



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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For Immediate Release

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National Black Nurses Association Announces Inaugural Cohort of the Eddie Bernice Johnson Health Equity Policy Scholars Institute

May 4, 2026 - Silver Spring, MD: The National Black Nurses Association, Inc. proudly announces the selection of the **Inaugural Cohort** of the **Eddie Bernice Johnson Health Equity Policy Scholars Institute (EBJ-HEPSI)** a groundbreaking national initiative designed to prepare nurse leaders to influence health policy and advance health equity across the United States.

The Institute is **led by** Dr. Vivienne Pierce McDaniel, EBJ-HEPSI Program Director/NBNA Health Policy Committee Chair, and is supported by Program Consultant Dr. Deborah Stamps. Together, their leadership brings a powerful combination of policy expertise, educational design, and strategic vision to this historic program.

Following a highly competitive national selection process, **15 nurse leaders** were chosen for this inaugural cohort based on their demonstrated leadership, clinical expertise, lived experience, and commitment to advancing health equity and justice.

Please join us in welcoming the Eddie Bernice Johnson Health Equity Policy Scholars Institute Inaugural Cohort:

- Maxine Adegbola, PhD, RN, CNE, ACUE, ADSL, ANEF
- Grace Bastien, BSN, RN
- Mardale Bracy, MSN, RN
- Anita Daniels, MS, RN, PMH-BC
- Ebony Gebrehawariat, BSN, RN
- De'Lorien Hospedales, BS, BSN, RN
- Teneisha Howard, MSN, RN, NPD-BC
- Arnice Jackson, DNP, FNP-C
- Emmanuel Mbreku, MSN, RN, CPhT
- Danielle Ongondo, PhD, MSN, RN
- Dione Sandiford, PhD, MSN, RN
- Crystal Tucker, BSN, RN, PMH-BC
- Halima Walker, DHA, MSN, RN, CCRN, NEA-BC
- Nicole Wallace, LPN
- Dnai Williams, BSN, RN

The Institute will run from **May 5, 2026, through February 5, 2027**, offering a comprehensive, year-long leadership experience that includes monthly policy sessions, mentorship, community engagement, legislative exposure, and the development of real-world policy solutions.



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Funded by a **\$250,000 Pfizer Community Forward Health Equity Grant**, the Institute reflects NBNA's continued commitment to advancing equity, strengthening the nursing workforce, and ensuring that nurses are positioned as leaders in shaping health policy.

Named in honor of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson the first nurse elected to the United States Congress the Institute carries forward her legacy of advocacy, leadership, and service. "This is a historic moment for the nursing profession," said Dr. Vivienne Pierce McDaniel. "We are building a national cadre of nurse leaders equipped to enter policy spaces and drive meaningful, equity-centered change."

NBNA President Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, a 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow added, "This program represents the future of nursing leadership. These scholars embody the mission of NBNA and the promise of transformative change in healthcare."

Distinguished Faculty

The Institute is supported by a distinguished faculty of national equity and policy experts, including:

- Aisha Brooks, DNP, MPH, RN, FADLN, FAAN
- Yvette Conyers, DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CNE, CWCN-AP, FADLN, FNAP
- Loretta Lee, PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FADLN, ANEF, FNAP
- Celia McIntosh, DNP, RN, FNP-C, SCRN, CEN, CNRN, FADLN, FNAP
- Vivienne Pierce McDaniel, DNP, MSN, RN, FADLN, FNAP
- Tonya Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow
- Deborah Stamps, EdD, MBA, MS, RN, GNP, NE-BC, CDE®, FADLN, FAAN
- Tracy (Lee) Wilson, DNP, MBe, MSN, APRN, FAANP, FADLN, FNAP

Together, they will guide scholars through an immersive curriculum designed to build advocacy skills, policy knowledge, and leadership capacity.

About the National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

The National Black Nurses Association, Inc. is a professional organization serving as the voice for more than 308,000 African American nurses, dedicated to improving the health of communities and increasing the number of culturally responsive Black nurses. Learn more at www.nbna.org.