

The mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is to promote business and professional opportunities for African American business owners and professionals. As part of its mission, the Chamber seeks to establish key linkages and partnerships



Doris Carson Williams

## african american chamber of commerce of western pennsylvania

with business communities throughout the region. This includes small business development corporations, trade associations, educational institutions and public authorities.

The African American Chamber of Commerce was chartered in 1994 and immediately began developing sessions to identify and recruit companies to become members. At the same time, local corporations acknowledged and endorsed the organization's forming and signed up as Corporate Sponsoring Members. Having successfully created a base that required a central location to access resources and information, the Chamber opened a formal office in September 1998 and hired its first Executive Director.

The Chamber will fulfill its mission by serving as the advocate for business access, developing relevant educational programs, and mentoring new businesses through their development. Direct marketing, and member referrals will continue to expand the membership base. The Chamber also seeks to promote the development and growth of its members by providing membership services directed toward empowerment and self-sufficiency. The African American Chamber of Commerce holds monthly "Power Breakfast Meetings" as well as evening "Networking One on One" events.

For more information on the Chamber and its services, please call (412) 392-0610.

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