

Function Report

Location and date of the event:

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists,

Orlando, Florida

5/21/-5/27/13

What was the purpose of the event? *“Paths to Building on Our Future.”* The goal was to empower and educate members to face the struggles and obstacles ahead, in the Public, Private, and Building Trades Sectors of the Labor Movement, envisioning arming hundreds of Unionists with the skills to advance and promote the Labor Movement in their homes, shops, and communities. **BLACK LABOR LEADER SAYS IT’S TIME TO “RE-BOOT” FOR GROWTH & ACTIVISM**

What new things did you learn? We learned many things at the conference such as:

- I learned how much hard work is put into a conference (not that I doubted it prior but I had the hands on experience)
 - Conference VIP Host: assisted with the guest speakers and assuring their: presence in the conference in a timely fashion, created a welcoming atmosphere, any AV/Materials were appropriately distributed, appropriate seating available, ushered them to platform and provided all hosting needs.
 - The Women’s Committee meeting for committee heads introduction of new National Women’s Committee chair, provided feedback on our local chapter (alongside with Zola Brown), brainstormed future plans for local and national chapters, feedback on luncheon, and issues and concerns with CBTU as a whole/
- **MLK 50th Anniversary** : The importance of being able to reach people globally with labor and fighting for their rights in employment, education, immigration, social and civil justice. The importance of union leaders to attend or create an event on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King marched on Washington August 28th for our rights in employment, voting and many other issues.

- **Health Reform:** The importance of health reform and knowing federal, local and states effects on Medicaid: How Medicaid is paid, who is funding it and next steps.

- **Partnerships:** The importance of connecting with community, faith, government, and unions to make a difference I the community. How it continue to be a issue but once connected becomes a stronger force of power to make change. (something FSW is greatat)

- **Education: Stopping the School Drop-out Crisis in Black Communities**
 educational panel that discussed the importance of education and numbers of African American and Hispanic youth dropping out and the importance of informing the youth about trades.
 - A resolution was introduce to get unions involved with more with youth and eliminate the increase in unemployment for youth.

 - best solutions for this crisis, focusing on the role of early education, especially the third and fourth grades, one of the most important periods for the development of critical skills, especially reading.

- **Elections and College Students: My Right, My Vote: Forward Not Backward!**
 Protecting the rights of voter was discussed throughout the conference with a discussion of being more involved in the community election and laws of voting--- *age discrimination and college youth voting on campus and getting rights taken from them at home.*

- **Immigration: Immigration "Dreamers"** - children of immigrant and their rights- WE CAN DREAM TOGETHER, developing a scholarship for DREAMERS and taking a stand on immigration laws and issues.
 - How to travel to Cuba you must have a special license with 13 catagories or be a teacher, unionist or legal government. How president can not change not change the laws in CUBA- no African American owned shops.

- . Haiti's wages are \$5 a day and housing cost is \$3000.00 a monthly.
- **NIKE:** How it takes \$1.50 to make a pair of NIKE sneakers and cost over \$100.00 to customers:
- **Economic Development :** *Jim Carr* www.jameshcarr.com middle class needs, never using the unbanked, housing economics and research on homelessness, foreclosure among high income African Americans and Hispanic and foreclosure crisis, housing and development policies
- **Workplace Violence:** t health and safety issues and concern that are on arise and ALL workplaces and violence in the workplace increasing steadily.
 - Canada made a resolution on violence against women.

How can you apply what you have learned to your union role? This conference had many facts, learning tools and issues that were address and can be used in a variety of ways with every position in the union from President, steward, health and safety, civil rights and so on. The wiliness to share carries a greater aspect in what was learned because all is useful information when dealing with our members, training the elected, appointed representative of the union and the community as a whole. We can apply all the knowledge to other so that the information can be utilized in the workplace, union, community, churches, schools and organizations. Unions education and trades shall also be a greater push for our schools and community to our youth.

How did your attendance at the function benefit members? The knowledge obtained at this conference benefits the members in many ways because of the diverse information that was learned or obtained- workplace violence, economic development, immigration, community access/partnership, trades and import all are areas in which will benefit union representatives to have knowledge in to better serve their members.

Ineabelle Geena Cruz

IUE/CWA Federation of Social Workers Chair for Health & Safety