

25TH ANNIVERSARY *gala*

PROGRAM BOOK

Celebrating Women in Leadership

Thursday, June 6th, 2019

Marriott Marquis

901 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

TIS



TO INSPIRE
STRONG
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

*Feeding, Empowering, & Transforming the
Lives of Families in Poverty since 1994*

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#TISGALA



Celebrating 25 Years of Service

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- Professional & Technical Staffing
- Administrative Staffing
- Support Staffing

SELECT CLIENTS:



MOTIR is a privately-held, minority-owned, 8(a) graduate, economically disadvantaged, total small business headquartered in the District of Columbia.

Welcome

Ogechukwu (Ogay) Irono



Founder and President,
TIS Foundation

Emmanuel O. Irono



President & CEO, Motir Services

Diane Edith Watson



Former U.S. Representative

To Our Celebration

TIS



TO INSPIRE
STRONG
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION

Message From The Chairman



Emmanuel O. Irono
Chairman

Congratulations to the TIS Foundation Family on 25 years of service. As the board chair, I am deeply moved to be a part of this incredible milestone. TIS Foundation's mission is my passion. The Foundation was founded as the non-profit arm of my company, MOTIR Services, a DC-based, local disadvantaged, multi-discipline, mission-critical organization, back when I first began my business here in Washington, DC in 1994. Today, it remains the primary benefactor of our philanthropic giving, receiving up to 20% of our net profits each year. We need more corporate partners to join us in this commitment

In my role as board chair, I have seen the TIS Foundation's work up close and met many individuals benefiting from your hard work in the community. Whether it has been meals for families, toys for children during the holidays, scholarships to college, or jobs provided to unemployed individuals, TIS Foundation has been on the ground helping those most in need. Unfortunately, the need is not diminishing, but increasing as the wealth divide continues to grow in underserved neighborhoods. Good housing is unaffordable, homebuying is nearly impossible and low-wealth residents are being forced to leave the city to be able to have a place to live.

I am grateful for what our limited resources have been able to provide thus far. However, there is much more we can do and must do to ensure marginalized people have a fighting chance to overcome intergenerational poverty, poor housing conditions, inadequate educational services, illness, and joblessness.

TIS Foundation is committed to doing its part. Tonight, we celebrate our past and ignite our future with a bold new vision. Our new Transformation Agenda is a game-changing solution to stop the cycle of poverty and move individuals and families toward economic empowerment and independence here in The District. Our solution is research-based, comprehensive and strategically designed to retain diversity in the city, increase high school and college graduation rates, reduce intergenerational poverty, create jobs, build businesses help people stay healthy and live in good, affordable homes in safe neighborhoods! We look forward to sharing more about our future vision with you in the near future and hope you will support our efforts.

I would like to congratulate each of tonight's extraordinary honorees, particularly, my long-time friend, Lifetime Achievement Honoree, the Congresswoman Diane Watson. It is an honor to share this evening with you. I would also like to recognize all of our international friends who traveled from Africa and around the world to be with us tonight. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Enjoy the evening!

Message From The Founder & President



Ogechukwu (Ogay) Irono
Founder and President, TIS Foundation

The last 25 years of the TIS Foundation have brought tremendous challenges, wonderful successes and new insights that will chart the future path of our organization. Through it all, we have strived to fulfill our mission to revitalize high-poverty communities through the delivery of essential support services, innovative educational and workforce development programs, and creative entrepreneurship opportunities to high-need families.

We remain committed to serving the Washington, DC region where we have built strong community relationships. Our work has taken us across the globe to the highest areas of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and the most economically disadvantaged urban centers. These experiences lead to a reimagining of our strategic vision for the promotion of gender and economic equality and the transformation of people and communities. We believe this vision can be achieved through evidence-based, comprehensive programs that serve the whole person regardless of their education and income level and recognizes their individual barriers.

One size does not fit all when it comes to providing solutions to poverty, violence, joblessness and illness, trauma, incarceration and the many causes of socio-economic arrest and decline. Our goal is to identify, test and scale the solutions that work and put them in action where they are needed most around the country in economically depressed communities and urban areas in the United States.

As we continue to refine our strategy, we are identifying essential national and grassroots partners with proven models of success in addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality, health disparities, violence, crime, and other critical issues affecting high-need people in the U.S. and Africa. To that end, TIS Foundation has identified core strategic pillars that will guide its path toward transformation: Education, Workforce Development, Entrepreneurship, Health, and Crisis Intervention. Our programs will continue to serve children and adults while emphasizing the empowerment of women.

Ultimately, our goal is to understand and remove barriers that limit or prohibit individuals from obtaining wealth, living healthy lives as equal citizens in their community, and moving up the socio-economic ladder.

Through these pillars, we pledge a commitment to:

- Improve educational outcomes for students in low-wealth communities
- Create jobs in economically depressed communities
- Build bridges to business ownership for those unlikely to succeed through traditional paths
- Develop relevant job skills among low-wealth individuals that will meet workforce demands
- Reduce vulnerability to disease and mortality

We believe through these comprehensive, customized services in partnership with grassroots organizations, private industry and government, we can dramatically improve economic conditions in our most challenged neighborhoods around this city.

Thank you for celebrating this special night with the TIS Foundation Family!

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS

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KAREN BASS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
37TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-7084

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4929 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 650
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010
323-965-1422

June 6, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I welcome all of the attendees at the 25th Anniversary Gala for the TIS Foundation. TIS Foundation has strived for a quarter-century to lift families out of poverty, both in the United States and on the African Continent through its partnership with the African Community Bridge Foundation.



I am pleased to warmly congratulate tonight's Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, my friend, former Ambassador and Congresswoman, Diane Watson. Her life is one long story of what an individual can do when she devotes her talents to serving others and improving the lives of those around her. I often learn anew how deeply she is loved and esteemed: in the international community; in Los Angeles; in the Black community; among students, educators, faith leaders; and by nearly everyone who has had the privilege of knowing her or benefitting from her work on behalf of those in need.

I wish everyone the very best on a memorable event.

Best wishes and congratulations,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Congratulations
To Inspire (TIs) Foundation
25th Anniversary

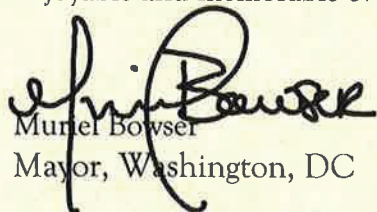
June 6, 2019

As Mayor of Washington, DC, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to To Inspire (TIs) Foundation on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary.

Since 1994, TIs Foundation has provided essential services and programs to youth and families in high poverty communities, to help improve their quality of life not only in Washington, DC but across the country and various African nations. This anniversary is a significant milestone in the history of this organization and represents the dedication and commitment to assist the underserved.

As you gather to celebrate your accomplishments, you will also be presenting your lifetime achievement award to Congresswoman Diane Watson for her tireless dedication and commitment to help create pathways to economic development for those less fortunate.

On behalf of the residents Washington, DC, you have my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC





COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS



**Congratulations to MOTIR, Inc. and the TIS Foundation
on your 25th Anniversary!**

June 6, 2019

I am pleased to extend greetings to **MOTIR, Inc.** and the **TIS Foundation** on the occasion of your **Silver Anniversary!**

Let us acknowledge and celebrate your mission to provide support services that inspire and uplift vulnerable youth and families in need across the District of Columbia. Your continued commitment to empower and expand opportunities for our youth through scholarships, International Exchange, athletic and enterprise programs are of great value to our city and its people and will forever transform lives and enrich communities.

Please give yourselves a huge round of applause for 25 successful years of service to the residents of the District of Columbia. Special congratulations are extended to all of tonight's outstanding women leaders being honored, especially the phenomenal Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A man cannot sit down alone to plan for prosperity. -Nigerian proverb

Sincerely,

Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20004 · Suite 404
Office: (202) 724-8064 · Fax: (202) 724-8099



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

ROBERT C. WHITE, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER, AT-LARGE
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES AND PROCUREMENT



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of MOTIR, Inc. and the TIS Foundation!

May 29, 2019

As an At-Large member of the Council of the District of Columbia, it is my honor to congratulate MOTIR, Inc. and the TIS Foundation on celebrating their 25th Anniversary!

I write with great excitement to highlight the unique opportunities your program provides for individuals and families through the essential support services, innovative educational and workforce development programs, and creative entrepreneurship opportunities. With the support and resources that MOTIR, Inc. and TIS Foundation provide, there is no doubt that low income families will continue to make significant strides across the District of Columbia, and around the globe.

I especially want to extend compliments to each of the phenomenal leaders being honored for their commitment and service to their respective industries.

Please accept my best wishes for continued success and fulfillment on this very special occasion.

Sincerely,

Robert C. White, Jr.
Councilmember, At-Large
Chair, Committee on Facilities and Procurement
Council of the District of Columbia



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

VINCENT C. GRAY
Ward 7 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Health

Committee Member
Business and Economic Development
Finance and Revenue
Judiciary and Public Safety



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO TIS FOUNDATION
ON YOUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

As former mayor and current Ward 7 Councilmember, it is a honor to extend my congratulations to the TIS Foundation on your 25th anniversary. Providing economic empowerment programs and crisis support to over 20,000 disadvantaged families over the last 25 years, in Africa, as well as here in the District is remarkable!

Anniversaries are great times for reflection. They also provide the perfect opportunity for the TIS Foundation to examine its collaborative progress and prepare for future endeavors.

I was delighted to learn about the TIS Foundation's family and youth centered initiatives which focus on filling a gap in struggling families' critical basic needs through community outreach, emergency assistance, health services, educational enrichments, workforce development and entrepreneurship programs. I am certain youth and families locally and abroad are positively impacted by the foundation's initiatives.

Again, I congratulate the TIS Foundation on your 25th anniversary. I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray



Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember, Ward 4
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations

Committee Member
Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment
Recreation and Youth Affairs

Congratulations to MOTIR, Inc. and the TIS Foundation on 25 Years of Excellence

June 6, 2019

On behalf of the residents of Ward 4, I would like to congratulate MOTIR, Inc. and the TIS Foundation on their 25th anniversary.

The TIS Foundation, along with support and resources from MOTIR, Inc. provides critical support services to low income families throughout the District of Columbia and globe. These services have and continue to empower underserved communities to reach new heights. Specifically, the family and youth centered initiatives help move families from crisis to stability, encourage positive youth development, and create entrepreneurship opportunities. We are all so appreciative of the incredible work that is being done.

To the leadership team, I am confident that with your direction, the TIS Foundation will continue to improve lives and make a positive impact around the globe. Please know that in me, you will always have a friend on the Council of the District of Columbia.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon T. Todd".

Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember, Ward 4





COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TRAYON WHITE, SR.



Congratulations!
TIS Foundation

June 6, 2019

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary and long-standing achievements in the District of Columbia as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

TIS Foundation has made substantial contributions in Ward 8 over the past couple decades including the 1,000 Turkey Drive during Thanksgiving, collaboration with MPD's Seventh District Christmas Gift Giveaway and your year-round skills training program. The TIS Foundation's support to youth and families through education, community outreach and workforce development has not gone unnoticed and will continue to have lasting effects on the Ward 8 community. Thank you for your service and the excellent work you do.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Trayon White, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 8



Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.
President



May 23, 2019

Greetings and Congratulations!

On behalf of Bowie State University's (BSU) campus community, I extend my heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Ogay Irono and the TIS Foundation upon the celebration of your 25th Anniversary. We are appreciative of all of your efforts to support higher education and for your recognition of the value of our historically black colleges and universities.

I am humbled and honored to share in the celebration and to have BSU chosen as one the TIS Foundation's Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) institutional scholarship award recipients. Your gracious support of BSU ensures that generations of BSU students will continue to have access to an affordable quality educational experience.

As the first historically black institution of higher learning in Maryland, Bowie State University has provided a pathway to economic prosperity and growth for students and their families for over 150 years; and with educational partners like the TIS Foundation, our students have the much-needed resources to enhance their quality of life through continued education and professional development.

Thank you for championing HBCU's and transforming lives through the gift of education here in the United States and throughout Africa.

Happy 25th Anniversary!

Sincerely,

Aminta H. Breaux

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Ms. Ogay Irono
Executive Director
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Irono,

On behalf of the Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), congratulations to the TIS Foundation on its 25th anniversary. I join you in recognizing the outstanding honorees for their leadership at the 25th Anniversary Gala Celebrating Women in Leadership.

This occasion is particularly special to ECSU because TIS Foundation's co-founder, Emmanuel Irono, is a graduate of our institution. We could not be prouder than to have one of our own set such a wonderful example of using one's success to give back to the community. We applaud you for your generosity and compassion.

As one of the recipients of TIS Foundation's newly established HBCU Scholarship Program, we are excited and proud to be a part of this initiative. Our students and our institution thank you for this generous gift.

Best wishes to TIS Foundation for another 25 years of advancing opportunity!

Sincerely,



Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Office of the Chancellor
1704 Weeksville Rd. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

p: 252. 335. 3228 | f: 252. 335. 3731 | www.ecsu.edu

ECSU is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 21, 2019

Ms. Ogay Irono
Executive Director
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Irono,

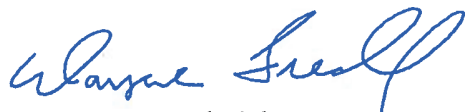
On behalf of the Howard University community, I congratulate the To Inspire Strong Families and Communities (TIS) Foundation on your 25th Anniversary Gala celebrating women in leadership. It is a timely and purposeful responsibility to recognize the brilliance, fortitude, and power of women leaders being honored during this milestone event. We are delighted to be included on your special night.

Regardless of means and background, every talented student should have access to a world-class education. Howard University is also honored and excited to be selected as a recipient of TIS Foundation's first-ever TIS Foundation Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Scholarship Program.

With this initiative, you are setting an extraordinary example of how HBCU graduates can give back to our institutions while helping current students obtain their college degrees. I admire the dedication and commitment to Howard that ensures we remain inclusive, dedicated to service, and academically rigorous.

I extend every good wish to the TIS Foundation and its Executive Director, Ogay Irono, on this auspicious occasion.

Excellence in Truth and Service,



Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D, MBA
President





Office of the President

Friends,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to join one of the foremost voices for the revitalization of high-poverty communities at this milestone event, celebrating the TIS Foundation's 25th anniversary. Since its beginning in 1994, the TIS Foundation has provided the necessary critical support services and economic empowerment programs to families in crisis throughout our nation and abroad in Africa. Tonight, we not only celebrate 25 years of Foundation success under the dedicated leadership of its president, Ogay Irono, but also the leadership of women in general. Congratulations to all being honored on this occasion for their many contributions.

Morgan alumni, as a whole, are exceptional givers, and their efforts in supporting alma mater are worthy of the highest praise. Morgan alumnus and TIS Foundation co-founder, Emmanuel Irono, is building upon this great legacy of support through the availability of the TIS Foundation HBCU Scholarship Program. The resources provided through this program will aid in the removal of financial obstacles for Morgan State students in need of additional funding to graduate.

Morgan State University is experiencing a period of tremendous growth and change, from our academic offerings and our students' achievement to our research work to our facilities, and beyond. The support that we receive from organizations like the TIS Foundation remains a major reason for these successes. My heartfelt congratulations to the TIS Foundation for its continued services and reaching this impressive anniversary in your organization's history.

I look forward to the Foundation's continued evolution as well as the future initiatives that will undoubtedly make a significant difference serving others and giving something back.

Warm regards,

David Wilson
President

1700 E. Cold Spring Lane • 400 Truth Hall • Baltimore, MD 21251 • (443) 885-3200 • Fax (443) 885-8296
Maryland's Preeminent Public Urban Research University



Office of the President

May 21, 2019

Ms. Ogay Irono
Executive Director
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Irono:

On behalf of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), I want to personally congratulate the TIS Foundation as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary Gala, which is such a major milestone in your service to the community. We admire your commitment, and we are honored to be one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) selected to receive the TIS Foundation's inaugural HBCU Scholarship Award!

UDC shares your mission of providing opportunity to individuals who are striving to succeed. Like you, we believe that college degrees open crucial doors along that pathway. The TIS Foundation's scholarship support will help clear financial barriers that many students at UDC face in their pursuit of higher education.

Many thanks for your generous gift, and for your leadership in helping women around the world succeed.

Sincerely,

Ronald Mason, Jr.
President

ASPIRE. ACCOMPLISH. TAKE ON THE WORLD.

4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Administration Building 39, Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202.274.6016 ▪ www.udc.edu ▪ Facsimile: 202.274.5304

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PAGNEPR



TIS Foundation *25th Anniversary Gala*



Thursday, June 6th

6:00 PM

**At the Marriott Marquis
901 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001**

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Gala Program

25 Years . . . And Just Getting Started

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Marriott Marquis
Washington, DC

OPENING

Eastern High School Choir
Eastern High School, NE, Washington, DC

HOST OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Renee Allen
TV & Radio Host

COMEDIC PERFORMANCE

Chris Thomas
Comedian

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Fahnlohnee R.H. Tate
Singer

HONORARY GALA CHAIR WELCOME

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. Representative and
Congressional Black Caucus Vice Chair

SPONSOR WELCOME

Emmanuel O. Irono
President & CEO, MOTIR Services, Inc.

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Effa Emmanuel
Pastor, World Royal City Church

Dinner Served

GREETINGS

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive for Prince George's County

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Flavour
International Recording Artist
Semah G. Weifur
Singer

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO LIBERIAN NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE BLIND

Presented by: Emmanuel Irono and Ogay Irono
Founder & President, TIS Foundation

Flavour and Semah G. Weifur

WOMAN IN COMMUNITY AWARD

Presented by: Candiace Dillard-Bassett
of Real Housewives of Potomac and Ogay Irono

Layli Miller-Muro
Founder & CEO, Tahirih Justice Center

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Gala Program

25 Years ... And Just Getting Started

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Marriott Marquis
Washington, DC

WOMAN IN BUSINESS AWARD

Presented by: Sophia Pierce, Jessica Herrera-Brown and Ogay Irono

Kenya Pierce

Co-President & COO, Inglet VB

WOMAN IN LEADERSHIP

Presented by: Miss United States
Andromeda Peter and Ogay Irono

The Honorable Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi

First Lady of the Democratic Republic of Congo

WOMAN IN CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Presented by: Orlan Johnson President,
TJC Consulting Group LLC and Ogay Irono

Melonie Johnson

COO, MGM National Harbor

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented by: U.S. Representatives Karen Bass
and Eddie Bernice Johnson & Ogay Irono

The Honorable Diane Edith Watson

Former U.S. Representative

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

TIS Foundation Inaugural HBCU Scholarship Awards
Presented by: Emmanuel and Ogay Irono

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux

President, Bowie State University

Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick

President, Howard University

Dr. Karrie G. Dixon

Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr.

President, University of the District of Columbia

Dr. David Wilson

President, Morgan State University

CLOSING REMARKS

Ogay Irono, TIS Founder and President

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

April Sampe, Singer and Song Writer

POST GALA CONCERT

Flavour, International Recording Artist

Dinner Menu

First Course

Lump Crab & Avocado Tian with Roasted Corn
served with a Spiced Tomato Salsa and a Chili Vinaigrette

(made vegetarian upon request)

Main Course

A Duet of

Three Day Marinated Beef Short Rib &
Seared Halibut with a Citrus Glaze
served with Celery Root Puree, Beech Mushrooms,
English Peas and an Haricots Verts Bundle

Finale'

Vanilla Cheesecake with Apple Butter and
Petite Gingerbread Squares

Limited Vegetarian Main Course upon request

Warm Quinoa Salad served with Garlic Spinach and an
Haricots Verts Bundle

Honorary Gala Chair

The Honorable Karen Bass

U.S. Representative & Congressional Black Caucus Vice Chair



Karen Bass
Representing the 37th District of California

Congressmember Karen Bass was re-elected to her fifth term representing the 37th Congressional District in November 2018. Congressmember Bass serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs where she is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressmember Bass is also working to craft sound criminal justice reforms as well as protect intellectual property right infringements that threaten the economic health of the 37th District. Congressmember Bass also serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

During her fourth term, Congressmember Bass solidified leadership positions on two issues very close to her heart: reforming America's foster care system and strengthening the United States' relationship with Africa. In her first term, Congressmember Bass created the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth along with co-chair U.S. Representative Tom Marino (R-Pa.), and intends to examine national standards of care in the child welfare system.

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

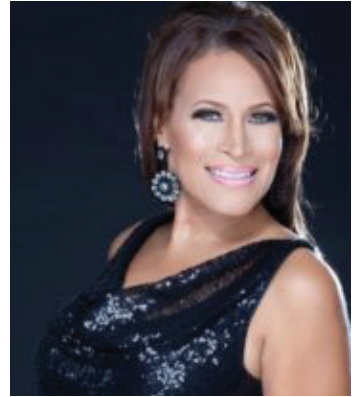
Gala MC

Dr. Renee Allen

THE PEOPLE'S EMCEE

As host of the Renee Allen & Friends Show on WLVS Radio and Co-Host of the Chris Thomas Show with Dr. Renee on Urban One. She uses her platforms to connect like minded people. Known for her philanthropic heart & dedication to the betterment of humanity; she is super excited about the TIS Foundation! "Her Voice exemplifies positive magnetic energy, love for all people and all continents, and she is sought out for many prestigious events."

Featured in the second edition of Who's Who in Black Washington, DC, as one of the "Women of Excellence," she is an international best-selling author. Dr. Allen is a proud (22) year retired VETERAN who served two Presidents of the United States on the METU Mayo-Clinic Team and she loves this country! She is a very proud mother of one amazing son, Chase



Invocation

Dr. Effa Emmanuel

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, WORLD ROYAL CITY CHURCH

Dr. Effa Emmanuel is the President and founder of World Royal City Church, one of the fastest growing churches in Nigeria, with branches in Africa and in the United States. A political scientist turned pastor, he is a well travelled Conference speaker and life coach. Dr. Emmanuel is a pastor to Presidents, Governors, Captains of industries, and business owners around the world.

He is a church planter with great passion for souls, a motivational speaker, a philanthropist, and an author. His apostolic vision has fueled his travel to over 50 nations, preaching the Gospel, and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with his generation. His daily devotionals; Favorite, and Daily Strength, are read daily by millions of people around the world.

Dr. Effa Emmanuel is the covener of Extraordinary

Wonders, an annual event that gather Pastors, Leaders, and believers from around the world in Abuja, Nigeria. His

"What is God saying " (WIGS) Prophetic Conference held quarterly in the USA, Africa and Asia, and He also presides over international Prophetic Prayer Network, a network for intercessors from different nations of the world.

Prophet Effa Emmanuel, as he is fondly called is married to Pastor Elis Effa and they are blessed with children. Dr. Effa currently functions as the senior pastor of World Royal City Church Abuja Nigeria, and Chairman of Love Africa Foundation.



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Red Carpet Hosts

GIZELLE BRYANT

REALITY STAR OF "THE REAL
HOUSEWIVES OF POTOMAC"

Gizelle is currently a television personality and recurring cast member of the hit Bravo show, "Real Housewives of Potomac." Gizelle is the proud founder of EveryHue Beauty, a skin care line geared toward women of color. Born in Houston, Texas and raised in Washington DC, Gizelle has a heart for politics, philanthropy and activism while always embracing her entrepreneurial spirit. Currently, she presides over numerous endeavors geared toward improving the lives of women and children. Her greatest gift and passion, however, is being a mother to her three beautiful daughters, Grace, Angel, and Adore.



GUY LAMBERT

RADIO AND TV PERSONALITY

Guy Lambert is one of the most recognized voices in Washington DC radio. Currently serving as the news director and anchor for The Joe Clair Morning Show, his distinct and captivating voice delivers entertainment, community, and political news stories across the airways every weekday morning on Washington DC's hit music station, WPGC 95.5 FM. Guy is also the host of Community Focus, a one-hour weekly community affairs show that highlights people and events of influence to the local community.



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Presenter

Candice Dillard Bassett

FORMER MISS UNITED STATES
REAL HOUSEWIVES OF POTOMAC STAR



Candice Dillard Bassett is a sassy and savvy 32-year-old former Miss United States, hailing from Atlanta, Georgia. At an early age, the Real Housewives of Potomac star learned what excellence looked like from observing her parents, who served in the United States Air Force and worked in different facets of the medical field. A graduate of Howard University, she served a tenure in the White House Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, where she liaised between the White House and the African American community for President Barack Obama. She later traded in her suit and heels for the campaign trail, where she served as a staffer for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. In 2013, Candice won the crown and title of Miss United States and hasn't looked back since.

Her award-winning independent film debut cast her as the spicy Dr. Nicole St. Claire in *Water In A*

Broken Glass. You can also catch her as Victoria in season two of the web series, *Pivot*

and in the Hollywood International Moving Picture Film Festival Nominated short, *On the Edge*. She will make her lead actor and co-producer debut this summer in a new independent feature called *The Cure*.

As an entrepreneur, she is the founder and CEO of Candice Dillard Pageant Consulting, cofounder of Prima Hair Collection by Candice Dillard, and co-owner of Chateau Salon Suites. In 2009, she also founded an organization called My Sister's Keeper, a mentorship and women's empowerment organization designed to give young girls the opportunity to interact with women in their communities. Candice is married to her best friend, restaurateur Chris Bassett.

Entertainer

April Sampe

SINGER, SONGWRITER AND ULTIMATE ENTERTAINER

April Sampe is a woman who knows what she has, where it came from, where she's going and how she got it! Oh, and she knows what to do with it too! She will be opening for Flavour.



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Presenter

ANDROMEDA PETERS

MISS UNITED STATES

Miss United States 2018 is Andromeda Peters. Andromeda touts a Master's Degree in Social Work and Bachelor's in Psychology with a minor in Theatre. No stranger to the stage, she became active in theatre at age 11 and remains passionate about writing, acting, and singing today. This penchant for the arts gave way to her interest in modeling and is signed with MMG NYC. Outside of the industry, Andromeda also works as a psychotherapist with a concentration in mindfulness and her very own self-love curriculum. As a therapist, Andromeda was led to her platform which is her movement Your Mind Matters where she teaches others that mental health is just as important as physical health.



Andromeda runs workshops for women and teaches them self-care tips and provides mental health resources, as well as safety tips taught female police officers so that women feel empowered. She also teaches students the signs on when and how to seek help for themselves and others, and mindfulness techniques such as meditation. Andromeda's passion lays in letting our country know that by asking for help makes you brave.

Entertainer

Chris Thomas

COMEDIAN

Known as BET's Original, hip-hop King of comedy, original Host of BET's rap city original host of Kings of comedy tour, and second time comedy award winner. HBO Special with Academy Award winner Whoopi Goldberg and Jamie Foxx. The Chris Thomas Show w/ Dr. Renee on 104.1 AM & 95.9 FM



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Special Guest The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson U.S. Representative



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is serving her 14th term representing the 30th District of Texas. Congresswoman Johnson is the first African-American and woman to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and is the Dean of the Texas Congressional delegation in addition to serving as Dean of the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona Democratic Congressional Delegation. Congresswoman Johnson is the highest ranking Texan on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman Johnson began her career as the first female African-American Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas. In 1972, she became the first nurse ever elected to the Texas State House, and achieved that same distinction upon her election to the Texas Senate in 1986. From 2011 to 2018, she served as the Science, Space and Technology Committee's first African-American and first female Ranking Member.

Congresswoman Johnson has a reputation as a stateswoman who works with both parties to get things done – a reputation earned during her more than 40 years in public office. Congresswoman Johnson is widely recognized as one of the most effective legislators in Congress, credited with authoring and co-authoring more than 177 bills that

were passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the president. She has a long-standing reputation for providing excellent constituent services to the people who elected her. She is the founder of the Diversity & Innovation Caucus, the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus of Bosnia. Congresswoman Johnson had the honor to serve as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 107th Congress. Her acclaimed initiative, A World of Women for World Peace, has gained national and international recognition.

Congresswoman Johnson is the proud mother of one son, Kirk, and grandmother to three grandsons, Kirk Jr., David, and James.

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Special Guest

Sylvanus Nsofor

NIGERIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Sylvanus Adiewere Nsofor, a retired justice from Nigeria's Court of Appeal, assumed the office of his country's ambassador to the United States on November 13, 2017. It's Nsofor's first ambassadorial posting.

Nsofor was born March 17, 1935, in Oguta, Imo State, Nigeria. He graduated from London's now-defunct Holborn College of Law in 1962 and added an LL.M from the London School of Economics in 1964.

He began teaching at Holborn College of Law in

1964 and went into private practice the following year.

In 1977, he was appointed to the bench in Nigeria and served as a judge of the Imo State High Court. He spent the last 13 years of his career, until mandatory retirement in 2005, as a justice on the Court of Appeal of Nigeria.

Nsofor is married and has three children.



Special Guest

Angela D. Alsobrooks

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Aproud, life-long Prince Georgian, Angela was raised in Camp Springs and now resides in Upper Marlboro with her daughter, Alex.

After graduation from the University of Maryland Law School, Angela began her career as a Prince George's County Assistant State's Attorney in 1997, eventually becoming the county's first full-time prosecutor.

In 2002, Angela was appointed by the County Executive to serve as Education Liaison, where she organized educational forums to help increase parental involvement in schools and environmental based learning opportunities.

In 2003, she was appointed the Executive Director

of the county's Revenue Authority. Under her leadership, the agency increased revenue by 40% through their parking enforcement program and some of those funds were used to help the county maintain a balanced budget during the recession.

In 2010, overcoming a two-percent name recognition against a field of candidates who had all run for public office previously, Angela, by an overwhelming margin, was elected to serve as the county's State's Attorney, becoming the youngest and first woman to be elected to the office in Prince George's County.

In November, Angela was elected as the 8th County Executive for Prince George's County and the first female to hold the position.



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Featured Entertainment International Recording Artist Flavour

Flavour, who is well known for his ability to sing fluently in the Igbo language, was born in Enugu State, Nigeria. His family is originally from Umunze in Orumba South LGA, Anambra State, Nigeria. Flavour began his music career at the age of 13 when he started playing the drums for his church choir in Enugu. The resident pastor at his church introduced him to Chris I. Ordor, the CEO of SoundCity Communications. In 1996, Flavour was invited to join the company on an educational scholarship to study music. After three years of playing the drums, Flavour started playing the drums professionally. In 1999, Flavour moved on from playing the drums and started playing the keyboard. He also provided backing vocals for other musicians at SoundCity.

In 2005, Flavour released his debut album *N'abania* through Obaino Music. The album's success was relative to Eastern Nigeria, particularly Enugu State. Flavour collaborated with Mr. Raw on the album's lead single titled "N'abania".

Following the success of his debut album, Flavour released *Uplifted* in 2010. Flavour believed the album would surpass his previous works and his projection came true. When the album broke national barriers



Lolhiphop Records, an established record label in South Africa, released the album after popular demand.

His third album *Blessed* was released on 18 October 2012 through 2nite Entertainment and iROCKING LTD. *Thankful* was released in December

2014. The album consists of 22 tracks *Thankful* sold thousands of copies and features hit tracks such as the love ballad "Ololufe" featuring Chidinma and the fast-tempo Afro-Pop song "Wake Up" feat. Wande Coal. *Ijele The Traveller* is the latest album released in 2017 it contains 17 tracks. In 2018 he issued two singles, "Crazy love" "Yemi Alade"



Semah G. Weifur
SINGER



THE GOVERNOR
IMO STATE
Nigeria

3rd June, 2019

Mrs Ogay Irono

President

TIS Foundation

Washington DC, United States

Dear Madam,

A GOODWILL MESSAGE.

It is with great pleasure that I convey to you the warm felicitations of the government and people of Imo State, on your remarkable 25 years of charity work in the United States and Africa.

I also extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Congresswoman Diane Watson, on her well-deserved TIS Foundation lifetime achievement award. It is undoubtedly an eloquent testimony of her untiring efforts to uplifting underserved communities in the United States and Africa, particularly her partnership in Nigeria in education and capacity building.

May I also congratulate Congressional dignitaries and captains of industries from across the United States who are part of this epoch making event and to inform them that our new Imo State under my leadership is open for business. I encourage them to come partner with us across the vast economic spectrum and opportunities in our State, while assuring that we are earnestly committed to enlightened democratic practice, transparency and global best practices.

Again, more grease to your elbows, Mrs Ogay Irono, President of TIS Foundation.

Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha CON, KSC
Governor

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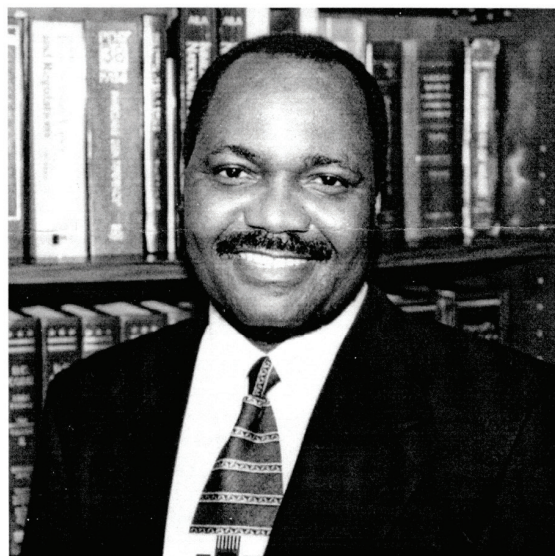
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Honorees List

LAYLI MILLER-MURO

Founder & CEO, Tahirih Justice Center

Honorary Woman in Community

MELONIE JOHNSON

COO, MGM National Harbor

Honorary Woman in Corporate Leadership

KENYA F. PIERCE

Co-President & COO, Inglot VB, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist

Honorary Woman in Business

DENISE NYAKERU TSHISEKEDI

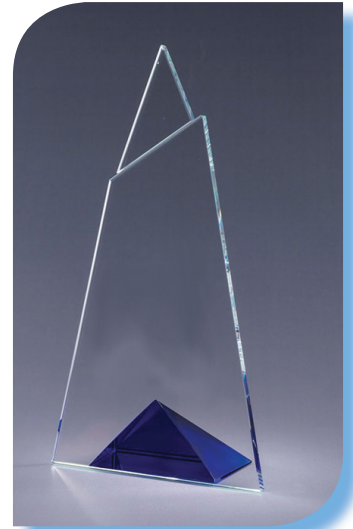
First lady of Democratic Republic of Congo

Honorary Woman in Leadership

DIANE EDITH WATSON, PH.D.

Former U.S. Representative for
California 33rd Congressional District

Honorary Lifetime Achievement



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Honorary Woman in Community

Layli Miller-Muro

Layli Miller-Muro is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Tahirih Justice Center, which provides free legal services and engages in advocacy on behalf of immigrant women and girls fleeing human rights abuses. In its 22nd year and with 5 cities across the United States, Tahirih has protected over 27,000 women and girls who courageously refuse to be victims of violence. Layli founded the organization in 1997 following her involvement as a law student in a high-profile case that set national precedent and revolutionized asylum law in the U.S. The case was that of Fauziya Kassindja, a 17-year-old girl who had fled Togo in fear of a forced polygamous marriage and a tribal practice known as female genital mutilation. After an uphill legal battle, Fauziya was granted asylum in 1996 by the US Board of Immigration Appeals. This decision opened the doors to gender-based persecution as grounds for asylum. Using her portion of the proceeds from a book she and Fauziya co-authored about the case (*Do They Hear You When You Cry?* Delacorte Press, 1998), Layli established Tahirih. Prior to joining Tahirih as Executive Director, Layli was an attorney at the law firm of Arnold & Porter where she practiced international litigation and maintained a substantial pro bono practice. Prior to joining Arnold & Porter, Layli was an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of



Founder and CEO,
Tahirih Justice Center

Immigration Appeals. Layli was named *Newsweek* / *Daily Beast*'s 150 Most Fearless Women in the World, Goldman Sachs's Top 100 Most Innovative Entrepreneurs, and won the Washington Post Award for Management Excellence. She lives in Virginia with her husband and three young children.



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Honorary Woman in Corporate Leadership

MELONIE JOHNSON

Melonie Johnson is the President and COO of Maryland's newest and most successful entertainment and gaming resort, MGM National Harbor. She is responsible for developing strategic direction for the popular destination, overseeing daily operations of the 308-room hotel: the culinary, entertainment and convention programs; an expansive gaming floor and; and the 4,000-member workforce.

Ms. Johnson's expansive career boasts key leadership positions at resorts throughout the United States. She has worked for MGM Resorts since 2015, serving most recently as President and Chief Operating Officer of Gold Strike Casino Resort in Tunica, Miss. The Gold Strike Tunica operation achieved record performance under Ms. Johnson's leadership, where she established a service-oriented culture and strategic plans that ensured both short- and long-term goals were accomplished.

Ms. Johnson's was also previously an Assistant General Manager at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia, Chief Financial Officer and Interim General Manager at Hollywood Casino Aurora in Illinois, and Regional Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Finance for Caesars Entertainment Corporation.



COO, MGM National Harbor

Ms. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of New Orleans.



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Honorary

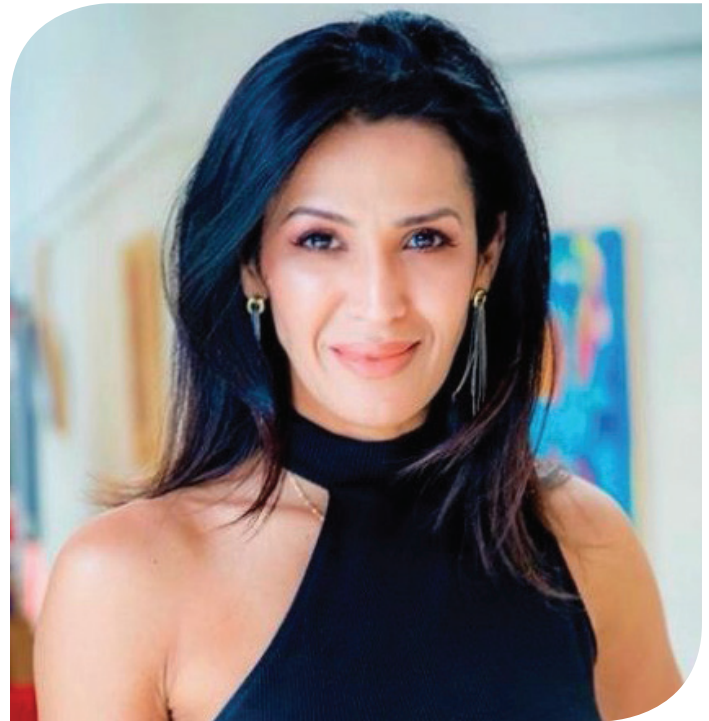
Woman in Business

KENYA F. PIERCE

Kenya F. Pierce is an entrepreneur with over 18 years of experience in Business Management, Development and Marketing. She has co-founded several successful companies in diverse areas including The Interamerica Group, a business and government management consulting firm in Washington DC., Bella Baby USA, a children's apparel retail business, and Voulez Beauté (INGLOT USA), exclusive US partner of Inglot Cosmetics, where she is the Co-President and Chief Operating Officer. Kenya has lead projects both internationally and in the United States and has provided management consulting services for both government and the private sector.

Kenya is a champion for women empowerment and equality. She is a member of several non-profit and women empowerment organizations including Wonder Women in Tech, Latinas 4 Latinas, Knock Out Abuse Against Domestic Violence, and The Capital Speakers Club. She has served as the Vice-president to the Opera International Guild, a non-profit with the mission to raise funds for students of music, Young Musical Scholars. Through the years, she has mentored several young business professionals and has partnered with and spoken to prestigious educational organizations such as Georgetown University Business School, and the Deca Business Program.

Kenya worked actively on the 2017 tax reform bill,



Co-President & COO, Inglot VB
Entrepreneur & Philanthropist

addressing Congress on tax issues detrimental to small business sustainable growth and advocated for improved environment for small businesses in general. Kenya's political experience is derived from her position on host committees of several presidential and senatorial fundraising events and presidential inaugural activities.

Kenya resides in the Washington D.C area since 2000 when she moved from Brazil to work at Interamerican Development Bank. There she worked on projects regarding environmental law, legislation, and regulations for the Central and South America region.

Kenya was born in Brazil where she studied Law and Business. Besides English, she is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

INGLOT

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Honorary

Woman in Leadership

Denise Nyakeru
Tshisekedi

Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, is the new First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Denise is from the BASHI tribe of South Kivu province in Eastern DRC. She has been involved in helping people who are poor, disenfranchised and suffering from health care issues most of her life. Academically, she has been trained as a nurse in institutions of higher learning in London and Brussels. As a result of her substantial achievements and academic training, she is blessed to speak fluently English, French, Swahili, Tshiluba, Lingala and Kikongo.

At a very young age Denise suffered a severe tragedy with the loss of both of her parents by way of a traffic accident in the industrial district of Bukavu in the DRC. Denise states that it was only her religious connection with God that provided her the spiritual guidance and stability for her life, but also a renewed commitment to lift up her people by any means necessary. Her desire as First Lady is to be a beacon of hope for her community and take a leading role in the areas of women empowerment, education for all, and healthcare initiatives. The First Lady has always been a champion for the dignity of women, since she herself gave birth to many girls.

Some of her close supporters have remarked that the biblical verse from Proverbs 18:22 accurately describes the relationship between her and Felix



First lady of Democratic Republic of Congo

Antoine Tshisekedi, the 5th President of the Democratic Republic of Congo who was just sworn to office in January of this year. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtained favor of the Lord". It would have been difficult to not see the natural love and affinity the President and the First Lady have for each other with the beautiful kiss and embrace after the President took the oath of office. Denise believes that God wanted her to have an active part in the success of her husband. It is her dream to support her husband in his Presidency and elevate the Congolese woman and their families to heights that have yet to be seen.



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Diane Edith Watson, Ph.D.



Former U.S. Representative for
California 33rd congressional district.

Diane E. Watson is a former representative for the United States Congress. In her previous capacity, Ms. Watson honorably represented the 33rd Congressional District, and its constituents, located entirely in Los Angeles County. The District includes much of Central Los Angeles, as well as, such wealthy neighborhoods as Los Feliz. Ms. Watson worked proudly as an elected official for 25 years. She served in the California State Senate for 20 years, and was appointed by former President Clinton as United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia until 2001. She was then sworn in as a member of Congress after the death of Congressman Julian Dixon, who possessed the seat for 22 years. In 2003, Ms. Watson was sworn in as a member of the 108th Congress. She attributes her success in her role to her education, goal-oriented nature, and the support she has received from her family. Ms. Watson consulted with the public and kept a close eye on the local government as well as foreign affairs. As an expert on the management of the health and education department, Ms. Watson utilized her proficiency in these areas, and knowledge gained from prior positions as a psychologist, professor and health occupation specialist, to champion causes that would encourage the progression of the great United States of America.

Ever committed to serving numerous causes that would benefit her country, Ms. Watson has

continued to acquire skills that have contributed to the broadened development of such worthy causes as health care advocacy, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. With a deep-rooted past in the public school system, Ms. Watson has maintained a lifelong loyalty to the field of education, having built a legacy within the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. She was the first African-American woman to serve on the board, and her endeavors to strengthen academic standards and to increase school integration initiatives rendered her a renowned advocate for academic success among students across an array of populations. Given Former Congresswoman Watson's extraordinary impact and sweeping achievements over her career in the United States and abroad, TIS Foundation could not think of a more worthy recipient of its Inaugural Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award.

LEGEND Diane E. Watson

*LA School Board Member, State Senator,
Ambassador, Congresswoman and Educator*

By Yussuf Simmonds (Managing Editor L.A. Sentinel)
Originally Published November 10, 2011

In announcing the Honorable Diane E. Watson as the recipient of the 2011 Thurgood Marshall Award that was given to her by the Bunche Center at UCLA, Dr. Darnell M. Hunt, the center's director wrote in the Bunche Review, "...no single issue consumed more of our collective energy during the year than the continuing crisis African Americans face in education. It was this issue that motivated the Center to select the Honorable Diane Watson as our 2011 Thurgood Marshall lecturer..."

Though U.S. Congresswoman Watson (retired) is well known through the many elected and appointed offices that she has held over the last 40 years, education is always been one of her priorities. For example, as a representative in 2008, Watson played a key role in securing \$2.5 million in grants for job training in the entertainment industry trades at West Los Angeles College (WLAC), located in her district.

Her commitment to education was also illustrated when she authored HR 2553, "the Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2007," that was designed to provide diplomats abroad with additional tools to show the world the best of American society – a need Watson must have learned about as a U.S. Ambassador.

"Former Congresswoman Watson is a major inspiration for her unyielding commitment to improving the lives of Angelinos. She has served as a trailblazer in her work domestically and abroad as a member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board, in the California Senate, as U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia and in the United States Congress."
Congresswoman Bass

A native of Los Angeles, Watson was educated at Dorsey High School, Los Angeles City College and the University of California, Los Angeles, where she earned her B.A. in Education (1956) and became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Watson also earned an M.S. From California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) in School Psychology (1967) and a Ph.D. in Administration from Claremont Graduate University in 1987. She also attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Watson started her career with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) as an elementary schoolteacher, then an assistant principal and a school psychologist. She has lectured at California State University, Long Beach and CSULA, and was a health occupation specialist with the California Department of Education's Bureau of Industrial Education. Her background as an educator allowed her to hold teaching positions in the U.S. Armed Forces School in Okinawa, Japan and France. In addition, Watson also served as an associated professor at CSULA.

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She was first elected as a member of the LAUSD school board (1975 to 1978) where she fought to desegregate the L.A. public schools. Then she served as a member of the California Senate from 1978 to 1998, (the first Black woman to serve in the state Senate). As chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, Watson gained a reputation as an advocate for health care for the poor and children before she was “termed out.” Back in 1988, when the U.S. government proposed the addition of the category of “bi-racial” or “multiracial” to official documents and statistics, some African American organizations and African American leaders such as Watson and the late Representative Augustus Hawkins were particularly vocal in their rejection and opposition of the category. They were concerned about massive defection from the African American self-designation.

In 1992, Watson ran for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. After a hard-fought campaign that sometimes turned negative, she narrowly lost to former Supervisor Yvonne Burke.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed her as the U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia where she served from 1999 to 2000, before returning to the U.S. to run in a special election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Julian C. Dixon. She was elected to the U.S. Congress and served from 2001 to 2011. She has been overwhelmingly re-elected

four times, but retired after the end of the 111th Congress. Watson served as the U.S. representative for California’s 33rd congressional district – located entirely in Los Angeles County and included much of Central Los Angeles – where she has been a lifelong resident and a member of the Democratic Party.

Sources say that Watson brought an array of experience and a commitment to excellence in managing the affairs of her constituents, and foreign affairs. Her background as an educator and a former ambassador added to her resume as a “states-woman.” In the 110th Congress in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Watson helped to redeem the status and prestige that the United States had lost around the world in recent years. She stated, “While U.S. foreign policy clearly is a key factor in how we are viewed abroad, an important part of regaining our rightful leadership role is to find more effective ways to let the world know who we are as Americans and what we stand for.”

Her work committee assignments included the Foreign Affairs Committee; the Oversight and Government Reform Committee; the Congressional Entertainment Industries Caucus; the Congressional Korea Caucus; and the U.S.-UK Caucus. She had been a strong voice for military withdrawal from Iraq and expanding welfare coverage.

While in Congress, she also opposed consolidation among the giant media conglomerates that may have resulted in media monopolies or unfair competition in the marketplace.; supported expanding welfare coverage; opposed then President George W. Bush’s proposal to privatize Social Security, and the Bush tax cuts, saying they were unaffordable. She was one of the 31 members of the House who voted not to count the electoral votes from Ohio in the U.S. presidential election, 2004.

Not only did Watson work on behalf of her constituents, she also took on issues of concern in other areas. On the issue of Cherokee Freedmen membership in the Cherokee tribe, Watson noted

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that 20,000 Cherokee lived in California. She opposed the Cherokee Nation's March 2007 vote to amend its constitution to limit membership to only those descendants with at least one Indian ancestor on the Dawes Roll.

As a congresswoman, she traveled to the African continent to forge closer ties with both continents and to increase the awareness of American values through film and mass media communication. And to Haiti to assist the people there after a horrific earthquake devastated its capital resulting in mass human death and destruction.

Watson urged President Barack Obama signed H.R. 5450 to rename the Crenshaw Post Office in honor of Los Angeles' first Black mayor, the "Tom Bradley Post Office." At that time, she said, "I am pleased that the President signed this bill to rename the Crenshaw Post Office in honor of a person who dedicated his life to public service. The Tom Bradley Post Office will serve as a testament to his unprecedented years of dedication to the city of Los Angeles."

When she decided to retire, Watson spoke to the Sentinel about her plans saying, "I have been in elected office for over 30 years and I have decided this is the right time to retire. So I'll be in the Congress until the end of the year and at that point, I'll think about what I want to do with the rest of my life." And about for her future plans, she continued,



"I have been very fortunate over the years to work with the Honorable Diane E. Watson whom I consider a mentor, colleague and friend. She has had a long and distinguished career in public service." Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

"Though I'm retiring, I'm always open to serve my president and my country."

To her constituents at the Year End Legislative Review Event, she stated: "It is my pleasure to thank all my constituents for giving me the opportunity to represent the 33rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives over the past ten years. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me for these many years as your voice in the United States Congress," said Watson.

President Obama issued the following statement on her retirement: "Diane Watson has spent her life fighting for families in Los Angeles, especially those who too often didn't have a voice. Diane blazed a historic trail from the L.A. public schools to the United States Congress where she continued to work to improve health care, education and opportunities for countless Americans. While we will miss her distinguished voice in Congress, Michelle and I extend our thanks to Diane for her service and our best wishes to her and her family for the future."

While at an event, former Congresswoman Diane Watson was introducing her then apparent successor to the 33rd congressional district, Karen Bass – who is now Congresswoman Bass – described how she saw in Bass, years ago, the kind of person who she would trust to replace her in Congress. She also mentioned that newly-elected Assembly-member Holly Mitchell

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“I don’t think that this area has known another policy maker that loves the community as she loves us. All you have to do is look in the room and see all the people who have surrounded her. I can’t express how much we love her and how much we’ll miss her.” LAPD Assistant Chief Earl Pay Singer

would be replacing Bass and in describing the transition from herself to Bass and from Bass to Mitchell, Watson referred to it as “lifting while you climb.”

Congresswoman Bass said, “Former Congresswoman Watson is a major inspiration for her unyielding commitment to improving the lives of Angelinos. She has served as a trailblazer in her work domestically and abroad as a member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board, in the California Senate, as U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia and in the United States Congress. I was extremely honored when Congresswoman Watson advised me to serve in the State Assembly and moved when she suggested I run for her seat in Congress. I will do my best to continue her legacy in Congress as a dynamic leader with incredible grace and integrity.”

Dr. Mervyn Dymally, former assemblyman, state senator, lieutenant governor, congressman, and a school teacher colleague of Watson’s at LAUSD, stated: “Diane Watson cut her teeth with the ‘Select Twelve,’ that I founded as a teacher, while working for the Kennedy presidential campaign, upon her return to Los Angeles from Germany where she had a teaching assignment. The group was headed by early feminist, Portia Craig, who was the den mother of the

‘Select Twelve.’ From that time until now, she and I have remained friends as she moved to the LAUSD, State Senate, Ambassador and U.S. Congress. At a public meeting in the auditorium of Dorsey High School, where she graduated, she gave me credit for helping her become U.S. Ambassador of Micronesia.

“When she ran for Congress, I was chair of her campaign; interviewed for an article, I said, ‘Citizen Diane Watson is a public servant of deep commitment who believes in reconciliation, not confrontation. She is someone who has tremendous class and was a productive legislator in Sacramento and the US Congress.’ I am proud to call her ‘friend’.”

Nathaniel “Nat” Trives, former councilman and mayor of Santa Monica, university professor, and a colleague of Watson stated: “I had the privilege of meeting Diane when she was a student at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles and used to visit Calvary Baptist Church in Santa Monica where I also attended. I knew then she would make her mark in society as pioneer for social justice issues, the foremost being educational equality for all. Our paths crossed again in the 1960’s when we were both students a California State University, Los Angeles, she pursuing an M.S. in Psychology and me pursuing a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

“After having been elected Mayor of Santa Monica in 1975, I continued my relationship with this great lady, and my wife, Ida, and I were delighted to be among her many supporters in her bid for a seat in the California State Senate in the fall of 1977. After a distinguished career in public service, the Honorable Diane Watson retired from the U.S. Congress with many honors being bestowed on her, our friend, Diane Watson.”

Back when Watson announced her retirement, some of her supporters and colleagues had these comments:

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas: “I have been very fortunate over the years to work with the Honorable Diane E. Watson whom I consider a

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary



mentor, colleague and friend. She has had a long and distinguished career in public service. She has always been a popular leader, rating highest in polls among her peers on values such as integrity, honesty and hard work. She is a true champion for the causes in which she believes, placing accountability above irresponsibility and the common interest above the special interest. I hope that her successor will bring the same dedication to the 33rd congressional district."

Former Fire Chief Millage Peaks: "She's earned the time to retire and rest; she has paid her dues. We are all going to stand on her shoulders and keep pushing."

LAPD Assistant Chief Earl Pay singer: "I don't think that this area has known another policy maker that loves the community as she loves us. All you have to do is look in the room and see all the people who have surrounded her. I can't express how much we love her and how much we'll miss her."

Charisse Bremond, president of the Brotherhood Crusade: "I think her record speaks for itself; we are honored that she has been able to serve us in so many capacities."

Former Assembly-member Gwen Moore: "She was the first African

American woman in the Senate and then went to Congress. When she ran for the school board, I ran for the community college board; and when she ran for the Senate, I ran for the Assembly and ever since we've been a team."

Sen. Curren Price: "Her leadership will be sorely missed here locally and in Washington D.C."

LAPD Commissioner John Mack: "This is a bittersweet day. Diane Watson is another one of our great, great leaders and public servants. She gave the word public service a good name. She came from an era that really made a difference, not about self, and not about trying to promote a personal agenda, but really to promote the people's agenda."

Celes King IV: "Most people don't realize the tremendous amount of work that Diane has done over the years. She has been a real stalwart in terms of standing up, not only for African Americans but for people of every stripe, especially poor people, the disenfranchised and the marginalized."



Silent Auction Items

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Posh Me'Ke

Sierra Mitchell

Thousand Night Roses

Why Hotel

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Sydney Luxury Weekender for 2

Port Douglas 7 nights for 6 guests

Facial and B12 Treatment

Makeover Party for 6

Celebrity Makeup Artistry Package

Beauty Gift Vault

Prada Tote Bag

Treatment Package

Weekend Stay for 2

Weekend Stay for 2

Original Painting

4 Diamond Club Seats At Nationals Park

With Parking Pass

Full Designer FW 2019 Outfit

Custom Kimono Gown

Yoga Meditation Party for 6

1 Large Floral Arrangement

Weekend Stay for 2

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

Thank You Auction Partners

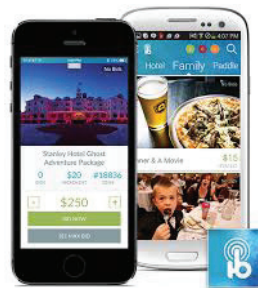
Hong Kong Luxury Getaway for 2



Sydney Luxury Weekender for 2



PORT DOUGLAS AUSTRALIA



TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

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Washington Life

Gala Host Committee

Honorary Gala Chair

Congresswoman Karen Bass

Committee Members

Aleasha Arthur
Jessica Herrera-Brown
Michael Brown
Sunny Ezeji
Martin Ezemma
Orlan Johnson

Jennifer Jones
Alverta Lopez
Maria Trujillo
Jennifer H. Wider
Percy Wilson
Willie Young

TIS Foundation 25th Anniversary

CAST & CREDITS

Thank You To The Following For Contributing To The Success Of This Evening's 25th Anniversary Gala:

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Dr. Jean Bailey
Jean Davis
Ogay Irono (Founder & President)
Orlan Johnson
Barbara Kamara
Stan Straughter
Daphne Titus
Percy Wilson
Jeff Woodson

TIS Foundation Staff:

Aleasha Arthur, Community Outreach Director
Jessica Herrera-Brown Director, International Liaison
Joan Ikhumhi, Program Coordinator
Elizabeth Rapp, Project Manager
Jennifer Wider, Executive Vice President

Motiv Services, Inc. Staff and Volunteers

Michael Brown
Tarry Chhak
Jennifer Jones
Teshome Kintamo
Yardia Lawrence
Alverta Lopez
Afam Onyeje
Abraham Sanni

Awards

Our Fine Awards

Décor

Platinum Wedding & Décor
Rayne Event, LLC.

Entertainment

April Sampe, Singer & Songwriter
Chris Thomas, Comedian
Eastern High School Choir
DJ Face
Duke Ellington Student Jazz Band
Fahnlohnee R.H. Tate, Singer Actress
Flavour, International Recording Artist
Semah Weifur, Singer

Event Planning

Aleasha Arthur
Michael Brown
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Jennifer Jones
Jennifer H. Wider
Joan Ikhumhi
Pagne PR

Marketing

Harry Baba, Tribex Marketing Group
Pagne PR

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Jim Folliard, Gearshift Studios
Lavette Arms, Arms Perspective, LLC.
Latisha Willis, Profess Multimedia
Tod Cohen Photography

Production

PSAV
Drums Unlimited Rentals

Print

Best Impressions

Program Book

Clarence Brown & Associates – Design & Printing
Jennifer H. Wider – Writing, Design & Editing
Langano Group – Writing
Pagne PR - Design

Silent Auction

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Speakers and Special Guests

Dr. Renee Allen, TV & Radio Host
Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive for Prince George's County
Candace Dillard Bassett, Former Miss United States & Realty Star of "The Real Housewives of Potomac"
Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson
Congresswoman Karen Bass
DC Councilmember Brandon T. Todd
DC Councilmember Trayon White
Gizelle Bryant, Reality Star of "The Real Housewives of Potomac"
Dr. Effa Emmanuel, President & Founder of World Royal City Church
Guy Lambert, Radio and TV Host Personality
Andromeda Peters, Miss United States
Sylvanus Nsofor, Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States

Transportation

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Abraham Sanni, Canan Inc.
Dashawn Taylor, Next Level Publishing

Venue

Marriott Marquis



June 6, 2019

**Mrs. Ogay Irono
Executive Director
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003**



Dear Ogay,

Words cannot express the joy I have in my heart on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the TIS Foundation. As the board chair and co-founder, it has been an honor to be on this remarkable journey with you and the TIS Foundation team. I've witnessed first-hand your personal sacrifice in advancing the mission on the TIS Foundation in Nigeria and here in the United States. I could not be prouder of what has been accomplished thus far and look forward with great eagerness to the TIS Foundation's future achievements.

As the CEO of the primary beneficiary of TIS Foundation, MOTIR Services, Inc., I am grateful that we were able to establish a long-term partnership that enabled me to realize my vision for social impact on the most vulnerable members of our society globally. It is my hope that the partnership will continue well into the future as there is much work to be done.

I applaud your leadership of TIS Foundation and extend my congratulations to you on this outstanding milestone in the life of the organization. And, congratulations to all of the evening's honorees who are all setting tremendous examples of women empowerment and leadership.

**Happy 25th Anniversary TIS Foundation!
Best,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emmanuel O. Irono".

**Emmanuel O. Irono
President & CEO**



101 MGM National Avenue
National Harbor, MD 20745
301.971.5000

Ms. Ogay Irono
Executive Director
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Irono,

On behalf of the MGM National Harbor, our deepest congratulations to the TIS Foundation and all of its outstanding honorees as you celebrate Women in Leadership at your 25th Anniversary Gala! We are delighted that our own Melonie Johnson, COO of MGM National Harbor, is receiving the Women in Corporate Leadership Award!

Thank you for recognizing all of these extraordinary women for their accomplishments and their contributions to the lives of others. We applaud the work of the TIS Foundation in empowering women in the United States and Africa and we wish you continued success.

Congratulations to the TIS Foundation on its 25th Anniversary!

Sincerely,

Jorge Perez
President and COO Regional Portfolio Properties



June 6, 2019

Mrs. Ogay Irono
President
TIS Foundation
1508 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ogay,

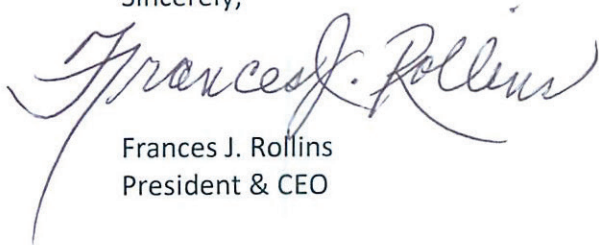
What a moment of personal joy for me to congratulate the TIS Foundation on its 25th Anniversary as you celebrate Women in Leadership. As a partner that has been there from the beginning of the TIS Foundation, this evening is especially meaningful to me. This night marks 25 years of progress in your service to those in need in Africa and here in Southeast, Washington, DC.

Both you and Emmanuel have played an invaluable role in the development of my own organization, Southeast Children's Fund, as supporters and advisors. I am truly grateful for our partnership and everything that we have been able to accomplish together to help residents of Ward 8.

Congratulations to you Ogay for your leadership of the TIS Foundation. You and these outstanding women being honored tonight deserve to be celebrated for your accomplishments. I look forward to many more years of working with the TIS Foundation and collaborating to advance socio-economic progress for families in Southeast, Washington, DC.

Happy 25th Anniversary to the TIS Foundation!

Sincerely,



Frances J. Rollins
President & CEO

Cheers to 25 Years!

Congratulations TIS FOUNDATION



**DCHA IS
THE UNIFYING
FORCE
FOR D.C.
HOSPITALS**

The District of Columbia Hospital Association is a unifying voice working to advance hospitals and health systems in the District of Columbia by promoting policies and initiatives that strengthen our system of care, preserve access and promote better health outcomes for the patients and communities they serve.



About TIS Foundation

Our Mission

To revitalize high-poverty communities through the delivery of essential support services, innovative educational and workforce development programs, and creative entrepreneurship opportunities to high-need families.

We believe we can end the cycle of poverty one family at a time by investing in educational and economic opportunity initiatives for individuals and families in need. Since 1994, TIS Foundation has provided critical support services and economic empowerment programs to families in crisis in the United States and various African nations. Through our partnership with African Community Bridge Foundation (ACBF) in Africa, TIS has brought purpose and hope to some of the most impoverished and underserved individuals in rural African communities – most especially women, children and youth. In Africa, we are developing a new generation of women entrepreneurs, providing skills training for jobs in emerging industries, and educating deserving children. Since inception, TIS has raised over \$3.1M in cash and material donations to provide critical support services to over 10,000 children and youth every year.

Today, TIS is tackling many of the same issues in high-poverty communities in the United States. Our family and youth-centered initiatives are focused on filling gaps in critical community services necessary to move families from crisis to stability and growth, including community outreach, positive youth development initiatives and workforce development programs. Our goal is to leverage innovative industry partnerships to create seamless pathways to economic opportunity by connecting low-skilled workers to jobs, and offering skills training and entrepreneurship opportunities while addressing their most critical support needs.

About

Ogechukwu (Ogay) Irono

Mrs. Ogay Irono is the Founder and President of TIS Foundation and President of TIS Foundation's African non-profit arm African Community Bridge Foundation (ACBF). A native of Nigeria, Mrs. Irono has a background in molecular biology and a Master's in Public Administration and in International Community Development. As a non-profit leader, educator, counselor and mentor, she has been serving youth and families living in poverty in the U.S. and Africa since 1994. Through her work with ACBF, Ogay is leading entrepreneurship and business development programs in Nigeria to move women and youth out of poverty.

She continues to leverage her global philanthropic experience and insights to advance economic mobility in the U.S. through the TIS Foundation. As the President of TIS Foundation, she is fulfilling her passion for empowering underserved individuals, particularly women, to overcome poverty and fulfill their economic potential here in the nation's capitol.

Ogay has over 15 years of experience in strategic planning, operations and fiscal management within business and academic research environments. Transitioning from a career in molecular Biology, she has effectively transformed her capacity from intellectual research development into targeted business development. Her experience in biomedical research, experimental design and project management has contributed significantly to her ability to orchestrate operational effectiveness within the corporate and non-profit arenas.

She also has extensive experience in the areas of administration, institutional capacity building, program development, fundraising, community initiatives, fund distribution, planning, and evaluation. Mrs. Irono partnered with the Central Bank of Nigeria and Bank of Industry to successfully implement an entrepreneurship and business



Ogay Irono
Founder & President, TIS Foundation

development program to assist unemployed youth and women in the North Central Zones of Nigeria including Abuja, Nassarawa, Niger, Plateau, Kwara, Benue and Kogi States.

With a strong passion for assisting underprivileged women and children both in the United States and in Sub-Saharan Africa, Mrs. Irono plans and directs all aspects of TIS Foundation, including operational activities, partnerships, programs, and events to further the goals of the Foundation. Mrs. Irono coordinates the logistical execution of programs both in regional and global capacities and is responsible for developing fundraising strategies and grant pursuits as well as the subsequent management of the Foundation's budget inclusive of the administrative, program and project budgets. Additionally, she is responsible for setting the financial goals of the organization and the execution of the project specific fiscal parameters. Mrs. Irono further serves as the Ambassador of the Foundation, lending a voice and face as a representative of the goals of the organization and an inspiration to those she serves.

Mrs. Irono is the wife of Emmanuel O. Irono and the mother of three children, Chidera, Zikora, and Obi.

TIS Foundation 25 Years in the Making



Empathy and compassion are the twin pillars that define the very essence of philanthropists and social entrepreneurs, Emmanuel and Ogay Irono. Before they met, both had their fair share of tribulation only to turn around their circumstances and make it their life purpose to give back to others. TIS Foundation is the manifestation of Emmanuel and Ogay's journeys, the same way both withstood loss and turbulence early in their lives by arming themselves with the tools and knowledge to succeed, they made it their life purpose to likewise give the marginalized and the underserved the means to succeed on their own. Their commitment is evident in their accomplishments. TIS has raised over \$3.1M in cash and material donations to provide critical support services to over 10,000 children and youth.

Empowerment is the guiding force of TIS Foundation. Minimizing the impact of indigence requires eradicating the root cause of poverty through a mix of education and agency driven from the bottom up. By empowering one, one can save many. The efficacy of investing in people directly at the local level is proven. Targeted investment that arms people with education, training, capacity building and the means to become entrepreneurs can create a sea change not only within a family structure but throughout communities and eventually nations.

One of the primary aims of TIS Foundation is to empower women, as Emmanuel noted, “When you invest in women they multiply it exponentially.” That is because women have a more direct impact on communities, often mothers are the backbone of families and their communities by extension. A mother who is empowered can have tremendous impact in terms of radiating the investment outward. TIS Foundation is making a significant impact because they understand this principle and they are implementing it on the ground, particularly in Africa.

**Empowerment is
the guiding force of
TIS Foundation**



Ogay Irono
Founder and President, TIS Foundation

Over 2,000 young men and women have been trained and over 5,000 received business funding.

Our future long-term goals in Africa are bold and focus on scaling up our current programs to empower 100,000 entrepreneurs, prepare 250,000 qualified workers to enter the workforce, counsel more than 1 million people on HIV / AIDS prevention, educate 50,000 farmers on sustainable farming, and train more than 100,000 people on basic sanitation and clean water best practices.



25 Years



Emmanuel O. Irono
Chairman

Empathy and compassion are the twin pillars that define the very essence of Emmanuel and Ogay Irono

Here in the United States, we are dramatically increasing our focus on the wealth divide in the nation's capital, Washington, DC. Poverty is an institutional problem, once people enter the hole of indigence, social stigmas, hopelessness, lack of access to basic needs start to compound. TIS Foundation, applying a triage technique, gives people who are stuck in poverty a respite from the daily struggle, a chance to learn and grow away from despair and eventually arms them with the skills to succeed on their own.

For more than 25 years, TIS has provided support to empower children, youth and women in communities of need. We work collaboratively with organizations in the Washington, D. C. region to deliver a range of services, including:

Youth Sports & Skills Development - TIS Foundation annually supports Team DC, a youth athletic and skills development program for middle school boys from some of the poorest communities in Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, DC.

Scholarships – TIS Foundation is partnering with Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) Bowie State University, Elizabeth City





State University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and University of the District of Columbia through its TIS Foundation HBCU Scholarship Program to provide 25 scholarships each year for the next ten years to support high-performing students with financial need.

Workforce Development – TIS Foundation supports low-wealth individuals in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) Region through employment training and job placement in the construction, healthcare, food services, and facilities management industries through its partnerships with the public and private sectors.



25 Years



Community Outreach - TIS coordinates annual community outreach programs in partnership with grassroots organizations in the Washington, DC Region during the most challenging times of the year for poor families, including the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays distributing hundreds of items of clothing, school supplies, toys and meals to families in need.

While these programs help to fill critical gaps in support services, we know that we must and will do more. As Ogay notes: "You have to support in any way you can. If I can impact one person's life, I know I have made a difference. Because through one person, I will see the positive impact of our work through generations."

Tonight, as we celebrate TIS Foundation and 25 years of service and excellence, we also recognize Ogay and Emmanuel for having the tenacity and the vision to give back and empower others. The same way they were inspired by others who gave unselfishly, we hope others will be inspired to do the same and give back. Empathy and compassion are the twin pillars that can shift public discourse and lead nations down the path of collective success.



TIS Foundation believes in uplifting those in greatest need through service. Our programs and services provide a hand up, not a handout. We volunteer for and support programs led by residents in underserved communities who know the struggles of those around them and have the best insights into effective solutions.



25 Years





TIS Foundation has raised over \$3.1M in cash and material donations to provide critical support services to over 10,000 children and youth.



25 Years





TIS Foundation proudly supports underserved communities and organizations in Washington, DC
Region:

- Southeast Children’s Fund, Inc.
- Mount Moriah Baptist Church
- SOME (So Others May Eat)
- Martha’s Table
- Bread for the City
- Family Community Fellowship
- Largo Landing Fellowship House
- Team DC – Youth Basketball Team

25 Years

TIS in Africa

TIS



TO INSPIRE
STRONG
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION



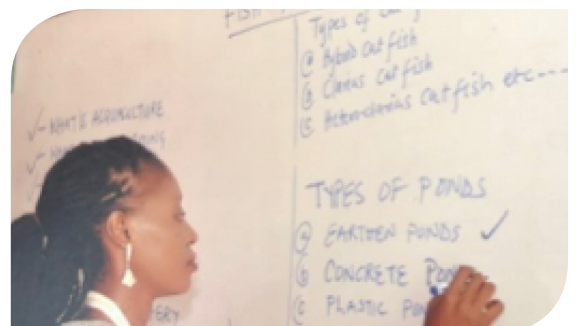


TIS Foundation continues to join selfless local heroes in creating opportunity and transforming the lives of children and families in need.



25 Years

TIS in Africa





25 Years

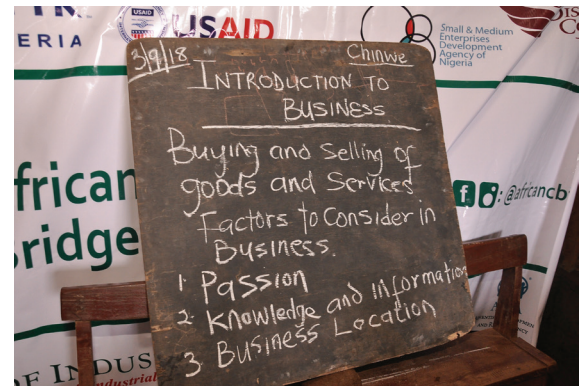
TIS in Africa

TIS



TO INSPIRE
STRONG
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION





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Emmanuel Akpan

Dr. Jean Bailey

Jean Davis

Ogay Irono (Founder & President)

Orlan Johnson

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Jeff Woodson

TIS



TO INSPIRE
STRONG
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES

FOUNDATION



A BOLD NEW VISION



The current socio-economic indicators of Washington, DC's most low-wealth communities clearly demonstrate that traditional approaches to transformation are not effective. TIS Foundation is committed to responding to the challenge of economic inequality in The District. We have learned a lot over the last 25 years from our international and domestic work to combat economic inequality. We have developed those insights into a bold new vision for the future—one we believe is going to change the game in delivering effective solutions for transforming impoverished communities. We are excited to share with you a brief summary of our newest initiative currently in development for Washington, DC.

TIS Enterprise Center

The proposed TIS Foundation Enterprise Center will be a world class, innovative, one-stop-shop, research-based community and economic development center located in an economically disadvantaged community in the city. Skills training, job creation, and business development will be core components of our program aimed at reducing intergenerational poverty. Seed grants for new businesses, soft skills training, mentoring and technical assistance will provide much needed new businesses with a support network for a successful launch, stabilization and growth. This model leverages lessons learned from our entrepreneurship work in Africa where we have taught poor individuals new skills and enabled them to start and manage their own businesses as a path



toward economic independence. The TIS Foundation Enterprise Center will set the standard of how to help people transform from a state of perpetual crisis to renewal and progress. Our hands-on evidence-based approach will remove barriers and disrupt negative behavior patterns that contribute to economic oppression in low-wealth communities. Each individual that successfully completes our programs will emerge with a good-paying job and/or a new business. Our teachers, coaches, and counselors will work hand-in-hand with participants to customize services that meet their individual needs.

Our entrepreneurship program in Africa is changing lives, lifting people out of poverty and turning the destitute into thriving business owners. TIS Foundation will replicate and customize this



TIS Foundation Staff

program to help economically disadvantaged populations here in the Washington, DC region. By giving grants instead of loans, TIS foundation will empower entrepreneurs to start their businesses/ventures debt free. Moreover, the grants they are provided can be immediately collateralized to attain needed loans from banks.

We recognize the TIS Foundation Enterprise Center has incredible goals, but we believe they can be achieved with the best research, partners, resources and models. Ultimately, if we are to realize our vision of empowering the lives of many and funding grassroots programs and businesses, we will need a broad dissection of experts and capital. Building relationships with like-minded organizations and funders will be crucial to our success. Today, we are making a call to action to each of you to contribute to this vision through us or with us. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting those we serve.

Skills training, job creation, and business development will be core components of our program aimed at reducing intergenerational poverty.



A BOLD NEW VISION



Workforce Development



Education



Health & Wellness



Maryland's oldest HBCU congratulates
TIS Foundation
for 25 years of transforming lives.

**AT BOWIE STATE THE
FUTURE IN STEM IS NOW.**



bowiestate.edu/sciencecenter



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