



# NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

OCTOBER 28, 2026

## AACCNJ announces honorees for 17th Annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala

CONTINUE

ROI-NJ.com | Staff | October 28, 2026

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) announced Oct. 27 the keynote speaker and honorees for the 17th Annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala, which will be held on Feb. 18, 2027, from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. at The Venetian in Garfield.

The theme for the 2027 Black History Month Gala is “Celebrating Legacy, Cultural Excellence and Impact,” and Jeanette J. Epps, Ph.D., retired NASA astronaut and aerospace engineer, will serve as the keynote speaker.

“We are pleased to bestow the ‘Presidential Award of Excellence for Exceptional Performance & Innovation’ upon Dr. Jeannette Epps for 16 years of service with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and her expertise as a flight engineer on NASA’s SpaceX Crew-8 science mission and crew rotation to the International Space Station (ISS),” said Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., founder, president and CEO, AACCNJ. He will serve as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Each year during Black History Month, the AACCNJ recognizes a distinguished group of African Americans who have attained a significant level of personal accomplishment and/or recognition in business, education, public service, sports, entrepreneurship, entertainment or culture.

## Guest Oped:

## Before we vote, ask how the city will work, part one

CONTINUE

The Trentonian | Gene Bouie | October 6, 2026

Trenton voters should judge mayoral candidates not only by what they promise but also by how they would manage the city to deliver those promises. A credible management plan should explain how an administration would set priorities, organize departments, control spending, eliminate waste, improve staff performance, reduce poverty, measure results, and hold officials accountable.

Residents experience government through timely inspections, functioning permits, reliable sanitation and water service, responsive departments, and answers to calls. Management determines whether those services work consistently and whether problems are corrected when they do not.

With about a month remaining before Trenton’s mayoral election, I reviewed publicly available campaign materials for their attention to strategy, budgets, operations, staff performance, waste reduction, poverty, and accountability. This is an assessment of management commitments, not an endorsement or a ranking of candidates.

Jasi Edwards calls for reviews of city operations, modernization of outdated systems, better departmental coordination, performance goals, and public reporting. Her platform also promises to track service requests through resolution and fill critical vacancies within the first year.

## New Jersey Economic Development Authority invests \$16.5M to support 8 startups

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ROI-NJ.com | ROI-NJ Staff | October 19, 2026

Since February, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has approved a total of \$16.5 million to support eight cutting-edge businesses through the New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund (NJIEF).

The startups are working on pushing forward new technologies in various sectors, including health care, biotechnology, and life sciences.

NJIEF increases access to strategic resources and venture capital in New Jersey, with the state as an equity investor in early-stage companies and deploying up to \$600 million alongside venture capital firms.

“The NJIEF’s success is measured not just in dollars invested, but in the transformative impact it has had on New Jersey businesses,” said NJEDA Chief Executive Officer Evan Weiss. “This cutting-edge initiative fuels innovation, creates jobs, and positions our state as a global center for technological discovery. Through strategic partnerships and targeted investments, Governor Mikie Sherrill and the NJEDA are helping the next generation of companies thrive, reinforcing New Jersey’s reputation as a leader in innovation and opportunity.”

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

2026 IAC Lunch and Learn

CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Our Speakers



DR. KIM CLARK  
Rineland Regional School District



MICHELLE ROSSI  
NJ Department of Public Utilities



DR. STEVEN A. LEWIS  
Roselle Public Schools



LAURA WOLFE  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection



JASON BILLUPS  
Christina Seix Academy

29 OCTOBER 2026  
12 PM - 1 PM

REGISTRATION:  
dep.nj.gov/school-resilience-strategies

Join state agency officials and fellow school leaders to explore resilience strategies for curriculum, facilities, energy and buses.

Co-Hosted by:

 INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

 Association of School Administrators Education Research Foundation

NTI

NEED TO IMPACT INC.

ACCESS • ADVOCACY • OPPORTUNITY

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NJOPD  
DEFENDER

FRESH START:  
AN EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

Get Your Record Clean.

An expungement is the removal, sealing, impounding, or isolation of all records on file within any court, detention or correctional facility, law enforcement or criminal justice agency.

Friday, November 20

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Kearney Hall  
Mercer County Community College  
102 N Broad St  
Trenton, NJ 08608

A court-ordered expungement can remove:

1

Your Arrest

2

All Court Proceedings Related to Your Case

3

Your Criminal or Juvenile Conviction

4

The Outcome of Your Case, Including Your Sentence

This event can only assist with New Jersey based offenses

Appointments are not required but are encouraged!  
Visit [bit.ly/ExpungementRSVP](https://bit.ly/ExpungementRSVP) or scan here to register



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RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

ANNUAL COMMUNITY AND BELONGING LECTURE

Built to Belong:  
From Advocacy to Action  
in Launching New Jersey's  
Public Health Institute

Presented by



DENISE ANDERSON, Ph.D., MPH  
Executive Director,  
Center for Health Equity & Wellbeing,  
New Jersey's Public Health Institute

Public institutions communicate and whose experiences matter and who belongs within the systems meant to protect collective well-being, so building equitable public health infrastructure requires more than creating a new organization—it requires challenging entrenched systems, cultivating trust, and translating community priorities into sustainable action. Drawing on her experience launching the Center for Health Equity & Wellbeing, New Jersey's Public Health Institute (CfHEI-NPHI), Dr. Denise Anderson will trace its path from advocating for equitable legislation to forming an administrative partnership with Acorda Integrated Health, developing a community centered strategic plan, and taking on a key role in New Jersey's Rural Health Transformation initiative. She will examine the residents of farming villages, their infrastructure—building legislative while building capacity, balancing agency with sustainability—and invite participants to consider how public health institutions can be designed to advance belonging and embed equity into their structures, partnerships, and measures of success.

WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11, 2026  
4:30pm

Gov. James J. Florio Special Events Forum  
333 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ  
On the campus of Rutgers University

Scan the QR code to register or visit:  
[go.rutgers.edu/anderson26](https://go.rutgers.edu/anderson26)



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