

PRESS RELEASE

For More Information Contact

Brad Thompson
(919) 740-0110\

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2010

NC Black Summit Celebrates 5th year Focuses on Recovery, Green Economy

Raleigh, NC—The Alliance of North Carolina Black Elected Officials will observe the 5th Anniversary of the Annual North Carolina Black Summit on April 29-May 1, 2010 at the Crabtree Marriott in Raleigh North Carolina. Organizers say that this year's Summit, with an expected attendance of between 300 and 350, will provide the opportunity to reflect on how well the organization has met its goals. "It is essential that we focus on policy achievement as a measure of our effectiveness," says Alliance Executive Director Brad Thompson. Thompson says the Alliance has built upon the collective knowledge shared over the past 4 years by member and partner organizations. "The Alliance will sharpen its focus and build upon the shared agenda and commitment to information-sharing that has become a hallmark of the organization's success," he says.

Keynote speakers for this year's Summit include former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder, America's first Black elected governor and luncheon speaker Bernie Mazyck, President of the South Carolina CDC Association. Former Governor Wilder will keynote the Annual Banquet and talk on "The Challenges Facing Emerging African American Leaders" and Mr. Mazyck, who will focus on "The Green Economy: Real Opportunity or Pipe Dream" as the luncheon speaker on Friday, April 30. Break-out sessions will focus on gangs and youth violence in communities of color, the importance of parental participation in education effectiveness, the role of local Political Action Committees in improving political representation, how younger people can emerge as the primary representatives of African American interests, and the Pandemic Flu and preparedness in the Black community. Rev. Kenneth Hammond, will be keynote speaker during the Inspirational Breakfast scheduled on Saturday, May 1.

After the Saturday Inspirational Breakfast, a panel of Black elected officials will discuss: From Where Have We Come and Where are We Now? "This panel, made up of the Alliance leadership, will take a look at our advocacy over the past 4 years," says Alliance Chairman Fred Yates, who also is mayor of Winfall, NC. "We will discuss where we have been effective and where we may need to make adjustments in order to strengthen our collective voice," he says. Yates says that clear communication among the network of elected officials, partners and advocates in the empowerment of Black communities has resulted in positive changes in North Carolina. He points to the Alliances' support of important issues such as the increase in the State's minimum wage and the enactment of Early Voting and Same Day Registration. "These were key victories for the citizens of North Carolina, and our organization joined committed leadership on these issues and other prominent organizations from across the state and the nation to support their passage."

Pre-registration for the Summit is \$125 if complete before 3/31 and \$150 thereafter. On site registration is \$175.

To register or learn more about the Summit go to www.ncblacksummit.org or call (919) 833-6394, or toll-free at 1-888-833-5003. (See Attached Agenda for more Summit details)

--END--

The Alliance of North Carolina Black Elected Officials (ANCBEO) is a 501(c) 3 organization and is approved as a tax-exempt organization. The organization's goal is to more effectively advance the political agenda that provides improvements for Black North Carolinians. Member organizations include The NC Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, the NC Conference of Black Mayors, the NC Black Elected Municipal Officials, the NC Caucus of Black School Board Members, the NC Black County Officials and our partners: The North Carolina State NAACP Council of Branches, the North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus, the North Carolina Association of CDCs , the NC AFL-CIO, the Prince Hall Masons, the NC AARP, the NC Association of Educators, the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development, the State Employees Association of NC, the NC Black Publishers Association and Old North State Medical Association.

Breakout Sessions will focus on the following:

Gangs

- Reclaim neighborhoods/Saving our Youth from destruction and prison
- Recapture our brain trust being lost to the streets

Education

- Responsibility of the parent in achieving quality education experience
- Ensuring that Youth are fully engaged in Emerging Leadership

Political Action

- What can we do at the grassroots level to make a difference and hold elected officials accountable?

Green Economy

- What opportunities are available and how can minority communities fully participate

Health care

- Should we be concerned that emerging policies will mean less care for our seniors?
- Pandemic: When society as a whole faces crisis – Black and other minority communities are disproportionately at risk.