



A C C E

American Chamber of Commerce Executives

For Immediate Release

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African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA's Doris Carson Williams Earns Certified Chamber Executive Certification

Alexandria, Virginia– August 19, 2013 – The American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) has designated Doris Carson Williams, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA, a Certified Chamber Executive (CCE). The CCE is the only national certification for chamber professionals. The announcement was made July 24 at ACCE's annual convention in Oklahoma City.

"The applicants who are designated CCEs rightfully earn this outstanding recognition through hard work, countless hours of dedication to their field, and leadership of their chambers. We applaud this year's recipients and are proud to have them join a long tradition of professional excellence," says Raymond Burns, CCE, president and CEO of Rogers - Lowell Area (Ark.) Chamber of Commerce and CCE Commission Chairman.

Doris Carson Williams was one of 21 chamber executives in the nation who earned the CCE designation this year. The CCE program is designed to assess and test the applicant's knowledge of the core chamber management areas: management, planning and development, membership and communication, and operations.

Candidates are required to submit an application outlining their professional achievements and activities, write two essays, make a formal presentation, complete an intensive interview by a panel of CCEs, and pass a comprehensive four-hour examination. Since the program was initiated more than 40 years ago, approximately 530 individuals have earned this highest designation in the profession. Today there are about 270 active CCEs

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Since opening the African American Chamber's office in 1998, Doris has grown the organization from 28 to more than 500 paid members and corporate sponsors ranked as the tenth largest Chamber in the Pittsburgh region according to the Pittsburgh Business Times. She is a 2008 Ford Foundation Fellow on Sustainability. In 2009, Doris served as the co-chair of the G-20 Summit held in Pittsburgh. In 2010 she was listed in the Pittsburgh Business Times' Top 50 Women in Business, and was recognized as a Woman of Excellence by the New Pittsburgh Courier. Doris serves on the Board of Directors for Highmark Health Services, and is the Vice Chairman of the Highmark's Foundation. She is a member of the International Women's Forum.

Established in 1914, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (www.acce.org) is the only national association serving the professional development needs of chamber professionals

throughout the United States and Canada. Representing more than 7,000 individuals, ACCE enhances the knowledge, leadership skills, and management effectiveness of chamber executives and their staff through education, benefits programs, trend analysis, benchmarking, and network development. ACCE supports and develops chamber professionals to lead businesses and their communities.

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