
12th Annual Southern Regional Conference

October 13-15, 2011
The Mills House Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina



Speaker Biographies

Alphonso Brown, MA
Owner, Gullah Tours
Author, *A Gullah Guide to Charleston*

Alphonso Brown was born and reared in Rantowles, South Carolina, a rural area about 12 miles South of Charleston. He graduated from Baptist Hill High School. He received a bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University in Music and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Brown is a licensed tour guide for the City of Charleston and own and operates Gullah Tours. He is the author of one of The History Press best seller, *A Gullah to Guide Charleston*. He is a lecturer on the Gullah language and black history of Charleston. Mr. Brown's Gullah Tours was featured in the May 1993 issue of the *Charleston Magazine*, in the February 1995 edition of *Southern Living Magazine*; The January 1996 edition of *Readers Digest*; in Charles Kuralt's best seller, *America*; Bert Wolf television special of Charleston, *Southern Living Presents* on Turner South Television Network; October 2009 edition of *Southern* magazine for one of the top five tours in Charleston, South Carolina; PBS specials; and B. Smith with Style are just a few of the many television and newspaper/magazine articles. He is a recipient of the very prestigious, "Three Sisters Award," and was recently recognized as a South Carolina State University Stellar Alumni.

Jennifer Flynn, JD
Director of Government Affairs
Consumer Data Industry Association

Jennifer Flynn joined CDIA as Director of Government Affairs in September of 2006. Before that she served as the Director of Government Affairs for the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) for four years. In this position, Ms. Flynn actively monitored the activities of the Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and the Centers for Disease Control, serving on several agency councils and working groups. Ms. Flynn served as the industry's advocate on a multitude of issues directly working with the groups mentioned above as well as a number of other federal and state agencies and legislative offices. Previously, Ms. Flynn served for four years as a Manager of State Affairs for Stateside Associates, a premier state government relations firm in Arlington, Virginia. She has been involved with political campaigns for more than 10 years and has served as a Legislative Aide to a Colorado state senator. Ms. Flynn received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from The American University in Washington, DC, and her Juris Doctorate from The University of Denver in Colorado.

Rachel Gragg, MA, PhD
Federal Policy Director
National Skills Coalition

Rachel Gragg joined National Skills Coalition in 2007. She directs the organization's Washington-based efforts to advance a national skills strategy within federal legislation, agency regulation, and national funding initiatives. Ms. Gragg assists local leaders in federal policy advocacy both within Washington and in their home districts and works with National Skills Coalition Regional Field Directors and local partners to help improve state and local implementation of federal programs. Ms. Gragg was previously a Senior Policy Analyst for the Center for Community Change and was a Legislative Assistant to the late Senator Paul Wellstone. Ms. Gragg earned a PhD and master's degree in sociology from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Texas.

Jane Jenkins Herlong, CSP
Certified Professional Speaker
Former Miss South Carolina

Originally from Johns Island, South Carolina, Jane Jenkins Herlong, CSP, received her bachelor's degree from Columbia College and attended graduate school at The College of Charleston. Ms. Herlong is a Certified Speaking Professional from the National Speakers Association which is the highest earned designation in professional speaking. Ms. Herlong is a former Miss South Carolina and represented South Carolina in the Miss America Pageant. Ms. Herlong is a nationally known professional speaker, award-winning professional singer, recording artist and published author. She has been privileged to share the stage with many well-known personalities such as: Colin Powell, Charlton Heston, Rudolph Giuliani and Dr. Charles Stanley. Ms. Herlong is a published author appearing in *Guideposts Magazine*, *Successful Farming*, *Baby Boomer*, and featured in *Today's American Woman* magazine. She is the author of the book, *Bare Feet to High Heels; You Don't have to Be a Beauty Queen to be a Beautiful Person*. In addition, she is a guest newspaper columnist. Ms. Herlong travels throughout the United States and has spoken in New Zealand and Germany. She has also recorded thirteen multimedia products of her speaking presentations and singing performances. Ms. Herlong has performed the National Anthem at Radio City Music Hall, for the Cincinnati Reds, Atlanta Hawks, and for numerous national bowl games as well as college and university football and basketball games across the United States. Ms. Herlong is active in her church and community and serves on the Parent Advisory Board at Clemson University, a Commissioner for Piedmont Technical College of South Carolina, Chair of the National Speakers Association Scholarship Committee and serves on the Foundation Board of the National Speakers Association. Ms. Herlong is the mother of two and married to Thomas Herlong. She and her family live on the family farm in Edgefield County, South Carolina.

Crystal Jackson
Associate Director, Legal Advocacy
American Diabetes Association

Crystal Crismond Jackson is Associate Director of Legal Advocacy at the American Diabetes Association's (ADA) National Office in Alexandria, Virginia. Her primary responsibility is managing the Association's Safe at School Campaign. Ms. Jackson is considered a national authority on the rights of students with diabetes and has spoken at conferences and forums throughout the United States and internationally on how to effectively advocate on behalf of students with diabetes, training hundreds of parent advocates, attorneys, and health care professionals. A parent of a child with diabetes, Ms. Jackson began her advocacy as a volunteer for ADA when she and another parent advocate teamed up to lead the passage the first state diabetes school legislation in the country which provides comprehensive coverage for students with diabetes in Virginia. Simultaneously she pursued a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education resulting in a settlement that is a nationwide model for safe and effective school diabetes care. Ms. Jackson, a former litigation paralegal, is a key contributor to many journal articles and diabetes publications including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Diabetes Education Program's school guide entitled "Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel" and the ADA's treatise on school issues: "Legal Rights of Students with Diabetes." She is a member of the Virginia Diabetes Council and serves on a number of other diabetes and youth advisory boards. She resides on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Sophie Link, MA
Policy Analyst
Homeownership Preservation Foundation

Sophie Link has been a non-profit professional for 10 years, holding roles in policy development and external relations, and joined Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) in 2009. Throughout her career she has held a diverse number of national and international policy and advocacy positions with a range of organizations including the American Red Cross and the United Nations. As HPF's policy analyst, Ms. Link is responsible for policy work in Washington DC, representing the organization to Capitol Hill, federal agencies, and to non-profit partners. Ms. Link received her bachelor's degree in International Relations from Syracuse University and a master's in Human Rights Law from the Center for Human Rights, Ireland.

Terry McInnis, MD, MPH**President****Blue Thorn Inc.**

As President and Founder of Blue Thorn Inc., Dr. McInnis interacts nationally with government, providers, payers, and plans to help forge a more financially sustainable and quality enhanced delivery system. Prior to founding Blue Thorn, Inc., in 2010, Dr. McInnis served as the Medical Director for Health Policy and Advocacy in the U.S. for GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the world's second largest pharmaceutical company. Subsequently, she successfully helped craft legislative positions externally by serving with the U.S. Chamber Benefits Committee, the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (as Co-Chair of the Center for Public Payer Implementation, Co-lead Medication Management Taskforce, and member of the Legislative Committee), and member of the Rx Benefits Coverage Committee for PhRMA. Dr. McInnis presents frequently at the request of organizations such as the National Governors Association, the Association of Managed Care Pharmacy, the Cal. Assoc. of Health Plans, and was featured in the Washington Redskins' "Time-out for Your Health" segments. She has more than 20 years of senior executive and clinical experience in various employer, military (US Air Force), and hospital/group practice health management segments. Prior and current experiences include work with the National Business Group on Health, Carter Center, Pharmacy Quality Alliance, Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) PSPC-Leadership Collaborative Council, and the Lansdowne Group. Dr. McInnis graduated from Erskine College with a BS (summa cum laude), and received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Wake Forest Medical School being designated a NIH student clinical scholar. She completed a residency in Occupational Medicine as an OPSF scholar, and a MPH (high honors) at the University of Oklahoma. She is Board Certified in Preventive and Occupational Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and a Former Course Advisor to the Department of Continuing Education of Harvard University. She serves on the Board of Trustees of The Thornwell Home for Children.

Byron Miller**Vice President, Marketing, Public Relations, & Planning****South Carolina Ports Authority**

Byron Miller is vice president of marketing, public relations and planning for the South Carolina State Ports Authority. He is responsible for external communications, market research, advertising, and publications, and serves as the Authority's spokesman. He joined the Ports Authority in 1993. A South Carolina native, Mr. Miller is an active volunteer with various professional associations and community organizations. He is also a graduate of Leadership South Carolina, Leadership Charleston, and Furman University's Diversity Leaders Initiative. In 2007, Mr. Miller was selected the Charleston region's "Transportation Leader of the Year," and he was also named the Propeller Club's 2005 Member of the Year. He earned bachelor's degrees in French and in business administration from The College of Charleston, with a concentration in global logistics.

The Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor

City of Charleston, South Carolina

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. was first elected Mayor in December 1975, and is now serving an unprecedented ninth term. Under his leadership, Charleston has increased its commitment to racial harmony and progress, achieved a substantial decrease in crime, experienced a remarkable revitalization of its historic downtown business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival USA, built the beautiful Waterfront Park, developed nationally-acclaimed affordable housing, and experienced unprecedented growth in Charleston's size and population. Mayor Riley has led a city government with an impressive record of innovation in public safety, housing, arts and culture, children's issues, the creation of park and other public spaces, and economic revitalization and development. The City of Charleston is recognized as one of the most livable and progressive cities in the United States. Mayor Riley has held numerous national leadership positions and received many awards and distinctions. He served as President of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) from 1986-87 and currently serves on the USCM's Executive Committee. In June 2000, he was awarded the first President's Award from the USCM for outstanding leadership. In July 2000, he was honored as the first recipient of the Urban Land Institute J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionary Urban Development. Through his lifetime of experience in Charleston, Mayor Riley has become a leading expert on urban design and livability issues and is a frequent speaker across the country on these topics. He was a founder of the Mayors' Institute for City Design (MICD) and has provided critical urban design support to mayors across America. Joseph P. Riley, Jr. was born in Charleston in 1943. He graduated from Bishop England High School, The Citadel (1964) and the University of South Carolina School of Law (1967). In 1968, Mayor Riley was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he served for six years.

Jennifer Smith, PhD, MPH

Director, Cervical Cancer-Free America

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Jennifer Smith, PhD, MPH, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology with appointments in the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Center for AIDS Research, and Center for Women's Health Research. Dr. Smith is an expert in the epidemiology of HPV and cervical cancer, and has conducted research on this topic since 1995. Her current research focuses on epidemiological studies of HPV and cervical cancer worldwide (primarily in North Carolina, China, and Kenya), with a focus on prevention via screening and prophylactic vaccines. Dr. Smith is particularly interested in cervical cancer prevention among women with limited access to preventative public health services. Dr. Smith has published over 115 articles in international peer-reviewed journal on HPV and HPV-associated cancer. She is an Associate Editor of Sexually Transmitted Infections and on the editorial board of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Judy Walling, BS, BSN, MSN, RN, FNP-C
Arrhythmia Nurse Practitioner
Medical University of South Carolina

Judy Walling is a board certified nurse practitioner and has been for the last 11 years. She has been working at the Medical University of South Carolina for the last 8 years as an arrhythmia specialist. She works with 3 electrophysiologist who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of multiple abnormal heart rhythms. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the Heart Rhythm Society.

Erica Williams, MA
Policy Analyst, State Fiscal Project
The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Erica Williams is a Policy Analyst with the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Her work includes analyzing and tracking state budgets, EITC developments, tax and expenditure limits, and trends in poverty, household income, and health insurance coverage. She also provides technical assistance to state groups. Williams came to the Center from the Institute for Women's Policy Research, where she researched the status of women in the states and a variety of other issues of concern to women such as job training and education, early care and education, Social Security, and civic and political engagement. Williams holds a BA in Sociology and Spanish Studies from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in International Policy the Monterey Institute of International Studies.