



Minorities in Criminal Justice Symposium Held in Albany October 2, 2014



The 28th annual Minorities in Criminal Justice Symposium was held in Albany in early October. According to one of the founders, Joseph Williams, the symposium has two goals; helping more minorities get hired into the DOCCS agency and helping rehabilitate minorities once they leave the prison system. This year's symposium was held at the Holiday Inn, in Colonie.

The three day long event started Wednesday October, 1st with a welcome speech from Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. The "Pathways to Empowerment" symposium consisted of daily workshops including one on drugs, one on how to make sound financial choices and the impact being incarcerated has on a family. Several keynote speakers addressed the crowd including Alphonso David, Governor Cuomo's Deputy Secretary and Counsel for Civil Rights. The event

started in 1986 when then Deputy Commissioner for Program Services, Marion Borum, a black male, started the push to have more minorities hired in the DOCCS agency. Members say today the mission and the symposium is going strong thanks to the continued support of commissioners and supervisor's across the agency, including DOCCS' Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci.