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# Hill to provide insight during chamber's annual meet



ROBERT HILL

by C. Denise Johnson  
Courier Staff Writer

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania will hold its ninth annual meeting luncheon, May 14, at the Omni William Penn Hotel at noon.

The luncheon attracts more than 400 people throughout the region each year, and the theme for this year's event is "The Road Ahead."

The keynote speaker will be Robert Hill, vice chancellor for public affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg was

initially scheduled to deliver the keynote address, however, due to his recent illness he will be unable to participate.

In his capacity as vice chancellor for public affairs, Hill is the primary spokesperson for the University of Pittsburgh. He arrived at the university in October 1999 and has succeeded in substantively enhancing Pitt's communications programs and expanding their reach.

Under Hill's leadership, the Office of Public Affairs has gained recognition for its award-winning Pitt

Magazine and Pitt Med magazine.

In addition, Hill established the Pitt Chronicle in October 2000 as the university's first official weekly newspaper, and it, too, has received many awards.

Hill serves as publisher of Pitt Magazine, the Pitt Chronicle, and several other university publications, including the Chancellor's Annual Report, the Economic Impact Report, the Community Impact Report, and Blue, Gold and Black, which pays tribute to Pitt's African-

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American community.

Hill said his remarks will revolve around "The Road Ahead," using past events that have shaped the present state of Black-owned businesses in Pittsburgh and western Pa., its impact on the AACC and a prognosis for the future along with Pitt's role in that future.

Prior to the luncheon portion of the event, the chamber will hold its annual members meeting at 11 a.m. During the meeting, Dr. Herman Jones, who chairs the chamber's nominating committee and Chairman Samuel Stephenson will recognize the contributions of outgoing board members Irvin Williams, president and CEO of Ebony De-

velopment, LLC and Charles Toran Jr., president of SCI-TEK Environmental Services Co.

Existing chamber board members are Samuel J. Stephenson, chairman; John Laymon Jr., vice chairman; Cheryl Allen, treasurer; Ann Rucker, secretary; Jennifer Cash Wade; Sheila A. Washington; Oscar Worthy; David Atkins; Howard Graves Jr., Herman Jones, Ph.D.; Theodore Roberts Jr. and Doris Carson Williams—president and CEO.

The mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is to continuously improve business and professional opportunities for African-American business owners and professionals.