National Economic Association 50th Anniversary
1969-2019

National Economic Association Celebration and Honors Luncheon

Saturday, January 4, 2020
12:30 pm – 2:00pm

Marina Ballroom G
San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina
333 West Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101, U.S.A.
Today, the National Economic Association (NEA) will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a luncheon. This celebration is a culmination of the planning and effort of many people. First, I would like to thank everyone who has been a member of this great organization. As a group, we have built a strong foundation that will help our organization to continue to grow. Secondly, I would like to thank Rhonda Sharpe, who had great foresight to begin conversations about planning our 50th anniversary celebration. Thank you, Olugbenga Ajilore, for keeping the momentum going. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their ongoing support of this process. I also would like to thank President-Elect Linwood Tauheed, for his leadership as chair of the 50th anniversary celebration committee. This event would not have been possible without the steadfast commitment of the members of the 50th-anniversary committee. Additionally, this event would not have happened without the efforts of our treasurer, Hazel Robinson. Her expertise and dedication to the NEA are something to be admired. I would also like to thank Margaret Simms for agreeing to be our speaker and for her unofficial role as the historian and record keeper for our organization.

I want to thank our platinum sponsors, Right at Home, Howard University, Diana Strassmann, University of Minnesota, and the University of California-Los Angeles, whose financial support made this event possible. Additionally, I would also like to thank the silver sponsors, the American Society of Hispanic Economics, the Kirwan Center of The Ohio State University, Howard University Economic Department Alumni Association and bronze level sponsors, University of Missouri, Kansas City, Willene Johnson, Morgan State, Lucy J. Reuben and John L. Cole for their financial support. Thank you to our patrons', Kay Fealing, Optimal Solutions Group, William Rodgers, Thomas D. Boston and Women's Institute for Science, Equity, and Race. Finally, I would like to thank all of you who purchased tickets and took time out of your busy schedule to honor and celebrate our organization.

The NEA was founded in 1969 as the Caucus of Black Economists to promote the professional lives of minorities within the profession. I want to end my appreciations with an acknowledgment of those who signed the statement of concern that was sent to the American Economic Association: Marcus Alexis, Richard F. America, Jr., Robert D. Bell, Robert S. Browne, Horace R. Carby-Samuels, Cleveland A. Chandler, Flournoy Coles, Frank G. Davis, Karl D. Gregory, Thaddeus H. Spratlen, Robert C. Vowels, and Charles Z. Wilson. Their foresight and leadership are what we are here to celebrate today.

Sincerely,

Omari H. Swinton
National Economic Association President
In December 1969, the Caucus of Black Economists (CBE) was founded, within the American Economic Association (AEA), to “increase the supply of black economists, and to promote research and publication on economic issues of importance to the black community.” (CBE mission statement) From that beginning, in 1974, the CBE was renamed and reorganized as the National Economic Association (NEA). Subsequently, the original mission has expanded to make the NEA, through the research of its members and supporters and publication in its journal, the Review of Black Political Economy (RPBE), a leading provider of economic research to African Diaspora communities and communities of color globally.

Today, the NEA celebrates it’s 50th anniversary at the January 2020 Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) annual meeting, in San Diego, CA. This milestone acknowledges over 5 decades of tireless effort by thousands of members, and individual and organizational supporters, towards achieving the original and expanded mission.

As we look back over the NEA’s past 50 years, I am reminded of the Akan concept of Sankofa, which means literally ‘go back and fetch it’, symbolized by a mythical bird walking forward while looking backwards. The NEA has a rich 50-year history of scholarship, advocacy, and practice to draw upon while walking into its next 50 years. Many of the issues that prompted the establishment of the CBE/NEA have been tenacious and are still with us. Their resolution will require a redoubling of future efforts that will surely come as we stand ‘on the shoulders of giants’.

This 50th Anniversary Celebration is the beginning of that rededication and redoubling for the next 50 years, and an opportunity to give recognition to those ‘giants’ to whom we are indebted.

As program chair I would like particularly to thank the members of the 50th Anniversary Committee for their enormous efforts in bringing this anniversary celebration to fruition. It was the tireless work of Belinda Archibong, Brian Billings, Chéri Phillips, Olugbenga Ajilore, Hazel Robinson, Linda Loubert, Lisa Cook, Margaret Simms, Miesha J. Williams, Omari Swinton, Sue Stockly, and Vassiki Sanogo, that made this celebration possible. Many others contributed to this effort. Their work is also acknowledged and much appreciated.

In appreciation for your dedicated support to this organization,

Linwood Tauheed
President-elect and 2020 ASSA/NEA Program Chair
National Economic Association
Schedule of Events

Welcome

Dr. Omari H. Swinton
Associate Professor of Economics
Director of Graduate Program and
Department Chair, Howard University
President of the National Economic Association

Statement of Occasion and Invocation

Dr. Linwood Tauheed
Associate Professor of Economics
iPhD Program Coordinator for Economics
University of Missouri-Kansas City
President-Elect of the National Economic Association
Chair of the NEA 50th Anniversary Committee

Lunch

Tributes from Sponsors

Dr. Omari H. Swinton

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Dr. Barbara A.P Jones
Professor Emerita
Alabama A&M University

Keynote Address

Dr. Margaret C. Simms
Nonresident Fellow, Urban Institute, Washington, DC

Recognition of Founders

Dr. Ajibilore Olugbenga
Senior Economist, Center for American Progress, Washington, DC

Recognition of NEA Officers 1969 – 2019

Dr. Omari H. Swinton

Closing Remarks

Dr. Sue K. Stockly
Professor Emeritus of Economics, Eastern New Mexico and Vice-President of Communications, American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE)
Our National Economic Association History

Today we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Caucus of Black Economists in December, 1969. The Caucus became the National Economic Association (NEA) in 1974.\(^1\) Today’s luncheon is set as a time to honor the NEA’s founders, current members and all that has been accomplished in 50 years.

Just prior to the founding event, Black economists across the country were increasingly concerned about their lack of representation in the economics profession, especially with regards to the American Economic Association (AEA). On the West Coast, Charles Z. (C.Z.) Wilson, Marcus Alexis and Thaddeus Spratlen began contact with the AEA seeking a greater presence of Black economists at the annual meetings.

In order to bolster support for their cause, Marcus Alexis and C.Z. Wilson took the lead in contacting Black economists all over the country to invite them to an organizing meeting, scheduled to take place during the December, 1969 annual AEA/Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) conference in New York. There was already a session scheduled for 8:30 am on the first day of the conference, December 28, 1969, “Increasing the Supply of Black Economists.” The session was chaired by future Westerfield Award recipient, Phyllis A. Wallace, and future NEA President, Flournoy A. Coles. Right after, a meeting of Black economists was convened. The organizers expected 35 attendees, and 65 people attended. At this meeting, and others taking place during the conference, the Caucus of Black Economists was established.

The 65 attendees at the first meeting were a mix of individuals from major colleges and universities, HBCUs and nonacademic institutions. There was much discussion about how to move forward. By the end of the meeting, officers were elected, and a Steering Committee was formed. Later that same evening, a group representing the Caucus met with the AEA Executive Committee. Joining the members of the Caucus group was future Nobel Laureate, Sir W. Arthur Lewis. The discussion included a bill of particulars that asked for greater

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\(^1\) Details in this summary are based on “The NEA at 50 Years: Looking Ahead” article by Margaret C. Simms and Charles Z. Wilson in the 2020 Winter edition of the CSMGEP Minority Report, as well as articles appearing in the Review of Black Political Economy and the American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings. Some material came from Caucus and NEA notes.
representation of Black economists in policy and editorial decision-making roles, partnerships to develop programs for increasing the supply of Black economists, and the appointment of an associate secretary, to be identified by the CBE, who would be tasked with fostering activities to improve the status of economists from Black and other underrepresented minority communities.

The AEA Executive Committee did not fully endorse or agree to the demands. The President-Elect, James Tobin, and others did agree to the request for greater participation in AEA/ASSA conferences. At the next annual meetings in December, 1970, the Caucus was listed in the conference program as an organization sponsoring sessions with three Caucus sessions. Soon afterward, Tobin created a new AEA standing committee on the Supply of Black Economists; later renamed the AEA Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP). In 1978, the NEA became an official Allied Social Science Associate when the AEA decided to allow a new group of organizations to join the ASSA.

In the early days, institutions such as the Black Economic Research Center, founded by Bob Browne, were important in nurturing the Caucus and research on issues affecting Black communities in the U.S. and abroad. Since then, the NEA has grown and thrived. There is a vital membership with many willing to serve as officers, board members and committee members. The NEA’s annual business meetings are always well-attended. These are followed up by insightful Presidential Addresses, given by the outgoing officer. NEA members have presented thousands of research papers in NEA-sponsored sessions at annual AEA/ASSA, Southern Economic Association and Western Economic Association meetings as well as the NEA/ASHE sponsored Freedom and Justice Conference. Most of these papers are published in respected academic journals, including the NEA’s *Review of Black Political Economy* (RBPE). With their research efforts, NEA members have brought issues facing Black and other underrepresented communities to the forefront, including creating the new field of Stratification Economics to better describe the pernicious effects of discrimination in economies. The NEA has also been a strong partner to the AEA, working hand-in-hand with CSMGEP. Most of this important committee’s members and chairs have been NEA members. NEA members have played vital leadership roles in the AEA’s Summer Minority Program (SMP), the NSF-funded Mentorship Program and the Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE). Additional information on the RBPE, SMP and the NEA’s award recipients can be found in other sections of this program.

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**THE NEA’S FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Robert Bell, Pillsbury Company  
Professor Charles Z. Wilson, UCLA  
Professor Cleveland A. Chandler, Morgan State College  
Professor H.R. Carby-Samuels, Ontario Canada
In recognition of the gross underrepresentation of black economists in the life of the Association and the profession, the members of the Caucus express with urgency this statement of concern. The grievances of blacks and other minorities, who have been restricted in their professional development by the practices of the Association as well as those of the institutions which it serves, form the main part of our concern. What the Association has done or has failed to do has had negative implications and severe adverse effects on minority economists and minority communities as a whole. Their consequences give rise to our forthright criticism and challenge.

In response to this situation substantial changes in policies, practices, and procedures are in order. Some of the needed changes have already been suggested to the officers of the Association. This statement consists of the central issues pertaining to our concern. Further elaboration of the issues and proposals for change will be provided through the activities, position papers, and other work of the Caucus of Black Economists.

Social and Racial Bias. Social and racial bias can be seen in many covert and overt forms in Association policies and practices. Most obvious is the insensitivity and indifference to the position of blacks and other minorities in the profession. In its racial dimensions the disproportionate representation of blacks and other minorities in the profession has been taken to mean an absence of ability to compete and achieve rather than the presence of discrimination which restricts the opportunity to compete and achieve. Such an attitude, held even by economists in honored positions in the profession, has served to rationalize and perpetuate the inequities resulting from discrimination based on social and racial bias. Until the real causes and cures for the situation are recognized and appropriate changes made, the professional development of blacks will continue to be blocked, significant talent will go unutilized, and many economists from minority groups will remain underemployed.

Professional Bias. Although vast socio-economic differences persist between whites and nonwhites and the latter are plagued with immobilities of various kinds, the economics profession has not given adequate recognition to the theoretical and policy implications of these differences. While individual economists have documented the fundamental error of applying the economics of affluence to areas that call for an economics of poverty, the Association has not taken cognizance of and acted upon these differences. Form and technique have been favored over substance and values while issues of policy, perspective, and institutional performance have been disregarded or downgraded in professional terms. In its apolitical zeal, the Association has remained silent on the crucial questions and decisions regarding resource utilization affecting minorities. Further, professionalism and academic detachment have been used as shields for barring meaningful responses to urgent social problems. Thus, the Association has been professionalized into inaction regarding the fundamental problems of resource utilization and wealth distribution, especially as regards minority communities. Yet gross disparity and discrimination along racial lines are familiar conditions throughout the profession as well as in the economy.

In view of the injustice which the traditional posture of the Association condones, a reinterpretation of the role of economist as professional is long overdue. By design and default the economic well-being of large num-

* Written in behalf of the Caucus of Black Economists. As a member of the Steering Committee of the Caucus and Association Chairman for 1970, the author takes full responsibility for its contents. This procedure was agreed upon at the organizing meeting of the Caucus in December, 1969. Members of the Steering Committee are: Marcus Alexis, Richard F. America, Jr., Robert D. Bell, Robert S. Browne, Horace R. Carby-Samuels, Cleveland A. Chandler, Flournoy Coles, Frank G. Davis, Karl D. Gregory, Thaddeus H. Spratlen, Robert C. Vowels, and Charles Z. Wilson.

The Economists Who Signed the State of Concern when Submitted to the American Economic Association, January, 1970

Marcus Alexis*
Richard F. America, Jr.
Robert D. Bell*
Robert S. Browne*
Horace R. Carby-Samuels
Cleveland A. Chandler*

*Deceased

Flournory Coles*
Frank G. Davis*
Karl. D. Gregory
Thaddeus H. Spratlen
Robert C. Vowels*
Charles C. Wilson

The Challenge. The Association is now being called upon to face up to its responsibilities as the representative body of a profession. It is being challenged to correct its errors of omission and commission in its policies and practices. Since the officers and other members of the Association are fully aware of the importance of resources in accelerating growth and change, the imperative response called for is the allocation of resources sufficient to correct the inequities that are perpetuated through the failures and errors of the economics profession. To do so, the priorities of its representative organization will have to change. So will the perception of the key issues—social, racial, and professional—confronting the Association.

If the challenge is met, social and racial bias can be contained. With sufficient resolve and resources devoted to the task, professional bias can be eliminated and a full measure of social responsibility achieved.

The Caucus of Black Economists is ready and willing to assist the Association in redirecting its efforts and priorities as well as in implementing programs that meet the needs of blacks and other minority groups in the profession and the economy.

THADEUS H. SPRATLEN, Associate Chairman
December 20, 2019
Dr. Omari Swinton, NEA President
Department of Economics
Howard University
2441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20059

Dr. Swinton,

On behalf of the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP), please accept our heartfelt and most sincere congratulations on the 50th year anniversary of the National Economics Association (NEA), previously known as the Caucus of Black Economists.

The organization has done so much for so many that it is impossible to list them all. However, we are well aware that there would be no CSMGEP without the diligent and hard-fought battles of luminaries in the field such as Marcus Alexis, Thaddeus Spratlen, Flurnoy Coles, Robert Vowels, Robert Browne along with so many others.

May your next 50 years be even more successful and the organization continue to be a beacon for not only this profession but the greater world community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ebonya Washington

Gary A Hoover
Our Keynote Speaker—Dr. Margaret C. Simms

Margaret C. Simms is a Nonresident Fellow at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. Until March 2017, she directed the Low Income Working Families project at Urban. Prior to joining the Urban Institute in July 2007, she was Vice President for Governance and Economic Analysis at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. She began working at the Joint Center in 1986 as Deputy Director of Research and held positions of increasing responsibility during her 20 year tenure. From May 1 through December 31, 2006, she served as Interim President. Prior to joining the staff of the Joint Center, she was a program director at the Urban Institute. She began her career as a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz and Atlanta University. A nationally recognized expert on the economic well-being of African Americans, her current work focuses on low-income families, with an emphasis on employment and asset building.

Dr. Simms first engaged with the NEA in 1971, while she was still a graduate student. She was invited to the New Orleans annual meeting along with a number of other graduate students. She than served on the NEA Board as the West Coast representative for a year while she was an acting assistant professor at UC-Santa Cruz. When she moved to Atlantic University, she was the representative for the Southern region. In 1978-1979, she became the first woman to serve as President of the NEA. From 1983 to 1988, she was editor of the Review of Black Political Economy from 1983 to 1988. She has also held officer or committee positions with the American Economic Association, the National Economic Association, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), and the National Academy of Social Insurance. In 2005, she was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 2008 the National Economic Association presented her with the Samuel Z. Westerfield Award. Carleton College (Minnesota) awarded her an honorary doctor of laws degree in 2010.

Her list of publications is extensive. Much of her work has focused on racial disparities in many arenas, including families, children, health, immigration, prisons and financial markets.

Dr. Simms holds a BA in Economics from Carleton College (Minnesota) and a PhD in economics from Stanford University.

Additional information on recent publications can be found at https://www.urban.org/author/margaret-simms
NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
FOUNDERS IN ATTENDANCE

We are fortunate to have five of those who founded the Caucus of Black Economists with us at the luncheon today. This set of brief bios for each starts with Dr. Marcus Alexis, who passed June 3, 2009 at the age of 77. We include him because members of his family are here today to represent him. We are honored to welcome his son, Dr. Marcus Alexis II, his daughter, Hilary Alexis, his son, Sean Alexis, and the late Dr. Alexis’ wife, Geraldine Alexis.

**Marcus Alexis**

Marcus Alexis earned his BA degree from Brooklyn College and an MA from Michigan State University. While completing his doctorate, he taught classes at the University of Minnesota and then was an Assistant Professor at Macalester College. In 1959 he became the first Black scholar to receive a PhD in Economics from the University of Minnesota. From there, he went to DePaul University where, as an Associate Professor, he joined C.Z. Wilson on the faculty of the College of Commerce. This position was followed by post-doctoral studies at Harvard and MIT. His next teaching position was at the University of Rochester where he achieved the rank of Professor of Economics.

In 1969, he held a visiting professorship at UC-Berkeley. This move to the west coast allowed him to work more closely with C.Z. Wilson, Richard America and Thaddeus Spratlen in efforts that resulted in the founding of the Caucus of Black Economists in December, 1969. At that historic event, Alexis was elected Caucus Chair. In 1974, Alexis realized a long-time goal by establishing the Summer Minority Program (SMP) during which undergraduates receive training in preparation for PhD programs in economics. The SMP will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2024.

Alexis returned to Northwestern University in 1970 and served as the Chairman of the Department of Economics from 1976-1979 and then from 1982-1985. Between 1979 and 1982, he was a Commissioner on the Interstate Commerce Commission, serving as Vice-Chairman and then Acting Chairman in 1981. He went to the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was Dean and Professor of Economics from 1985-1990 and then University Professor of Economics and Public Policy in 1990. He was also the first Black economist to be appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago board, serving from 1985 to 1990, where he was Deputy Chairman from 1986-1989 and then Chairman in 1990. He then returned to Northwestern University where he taught from 1990 until his retirement in 2005. He held various positions in the Department of Economics and the Department of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management. Besides teaching, he sat on numerous boards in Chicago and nationwide.
His scholarship was prodigious with important contributions to research on discrimination and racial inequality, race and poverty, African studies, management strategy, urban economics, banking and finance, education and transportation.

**Richard F. America**

Richard F. America is Professor of Practice, Emeritus, at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. While at Georgetown, he also served as Director of the Africa Initiative and Director of Community Reinvestment.

Early in his career, America was a Lecturer and Associate Director of Urban Programs at the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. It was there that he and Marcus Alexis had pivotal roles in setting up the meetings where the Caucus of Black Economists was founded and with the AEA. America also worked with Thaddeus Spratlen to organize the formal framework for the initial meeting. America served as President of the NEA in 1985. He continues to make important contributions and to support his colleagues in the NEA.

Soon after, he became the Director of Urban Programs at Berkeley and was a Lecturer at Stanford Business School, Palo Alto, CA. He also served 20 years in the U.S. government in the U.S. Small Business Administration as Senior Program Manager and at the Department of Commerce.

America has published on economic and community development in distressed areas; small and medium enterprise development and management in Africa; corporate philanthropy and social responsibility; and social marketing and community revitalization. He is the author of 6 books and numerous articles. His work has been published in *Harvard Business Review*, *The Journal of Private Equity*, *The Journal of Economic Issues*, *The Wharton Magazine*, *Black Enterprise Magazine*, and *The Review of Black Political Economy*.

He was among the earliest to advance the concept of reparations for African Americans as a serious policy framework and has been refining it for 40 years. Two of his books in this area are *The Wealth of Races: The Present Value of Benefits from Past Injustices* (Editor) and *Paying the Social Debt: What White America Owes Black America*.

In addition to his scholarly work, America consults on corporate public affairs and economic development. He helped create the Association of African Business Schools, was co-founder of the Southern African Business School Network, and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Global Business School Network and the African Development University in Niamey, Niger.

He earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.; and an M.B.A. from the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
Bernard E. Anderson is the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Professor Emeritus at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. He was the second African American appointed to the Wharton School faculty, and the first to earn tenure. He is a protege of his professor, and mentor, the late Dr. Andrew F. Brimmer, the first African American appointed to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

He earned the A.B., summa cum laude, from Livingstone College, Salisbury, N.C.; M.A., Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; and PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, P.A.

He rose through the faculty ranks from Assistant to full Professor at the Wharton School. At various times in his academic career, he was lecturer at Swarthmore College, and Visiting Fellow at Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. His fields of concentration are labor economics, economic performance, and community economic revitalization.

In addition to his academic career, Dr. Anderson has held leadership positions in philanthropy, public service, business, and civic life. He was Director for Social Sciences at the Rockefeller Foundation; Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Clinton administration; Chairman, Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, the fiscal oversight board for the City of Philadelphia; and was a member of the board of directors at Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company. He is a member of the board of directors at the United Bank of Philadelphia, the only African American-owned bank in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Other career engagements include former member, board of directors, The Philadelphia Orchestra; The Franklin Institute Science Center; and The World Affairs Council, Philadelphia. He is a co-founder of the National Economic Association and served as President in 1982. He is also co-founder of the Urban Affairs Coalition, the largest community-based organization in Philadelphia. He is a member, and former Vice Chairman of the board of trustees, Tuskegee University, the historic institution founded by Booker T. Washington, and former Chairman, board of trustees, Lincoln University (PA). Dr. Anderson was honored as a Living Legacy by the Philadelphia City Council, and by the Urban Affairs Coalition.

Anderson’s research and publication interests have focused on racial inequality in American economic life. While in academia, which consumed half his professional career, he wrote four books, and a half dozen scholarly articles on topics related to racial economic disparities. During the last decade, his research focused on community economic development.
Karl D. Gregory

Karl D. Gregory retired in 1996 as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus, School of Business Administration, Oakland University in southeast Michigan, where he taught for 27 years. He also held teaching positions at Wayne State University and the State University of New York at Buffalo.

On the policy side, he was a Fiscal Economist in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Later he served as a Senior Economist and executive staff for Alice Rivlin, the first director of the Congressional Budget Office. He was a member of the Advisory Committee on Trade Negotiations in both the Carter and Reagan Administrations. He was part of trade missions to Africa, the Caribbean, China and Europe. In Michigan, he served on Republican Governor Engler’s and Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm’s Council of Economic Advisers and on Governor Blanchard’s Entrepreneurial and Small Business Commission.

Gregory was elected the third President of the Black Caucus in 1973, That same year, he was the third Caucus officer to address the Chicago Development Corporation on the State of the Black Economy. His remarks were published in the Review of Black Political Economy. He remained an active member of the NEA for decades.

He established and served as director of Karl D. Gregory & Associates, a consulting firm. In 1970 he spearheaded the formation of and was the first Chairman of the board of directors for the First Independence National Bank of Detroit. He later served as Interim President and CEO (1980-1981). He was member of the board of directors for the Detroit Alliance for Fair Banking, and the Detroit Workforce Development Board. He was a founding board member and director of Greater Detroit BIDCO, Inc. and on the Management Committee of Barden Cablevision of Detroit. He was on the Board of Economists of the Detroit Free Press and the Editorial Advisory Committee of the Detroit News.

For much of his career, he was an activist and consultant in the Detroit area, nationally and internationally and was recognized as the Minority Business Advocate of the Year in Michigan in 1989. The list of business, non-profit, religious, health care, local government, clubs and civic organizations he worked with is extensive.

His research, resulting in numerous reports and publications, focused on economic policy and business development.

Gregory earned two degrees at Wayne State University and the PhD in Economics at the University of Michigan.
Thaddeus H. Spratlen is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Marketing at the Foster School of Business, University of Washington, Seattle. He earned the B.S. in Business Administration (1956), M.A. in Economics (1957), and PhD in Business Organization with fields in Marketing, Economics and Applied Statistics (1962) from The Ohio State University, Columbus. He began his academic career at Western Washington State College in 1961-1969 where he went from Instructor to Associate Professor of economics and business. He also taught at UC-Berkeley in summer, 1965. He joined the faculty at UCLA’s Graduate School of Management as Associate Professor (without tenure) in 1969. In 1972, he joined the University of Washington faculty in marketing in 1972 as Associate Professor, promoted to Professor in 1975. He remained there throughout the rest of his career, except for a visiting position at Howard University, 1980-1981.

Spratlen’s efforts in founding the Caucus of Black Economists were pivotal. He was elected Associate Chairman of the Caucus at the first meeting and then served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Caucus/NEA from 1970-1975.

In addition to his academic career, Dr. Spratlen has held leadership positions in philanthropy, public service, business, and civic life. He served as Director of the Ford Foundation-sponsored Black Economists Development Project, he was President of the board for the Randolph Carter Industrial Workshop, Vice President of Washington State Rainbow Coalition, Editor of Pacific Call, Co-Chair for the African-American/Jewish Coalition for Justice, President and Vice President of the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund and President and Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation. He also served as a member of the board of directors for the Institute for Global Security Studies, the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, and the African American Health Care Network.

He is a member, and former faculty liaison, for the PhD Project Marketing Doctoral Student Association. In 2017, he was inducted into the PhD Project Hall of Fame. He is a former member of the Advisory Committee on the Education and Training of Minority Group Economists, the Committee of Minority Business Enterprise, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and the Planning Committee for the Initiative for a Competitive Inner-City National Conference.

His research interests include racism in business economics and American society, inclusion and affirmative action in business and government policy, multicultural marketing, public policy, aggregate marketing performance, small business development, business outreach to underserved communities, corporate social policies and social responsibility of business.
Charles Z. Wilson

Charles Z. Wilson is Professor Emeritus at Graduate School of Education, UCLA. He earned a B.S. in Economics and Statistics (1952) and the PhD in Economics and Statistics (1956) at the University of Illinois. In 1959, he completed post-doctoral training in Engineering Economics at the Illinois Institute of Technology. His first teaching position was at DePaul University, School of Business where he rose from Instructor to Associate Professor (1957-1962). He was at SUNY-Binghamton from 1962-1968 and in 1967 became the first Black full professor there. He moved to UCLA in 1968 as Professor in the Graduate School of Education.

He served as Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Educational Planning from 1968-1970 and then as Vice-Chancellor of Academic Programs, 1970-1984. He was the first Black individual to serve as Academic Vice-Chancellor in the University of California System. In 1984 he retired as Professor Emeritus.

Wilson did much to organize the founding of the Caucus of Black Economists and was elected to the Steering Committee during the first meeting. In 1972, he was the second President of the Caucus/NEA. He has continued to support the NEA since then. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Black Economic Research Center (BERC), 1970-1975. Within the AEA, he was a member of the Committee for the Development of Minority and Women Economists, 1974-1977, and the Board of Editors of the *Journal of Economic Literature* (1974-present) as well as other committees.

In addition to his academic career, Wilson is Owner-Manager of the Micro Business Enterprise Development Center and CEO of CZAND Associates. He has worked on several projects with the former Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley and was Executive Director of the Tom Bradley Foundation. From 1985-1996 he was Publisher and Chairman of the Board of Central News-Wave Publications, Inc. and since then has served as Publisher Emeritus. He has been on Boards of Directors and/or officers or consultant to the Economic Resources Corporation of Los Angeles, TIAA-CREF, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Golden State Minority Foundation, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Urban League, Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, the President’s Advisory Council on Minority Business, Ford Foundation, National Institute of Education, the RAND Corporation, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Wilson published three books and numerous articles stemming from research interests in race and poverty, education and educational administration, job development and training, entrepreneurship, public policy, strategic planning, international trade, urban studies, industrial organization, accounting, statistics and systems analysis.

He held several fellowships, including from the American Council on Education and Carnegie-Mellon University.
CURRENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
Term: February 1, 2019

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Valerie Wilson
Miesha Williams
# National Economic Association Officers
## 1970 – 2019

### President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Marcus Alexis</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Alvin E. Headen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Robert C. Vowels</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Gwendolyn Flowers</td>
</tr>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Edward D. Irons</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Willene Johnson</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Alfred L. Edwards*</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>William Spriggs</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Huey J. Battle</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Kaye Husbands Fealing</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Flournoy A. Coles</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Patrick Mason</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Margaret Simms</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>William Rodgers</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Vincent D. McDonald</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Sheila Ards</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Alfred E. Osborne</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Phillip Jefferson</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>David H. Swinton</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Gregory Price</td>
</tr>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Richard F. America, Jr</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Peter Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>William A. Darby Jr</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Susan McElroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Barbara A. P. Jones</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Juliet Elu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Samuel L. Myers Sr.</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Jessica Nembhard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Stephanie Y. Wilson</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Warren Whatley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Thomas D. Boston</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Trevon Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Charles L. Betsey</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Lisa Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Arthur T. King</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Darrick Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Cecilia A. Conrad</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Rhonda Sharpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>James B. Stewart</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Olugbenga Ajilore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Carol W. Newsome</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Omari H. Swinton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Secretary-Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-75</td>
<td>Thaddeus Spratlen</td>
<td>1980-89</td>
<td>Gus T. Ridel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Secretary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>Mark Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-08</td>
<td>Donald Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-present</td>
<td>Romie Tribble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-08</td>
<td>Jessica Nembhard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-12</td>
<td>Linda Loubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-present</td>
<td>Hazel Robinson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Robert (Bob) Browne, Director of the Black Economic Research Center (BERC), was the founding publisher and first editor of the Review of Black Political Economy (RBPE). The first issue was published in October, 1969. He gave this journal to the National Economic Association in 1976, when the Black Economic Research Center (BERC) closed its doors. In spite of its short life, the BERC had an important impact on the development of a number of black economic scholars and activists.

Bob also established the Emergency Land Fund, a group devoted to reversing the decline of black land ownership in the South, and the Twenty-First Century Foundation, which provided grants to African American-driven organizations.

Bob received his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA from the University of Chicago’s Graduate School of Business. He later studied economics at the London School of Economics and completed course work for a doctorate at the City University of New York. He held academic appointments at Dillard College, Rutgers University, Fairleigh Dickenson College and Howard University. Outside of academia he served as Staff Director of the Subcommittee on International Development, Finance, Trade and Monetary Policy of the House of Representatives Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee.

Browne saw service internationally as well, working for the International Cooperation Administration between 1955 and 1961 (predecessor to USAID). He also served as executive director of the African Development Bank from 1980 to 1982.
A TRIBUTE TO LLOYD L. HOGAN
January 23, 1923 – October 14, 2019

Lloyd Hogan succeeded Bob Browne as editor of the RBPE and for eight years, he did much to foster the journal’s growth and prestige. Prior to that, he was “a stalwart at the Black Economic Research Center (BERC),” according to Margaret Simms. David Swinton described him as, “a key player around BERC in the early days. He was iconoclastic and very personable. William (Sandy) Darity said, “Lloyd Hogan was editor of the Review when my first professional paper in economics was published (1975). I will always be grateful for his support and encouragement early in my career.”

He earned a Ph.B. and an MA at the University of Chicago, where he completed all writing exams for the PhD. Hogan applied his economics and statistical skills toward public service for the NY State Department of Education; toward community and economic development in the Black community in Brooklyn, NY and taught economics and statistics at a number of historical black colleges in Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas. He was a visiting faculty member at Harvard, Amherst, Cornell, and Gettysburg. He retired as Emeritus Associate Professor of Economics and Black Studies at Hampshire College. Hogan wrote two books: Principles of Black Political Economy (1984) and Human Population Dynamics with Applications to the U.S. 1790-2000 (2017).

In addition to his academic career, Hogan served in WWII where he challenged the treatment of Black G.I.s by White officers.

---

1 From comments posted on the NEA list-serv.
The Samuel Z. Westerfield Award

This Award, established in 1973 and named for its first recipient, is considered the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the National Economic Association (NEA). The award is intended to recognize Black economists whose professional activities demonstrate a superlative contribution to the goals of the organization:

- To Promote the training of Black Economists;
- To Encourage the Dissemination of Information and Ideas Concerning the Economics of the Black Experience in the United States and Abroad;
- and To Promote the Recognition and Understanding of Alternative Perspectives on the Black Economic Experience.

Accordingly, the Westerfield Award recognizes contributions in scholarship, university teaching and administration, government and community service, and institution building. It is not bestowed annually, but only when an economist’s work and contribution to these goals are clearly marked by singular distinction consistent with the highest standards of excellence.

Previous Samuel Z. Westerfield Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Z. Westerfield</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>1973 (Posthumously)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Alexis*</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>David H. Swinton</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis A. Wallace*</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Margaret C. Simms</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew F. Brimmer*</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Samuel L. Myers, Jr.</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel L. Myers, Sr.</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Cecilia A. Conrad</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Deceased

2015
Nobel Laureate Robert M. Solow (middle back) and Westerfield Recipients from left to right: William A. Darity
David H. Swinton
Margaret C. Simms
Samuel L. Myers, Jr.
Samuel L. Myers, Sr.
Bernard E. Anderson
National Economic Associations Honors and Awards

The Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture recognizes an economist who has produced seminal research on economic development or made a significant contribution to economic development through public service. Past speakers:
- 1985 Lance Taylor, MIT
- 1986 Donald Harris, Stanford University
- 1987 Charles Kindleberger, MIT
- 1988 Ronald Findlay, Columbia University
- 1989 Irma Adelman, UC–Berkeley
- 2016 Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University

The Rhonda M. Williams Doctoral Dissertation Award recognizes an outstanding doctoral dissertation written by an African American or other doctoral candidate of color, about an economic/political topic related to the NEA mission of producing and distributing knowledge about economic issues that are of exceptional interest to promoting economic growth among native and immigrant African Americans, Latinos, and other people of color. Past recipients include:
- 1984 Lynn Burbridge, Stanford University
- 1985 William Spriggs, University of Wisconsin
- Emmett Carson, Princeton University (shared)
- 2002 Rucker Johnson, University of Michigan

The Alfred Edwards Award for Service to the National Economic Association is conferred on a member of the NEA who has performed exceptional service to the organization as determined by the board. Dr. Edwards, long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the NEA and Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan received the first award.
The NEA and the AEA Summer Minority Program

One of the concerns founding members of the Caucus of Black Economists brought to the AEA Executive Committee in 1969, was the lack of educational opportunities for young minority scholars to earn PhDs in economics. The AEA agreed to support the establishment of training programs, though the search for funding fell primarily on the Caucus. In 1974, Marcus Alexis cobbled together grants from the Alfred P. Sloan and Ford Foundations and held the Summer Program in Economics for Minority Students at the University of California at Berkeley. Twenty-five students attended this first “boot camp” preparation for PhD studies.

More formal establishment of the Summer Program came the next year. Bernard E. Anderson was Program Director of the Rockefeller Foundation at the time. Rockefeller was not willing to make a grant directly to the newly formed Caucus, so the AEA agreed to have the proposal, written by Marcus Alexis, go through their more established organization. From that point on, the program, traditionally known as the AEA Summer Minority Program (AEASMP), has been hosted by 12 different universities for three to five years each. The AEA Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP) administers the program. Evaluation responses of approximately one-third of past participants estimates that 20% of new PhDs in economics completed the rigorous training that is a hallmark of the SMP. The table below gives the locations for all the AEASMP hosts.¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>1975-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>1980-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Madison</td>
<td>1983-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple University</td>
<td>1986-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>1991-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas, Austin</td>
<td>1996-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado, Denver</td>
<td>2001-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Santa Barbara</td>
<td>2008-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New Mexico</td>
<td>2012-2014²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Freedom and Justice Conference

Five years ago, Dr. Nina Banks developed the Freedom and Justice Conference, asking that it be co-sponsored by the National Economic Association (NEA) and the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE). From the beginning, NEA members, ASHE members and others have been invited to present papers and participate in serious discussions of the crucial issues facing communities of color. The first conference was held at Bucknell University. The next two years, it was in Washington, DC. In 2018, the conference moved to Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana, where members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes also presented papers and led discussions. In 2019, the conference was at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico with continued discussion of issues facing Native cultures. Conference participants have helped found the Association for Economic Research of Indigenous Peoples (AERIP).

¹ This brief description of the AEASMP is from Marcus Alexis, RBPE, 1975, from Becker, Rouse and Chen, *Economics of Education Review*, 2016, and a written account by Bernard E. Anderson.
² During 2010, the height of the Great Recession, no universities were able to host the SMP.
THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION EXTENDS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE GENEROUS SPONSORS & PATRONS WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Platinum Level Sponsors
- Diana Strassmann
- Howard University
- Right at Home
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Minnesota

Silver Level Sponsors
- American Society of Hispanic Economists
- Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association
- Kirwan Center at the Ohio State University

Bronze Level Sponsors
- Lucy J. Reuben and John L. Cole
- Morgan State University
- University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Willene Johnson and Philip Johnson, Jr.

Patrons
- Kay Fealing
- Optimal Solutions Group
- Thomas D. Boston
- William Rodgers
- Women’s Institute for Science, Equity, and Race
The Office of the Provost, the Graduate School, and the College of Arts & Sciences at Howard University

celebrate the National Economic Association on its 50th Anniversary!

Special congratulations to

Dr. Omari Swinton, NEA President

FORMER NEA PRESIDENTS
Vincent R. McDonald
Charles Betsey
Jessica Nembhard
William Spriggs
Gwendolyn Flowers
Edward D. Irons

FORMER NEA BOARD MEMBER
Jan Christopher

CURRENT NEA TREASURER
Hazel Robinson

on their years of service to NEA.
Congratulations
to the
National Economic Association
on
fifty years
of supporting
the scholars and scholarship
we need
to build a more just world

Diana Strassmann
Director, Program in Poverty, Justice, & Human Capabilities
Rice University

Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities
Congratulations to the National Economic Association on its 50th Anniversary!

What an amazing accomplishment for such an important organization!

We Would Also Like to Honor the

Current President
Dr. Omari Holmes Swinton

And

Recognize One of its Past Presidents
Dr. David Holmes Swinton

This is the first time a father and son have both served as Presidents of the National Economic Association. We are so proud!

Love,
The Swinton Family
UCLA congratulates
The National Economic Association
for 50 years of accomplishment
and
CZ Wilson
for a lifetime of dedication and achievement.

We are grateful for CZ’s years of service at UCLA, where he founded the Caucus of Black Economists and worked diligently to advance inclusion, equity and opportunity for all.

Gene Block
Chancellor
UCLA

Al Osborne (1981 NEA President)
Senior Associate Dean
UCLA Anderson
Congratulations National Economic Association on your 50th Anniversary!

From the Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association
Ms. Hazel L. Robinson, President

Saluting our very own Howard University Leadership

Dr. Omari Swinton, NEA President, 2019-
Dr. Edward Irons, NEA President, 1975
Dr. Vincent McDonald, NEA President, 1980
Dr. Charles Betsey, NEA President, 1991
Dr. Gwendolyn Flowers, NEA President, 1998
Dr. William Spriggs, NEA President, 2000
Dr. Jessica Nembhard, NEA President, 2012
Dr. Jan Christopher, Board Member, 2010-2016
Ms. Hazel Robinson, Treasurer, 2013 – present
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SALUTES THE NEA AT 50

MARCUS ALEXIS
CO-FOUNDER
CAUCUS OF BLACK ECONOMISTS
FIRST BLACK PH.D. IN ECONOMICS
AWARDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SHEILA ARDS
NEA PRESIDENT, 2004

SAMUEL MYERS, JR.
NEA BOARD MEMBER, 2016-2019
NEA PRESIDENT, 1989

SPONSORED BY THE ROY WILKINS CENTER FOR HUMAN RELATIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
301 19TH AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55455
ASHE seeks to promote the vitality of Hispanics in the economics profession through education, service, and excellence.

Congratulations to the National Economic Association on 50 Years of Groundbreaking Achievement!

You are our inspiration. Thank you for all your help, support and encouragement.

Dr. Adela de la Torre, the First President of ASHE, at her Inauguration as President of San Diego State University, April 11, 2019.

She is the first woman to hold this position and the first Hispanic woman to serve as President of a major research university.
50 Years of Excellence

We applaud your trailblazing work to promote scholarship and the careers of scholars to achieve more racially and economically just societies. Bravo!

from your friends at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
The Department of Economics of The University of Missouri Kansas City celebrates this 50th Anniversary of the National Economic Association. Over this period, from its origins as The Caucus of Black Economists, the National Economic Association has been the premier organization for research and policy towards the economic development of the Black Community.

Onward to 50 more - and much success!

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Congratulations–NEA 50th Anniversary

Research for Business & Economic Uplift and Impact

Forward to a Fantastic Future!

John, A. Cole, PhD
JCole@SKEEAllc.com

Strategic Keys to Educational & Economic Advancement, LLC

Lucy J Reuben, PhD
LReuben@SKEEAllc.com
AUTOGRAPHS
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY TO CELEBRATE

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION’S ACHIEVEMENTS AND TO HONOR THOSE WHO MADE THEM POSSIBLE