



# FORWARD TOGETHER ENGAGING OUR FUTURE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT





## FORWARD TOGETHER ENGAGING OUR FUTURE

Amid signs of an economic recovery, measured progress on a number of key legislative initiatives and a hard-fought midterm election, the year 2010 was marked by accelerating policy activity across a wide spectrum of issues.

Through it all, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies worked on many levels to inform debates and enhance policy discussions with its contributions of critical research and ideas.

Central to the Joint Center's mission and purpose is the certain knowledge that America does best as a nation—and people of all races see practical benefits—when every community moves forward.

Patterns of civic and political engagement are changing more rapidly than ever while the issues that Americans must confront are growing ever more complex—and this is happening as technology presents Americans with new ways to gather information and to express themselves in the public arena. In light of this, the Joint Center has accelerated its efforts to understand how the potential benefits of these trends can be aligned with its longstanding mission of building relationships across racial and ethnic lines in order to strengthen the nation's pluralistic society.

The issues may evolve over time but the objective remains the same—to stay actively engaged with the policy community in the interest of building a better America.

Read this Annual Report and you will discover how the Joint Center is doing exactly that.

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we close out the first decade of the century, it is now more apparent than ever that America's civic dialogue is changing in profound ways—and more rapidly with each passing year.

The methods by which our fellow citizens communicate, assimilate information and express themselves in the public square would have been almost unfathomable as little as a decade ago—and least of all in 1970 when the Joint Center was founded. Meanwhile, the issues and events that require citizen attention and engagement grow ever more complex and—as evidenced by the recent debates over health care, financial reform and climate change—increasingly subject to manipulation and the spread of misinformation by entrenched interests.

Taken together, these conditions call for broader and more intense citizen engagement, as well as a stronger understanding of how economic and social issues affect us all.

This is precisely why America needs the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

In response to the demand for pertinent information and clear thinking amid a flurry of policy activity over the past two years, the Joint Center has stepped up its activity and engagement in Washington and throughout the country. Whether it is pointing out the enormous costs to the public at large of racial inequities in our health care system, or educating policymakers on the potential benefits to our country of expanded access to the latest broadband technologies, the Joint Center's unique and cutting-edge research is helping guide our policymakers toward solutions that will benefit all Americans.

Over the long term, disparities in our society serve the interests of no one. And that is why the Joint Center works to build the evidentiary record on enduring opportunity gaps, to help our policymakers understand where they exist and how they can be addressed, and to make the case to wider audiences on how they hold our country back from fulfilling its true promise and potential.

Yet, sometimes it is not enough to guide—pushing and prodding becomes necessary, both as a conveyor of thought or as a convener for a larger discussion. We understand that people of color deserve the opportunity to participate and be heard on issues that impact their lives in often different, but always significant, ways on a daily basis.

Today, with America's demographics evolving more rapidly than any other country, the Joint Center finds itself in a position to again make historic contributions to the betterment of our nation. With your support, we will continue our efforts to move forward, to be a wellspring of research and ideas, to engage the policy community, and to point the way to solutions on the key policy challenges of the 21st Century.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Gillum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Roderick D. Gillum, Esq.**

Chairman

Board of Governors



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Engagement" has always been a key, operative word at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

From its earliest days, when its principal objectives were to equip, encourage and inspire African Americans to fully exercise their hard won rights to fully participate in the nation's civic and political life, the Joint Center has put engagement at the forefront of its agenda. We have long believed that being part of the discussion, and making the most of opportunities to gather and contribute knowledge, is a critical early step toward political and social empowerment, and toward greater influence in crafting the solutions that will make America a better place for all.

On the pages of this annual report, you will find that after four decades, the Joint Center not only still believes that to be true, but as an institution it continues to practice what it has long preached.

In a year that was marked by passage of health care reform, the promulgation of a long-sought National Broadband Plan that seeks to expand access to the latest digital technologies, and intense debate on a host of other vital issues of the day, the Joint Center's leaders, scholars and expert staff continued to accelerate their participation and involvement in policy circles, and to contribute research and analysis that has relevance and impact.

Our Health Policy and Media and Technology Institutes were fully involved in important policy discussions, offering their ideas and suggestions, as well as convening key policymakers and other thought leaders for the purpose of focusing on issues of particular concern to communities of color.

In 2010, our Climate Change Initiative continued its work to bring new voices to the debate over what to do about global warming, and to create a space for policy experts to explore new angles and solutions.

As the convener of the National Policy Alliance, we were at the White House advising the President on the need to stimulate job growth in communities where recovery has not yet taken hold. And in a year marked by a hard-fought midterm election, the Joint Center applied to campaign media coverage its deep knowledge and unique perspectives on the African American electorate, and particularly toward increasing public understanding of how black voters could shape the outcome.

These are just a few examples of how the Joint Center is engaging on the issues. We have never wavered on our essential purpose. That's because we know that the fulfillment of America's most cherished ideals, most particularly the triumph of equal opportunity, is in the vital interest of each and every American regardless of color or creed. Our goal is a better America for all.

Moving forward, engaging our future, we can make it happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph B. Everett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ralph B. Everett, Esq.**  
President and CEO



# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies conducts research and policy analysis on topics of concern to African Americans and other people of color. Initially founded to encourage African American political participation and to support newly-elected black public officials in the wake of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Joint Center continues to promote civic and political engagement—and support black leadership—as the primary route to greater equality and opportunity.

Today, the Joint Center's approach includes identifying and examining critical emerging issues, as well as collaborating with highly-regarded scholars and experts in designing and conducting rigorous investigations and studies. We publicize our research findings in relevant policy circles and among targeted audiences through publications such as research reports and policy briefs and through forums and seminars that often include our strategic partners. We reach the public through both traditional and new media.

In recent years, the Joint Center has established several institutes to spotlight key issues. Our Health Policy Institute has played an important role in the debate over health care reform and health disparities. Our Media and Technology Institute has been in the forefront of the debate over broadband access and other issues related to emerging communications technologies. And we have devoted significant resources to other vital issues such as economic and retirement security, climate change, and voting patterns.

The Joint Center facilitates analysis of issues through the lens of the African American community, with the goal of ensuring that its views are heard and its findings are considered in the public policy development process. We do this by engaging elected and appointed officials with regard to our body of work on the racial and socioeconomic aspects of public policy.

Recognizing that complex issues require the engagement, understanding and commitment of society at large, the Joint Center aims to provide a forum where disparate interests can seek common ground and move forward toward policy solutions.

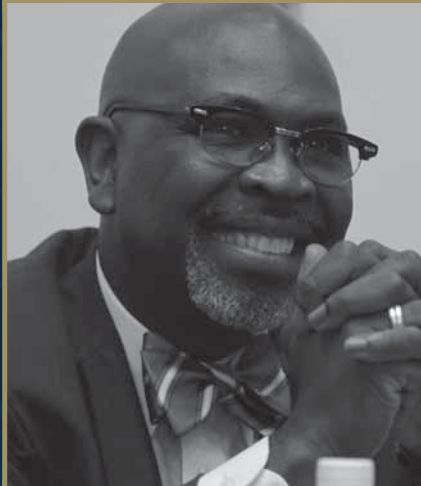
## ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

### CENTERING EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

Following the enactment of national health care reform, the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute (HPI) released policy briefs in further support of strategies to help eliminate health inequities. One example, the report, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: Advancing Health Equity for Racially and Ethnically Diverse Populations* assessed the potential of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to reduce health inequities.

Throughout the year, HPI published opinion articles in major newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Baltimore Sun*, drawing upon a significant body of research to show the many ways that the ACA is likely to reduce racial and ethnic health inequities. HPI also presented at major conferences convened by the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Social Insurance, the Brookings Institution, National Academy of Public Administration and the National Science Foundation, among others, on the implications of the new health care reform law for communities of color.





**The New York Times**

## VOICES: EARLY DIAGNOSES OF THE NEW LAW

*March 29, 2010—The New York Times asked national health care experts what the new health care law will mean for Americans*

The dramatic passage of health care reform was a historic turning point in the effort to repair a deeply broken system. But by itself, the legislation will not be enough to address the needs of many people of color, who face higher rates of infant mortality, chronic disease and disability, and premature death than white Americans do.

The new law will help expand insurance coverage and improve access to health care providers in underserved communities, among other benefits. But the major reasons for the persistence of racial and ethnic health inequalities are socioeconomic inequality and differences in neighborhood living conditions—both of them fueled by residential segregation. These are the issues that policymakers must tackle if we are to improve opportunities for good health for all.

*Brian D. Smedley, Ph.D.*

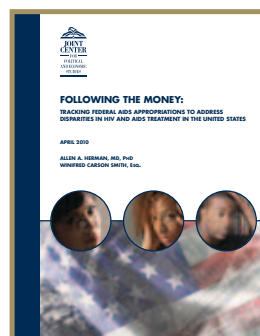
*Vice President and Director, HPI*

*"This new law has the potential to seed, promote and guide diversity initiatives in this country for decades to come. Realizing its vision will do much to promote the longstanding promise of equality and equity for all."*

From the conclusion of the Joint Center report, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

APRIL



### *Following the Money: Tracking Federal AIDS Appropriations to Address Disparities in HIV and AIDS Treatment in the United States*

This study documents the geographic spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and reviews trends in federal funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education. The report found that the areas of greatest spread of the epidemic in recent years—including many rural, Southern communities of color—do not benefit from federal funds proportionate to need.





## SULLIVAN ALLIANCE

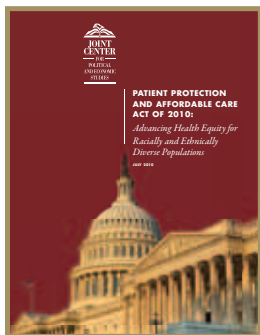
Over the course of its first five years, The Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions has made steady progress in its efforts to diversify the nation's health workforce. Members of the Alliance, led by former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis Sullivan, are national leaders who regularly speak on the topic to a broad range of public policy forums.

The Alliance has also kept the health workforce diversity issue on the national agenda through a series of networking activities and by continually disseminating information to key stakeholders, including members of the Obama Administration and Members of Congress, professional associations and academic health centers. These activities have been critical to keeping the effort to diversify the health workforce on track toward achieving important changes in national policy.

The work of the Sullivan Alliance took on new urgency in 2010, as growing shortages among health workers, coupled with the increased access to health care afforded by the new health care reform legislation, threatened to compromise the quality and effectiveness of the health care system. In response, the Alliance, with its focus on increasing diversity, is working to boost the numbers of people successfully prepared for careers in medicine, nursing, dentistry and other health professions.

The Sullivan Alliance is at a critical point in its history. The success of its programs has clearly positioned the Alliance to permanently influence the trajectory of healthcare professions training. And the resulting progress in diversifying the health workforce will likely contribute to reducing the racial disparities in health status that undermine so many communities across the country.

JULY



### *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: Advancing Health Equity for Racially and Ethnically Diverse Populations*

An analysis which finds that the historic health reform legislation will significantly reduce financial, geographic, cultural and linguistic barriers to health care and that its provisions regarding health promotion and disease prevention have great potential to improve the health status of people of color and reduce health inequities.

OCTOBER

### *The "Secret" Epidemic: Disparities in Hepatitis C Incidence, Treatment, and Outcomes*

Hepatitis C disproportionately affects African Americans and other people of color and can cause significant illness and premature death, but little is known about strategies to improve detection and treatment. This policy brief reviews existing literature and highlights emerging technologies that can significantly improve diagnosis and treatment for the millions of Americans infected with Hepatitis C, but only if they are made available in communities that are disproportionately infected.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HEALTH INEQUALITIES

During the final months of the health care reform debate in Congress, the Joint Center continued to experience high demand for its 2009 research report, *The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities*, which quantified the economic consequences of racial and ethnic health inequalities for the nation as a whole. In that study, the Joint Center's researchers found that over the 4-year period of the study, between 2003 and 2006, the nation spent nearly \$230 billion dollars to address direct medical costs associated with the excess burden of disease and disability in communities of color. When indirect costs are considered (such as lost wages, productivity, and tax revenue when people are too sick to work or die prematurely), the total cost to the nation was \$1.24 trillion.

Joint Center staff disseminated information from this research in 2010, publishing six opinion pieces in major news media outlets and discussing the findings in dozens of presentations at major conferences and meetings around the country. As a result, researchers, policymakers, and advocates frequently cited the research. For example, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health has mentioned the report in its request for research proposals, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Health and Program Services Branch cites the research in its presentations and publications. And the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust has frequently mentioned the report in House Floor statements, as well as in fact sheets and policy documents, with respect to the need to address health inequities in the context of health care reform legislation.

*"The Joint Center Health Policy Institute's research and policy analysis on health equity topics have been invaluable for those of us in Congress who seek to make equity an explicit goal of health reform. Few other groups are as focused on eliminating barriers to good health for people of color. I know I can always count on the Joint Center to call attention on these critical issues."*

The Honorable  
Donna M. Christensen (D-VI)  
United States House of  
Representatives

AUGUST 23

### ***Implications of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act for Health Inequalities***

HPI and the National Health Policy Training Alliance for Communities of Color conducted a 90-minute webinar to release a new report, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: Advancing Health Equity for Racially and Ethnically Diverse Populations*. The report takes a comprehensive look at the new health reform law to understand its implications for addressing health inequities. The report identifies areas where

the law may significantly improve health and health care access and quality and reduce health inequities, as well as areas where more work is needed to fully eliminate inequities. The webinar attracted more than 100 participants from a wide array of research, policy, and advocacy organizations, and focused attention on the need to protect and expand efforts to address health inequities in the context of health reform, reduce the concentration of health risks in communities of color and better align health care resources where they are needed.

## FOCUSING ON FATHERS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

Today, nearly 70 percent of African American births occur among unwed mothers, a rate double what it was a few decades ago. In 2010, the Joint Center HPI's Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes (CPIPO) issued a research, policy, and practice agenda aimed at enhancing the role of fathers and expectant fathers, and particularly men of color, in reproductive life planning, preconception, pregnancy support, and childrearing. The Commission also made presentations at a series of events organized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health to discuss research, policy, and practice needs to improve the involvement of fathers (and expectant fathers) of color in preconception, pregnancy, childbirth and beyond. CPIPO will continue to build on this agenda by developing new research and practice models, publishing its findings, and presenting the Commission's work at conferences and other national and international events.



**Diverse**  
ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### JOINT CENTER REPORT URGES RESEARCH AND POLICY CHANGES TO BOOST THE INVOLVEMENT OF EXPECTANT FATHERS

By Joyce Jones  
May 21, 2010

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes (CPIPO) released a report this week on fathers' influence on child health and development. The center, whose research largely focuses on African-Americans and other peoples of color, held a report briefing on Capitol Hill on Thursday. Surprisingly, few studies have been done on the impact of paternal involvement in pregnancy outcomes.

MAY 5



### ***Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes***

Washington, DC

The Commission held a briefing on Capitol Hill to discuss evidence-based strategies to improve paternal involvement before, during, and after pregnancies, particularly in communities where involvement has been low and pregnancy outcomes have been poor. The findings were summarized in the report, *Best and Promising Practices for Improving Research, Policy and Practice on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes*, which concludes that while more research is needed, efforts to expand the role of fathers—particularly fathers of color—in maternal and child health have great potential to improve pregnancy outcomes.



## THE QUEST FOR HEALTH EQUITY: ENGAGING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

A number of prominent public health researchers believe that the fundamental problem underlying health inequities is residential segregation, which powerfully shapes health resources, risks, and life opportunities. Racial and ethnic minorities are more likely than whites to live in segregated, high-poverty communities, communities that have historically suffered from a lack of health care investment.

Many of these communities also face a host of health hazards—such as high levels of air, water and soil pollution, and a glut of fast food restaurants and liquor stores—and have relatively few health-enhancing resources, such as grocery stores where fresh fruits and vegetables can be purchased, or safe parks and recreational facilities where residents can exercise or play.

The Joint Center Health Policy Institute works to identify these complex causal factors, with an emphasis on addressing root causes which—if addressed—have the greatest potential to improve the health status of people of color and reduce health inequalities.

*“The Joint Center’s Place Matters initiative is a critically important effort to focus attention on community conditions that shape health. Access to healthy foods, housing, and environments depend to a great extent on where we live. Place Matters helps community leaders around the country to identify and address these neighborhood conditions so that more people enjoy the opportunity to have good health. As a NIH and CDC grantee, The Joint Center is a Dept of HHS partner that has established community-based programs and culturally-appropriate interventions to eliminate health disparities.”*

U. S. Surgeon General  
Dr. Regina Benjamin

MAY 5-7



## PLACE MATTERS Design Lab 12 Using Civic Engagement to Promote the Fair Health Movement

Birmingham, AL

With a focus on civic engagement as a PLACE MATTERS strategy, the goals of the meeting included learning about the history of civil rights in Birmingham, exploring civil rights and social justice as they relate to PLACE MATTERS, exploring civil engagement and how it can be applied to PLACE MATTERS work, engaging in exercises to identify social justice issues in each community and developing civic engagement strategies to address them.



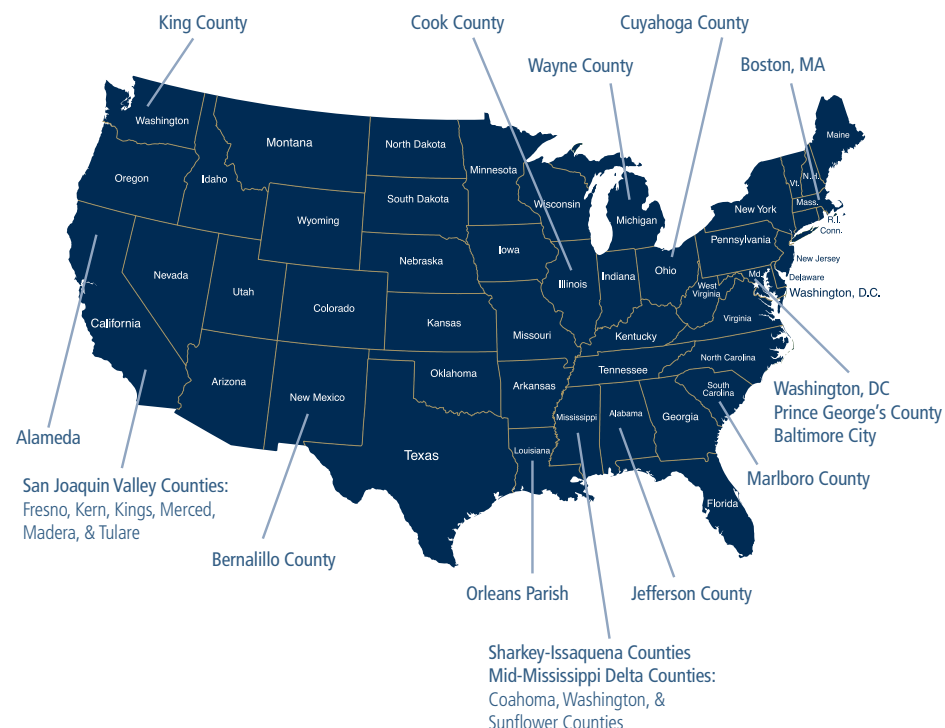
## HEALTH EQUITY WHERE IT REALLY MATTERS: HPI'S PLACE MATTERS INITIATIVE

With a focus on where people live as a determinant of health, the Joint Center's PLACE MATTERS Initiative seeks to improve community conditions for fair health by working intensively with interdisciplinary teams to build their capacity to identify, communicate about, and address social determinants of health in their communities.

The Initiative's national learning community consists of 16 locally supported PLACE MATTERS teams that design and implement strategies for addressing the environmental determinants of health impacting residents in 21 counties and three cities. The teams work among themselves and with HPI to develop research reports on the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and health, and to expand their own Internet and social media strategies and activities.

The objective of this Initiative is to eliminate health disparities by identifying their complex underlying causes and defining strategies to address them. At the heart of PLACE MATTERS work are addressing upstream causes of health (such as environmental health risks and issues related to employment, education, poverty and housing) through action and policy development and measuring the indicators associated with these determinants of health.

## MAP OF PLACE MATTERS TEAMS



SEPTEMBER 1

### **PLACE MATTERS Webinar 5** ***Using Social Media to Promote the Health Equity Movement***

Building on the learning from Design Lab 12 about Civic Engagement, the purpose of this webinar was to provide an overview of social media (or social networking), as well as demonstrate how PLACE MATTERS teams may use certain tools to strengthen civic engagement needed to advance the goals of this Initiative. If the health equity movement's message is to be conveyed on both the local and national level, social media will be a required element of each team's communications plan. This webinar outlined some of the fundamental social media principles that teams should understand to determine which tools are most effective and why.



# HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE PLACE MATTERS



How PLACE MATTERS teams empower communities to identify and address neighborhood social and economic conditions that shape health...

- Creating incentives for better food resources and options in underserved communities (such as bringing in full-service grocery stores and “farmers’ markets” to areas where there are few options to purchase fresh and wholesome foods).
- Developing community-level interventions for promoting better health through exercise and smoking cessation.
- Addressing environmental injustice through aggressive monitoring and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing environmental degradation and safeguarding public health.

OCTOBER 27-29



## ***PLACE MATTERS Design Lab 13*** ***Determining the Public's Health: Implications of the Economy, Housing & Employment*** *Cleveland, OH*

The goals of this meeting were to explore the intersections of the economy and health as they relate to housing and employment, explore the impact of policy on social determinants of health and equity, and identify and develop policy approaches addressing determinants of health over the next 10 years.

ENGAGING ALL SECTORS IN  
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY AND  
INNOVATION

## MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE



The Joint Center Media and Technology Institute (MTI) conducts studies of how the media industry and emerging communications technologies can become avenues of advancement for people of color. An essential goal is to ensure that people of color and other vulnerable groups have the ability to participate as both consumers and producers.

The Institute's research is focused on technologies related to new media, the trend of convergence and its implications across sectors from a social justice perspective, the impact of existing policy and regulation for the telecommunications and media industries, and the broader implications of media trends, including private equity ownership, participation, access and coverage of people of color. MTI seeks to inform policy dialogues and to align with other Joint Center initiatives to support policy development and action. The Institute also engages in outreach activities, such as press and legislative briefings, conferences and stakeholder trainings that promote its groundbreaking publications.

# MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

## ACCESS FOR ALL TO THE DIGITAL WORLD: A KEY IMPERATIVE

One of MTI's core focus areas is broadband deployment and adoption among people of color. According to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) *Working Paper on Broadband Adoption and Use*, 59 percent of African Americans have broadband connections at home, reflecting a considerable increase from 46 percent in 2009. However, the FCC also reports that people of color are disproportionately represented among the 100 million Americans who still don't have broadband at home.

Unfortunately, individuals lacking access to or awareness of the Internet tend to be those who can most benefit, particularly with regard to breaking the trajectories of social isolation, poverty, and illiteracy. Seniors, low-income people, people with disabilities, and the less-educated segments of the American population who are beset by economic and social hardship are largely not reaping the benefits of digital access. And, these populations will lag further behind as the digital innovation sector transforms health care, energy, education and civic engagement in the years ahead.

Another research and policy priority for MTI is the content layer, and particularly developing strategies for engaging more minority entrepreneurs and businesses in the online space as media producers. Recognizing that access to the Internet is only part of the solution to accelerating online participation, MTI is engaging more people of color in this emerging information ecosystem through its legal filings and targeted roundtables.

A final focus area of MTI is to explore changing models of broadcast, particularly local models that have targeted diverse audiences. In 2010, MTI addressed issues related to the effects of digital convergence on traditional broadcast models, as well as retransmission consent and its potential to change viewers' television viewing patterns and their access to programming.

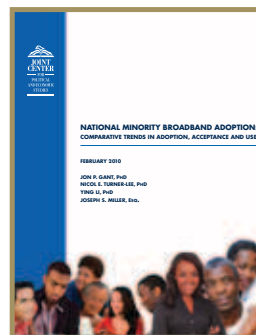


*"Achieving universal broadband access and adoption will continue to be a major priority for the Joint Center. Solutions will not come overnight. But the vast potential of the Internet can help policymakers resolve some seemingly intractable problems that plague many American communities."*

Ralph B. Everett, Esq.  
President and CEO, Joint Center for  
Political and Economic Studies

### KEY PUBLICATIONS

FEBRUARY



### ***National Minority Broadband Adoption: Comparative Trends in Adoption, Acceptance and Use***

The Joint Center's study on *National Minority Broadband Adoption* found that 92 percent of low-income African Americans have used the Internet to search for a job, almost double the rate of low-income whites, while 77 percent of blacks and 64 percent of Hispanics with less than a high school education rely on the Internet for job search, compared to 17 percent of whites in this group. These same minority populations also regularly access the Internet to search and apply for public benefits. The report also notes that low-income people, in particular, are heavily reliant on public institutions such as libraries, schools, and community centers to get access to the Internet.

*"The news that those that have the means are starting to regularly use the Internet for everyday activities is promising because it narrows the digital divide at that level. In today's economy, however, with more low-income people needing to find work and government support to keep their heads above water, their access to the Internet is critical to moving them out of poverty."*

Nicol Turner-Lee, Ph.D.  
Vice President and  
Director, MTI

## NATIONAL MINORITY BROADBAND ADOPTION: COMPARATIVE TRENDS IN ADOPTION, ACCEPTANCE AND USE

Launched at a roundtable discussion featuring FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, the Media and Technology Institute's minority broadband adoption study was the first to report that middle class, higher educated African Americans and Hispanics were increasing their use of broadband Internet to complete basic quality of life functions, such as searching for employment, educational and health care supports. The Joint Center's report also found that these groups were also increasingly consuming content on popular social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

The study found that 94 percent of African Americans and 98 percent of Hispanics who have college degrees are now online, and those college-educated minority Americans who make more than \$50,000 are adopting broadband at the fastest rate of any group in the country. Across all education and income brackets, the report said that 69 percent of African Americans and 58 percent of Hispanics now regularly use the Internet, compared with 79 percent of whites, and that the rate of broadband adoption in African American homes has risen to 59 percent from the 46 percent reported by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project in 2009.

Despite the gains for more affluent minorities, the MTI report also noted lagging broadband adoption for lower-income, older and less educated blacks and Hispanics—with only about a third of them or less regularly using the Internet—and provided new information on how important Internet access and proficiency for members of these groups.

### SEPTEMBER

#### *The Challenge of Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Age*

This article, which MTI authored and contributed as part of the Time Warner Cable Research Program on Digital Communications, conveys how social networks and other Internet communities allow people to become more active in causes they care about than ever before. However, racial and economic disparities in online communities, along with a lingering digital divide that prevents many from accessing the Internet, keep online civic engagement from reaching its full potential. This article further explores the Internet's increasing role in civic engagement and steps policymakers can take to ensure the Internet provides all people opportunities to engage and be heard. Also printed in the *Federal Communications Law Journal*, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Federal Communications Bar Association, December 2010.

### SEPTEMBER

#### *The Need for Broadband Acceptance: A New Policy Framework for Promoting Digital Inclusion*

Despite more than a decade of vigorous advocacy to close the digital divide, millions of Americans still do not have high speed Internet access. Currently, the debate around digital inclusion focuses upon the variables of adoption and use. This paper explores whether the time has come for a new policy framework that introduces the concept of broadband acceptance, focusing on behaviors broadband consumers and non-consumers. It applies the concept of broadband acceptance to policies and strategies to accelerate consumer access, as well as how consumers' expectations of broadband play a role in widespread utilization.





By Manny Diaz and Shirley Franklin  
March 23, 2010

In February, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies released a report on national minority broadband adoption. The statistics were eye-opening. Premised on the notion that research focused primarily on broadband adoption—without considering the underlying factors that influence the behavior of potential users—fails to facilitate minority adoption, the study takes a comprehensive look at broadband usage across several demographic breakdowns within the same racial groups. Unsurprisingly, the study found that age, family income and educational attainment contribute to disparities in access and adoption among minority groups.

## BRINGING MORE AMERICANS INTO THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: A PARTNERSHIP OF THE JOINT CENTER, THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE AND ONE ECONOMY

In April, the Media and Technology Institute entered into a partnership with the National Urban League (NUL) and One Economy Corporation on a two-year project to develop a broadband adoption and digital literacy program for low-income households in 19 communities. The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program* (BTOP) under the American Recovery and Revitalization Act, is centered on a \$28.5 million grant to One Economy and the Broadband Opportunity Coalition (BBOC). MTI and the NUL are the program evaluators and will assess the program's impact on the individuals and households it is reaching. It is hoped that, by the end of the project, 150,000 additional households will have broadband subscriptions, 235,000 individuals will be provided with digital literacy training and nearly 3,000 new jobs will be created.

The BBOC is an historic alliance of civil rights organizations that includes the National Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). The Joint Center provides research support for the BBOC and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) provides legal, policy and PSA placement support.

MARCH 3



## *Open Internet, Innovation and Economic Development* Washington, DC

This forum brought together thought leaders at the intersection of technology, innovation, multiculturalism and economic development to expand the open Internet debate and consider the potential of open Internet principles to increase global participation by more Americans. The event featured FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and Commissioners Michael Copps and Mignon Clyburn and was attended by policymakers and advocates.





*"NOBEL Women, the leading organization representing black elected women in state government, has relied upon the Institute's research for the policies and programs we develop. Their work has helped us position broadband as the great equalizer for women and people of color."*

The Honorable  
Sharon Weston Broome  
National President,  
NOBEL Women and  
President Pro Tempore,  
Louisiana State Senate



**USA  
TODAY**

## **MORE MINORITIES ADOPT BROADBAND**

*February 25, 2010*

The digital divide appears to be narrowing somewhat as well-to-do members of minority groups have flocked to broadband. A national survey from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a research and policy group, found that African Americans and Hispanics who have college degrees and earn more than \$50,000 a year are adopting broadband faster than any other group. About 94% of these African Americans and 98% of the Hispanics have broadband. But a gap still exists for the general population. Some 69% of all African Americans and 58% of Hispanics use the Internet regularly, while the rate among whites is 79%.

MAY 19

### **Roundtable with Blair Levin, Executive Director of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative, Federal Communications Commission**

*Washington, DC*

The Media and Technology Institute organized a stakeholders' meeting that included Blair Levin, who headed the Federal Communications Commission's team that developed the National Broadband Plan, to discuss how the Plan could benefit communities of color and other vulnerable populations. Several agencies and advocates were in attendance, including the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the National Urban League.

# MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

## BLACKOUT: THE IMPACT OF THE DIGITAL AGE ON THE BROADCAST MEDIA

The Media and Technology Institute and Time Warner Cable joined together in convening a discussion on what is in store for cable and broadcast television as new technologies emerge. Topics included reallocation of TV spectrum for wireless broadband, subscription agreements between broadcast networks and cable providers, and the effect that retransmission disputes, especially service interruptions, could have on communities of color.

Representatives from the broadcast television, cable television, advocacy, and policy arenas were represented during panel discussions. Featured speakers included Congressman Bobby L. Rush (D-IL), Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet and Rebecca Hanson, Senior Advisor/Special Counsel and Spectrum Director, National Broadband Taskforce at the Federal Communications Commission.

*"The Joint Center continues to address media and telecommunications issues that legislators such as myself care about, especially those that serve to include people of color and the poor. These communities deserve and require a credible voice like the Joint Center to help us develop effective public policy that we can get behind, support, and get passed into laws and adopted as regulations."*

The Honorable  
Bobby Rush (D-IL)  
United States House  
of Representatives

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FILINGS

As part of its ongoing work, the Media and Technology Institute, on behalf of the Joint Center, regularly files briefs and public comments with the Federal Communications Commission on critical policy matters in which people of color have a stake. Technical comments were filed with the FCC on the following topics:

- Preserving the Open Internet and Broadband Industry Practices
- Universal Service Reform Mobility Fund
- In the Matter of 2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review—Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Framework for Broadband Access to the Internet Over Wireline Facilities
- Framework for Broadband Internet Service

OCTOBER 5



## ***The Smart Grid Promise: Improving Efficiency and Enhancing Quality of Life for All Americans*** *Washington, DC*

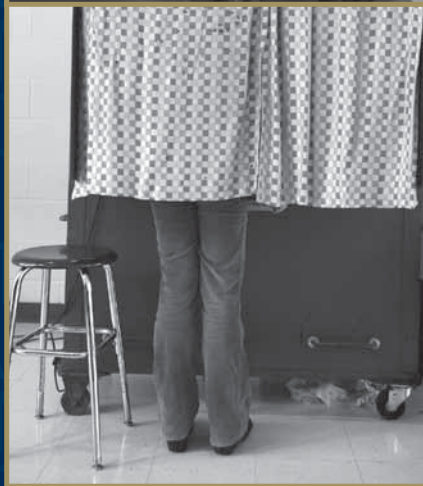
Co-sponsored by the Media and Technology Institute and the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*, the forum presented the U.S. Department of Energy's report on the future of the nation's Smart Grid technology. DOE General Counsel Scott Blake Harris was the featured speaker, and a roundtable of policy, industry, and advocacy leaders discussed the potential of Smart Grid technology to improve the nation's energy distribution system and enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

SPURRING POLITICAL  
PARTICIPATION WITH BLACK  
ELECTED OFFICIALS

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Founded in the wake of the passage of the Voting Rights Act to be an advocate of using the nation's political system to achieve racial equality, the Joint Center continues to be the preeminent source of information on all matters relating to political and civic participation, elected officials and candidates, voter participation and public opinion in the African American community, as well as the impact of black voters on elections.

With the goal of extending past progress and furthering democratic ideals that benefit all Americans, the Joint Center conducts extensive research in areas related to political and civic participation, including voting rights and redistricting, the analysis of racially polarized voting, and the similarities and differences between white and black views on a wide variety of issues. The Joint Center publishes a biennial analysis on the black vote that is widely cited by journalists and academics, and in each presidential election year much anticipated guides to black participation in the two major parties at the federal, state, and local levels.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

## BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS, ELECTION ANALYSIS AND VOTING RIGHTS

Tracking and analyzing the election of African Americans to public office was an important part of the Joint Center's original mission and today remains a major part of its work. The election of black candidates represents a barometer to measure both the health of black political participation and the degree of racial polarization in the United States. Racially polarized voting remains a significant problem in some areas, and is a key indicator of lingering discrimination against African Americans.

The study of racially polarized voting is key to the Joint Center's work in voting rights and redistricting. The Joint Center has a long history of work in these areas, and over the years its scholars have researched and written extensively on these topics, appeared as expert witnesses in federal and state court cases, and have advised and consulted with both black elected officials, and civil rights and legal organizations. In 2010, the Joint Center examined racially polarized voting patterns as part of its election analyses, and it tracked the work of the U.S. Census Bureau and implications for the post-2010 round of redistricting.



### FOR BLACK CANDIDATES, TOP SPOTS STILL ELUSIVE

By Susan Page  
June 15, 2010

MELBOURNE, Fla. — The theory was that Obama's election as president in 2008 signaled a new era for black candidates trying to win statewide contests for senator or governor. Nationwide, the number of African Americans winning major-party nominations for high-profile offices hasn't risen since Obama's election. It has gone down. David Bositis, a veteran scholar of black politics at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, says a lack of a deep bench of African-American officeholders in lower offices also has been a factor in the paucity of nominees for prized offices this year.

And he and others say it was never realistic to expect that Obama's election ...instantly would transform the nation's racial politics. Expectations were oversized when he won: Seven in 10 Americans predicted that his election would make race relations better.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### OCTOBER

#### *In Anticipation of November 2: Black Voters and Candidates and the 2010 Midterm Elections*

Less than three weeks before Election Day, the Joint Center released a report showing that African American voters were strategically located in states and districts where, if they turn out in substantial numbers, they could make a difference in which party controls the House, the Senate and up to 14 governorships. The report said widespread predictions that Democrats would endure sweeping losses may be premature if party leaders played a strong ground game that included persuading African Americans to go to the polls in greater numbers than they had in some other midterm elections.

### NOVEMBER

#### *Blacks and the 2010 Midterms: A Preliminary Analysis*

The Joint Center released the only comprehensive analysis of the black vote in the 2010 midterm elections, *Blacks and the 2010 Midterms: A Preliminary Analysis*, a review of some of the available evidence on what transpired on November 2, 2010, when the Democrats lost their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and at least 19 state legislative chambers, maintained control in the U.S. Senate, and lost several important gubernatorial elections. The black vote was critical to the outcome of some closely contested elections, but not enough in many more. This review focuses on the behavior and significance of black voters in the 2010 midterms; and the changing profiles of black candidates for both federal and statewide office, as well as their performance at the polls.



## PUBLIC OPINION POLLING

Another key element of the Joint Center's Civic Engagement and Governance activities is the polling it conducts of African Americans, whites, Hispanics and of a variety of targeted populations such as states, churches, small businesses, black elected officials, black youth and senior citizens. Since 1990, the Joint Center has surveyed more than 35,000 individuals and institutions on a wide range of issues.

Momentous shifts in voter preferences over the past several years, beginning with the presidential election in 2008 and continuing through the midterm elections of 2010, have put a spotlight on the Joint Center's knowledge and perspectives regarding black politics. During the 2010 primaries, the Joint Center tracked the participation of African American voters and the nominations of black candidates for statewide and federal office.

Once the primary elections were over, and the political terrain was clear for the midterms—and with many media organizations predicting that the Democratic Party would lose both Houses of Congress—the Joint Center issued a report emphasizing the impact that black voter turnout could have in retaining Democratic Party control of critical House and Senate seats.

Following the primary and general elections, the Joint Center released two reports which provided in-depth analyses on the outcome of the midterm elections and the affect on African American politics and representation. The post-election analysis was released at a forum sponsored by the Joint Center and the Economic Policy Institute.

In December, the Joint Center presented, *The Post-Election Status of Black State Legislators* at the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Meeting in Atlanta.



## ARE VOTERS REALLY MOVING BEYOND RACE?

August 20, 2010

From Barack Obama's election as president to a white Congressman fending off African-American challengers in a majority-black district, have Americans moved beyond race as a determining factor in their vote choice?

"I don't believe there's a post-racial America. Not even close," said Dr. David Bositis, a longtime scholar of black politics and voting at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

OCTOBER 14

### ***The Importance of the African American Vote to the Outcome of the 2010 Midterm Elections***

*Washington, DC*

*In Anticipation of November 2: Black Voters and Candidates and the 2010 Midterm Elections* was released to a standing room only roundtable of journalists and other political organizations at the Joint Center. The report received wide media coverage and helped to affect a change in the public discourse regarding the election campaign, the outcome of which resulted in the Republican Party taking control of the House but not the Senate.

NOVEMBER 16

### ***The 2010 Midterm Elections: Implications for African Americans and Other Communities of Color***

*Washington, DC*

The Joint Center released *Blacks and the 2010 Midterms: A Preliminary Analysis* at a national press briefing and policy forum. National experts explored critical policy questions, with particular attention to some of the likely major legislative challenges facing the 112th Congress. Partnering with the Joint Center to sponsor the forum were the Economic Policy Institute and the Institute for Policy Studies.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

## NATIONAL POLICY ALLIANCE

The National Policy Alliance (NPA), comprised of key membership organizations representing black elected and appointed officials at every level of government, was formed in the early 1970s by the Joint Center to provide a forum for discussion and policy action on issues of critical interest in the black community. Today, on issues ranging from job creation and the economy to environmental concerns and equitable access for quality health care, the NPA is active and engaged in giving voice to more than 11,000 African American leaders and the millions of constituents they represent. The Joint Center continues to serve as the convener of the NPA, as well as its primary source for research and policy analysis.

### Member Organizations

Blacks in Government (BIG) | Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) | Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) | Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (NBA) | National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO) | National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBCLEO) | National Black Caucus of School Board Members (NBCSM) | National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) | National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) | World Conference of Mayors (WCM)



### A Unique Military-Civilian Partnership

For the past quarter century, in partnership with the U.S. Army War College (USAWC), the Joint Center has hosted a series of Army officers as fellows who conduct strategic level research and exchange ideas within the Joint Center and among other Washington area think tanks, academic institutions, interagency, governmental and non-governmental agencies, and the senior military and civilian leaders at the U.S. Department of Defense.

The 2009-2010 fellow, Colonel Gregory Dewitt, researched increasing the competitiveness of black officers to succeed to General Officer and released his findings in *Strategic Black Officer Capital Investment: Increasing Competitiveness for General Officer* at the Brookings Institution in March.

Colonel Emma Coulson, the 2010-2011 fellow, is researching gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and its impact on U.S. and global security.

BRINGING NEW  
PERSPECTIVES TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE

## CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

The Joint Center's Climate Change Initiative was established in 2008 to expand the discussion on climate change with the concerns and issues that are most important to African Americans and other people of color. Since its inception, the Initiative has engaged with the policy community and the public through research, domestic and international policy analysis, issue briefings and a series of forums with partners such as the Bipartisan Policy Center, U.S. Forest Service, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, AARP, National Latino Climate Change Coalition and the National Wildlife Federation.

Despite contributing substantially less to greenhouse pollution than the general population, African Americans are disproportionately burdened by the consequences of climate change. They are more likely to experience negative health effects from weather events attributed to climate change, are especially vulnerable to risks associated with increases in energy prices, and would also benefit from job growth associated with the adoption of a clean energy plan.



# CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

## SPEAKERS SERIES

### ENGAGING IN NEW WAYS TO BRING VISIBILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE PRIORITIES

As part of the year-long celebration of the Joint Center's 40th Anniversary, the Climate Change Initiative launched a new signature program, the *Critical Issues in Climate Change Speakers Series*. Consisting of a set of in-depth panel discussions with experts in climate change science, public health, epidemiology, economics, adaptation, and other climate change-related issues, the Speakers Series facilitated interactive discussions with an audience of policymakers, advocates, and others about the effects of various aspects of climate change and climate change policy on communities of color, and served as an invaluable resource for policy ideas, technical information, and relationships.



## ASSESSING THE IMPACT ON VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Vulnerability to climate change differs substantially across regions, communities and even households, and the communities that are most vulnerable to climate change also face poverty, health disparities, and other social inequities. Responding to this, the Climate Change Initiative, with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through its National Forest Service, has initiated a research project—Climate Change, Environmental Challenges and Vulnerable Communities—to assess the impact of climate change and environmental challenges on vulnerable communities, and to recommend equitable and fair solutions to enable them to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This effort represents a first attempt to develop a status report and establish a baseline of current data, research, resources, programs and policies as they relate to vulnerable communities and environmental and climate change priorities.

JUNE 17

#### SPEAKER SERIES

### ***The Green Economy and Clean Energy: Implications from the Gulf Oil Spill***

The panel discussion moderated by Joint Center Visiting Scholar Michael K. Dorsey, Ph.D., featured Arjun Makhijani, Ph.D., President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, shed light on the potential for energy conservation in the U.S., as well as the current limitations placed on the growth of the green economy. Daniel J. Weiss, Senior Fellow and Director of Climate Change with the Center for American Progress, presented his views regarding political barriers that threaten the expeditious implementation of clean energy policies. Leslie G. Fields, Esq., of the Sierra Club and member of the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*, illustrated the necessity to engage communities towards environmental justice efforts.

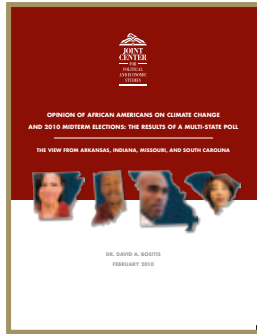
JULY 27

#### SPEAKER SERIES

### ***Climate Change, Human Health and the Well-Being of Vulnerable Communities***

The panel, moderated by Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Executive Director of the American Public Health Association and member of the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*, explored how children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and only coordination across disciplines will make it possible to limit the negative impact on their health and well-being. The panelists Kimberly Thigpen Tart, Esq., National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Mary H. Hayden, Ph.D., National Center for Atmospheric Research and member of the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*; and Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Children's Environmental Health Network.

FEBRUARY



*Opinion of African Americans  
on Climate Change and the  
2010 Midterm Elections: The  
Results of a Multi-State Poll*

In March, the Joint Center released a public opinion survey showing that a majority of African Americans in four election battleground states—Arkansas, Indiana,

Missouri and South Carolina—see climate change as a critical issue that would affect their votes in the November midterms. The findings were released during a briefing with the National Latino Coalition on Climate Change and included remarks from Congressman Bobby Scott, (D-VA) and was hosted by U.S. Representatives Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center.

USA  
TODAY

**AFRICAN AMERICANS WILL PAY HIGHER ENERGY BILLS  
TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING**

By Kathy Kiely

March 3, 2010

African American voters want Congress to enact legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, even if it means higher energy bills, a just-released survey by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has found.

The Washington-based think tank, which tracks voting trends in the black community, also found that African American voters are following this year's congressional races closely and plan to vote in large numbers.

SEPTEMBER 17

**SPEAKER SERIES**

***"Critical Issues in Climate Change" Symposium  
Moving Forward on an Agenda to Combat  
Climate Change***

Held in conjunction with the *2010 Annual Legislative Conference* of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, this event attracted more than 400 leaders to discuss how climate change mitigation efforts can foster new technologies and job growth. Keynote speakers included Dr. Warren M. Washington, Climate Scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research and member of the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*; Lisa F. Garcia, Esq., with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Joe Mendelson of the National Wildlife Federation. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) sponsored the morning session and provided closing remarks.

OCTOBER 26

**SPEAKER SERIES**

***Transportation and Climate: A Path to Recovery  
and Economic Growth***

This event focused on federal transportation policy and its far-reaching impact on the economy, climate and well-being of communities. Participants discussed specific policy options for reforming federal transportation policy so that it helps ensure long-term, sustainable economic growth, energy security and environmental protection.

Speakers included Mayor William D. Euille of Alexandria, VA; James Corless of Transportation for America; Joshua Schank, Ph.D. of the Bipartisan Policy Center; and Jim Tymon of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



# CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

## LEADING THE WAY TOWARD EQUITABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS COMMISSION TO ENGAGE AFRICAN AMERICANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Joint Center's *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*—which brings together leading experts from government, health, industry, civil rights, academia, labor, consumer protection and environmental interests—works to increase understanding of climate change in the African American community and engaging African American voices in conversations about climate change. The Commission has played a significant role in broadening efforts to inform and mobilize the African American community on the issue of climate change.

Over the course of 2010, the Commission advised members of Congress and the Obama Administration regarding energy and climate policy to highlight the implications on African Americans and communities of color. Another important engagement was to continue the Commission's United Nations NGO Observer Status by participating in the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* with a delegation to the COP16 negotiations in Cancun, Mexico.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ralph B. Everett, Esq., *Co-Chair*  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

The Honorable Rodney Ellis, *Co-Chair*  
Texas State Senate and National Commission on  
Energy Policy

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Julianne Malveaux, Ph.D.  
Bennett College for Women

Nia Robinson  
Bennett College for Women

Frank M. Stewart  
American Association of Blacks in Energy

Warren M. Washington, Ph.D.  
National Center for Atmospheric Research

DECEMBER 10

### ***Bridging 21st Century Energy Technologies with Essential Consumer Protections*** *Washington, DC*

In partnership with AARP, the Climate Change Initiative presented a multi-panel discussion at the National Press Club representing diverse perspectives on essential consumer protections needed for successful smart grid and smart meter technologies and energy affordability for the age 50+ population. Speakers highlighted the findings, best practices, and recommendations published

collaboratively by AARP, NASUCA, NCLC, Consumers Union and Public Citizen, entitled *The Need for Essential Consumer Protections: Smart Metering Proposals and the Move to Time-Based Pricing*.

The policy forum included Assistant Secretary Patricia Hoffman, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the U.S. Department of Energy, and featured a keynote address by Commissioner John R. Norris, Esq., a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

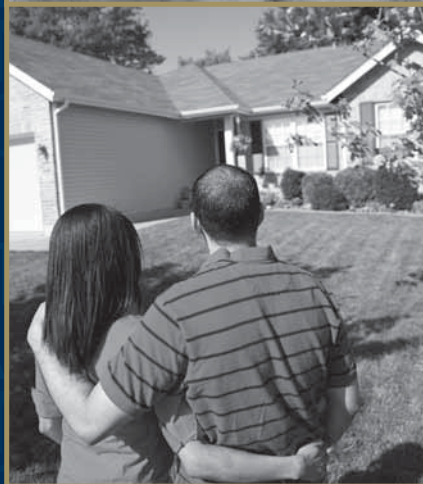


## CLOSING THE WEALTH GAP AND BUILDING ECONOMIC SECURITY OVER A LIFETIME

# ECONOMIC SECURITY

While the recent recession hit hard at virtually every American household, its worst effects were felt in communities of color. And even as the country worked its way into recovery in 2010, it was clear that those communities continue to feel the recession's lingering effects, particularly with regard to high unemployment and falling rates of home ownership. By the end of 2010, the jobless rate for African Americans was more than 50 percent higher than that for the nation at large, while their home ownership rate was less than two-thirds that of white Americans.

The Joint Center looks to create space for the policy making process to address these inequalities and advance solutions that strengthen our economy at all levels and thereby benefit every American household. As a nonpartisan research institution, the Joint Center offers expertise in a variety of key economic areas and produces a body of work tailored to addressing emerging concerns with an eye toward expanding equality and opportunity.



# ECONOMIC SECURITY

## **JOBS IN AN UNCERTAIN ECONOMY**

The Joint Center monitors employment trends among African Americans and other people of color. Its research has looked at improving job prospects for young people, advancement prospects for low wage workers, status and effectiveness of welfare-to-work initiatives, potential of apprenticeship and school-to-work programs, and financing of unemployment insurance.

## **HOUSING AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS**

With the housing market continuing to sputter in many areas in 2010, the Joint Center continued to analyze the impact of the sub-prime mortgage meltdown and resulting banking crisis on minority homeowners and their communities. Key areas of focus were the strengthening of oversight of financial markets and predatory lending practices, as well as studying the effectiveness of various federal and state housing policies.

## **ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

The Joint Center follows trends in economic mobility across racial and generational lines—how education, discrimination, health, family status, wealth, and income volatility drive both upward and downward mobility.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER BENEFITS PROGRAMS**

The Joint Center has undertaken numerous in-depth studies of the Social Security system and its importance to communities of color, as well as the impact of the recent recession on retirement savings behavior. It looks at how public policies regarding social insurance, income support and child support influence the economic well-being of people of color, particularly the elderly, the disabled and low-income families.

## **CONSUMER BEHAVIOR AND LIVING STANDARDS**

The Joint Center looks at the impact of economic gyrations—especially higher energy and food prices—on living standards in communities of color and trends related to stability of family income, as well as public infrastructure and its impact on quality of life and employment opportunities.

*“The underlying cause (income inequality) is that the gains in productivity have been divided more towards corporate earnings and profits than towards the workers and employees. If we had maintained the historical levels and share of sharing productivity gains, the middle- and lower-income part -- portions of the income distribution would have fared much better, and you wouldn’t see this acceleration in the gap.”*

Roderick Harrison, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

*“In looking for ways to enable African Americans and Hispanics to leave the ranks of the chronically unemployed, effective labor market initiatives need to be informed not only by who these would-be workers are (“people”), but also by where they are (“place”).”*

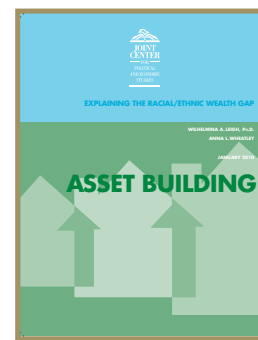
Wilhelmina A. Leigh, Ph.D.

Economist and Senior Research Associate

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

KEY PUBLICATION

JANUARY



### ***Explaining the Racial/Ethnic Wealth Gap***

This report sheds light on the causes of the racial/ethnic wealth gap and provides an answer to the question: “What’s race got to do with it?” Policies that raise or eliminate asset limits in public benefit programs and offer Individual Development Accounts can help improve economic situations.



## The Washington Post

### THE COLOR OF MONEY

#### FOR MANY OF US, THE RECESSION LIVES ON

By Michelle Singletary

September 23, 2010

So it's officially over. Technically, the recession that began in December 2007 ended in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). It was the longest of any downturn since World War II.

Hard times are far from over for the millions of people still out of work, and those who have found jobs but at much lower wages, and those who can only find part-time employment. The slump is not over for those who thought they could retire in the next few years.

The question should also be: Are we accurately portraying the health of the economy and how individuals and families feel about their personal finances?

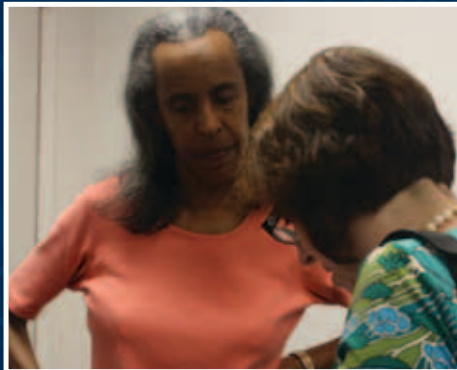
I put that very question to Wilhelmina A. Leigh, an economist and senior research associate for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

"I think perhaps what is needed is to be very cynical about the whole notion of when a recession starts and when it ends," Leigh said.

It would be useful to look not just at the macroeconomic indicators but also at how people are being affected personally, Leigh added. An accurate measure of economic prosperity should factor in the poverty levels. It should consider not just the official unemployment figures but also the many people not counted in Labor Department data. The official unemployment figures don't include the underemployed and those who have stopped looking for work, Leigh said, pointing out that unemployment among African Americans has been notably high for years.

The new prosperity gauge should include those who aren't earning a living wage. Someone who works a 40-hour-a-week job and earns a living wage would be able to afford housing, food, health care, child care, transportation and other necessities of life in a given area, Leigh said. Sadly that's not the economic reality for a lot of people.

JUNE 21



### ***Obstacles to Saving for Retirement***

#### ***National Press Foundation Series on Retirement Issues in the 21st Century***

*Washington, DC*

The Joint Center presented *Obstacles to Saving for Retirement* at this four-day, all-expenses-paid seminar for journalists sponsored by the National Press Foundation. The forum explored the questions, what did we learn and what's best now for people concerned about retirement?, along with troubling trends in government retirement programs; the state of Social Security; and the ways in which some would-be retirees are turning financial setbacks into opportunities.

# ECONOMIC SECURITY

## ASSET-BUILDING POLICY INITIATIVE CONFRONTING AND CLOSING THE WEALTH GAP

Income and wealth disparities are pervasive across American society, as people of color face greater barriers to the types of asset accumulation that can enable them to bridge these divides. Recent data show that people of color have on average only about one-sixth of the net worth of whites, and the impact of this disparity is felt especially during an economic downturn, when savings and other accumulated assets are critically important to weathering hard times.

To address current gaps in existing policies and programs, and particularly their lack of focus on the particular asset-building challenges faced in communities of color, the Joint Center has established an Asset-Building Policy Initiative as part of the Ford Foundation's national initiative, *Bridging Economic Security over A Lifetime*. The Joint Center aims to be an educational catalyst for policy reforms, particularly through intensive work with state legislators, with the goal of narrowing and ultimately closing the "wealth gap" in ways that help more working families in communities of color join and remain in the ranks of the middle and upper-middle class.

Specifically, the Joint Center will work with state and regional coalitions that have been formed with support from the Ford Foundation to plan and hold state-level policy conferences that will serve as forums for discussion and exchange of information and ideas with local and state policymakers—especially policymakers of color—and experts regarding asset-building issues and potential policy solutions.



NOVEMBER 18



### ***40th Anniversary Symposium: "The Journey: How Black America Ages"*** ***National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.*** *Washington, DC*

The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., in recognition of its 40 years of service to African Americans and other minority seniors, invited the Joint Center and other organizations representing the African American aging population to celebrate "The Journey: How Black America Ages" at a symposium and awards luncheon at the Academy for Educational Development. The keynote speaker was national award-winning journalist, author and commentator Roland Martin.



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# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010  
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2009)

	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TOTAL 2010	2009
<b>REVENUE, GAINS AND SUPPORT:</b>					
Special events*	\$1,394,115	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,394,115	\$902,274
Less: Cost of special events	(464,455)	-	-	(464,455)	(464,147)
Special events, net	929,660	-	-	929,660	438,127
Grants and contributions	1,802,123	4,717,037	-	6,519,160	5,007,545
Investment income	83,692	-	-	83,692	273,326
In-Kind Contributions	128,410	-	-	128,410	106,542
Dues, fees and other income	327,927	-	-	327,927	370,056
	3,271,812	4,717,037	-	7,988,849	6,195,596
Net assets released from restrictions	3,432,643	(3,432,643)	-	-	-
Total revenues and support	6,704,455	1,284,394	-	7,988,849	6,195,596
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Program Services:					
Media and Technology Institute	1,205,243	-	-	1,205,243	447,623
Economic Advancement	273,731	-	-	273,731	532,219
Health Policy Institute	3,280,432	-	-	3,280,432	3,595,793
Political Participation Studies	472,682	-	-	472,682	876,788
Climate Change Initiative	641,627	-	-	641,627	450,103
Communication and Marketing	293,386	-	-	293,386	359,764
Total Program Services	6,167,101	-	-	6,167,101	6,262,290
Supporting services:					
Management, Administration, net	287,551	-	-	287,551	195,796
Fundraising	353,026	-	-	353,026	414,259
Total Support Services	640,577	-	-	640,577	610,055
Total Expenses	\$6,807,678	\$ -	\$ -	\$6,807,678	\$6,872,345
Change in net assets	(\$103,223)	\$1,284,394	-	\$1,181,171	(\$676,749)
Net assets, beginning of year	451,052	2,402,201	834,514	3,687,767	4,364,516
Net assets, end of year	\$347,829	\$3,686,595	\$834,514	\$4,868,938	\$3,687,767

\* Special events includes the costs of the annual dinner.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010  
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2009)

	TOTAL	
	2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,897,815	\$3,350,979
Investments	685,587	729,406
Contributions and Grants Receivable	1,599,003	505,076
Accrued interest receivable	1,348	1,241
Other receivables, net of allowances	32,037	-
Prepaid expenses and advances	101,232	58,284
Total current assets	\$5,317,022	\$4,644,986
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Website and equipment	88,299	-
Total assets	\$5,405,321	\$4,644,986
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$135,071	\$249,933
Accrued salaries, benefits, and taxes	260,397	233,583
Other accrued liabilities	85,915	43,863
Unearned grant revenue	25,000	429,840
Deferred revenue annual dinner	30,000	-
Total liabilities	536,383	957,219
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	347,829	451,052
Temporarily Restricted	3,686,595	2,402,201
Permanently Restricted	834,514	834,514
Total net assets	4,868,938	3,687,767
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,405,321	\$4,644,986

The Joint Center is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
The Joint Center also qualifies as a publicly supported organization under section 170(b)(1)(vi) of the code.  
Copies of the audited financial statements are available on request.





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