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THE DEEP BENCH

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of African American Affairs

The Office of African American Affairs is proud to recognize the many Black professionals throughout New Mexico who are committed to impacting the lives of Black New Mexicans. Their education, expertise, and experience has poised them to be leaders in their careers, in the public and private sectors.

Each month we are recognizing three individuals, spotlighting their accomplishments and their impact on New Mexico. If you would like to nominate a Black professional (or yourself) to be included, please send your name and contact information to AndreaT.Watson@state.nm.us.



Jim Harvey

Executive Director
Peace and Justice Center

Jim Harvey is an Organizational Development Professional, specializing in services to non-profit organizations. Jim arrived in New Mexico to serve as State Director of Volunteer Services for the Red Cross and served in that role until the state was merged with another state.

During his tenure in that position, he grew the volunteer enrollment from 300 to nearly 1000. He is a former public health professional with more than 35 years of service to federal, state, and local health departments as well as community-based providers delivering health and social services to underserved populations. Jim is a long-time collector and curator of African and African American art and is a member of Diasporal Rhythms, a Chicago-based society of collectors, artists, and educators of art from the African Diaspora. Jim Harvey served as a board member and past President for the African American Performing Arts Center Foundation for four years. Jim comes from a long history of community activism when he became an early member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and later worked internationally as a dedicated anti-war advocate.

He is a recipient of the DC City Council Resolution for Outstanding Leadership in Health Care. He is a certified Counselor and Trainer in Domestic Violence Prevention and Education and Restorative Justice. He is a founding member of the NM Black Institute and the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in African American Health. Jim has also served as a trainer in diversity and racial justice with a significant focus on alternatives to violence and court diversion programs. Jim Harvey is the Executive Director of the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice. Jim Harvey lives with his spouse of 20 years and is a proud parent to three dogs and a cat.

What do you believe are the strengths of the NM Black Community?

The African American Community has a strong sense of history. It thrives on determination to maintain a significant presence in New Mexico through business development, community-based organization initiatives, and social activism. There is also a huge and historic faith community here.

What do you want your influence on the NM Black Community to Be?

I would like to play a role in helping to guide my community towards unity around honest and progressive purpose. While many incredible programs, businesses, and services have come into existence here, there is also a serious lack of trust and misplaced trust that has allowed for the absence of accountability in some instances. Despite this challenge, however, organizations continue to do good work. If I can use my background and skills to strengthen the quality of services our community needs and deserves, I want to continue doing just that.

What can NM do to attract more Blacks to our state?

What are some of the greatest features of Black life in New Mexico as we currently know it? Not much. Despite a rich history of Black life in New Mexico, too few people know about it. No one is telling the story. At the same time, there is a considerable amount of Black professional and artistic talent here. We need to market what we have to the nation. We also need to find a place in "mainstream" events that attract people from all over the country. There is a Black professional group that addresses Black health, for example. Even though it operates in partnership with UNM, it serves to bring together providers and consumers to develop genuine responses to real challenges. This should be attractive to Black professionals around the country. The artistic community is fragmented and in need of a greater sense of purpose and direction. NM is blessed with tremendous performing arts talent, but nothing happens that would entice Blacks to come here from other places. Somehow we need vision and leadership to capture the creative talent that exists and to develop national appeal. We can accomplish these goals with help from the state and local government-provided leaders who will listen to the community as opposed to making decisions for the community. There needs to be a synergized level of support that includes a Black agenda in larger outreach and marketing of New Mexico. There also needs to be a serious application of resources to develop and strengthen both professional responses to community issues and the building of real creative outlets to allow Black talent to flourish and grow and market the opportunities that come with artistic expression.



Kawin J. Nunnery

Program Associate
JF Maddox Foundation & Business
Owner

Kawin J. Nunnery is a native of Hobbs, NM. Kawin began her undergraduate studies in 2002 as a Daniels Fund Scholar and obtained her bachelor's degree in public administration from Grambling State University. Kawin went on to receive a Master of Public Administration from the University of Phoenix. Her career includes over 10 years of experience in Human Resources and Employee Development & Engagement. She has dedicated much of her career to working in geriatric healthcare and public service organizations.

Kawin is currently employed as a Program Associate with the JF Maddox Foundation in Hobbs, NM, a private family foundation that aims to overcome challenges and accelerate opportunities in Lea County, New Mexico. The Foundation innovates primarily in education, community development, and social services to ensure people are attracted to and thrive in Lea County. Kawin has served and worked with many local boards, committees, & programs to include but not limited to Rotary Club of Hobbs, United Way of Lea County, Hobbs Schools Equity Council, & My Power, Inc., United Way, and many more. Her life goal is to be an inspiration to those in her sphere of influence. She finds great reward in the smiles of others and values faith & family.

What do you want your influence on the NM Black Community to Be?

I am a firm believer in Christ's privilege! I would like my influence in my community to demonstrate that. No matter what curveballs are thrown, I choose LIFE, and I want to encourage others to do the same. My opinions may not always be favored, but I want to be known as someone who always shoots straight and never compromises the truth.

What do you believe are the strengths of the NM Black Community?

I believe the strength in any community will always be knowledge, continuous education with truth, not facts. I am not speaking of being WOKE; I am speaking of being AWARE. Our strength lies in modeling, teaching, and showing our children how to be good respectable people, loving themselves and others. Not to mention teaching them and learning ourselves how to live on the opposite side of offense and ENJOY life.

What can NM do to attract more Blacks to our state?

I would say partnering with minority institutions of higher learning to provide strong entry-level career/business opportunities that would allow room for growth and sustainability in our state.



Ryan C. Warner

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
RC Warner Consulting, LLC

Ryan C. Warner, Ph.D., CRC assists teams with creating a culture of inclusion to maximize their potential. Dr. Warner is a sought-after licensed clinical psychologist, researcher, speaker, and consultant. He is also a certified rehabilitation counselor and credentialed National Register health service psychologist. His research interests involve PTSD and substance use, clinical health psychology, and the analysis of social forces affecting racial/ethnic minorities. He has conducted talks and training at both national and international levels, published in various peer-review journals, and served as a graduate-level instructor. Dr. Warner received a bachelor's degree in Community Health-Rehabilitation from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Marquette University. Dr. Warner currently serves as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of RC Warner Consulting, LLC. He provides leadership development, diversity training, and wellness enhancement for a broad array of organizations and Fortune 500 corporations. He specializes in integrating psychological, multicultural, and evidence-based principles to enhance team performance and effectiveness. Dr. Warner utilizes a tailored and interactive approach to accelerate change within small and large organizations around the globe.

He is also the chair of the New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council Health Equity Workgroup. In this role, Dr. Warner is responsible for creating initiatives to reduce barriers to health, give greater visibility to health inequalities, and collaborate with local partners to enhance the well-being of the New Mexico community. Additionally, as one of the board directors for the New Mexico Black Mental Health Coalition, Dr. Warner assists with improving the mental health and wellness of Black New Mexicans by providing educational programs and outreach initiatives. Dr. Warner is originally from Illinois. He enjoys spending time with his wife, dog, and 4-month-year-old son.

What do you believe are the strengths of the NM Black Community?

During my time in New Mexico, I have seen first-hand the high level of support Black community members provide to each other. Additionally, within this close-knit group, there are a plethora of innovators who hold a deep passion for enhancing resources in the community. We need more Black professionals in New Mexico to further elevate the phenomenal work that is already being done.

What do you want your influence on the NM Black Community to Be?

I would like my influence to create systemic and sustainable change within the New Mexico community. I want to use my expertise and knowledge about mental health, human behavior, and diversity to enrich organizations/communities so that we can live in a more inclusive and resilient society.

What can NM do to attract more Blacks to our state?

We need to advertise the beauty and diversity of the state of New Mexico more intentionally and deliberately. One way this can be accomplished is by partnering with Black national organizations and/or conducting ongoing outreach and joint programs with other Black agencies in neighboring states.



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