



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 2011

CONTACT: Robin L. Douglas

914-699-9050

**BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS HONORED AT  
15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AWARDS DINNER**

White Plains, NY – The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties is scheduled to host its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Dinner Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the Westchester Manor, located at 140 Saw Mill River Rd. (Rt.9A), Hastings-on-Hudson, NY with a cocktail reception followed by the awards and dinner at 7:00 pm. Local political and business leaders in six categories will be honored for their contributions to the African American small business community. Mr. Michael Blake, former Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement & Deputy; Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; currently serving as National Deputy Director for the Obama 2012 campaign will deliver the Key Note Address. Mr. Michael Clay, Director of Opportunity Programs Group for DASNY will serve as Master of Ceremony.

“We are thrilled to honor such exemplary community and business leaders in Westchester and Rockland County who continue to serve as role models not only in the minority community but the business community as a whole” said Robin Douglass, President of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

The 2011 dinner honorees include: Mr. Ron Busby, President/CEO of the United States Black Chamber will receive the Business Leader of the Year award; Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr., President/CEO/Founder of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. will receive the M/WBE Advocate of the Year award; Ms Marilyn D. Johnson, V P Market Development for IBM will accept the Corporate Partner of the Year award; the Hon.Lyndon D. Williams, Vice Chair of the Westchester Board of Legislators will receive the Westchester Political Leader of the Year award, Dr. Lesia U. Batorfalvy, Dentist will receive the Rockland Business Leader of the Year award and Mrs. Wylene Wood will receive the Rockland Community Advocate of the Year award.

The 2011 dinner is sponsored by: Silver sponsor IBM; bronze sponsors Empire City Casino & Dormitory Authority for the State of NY; supporting sponsors Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and the MTA; table sponsors: School Construction Authority and Skyline Communications in addition to community supporter the A'Vitar Foundation. Music will be provided by Reggie Woods Soul Street Band. Desert will be sponsored by G & K Sweet Foods and cocktails provided by the members of the Association of Black Alcohol Beverage Companies. For tickets information visit the Chamber's website at [www.aaccnys.org](http://www.aaccnys.org) or call 914-699-4749.

The AACCCWR, Inc, was established on June 28, 1996 as an independent not-for-profit agency to aid, counsel and protect the interest of African American businesses. The mission is to preserve competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

As a volunteer organization, the Chamber's members are individuals and businesses who work together to advance the commercial, financial, industrial and civic interests of a diverse community. The Chamber sponsors small business seminars, networking events and procurement diversity workshops. Topics range from financial planning, marketing and business management. To learn more about the African American Chamber of Commerce and membership information visit [www.AACCCNYS.org](http://www.AACCCNYS.org).

###