March 2023

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 have poised them to be leaders in their careers, in the public and private sectors.

Each month we recognize individuals, spotlighting their accomplishments and their impact on New Mexico. If you would like to nominate a Black professional (including yourself) to be in the Deep Bench, please send your name and contact information to Charlycia.Strain1@state.nm.us

Current Position:
Strayer University- Academic Dean

Community Involvement:
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. – Eta Beta Sigma Alumnae Chapter
Lovelace Women's Hospital- Governing Board - Community Board Member

Adrianne Joubert-Thompson

Degree and Alma Mater:
California State University San Bernardino- Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a Minor in Criminal Justice

Strayer University- Master of Business Administration- Concentration in Management & a Master of Education- Concentration in Adult Education

Capella University- Doctor of Education-Condemnation Adult Education- Spring 2023

Adrianne Joubert-Thompson is a native of Riverside, California, and relocated to The Land of Enchantment February 2017. Adrianne serves as an Academic Dean at Strayer University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, San Bernardino, in Mass Communication with a minor in Criminal Justice. Adrianne received her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Strayer University and a Master of Education with a concentration in Adult Education and Development. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctorate in Education at Capella University**.**

Adrianne is a proud and active member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. since she joined in the spring of 2006 and currently serves as the chapter president for the Albuquerque Alumnae chapter Eta Beta Sigma. You will see her in the community supporting our Albuquerque Divine 9 Black Greek Letter Organizations at their various events. In her spare time, Adrianne enjoys spending time with her husband and son, as well as reading and volunteering with March of Dimes, St. Jude, Joy Junction, The Store House New Mexico, and Road Runner Food Bank. She is also a member of Golden Key International Honor Society, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. One of her favorite quotes is by former First Lady Michelle Obama, “Challenges and failures are necessary components of success.”

What do you believe are the strengths of the NM Black Community?
I believe that the strengths of the New Mexico Black Community are the community itself. Have you heard the saying, “what we can't do alone, we can do together?” That is one of the strengths of the Black community in New Mexico; we don't do anything alone because we do it together. There are several black-owned businesses in New Mexico: restaurants, clothing companies, financial advisors, and real estate agencies. The strength of our community is giving back to our community and supporting Black-owned businesses. Organizations such as the New Mexico Black Leadership Council and the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs that highlight and promote events that are going on in our community show that the Black community is growing in New Mexico.

What do you want your influence on the NM Black Community to Be? Working in higher education has shown me that obtaining a college degree is one of the most significant investments you can make in yourself. I want my influence in the Black community in New Mexico to be that of promoting higher education. I want those in our community who are considering going back to school to step out on faith and pursue a degree so they can feel that sense of accomplishment when they walk across the stage and are awarded their degree.

What can NM do to attract more Blacks to our state? New Mexico is a hidden gem that no one knows about. When I got the opportunity to relocate here, I was hesitant to move because I knew the state's Black population wasn't very high. Shortly after relocating here and networking with people, I was quick to learn that the Black community is thriving and growing. To attract more Blacks to our state, we need to share what our state has to offer: career opportunities, a lower cost of living, a unique culture, and a beautiful landscape.

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If you have any questions, please call
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