

THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
CELEBRATES

# AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Monday, February 10, 2025 | 7 PM

**Welcoming Remarks & Acknowledgements**  
Board Chair Vedat Gashi

## PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS



### **ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS OF COLOR (ELOC)**

Presented by Majority Whip Terry Clements  
Accepted by Marvin Church and Dr. Diana Williams,  
ELOC Co-Founders



### **MIESHA SARAH STOKELY**

Presented by Majority Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels

[see back for more]

Live streamed from the Board Chamber [westchestercountyny.legistar.com](http://westchestercountyny.legistar.com)

**Vedat Gashi**  
*Board Chair*  
Legislator, 4th District

**Colin D. Smith**  
Legislator, 1st District

**Erika L. Pierce**  
Legislator, 2nd District

**Margaret A. Cunzio**  
*Minority Leader*  
Legislator, 3rd District

**Benjamin Boykin II**  
Legislator, 5th District

**Nancy E. Barr**  
Legislator, 6th District

**Catherine F. Parker**  
Legislator, 7th District

**Jewel Williams Johnson**  
Legislator, 8th District

**Emiljana Ulaj**  
Legislator, 9th District

**Judah Holstein**  
Legislator, 10th District

**Terry Clements**  
*Majority Whip*  
Legislator, 11th District

**David Imamura**  
Legislator, 12th District

**Tyrae Woodson-Samuels**  
*Majority Leader*  
Legislator, 13th District

**David J. Tubiolo**  
Legislator, 14th District

**James Nolan**  
*Minority Whip*  
Legislator, 15th District

**Shanae V. Williams**  
Legislator, 16th District

**José I. Alvarado**  
*Vice Chair*  
Legislator, 17th District





Founded in 2021, **ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS OF COLOR (ELOC)** is a nonprofit based in Mount Vernon, NY focused on developing the next generation of environmental advocates and innovators in underserved communities. ELOC educates youth about climate change, provides pathways to climate-related careers, and empowers communities with strategies for resilience and economic opportunity. ELOC advocates for climate education, supports affected areas, and promotes clean energy solutions for a sustainable future

Its first initiative, the Student Summer Energy and Environmental Program for Teens, offers comprehensive climate and clean energy education to high school students in Westchester County. The program has grown to over 400 students in Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Portchester, Peekskill, and Ossining. By 2025, it aims to expand to Tarrytown and Greenburgh/White Plains, with potential Spanish-only sessions, depending on funding.

The curriculum covers renewable energy, global warming, food waste, deforestation, water pollution, and life cycles, with interactive teaching methods encouraging student engagement. A key feature is the Student Graduation and Showcase, where students present projects and top teams receive awards.

A highlight from the 2023 program was the Recycling Cooking Oil Team, honored with the Bedford2030 Greenlight Award for their waste-reduction project. The team's "Don't Strain Your Drain" campaign educated Mount Vernon residents about the dangers of pouring oil down drains and established oil collection bins at local fire stations. Its advocacy led the Westchester County Recycling Household Material Recovery Facility to accept cooking fats, oils, and grease. ELOC showcased the "Don't Strain Your Drain" campaign at the 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit in Washington, D.C., and presented it to the New York State DEC in Albany.

ELOC also launched the Technology and the Environment Program, offering Advanced Computer Classes in data management, cybersecurity, coding, blockchain, AI, and robotics. This program has inspired students to pursue tech careers, with plans to expand across Westchester as funding allows.

ELOC's team of founders, board members, and advisors, with backgrounds in education, finance, and environmental advocacy, is committed to preparing all communities for climate challenges.



**MIESHA SARAH STOKELY** was raised in Mount Vernon, NY, as an only child with her mother, Monika Jones. A high honor student at Mount Vernon High School, she graduated ninth in her class in 2007. Miesha attended the University of Miami, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2011. While in school, she served as president of the Black Nursing Student Association, organizing community service events and weekly bake sales. These fundraisers revealed her passion for baking—a talent passed down from her great-grandmother, Sarah Day.

Returning to Mount Vernon after graduation, Miesha continued baking for family and friends. In 2011, she launched Cupcake Cutie, growing her new business while working night shifts as a registered nurse. On October 10, 2015, Miesha and her mother opened Cupcake Cutie Boutique. On the first anniversary of the bakery, she founded Black Girls Bake Inc., a nonprofit supporting minority women and girls passionate about baking through classes and mentorship.

Miesha is an active community member and part of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Nu Omega Chapter of Westchester County, where she co-chairs the Uplift Our Local Community initiative, the Mental Health Committee, and the Awards Committee. Her professional focus has always been women's health. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Pace University in 2019 and a second master's as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner in 2024.

Miesha currently serves as Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director for Greenburgh-Graham Union Free School District, which serves and supports students who are at-risk or have special needs. She has continued to work in labor and delivery for the past 13 years. She is a certified lactation counselor, certified inpatient obstetric nurse, and certified in electronic fetal monitoring, with a focus on Black maternal mortality.

Miesha is pursuing her Doctorate in Nursing Practice and preparing to open a private practice specializing in women's mental health, perinatal mental health, and postpartum depression.

Outside of work and baking, Miesha's greatest joy is being a mom to her 4-year-old daughter, Maisarah.