



MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release - April 21, 2015

Contact

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Members Announced; Work to Begin

Charlotte, NC - Foundation For The Carolinas, Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, the John M. Belk Endowment and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation today named twenty-one community volunteers to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force.

"We are grateful to these volunteers who bring a valuable mix of skills and expertise, a variety of perspectives reflecting our community's diversity, and a commitment to broadening economic opportunity for all in Charlotte-Mecklenburg to this work," states Novant Health physician Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, Co-Chair of the Task Force.

"Between now and late 2016, the Task Force will work together to craft actionable recommendations that can broaden access to economic opportunity for all in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Our work will begin by learning and listening to gain insight, and we will actively engage the community throughout the process in a variety of ways," states US Bank executive and Task Force Co-Chair Dee O'Dell.

The public is invited to learn more, sign up for participation opportunities and receive updates at www.opportunitycharmec.org.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force

Mrs. Crandall Bowles

Retired CEO, Springs Global

Dr. David Chadwick

Pastor, Forest Hill Church

Mr. Jeff Conway

Franchise Owner, Ruth's Chris Steak House

Mr. Esteban Echeverria

Attorney at Law

Dr. Michael Friedland

Founder, Friedland Foundation Physician, Carolinas HealthCare System

Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown (Co-Chair)

Physician, Senior Vice President of Community Outreach, Novant Health

Mr. Dale Gillmore

Chief Financial Strategist, Make an Impact Consulting, Inc.

Dr. Tisha Greene

Principal, Oakhurst STEAM Academy

Mr. Alvaro Gurdian

Systems Administrator, La Noticia

Ms. Grazell Howard

Strategic Business Consultant, King Kairos

Ms. Marianne Lyall Knusel

Senior Coordinator, Adult ESL, Central Piedmont Community College

Mr. Ron Leeper

President & Owner, R.J. Leeper Construction

Mr. Matt Martin,

Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Rev. Clifford Matthews

Pastor, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Ms. Felicia McAdoo

Chief Deputy, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

Ms. Symone McGee

Teacher, Sugar Creek Charter School

Mr. Dee O'Dell (Co-Chair)

Senior Vice President, US Bank

Ms. Kate Payerle

Attorney, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson

Mr. Andrew Plepler

Global Corporate Social Responsibility Executive and Consumer Policy Executive, Bank of America

Mr. Barry Sherman

Social Worker, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

Dr. Ricky Woods

Minister, First Baptist Church West

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Co-Chair Media Availability (MEDIA ONLY)

Tuesday, April 21 2015; 10:30 am – 11:00 am; Dial-In: (877) 662-7634; Pass Code: 8929323#