



2022 D&I Symposium

5.14 Community Response Panel

Participant Bios

Thomas Beauford, Jr. | President & CEO | Buffalo Urban League

Thomas Beauford Jr. is a business executive with over 20 years of strategic leadership experience in private industry and community board service. Thomas was appointed to lead the Buffalo Urban League in August of 2020. Thomas began his BNP board service in July of 2021.

Rev. Mark Blue | President | Buffalo NAACP

Rev. Mark Blue was named President of the Buffalo Branch of the NAACP, in 2016. Since 2001, Pastor Blue has been pastorate of Second Baptist Church of Lackawanna. He serves in many leadership roles in the community.

Kinzer Pointer | Pastor | Liberty Missionary Baptist Church

In June of 2010 Pastor Pointer organized the Agape Fellowship Baptist Church where he served as Pastor until the end of 2019 when he accepted the call to the Liberty Missionary Baptist Church. Notably, in 2014 he began to lay the groundwork to establish Greater Buffalo United Ministries, LLC (GRUM, pronounced: groom) and currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer. GRUM is a collaborative of 65 churches who have determined that they will work with the safety net Physicians of the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network to deliberately decrease health disparities in Buffalo's black and brown communities.

Crystal Rodriguez-Dabney, Esq. | Deputy Mayor | City of Buffalo, NY

Deputy Mayor Crystal Rodriguez-Dabney is a lifelong resident of Buffalo. Rodriguez-Dabney is a longstanding public servant and community volunteer who has also served on a number of boards, including Read to Succeed Buffalo, Buffalo Prep Alumni Council, and UB's Law School Alumni Association as co-chair of its Social Justice Committee. She also served as a Former Chair of the Miss Borinquen Leadership Development program and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Since 2018, she served as the Chief of Staff to Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., President of Buffalo State College, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the President's office, among other duties. She also served as Chief Diversity Officer, where she oversaw the College's Equity and Campus Diversity program.

Stephen Tucker | President & CEO | Northland Workforce Training Center

Stephen is responsible for the management, oversight, and day to day operations of the Northland Workforce Training Center facility focused on training and preparing Western New Yorkers for careers in advanced manufacturing and clean energy. Stephen began his BNP Board service in July of 2020.