March 13, 2021

For the past eleven years, Urban Waterways, a collaborative Smithsonian project led by the Anacostia Community Museum, has explored the relationship between urban waterways and their surrounding communities. The project has examined urban development, diverse populations’ relationships with their waterways, community activism, and river ecology. One of the project’s main goals is to provide opportunities for community members to lead discussions and explorations of issues of greatest concern to them, as they work to ensure equitable restoration of and access to natural resources to support healthy, sustainable communities.

The Women’s Environmental Leadership (WEL) seeks to build the capacity for future women environmental leaders. WEL was successfully launched in 2018 through a summit and community forum which brought together a national network of well-established and aspiring environmental leaders to take part in discussions exploring the importance of mentorship, the various educational and career opportunities available to them, and the multitude of ways that leadership can be enacted.

The impacts of Covid-19 on communities worldwide have served to bring into sharper focus inequities which are the consequences of centuries of systemic racism whose socioeconomic disparities have resulted in communities of color experiencing a disproportionate burden of Covid-19 cases and deaths. Today’s panel, Environmental Advocacy amid Dual Pandemics, seeks to explore the importance of acknowledging the Environmental context in which these ongoing pandemics have taken place. If the past year has served as a reminder of the interdependence which is at the center of thriving communities, to what extent have the ongoing efforts of those who view their Environmental work from an intersectional lens served as a warning to the realities of the present?

ACM is pleased to have the support of PEPCO as a Contributing Sponsor of WEL for the 2021 fiscal year. We look forward to working with them and our network of steadfast supporters to continue to strengthen and move the program forward.

**Event Schedule**

1:00 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. Welcoming Remarks, Katrina Lashley, Program Coordinator, ACM

1:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Panel Discussion

2:20 p.m. - 2:55 p.m. Audience Q &A

2:55 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks
Moderator

Dr. Marva E. King—who holds an MPA from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University (GMU)—is a leading expert on and contributor to efforts to promote environmental justice in America. In 2017, Dr. King retired from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where she had long served in various positions including: Advisor to the Assistant Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice (EJ) and Community Revitalization; EJ Coordinator in the Office of Air and Radiation; Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of EJ; Co-Chair of the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program; and Program Manager for the National Environmental EJ Council.

From 2018-2020, Dr. King served on a GMU Health and Climate Solutions team supporting community work for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. King has earned numerous prestigious awards including the 2017 EJ Trailblazer Award, 2010 EPA Gold Medal for the CARE Program, and the 2010 Children’s Environmental Health Network’s Child Health Advocate Award. Most recently she has moderated and presented via zoom meetings with community organizations, academia, non-profits, etc., Currently, she is the Treasurer on Coming Clean, Inc.’s Board of Directors.

Panelists

Nakisa Glover, founder of Sol Nation, is a native of Charlotte, NC. She works to raise awareness about climate justice threats as well and she advocates for real SOLutions on behalf of the communities she serves. She holds a biology degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Ms. Glover has built a track record as a community organizer, with years of experience in corporate, community and service-based roles. These roles include Girls Who Code as a Regional Partnership Coordinator, as well as with Hip Hop Caucus as the Think 100% Organizer. She has been recognized as a 2019 Grist 50 Fixer, a 2019 Martin Luther King Jr Growing The Dream Award recipient, and a 2016 Clean Air Carolina Airkeeper Award winner, joining North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Dr. James Kenny and other business leaders.
Ms. **Rita T. Harris** has been a social justice and environmental justice activist for 30 years. She has worked over the years with a wide array of organizations, including the Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, the NAACP, and the League of Women Voters.

She has worked professionally with community groups and church groups, assisting them with organizing strategies around issues related to air toxics, clean water, solid waste, and other environmental justice concerns. Appointed to serve on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) from 1997-2001, she served on the Enforcement Subcommittee, and the Federal Facilities Workgroup. Ms. Harris was appointed to participate on EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) School Air Toxics Monitoring Workgroup in 2009-10. Harris was again appointed to serve on the EPA NEJAC in 2016, and is fulfilling a second term that will end in 2022.

Ms. Harris retired in 2017 after 18 years of work as an Environmental Justice Regional Organizer with the Sierra Club based in Memphis, TN. She currently serves on the Sierra Club’s National Board of Directors.

**Jacqueline Patterson** is the Director of the **NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program**. Since 2007 Patterson has served as coordinator and co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women’s Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women’s rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV & AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies.

Patterson holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the International Committee of the US Social Forum, the Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Center for Story Based Strategy and the US Climate Action Network.

Dr. Deanna Wathington is a public health practitioner and family medicine physician. She most recently served as the founding Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Bethune-Cookman University and as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. She previously served as Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, as the Director of Minority Health for the Florida Department of Health, and as Associate Dean for Academic Enrichment for the USF College of Medicine. Dr. Wathington earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School (now known as Rutgers University – New Jersey Medical School), Master of Public Health from Temple University, and baccalaureate in Zoology from Rutgers University. She completed residency training in Family Medicine at JFK Medical Center, NJ and Bayfront Medical Center, FL. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Wathington currently serves as chair of the Executive Board of American Public Health Association and medical director of a Volunteers in Medicine free clinic for the working uninsured. She previously served on the Region IV Southeastern Health Equity Council. She is a member of the founding editorial board of the Journal of Healthcare Transformation. Her work and scholarly efforts have centered on health equity, clinical-community linkages, equitable community development, infant mortality disparities, community health initiatives, women’s health, and expanding diversity within the health professions. Dr. Wathington brings over 30 years of practice and academic experience in the field with emphasis on collaboration across multiple sectors to address community health and equity issues. She has served as principal investigator and co-investigator on federal, state, county, and foundation grants. Her scholarly work includes peer-reviewed articles, abstracts, books, book chapters, and panel reports. Dr. Wathington is the recipient of an AAMC GIA Award of Excellence, the Health Promotion and Advocacy award from the Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), and most recently, the 2020 Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health award.

Resources


Urban Waterways website  https://anacostia.si.edu/urbanwaterways/voices/

Reclaiming the Edge Exhibition brochure  


2020 WEL Lectures WEL Lectures
Moving Toward Climate Literate Communities  
https://video.ibm.com/channel/329111/video/WEL92020

STEAM Education: An International Case Study  

Moving Toward Climate Literate Communities  
https://video.ibm.com/channel/329111/video/WEL92020

Climate Justice, Advocacy, and Faith: Developing an Ecological Justice Ministry
https://video.ibm.com/recorded/128307508
Universities as Partners in the Fight for Health & Food Equity
https://video.ibm.com/recorded/128577347

**Nakisa Glover**
https://www.solnation.org/
Season 1 Ep 21: Local Solutions for Stronger Communities w/Nakisa Glover

Truth2Power 4 U Episode 8
https://www.facebook.com/truth2power4u/videos/truth2power-4u-episode-8/413419412439526/
Paths to Positive Communities-Environmental Justice is Racial Justice guest blog
https://pathtopositive.org/environmental-justice-is-racial-justice/

**Rita Harris**
Environmental Justice And COVID-19: Some Are Living In A Syndemic
Rita Harris Environmental Justice Pioneer…
University of Memphis and the Sierra Club Team up to Promote Education, Advocacy & Activism at Grassroots Environmental Conference

**Jacqui Patterson**
Discussion with Jacqui Patterson, Senior Director of the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP 10/15/2020
My Climate Journey Episode 95
https://www.myclimatejourney.co/episodes/jacqueline-patterson
#OurSolutions: Conversation with Jacqui Patterson (NAACP)
https://wedo.org/oursolutions-conversation-jacqui-patterson-naacp/
Climate Justice is Racial Justice is Gender Justice
https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/just-transition/2017/08/18/climate-justice-is-racial-justice-is-gender-justice/

**Dr. Deanna Wathington**

Black Women and Public Health
https://blackwomenandpublichealth.net/

**Other resources**
COVID-19 and Environmental Justice: A Call to Action

COVID-19 and Environmental Justice