead Outreach Coordinator

Beverly A. Jordan was born and

raised in Rockingham, North Carolina. She attended Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she majored in business administration. She has worked in administration for more than 20 years with extensive experience in all aspects of office support.

Beverly has provided high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, and overseeing up to 12 support team members. She has been instrumental in the development of policy and procedures, resulting in greater efficiency and productivity. While working with diverse community organizations, she has assisted and lead the coordination of training sessions, seminars, planning and development meetings and activities for local, state, regional and national conferences.

Beverly started with the office in 2014 as the Executive Assistant. She was later promoted to Social and Community Outreach Coordinator. She has been with the office for 5 years. Under the new administration, she has been promoted to the Lead Outreach Coordinator. She is a hard worker and dedicated to serving the African American community and an asset to the agency.

These ladies have exemplified great work for this agency and this community. I am glad to have them apart of the Office of African American Affairs team.