



A NIGHT
at the
ROUNDTABLE

Tuesday, April 18, 2017
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Comcast Center
1701 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

AWARD HONOREES



Honorable K. Leroy Irvis

K. Leroy Irvis was a dedicated public servant and as such he worked tirelessly to enrich the lives of Pennsylvania citizens.

From the beginning of his political career until he retired, he received the firm support and earned the trust of his constituents. Representative Irvis was first elected to represent the 19th Legislative District of Pittsburgh, PA in 1958 and was re-elected to this seat for fifteen consecutive terms. His

colleagues within the House of Representatives (The House) also bestowed several noteworthy honors on him. The first honor occurred during his third term. He was elected Democratic Caucus Chairman, making him the first African American elected to a leadership position. Later, he served as the Majority Caucus Chairman, Minority Whip and Majority Leader.

On May 23, 1977, Representative Irvis earned his most prestigious distinction; he was elected to serve as Speaker of The House, initially for one term. His election was unanimous. An honor he shared with Benjamin Franklin who was also elected unanimously to Speaker during the Revolutionary War period. He regained the Speaker position on January 4, 1983 and remained in this position until he retired on November 30, 1988.

Fulfilling the obligations of his leadership roles did not hamper Irvis' ability to promote key pieces of legislation. He sponsored over 1,600 pieces of legislation addressing his concerns for education, civil rights, health, consumer protection, prison reform, housing and governmental reform. His most noted achievements include the sponsorship and passage of legislation creating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Equal Opportunity Program; the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), and the Minority Business Development Authority. Irvis also introduced on the floor of The House the idea of a Community College System in the Commonwealth. His fellow representatives credited him with being the "father" of the Community College System.

AWARD HONOREES

Honorable K. Leroy Irvis (continued)

His legislative efforts also considered the efficiency and accountability of The House. Such reforms include creation of the House Ethics Committee, the Lobbyist Registration Act, Legislative Audit Advisory Committee, and the House Bipartisan Management Committee.

Representative Irvis graduated summa cum laude with degrees in History and English from New York State Teacher's College. In 1939 he received a Master's degree of English Literature from University of New York at Albany. His desire to learn persisted and he pursued another advanced degree. Irvis attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In 1969 his law degree was converted into a Juris Doctorate.

Irvis was married to the former Cathryn L. Edwards. Speaker and Mrs. Irvis are the parents of a son, Reginald D. Irvis, and a daughter, Sherri L. Irvis-Hill. They have a son-in-law, Common Pleas Judge Glynnis D. Hill, and four grandchildren: Danae Lee Irvis, Elyse Irvis, Glenn Alexander Irvis-Hill, and Alyssa Hill.



Dr. Constance Clayton

From 1955 to 1964, Clayton worked as a fourth grade teacher in the Philadelphia Public School System, at the William H. Harrison School in North Philadelphia. From 1964 to 1969, she designed social studies curricula for elementary grades. From 1969 to 1971, she was the head of a new African and Afro-American Studies program, addressing issues for students of all ages.

From 1973 to 1983, she was the first director and then the associate superintendent of the Early Childhood Program for the Philadelphia school system. Under her direction, the program was seen as a national model. During this time she also went back to school, earning her Ph.D. in 1974 and her EdD in educational administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in 1981.

AWARD HONOREES

Dr. Constance Clayton (continued)

In 1983, Constance Clayton defeated 83 other candidates to become the superintendent of the Philadelphia Public School system. She was Philadelphia's first African American woman superintendent. She served in the position from 1983 to 1993. She also became president-elect of the national Council of Great City Schools. The Philadelphia school system was the sixth largest school system in the United States, employing approximately 24,500 teachers, administrators, and support staff at over 250 locations.

Clayton set a number of goals for the city's schools, including balancing the budget, standardizing the curriculum, and attracting private sector support. At the end of her first 8 years as superintendent, the school system had been largely successful in meeting those goals.

Clayton was a moral voice in support of children in the education system, emphasizing that "Somebody had better step forward and be the advocate for kids." She emphasized the need for federal, state, and city governments to all make a "concrete investment" in education. She recognized the difficulties faced by many children, and promoted programs to address their needs, including the Homeless Student Initiative, America 2000, a broader sexual education program, and acceptance of pregnant students who wish to graduate. "We must educate the kids born into poverty and despair. We must value all kids and not just a select few. "We have enormously talented kids who have a great deal of potential, children who are aspiring."

Since her retirement, Dr. Constance Clayton has continued to be active in the community and to serve on the boards of a number of institutions. The Constance E. Clayton Professorship in Urban Education was established at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in 1992. It received support from the William Penn Foundation, Cigna, Vanguard and PNC Bank. Dr. Constance Clayton was the first African American woman to have a chair named for her at a predominantly white Ivy League U.S. university. The Clayton lecture series on urban education was also named in her honor.

AWARD HONOREES

Debra Weiner



An advocate for public education since 1970, Debra Weiner initially worked in Philadelphia as a policy and school district budget analyst for several non-profits organizations before being named Special Assistant to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education and subsequently Assistant Dean of the Temple University School of Law, where she developed programs about the law for K-12 students and senior citizens.

After earning her doctorate in urban education at Temple University, she taught in the human services undergraduate program at Antioch University's Philadelphia campus, advised the president of Community College of Philadelphia and the Vice Dean of the College of General Studies at Penn on partnerships with Philadelphia high schools, and became one of the founding staff members of Philadelphia Futures, where she helped to design the Sponsor-A-Scholar college prep program, performed data analysis of the progress of students, designed the academic enrichment and college retention components, and later served as a consultant to the school district on college guidance standards. While at Futures, she also co-founded the Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable and created and co-directed Youthworks College Bound, a summer academic enrichment program which served 900 Philadelphia neighborhood high school students, marking the first time that academic enrichment was recognized as a youth workforce development strategy in the nation.

While at Futures and subsequently at the After School Activities Partnerships, Debbie consulted with the school district on teacher recruitment and retention and school climate, then advised the United Way on school partnerships and provided policy analysis to Public Citizens for Children and Youth on kindergarten readiness. She now serves as a pro bono thought partner to rising leaders in a variety of educational non-profits and government agencies.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



HONORABLE K. LEROY IRVIS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Senator Vincent J. Hughes

Senator Vincent J. Hughes is a leading progressive voice on local, state, and national issues. He was elected by his colleagues in 2010 to be the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Senate for over 20 years, first elected to represent the 7th Senatorial District in 1994. Senator Hughes

served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994.

His commitment to creating access to college is demonstrated through his service on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Cheyney University Council of Trustees. Senator Hughes and his family have also established the James Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of his late father. The fund has given out more than \$1 million in scholarships to over 400 students.

As a key member of the Democratic leadership team in the Senate, Senator Hughes has been a champion on major policy issues such as expanding healthcare for low-income workers, raising the minimum wage, defending the right to vote, fighting for increased funding for public education, and rebuilding PA's distressed communities. As Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Hughes also plays a major role in developing Pennsylvania's annual budget of over \$30 billion and guiding the state's spending priorities.

In all of his work, which has taken him across the state and around the world, Senator Hughes is staunchly committed to the progress of his 7th Senatorial District, which encompasses portions of Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



DR. CONSTANCE CLAYTON EDUCATION AWARD

Laura W. Perna

Laura W. Perna is James S. Riepe Professor and Executive Director of the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (AHEAD) at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn). She has served as President of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and Vice President of the Postsecondary Division of the American

Educational Research Association (AERA), and is currently chair of Penn's Faculty Senate.

Her research uses a range of methodological approaches to identify how social structures, educational practices, and public policies can promote college access and success, particularly for groups that continue to be underrepresented in higher education. Recent books include *The Attainment Agenda: State policy leadership for higher education* (with Joni Finney, 2014, Johns Hopkins University Press) and *The state of college access and completion: Improving college success for students from underrepresented groups* (with Anthony Jones, 2013, Routledge). Her research has been funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, Lumina Foundation, and other sources, and has been featured by the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, The Atlantic, National Public Radio, and other outlets. She has provided invited testimony to the U.S. Senate's Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee and U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

She is a Fellow of AERA and Penn, and recipient of ASHE's Early Career Achievement Award, Penn's Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, and National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



DEBRA WEINER **COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**

Carolyn Senna Boswell

Carolyn Senna Boswell is a 40 year retiree from the Pennsylvania State University. Carolyn has been recognized as a fierce advocate for underrepresented and at risk students. She began her Penn State career as Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs, and the first Act 101/EOP Coordinator at Penn State Brandywine (nee Delaware County) Campus. Carolyn was responsible for recruiting underrepresented and at risk students to the University, as well as

retaining students enrolled at the Penn State Brandywine Campus. Through her effort, applications increased and she was recognized as one of the University's most successful recruiters. She also employed an early alert system to monitor, counsel and provide her students with the necessary support programs, and personal and financial aid counseling to help them succeed. In 1988, the Brandywine Campus enrolled a higher proportion of minority students than any other campus.

While at the Brandywine Campus, Carolyn closely connected with a group of education advocates with similar activism and passion. They collaborated on numerous initiatives and supported each other through the struggles, adversity and victories surrounding their ability to realize equal access and opportunity in higher education. This connection formally became our Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable (PCPR).

In 1998, Carolyn began her tenure as Director of the Philadelphia Community Recruitment Center (now the Penn State Admissions Office - Philadelphia). Under Carolyn's leadership, the Recruitment Center began many significant and successful initiatives, such as citywide hands on and online college admissions and FAFSA completion workshops, college essay writing workshops, and higher education conferences. Through its partnership with the PCPR network, which included PHENND, the Campaign for Working Families, and other higher education institutions, the Recruitment Center was able to expand application, financial aid and essay writing workshops to students citywide applying to any college or university. As a result, Philadelphia applications to Penn State steadily increased to the highest number ever received by the University. Additionally, through targeted coordination between the Recruitment Center and CORE Philly during CORE Philly's active years, Penn State received the highest number of CORE Philly Scholarship recipients.

Over her 40 year tenure, Carolyn received awards and certificates of achievement which include several Black Student League awards, the Friends of EOP/Act 101 Award and the University Continuous Quality Improvement Award.

PROGRAM

Welcome Address

Monique Braxton, Emmy Award Winning NBC 10 News Anchor

Opening Remarks

Thomas Butler, Director, Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable

Host Remarks And PcCPR Doctorate Award

Brett Perkins, Vice President of External and Government Affairs for Comcast

Introduction Of The Civic Engagement Award

Mrs. K. Leroy Irvis

Civic Engagement Award Honoree

Senator Vincent Hughes

Introduction Of The Education Award

Dr. Constance Clayton

Education Award Honoree

Dr. Laura Perna, Professor for University of Pennsylvania

Introduction Of The Community Impact Award

Debra Weiner & Ayana Lewis

Community Impact Award Honoree

Carolyn Senna Boswell, Penn State University

PCPR Doctorate Award

Penn State University

Closing Remarks

Monique Braxton & Thomas Butler



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The Boswell Family
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For additional information please
visit our website or e-mail us.



CONGRATULATIONS,
CAROLYN,
FOR YOUR YEARS OF
**DEDICATION
AND SERVICE!**

Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable,
"A Night at the Roundtable" April 18, 2017



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That's why we're proud to support PCPR's A Night at the Roundtable to invite, inspire, and propel a multitude of perspectives.

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