

PENN STATE'S *AWARD-WINNING BLACK ALUMNI*





“MAY OUR LIVES BUT SWELL THY FAME,
DEAR OLD STATE, DEAR OLD STATE.”

Penn State, in its more than 150 years, has grown from a small agricultural college to a preeminent research university. Along the way, our alma mater has earned a reputation as one of the finest public universities in the country, due in part to the great professional and personal lives of alumni.

This booklet shines a spotlight on some of the highest achieving black alumni—those who have been honored with Penn State’s and the Penn State Alumni Association’s highest awards: Distinguished Alumni, Alumni Fellow, and Alumni Achievement.

These lives have but swelled Penn State’s fame indeed.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of honoree information; however some historical information may not be completely updated.

*** On bios, denotes the individual is deceased.*

ABOUT THE AWARDS



Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award, established in 1951, recognizes the achievements of outstanding alumni “whose personal life, professional achievements, and community service exemplify the objectives of The Pennsylvania State University.” Alumni are nominated by trustees, faculty, staff, and alumni, then chosen by the Board of Trustees.



Alumni Fellow Award

The Alumni Fellow Award is the most prestigious award given by the Penn State Alumni Association. Administered in cooperation with Penn State’s academic colleges and campuses, the program, established in 1973, provides recipients with the opportunity to return to campus to share their knowledge with the University community.



Alumni Achievement Award

The Alumni Achievement Award, begun in 2005, recognizes alumni who are 35 years of age and younger for their extraordinary professional accomplishments. Nominated by an academic college or campus, these prominent young alumni return to campus to interact with students and the University community, demonstrating that Penn State alumni succeed in exceptional fashion at an early age.

Historical Note: The first alumni award, the Distinguished Alumni Award, was established in 1951. In 1971, the University recognized the first black alumnus with a Distinguished Alumni Award. Outstanding black alumni have been recognized since.



JOHN AMAECHI '94

Alumni Achievement Award, 2006

Former professional basketball player (eight seasons) and only Englishman in the NBA Hall of Fame (2000); philanthropist and founder, ABC Foundation; sport and current affairs pundit, BBC, ITV, and SKY; author, *New York Times* best seller, *Man in the Middle*; first NBA player to identify himself as gay.



THOMAS JEFFERSON ANDERSON JR. '51g

*Alumni Fellow Award, 1982
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1990*

One of America's foremost black composers whose works include *Soldier Boy*, *Soldier* and Scott Joplin's opera, *Treemonisha*; Guggenheim Fellowship (1989) and winner of numerous competitions and awards; former chair, Department of Music, and Austin Fletcher Professor of Music Emeritus, Tufts University.



CYNTHIA ACKRON BALDWIN '66, '74g

*Distinguished Alumni Award, 1995
Alumni Fellow Award, 2000*

Partner, Duane Morris LLC law firm; retired justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; first African American female judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; trustee and former chair, Penn State Board of Trustees; first African American president, Penn State Alumni Association; J.D., Duquesne University School of Law.



**JOHN T. BIGGERS '48, '48g, '54g

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1972

Acclaimed muralist with murals at Penn State, Texas Southern University, and the Houston Public Library; founder and chair, Art Department, Texas Southern University; one of the first African American artists to visit Africa, UNESCO Traveling Fellowship (1956); Texas Artist of the Year (1988).



CHARLES L. BLOCKSON '56

*Alumni Fellow Award, 1981
Distinguished Alumni Award, 2007*

Emeritus Curator, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, Temple University (prints, slave narratives, manuscripts, and more than 500,000 photographs); foremost expert, author, and lecturer on the Underground Railroad; founding member, African American Museum, Philadelphia; track and field and football teams, Penn State.



GUION S. BLUFORD JR. '64

*Distinguished Alumni Award, 1983
Alumni Fellow Award, 1986*

Retired U.S. Air Force colonel and America's first black astronaut; mission specialist, Space Shuttle Challenger (1983, 1985) and Space Shuttle Discovery (1991, 1992); decorated fighter pilot, U.S. Air Force (144 combat missions in Vietnam); NAACP Image Award (1983); founder and president, Aerospace Technology Group.



K. DAVID BOYER JR. '73, '82g

Distinguished Alumni Award, 2000

Founder and CEO, Global Watch Technologies, a leading information security consulting and software engineering firm; co-founder (with wife, Felicity Belford Boyer '81g), TROY Systems, Inc. (1984-2001); member, Commonwealth of Virginia Treasury Board; Minority Small Business Person of the Year (1991); Member, Alumni Council and Executive Board, Penn State Alumni Association; President, Society of Distinguished Alumni.



JOHN L. BRAXTON '66

Alumni Fellow Award, 1996

Retired judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas (1981-95); former chair, Judicial Council, National Bar Association; board chair, Philadelphia Commercial Development Corp. (1991-96); member, Board of Governors of the American Red Cross (2004-07); adjunct professor, Temple University (1985-95); member, Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority (1975-81); decorated U.S. Army veteran, Vietnam.



M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN II '97
Alumni Achievement Award, 2005

Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; vice president, programs and administration, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; director, social justice and professional development, American Educational Research Association; executive director and chief research scientist, Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, United Negro College Fund; associate professor of education and senior research associate, Center for the Study of Higher Education, Penn State University.



WILLIAM E. BROWN JR. '49
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1981

Retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General; Commander of Allied Air Forces, Southern Europe (1982-85); flew 125 combat missions over Korea and 50 over North Vietnam; commander, Air Defense Weapons Center, Tyndall Air Force Base (1978-80); commander, 17th Air Force, Sembach Air Base, West Germany (1980-82).



CEDRIC X. BRYANT '84g, '89g
Alumni Fellow Award, 2006

Chief science officer, American Council on Exercise; author or co-author of 21 books and more than 200 articles on exercise and fitness; fellow, American College of Sports Medicine; chair, Scientific Advisory Board, American Council on Exercise; member, Advisory Board, Center for the Study of Sport, Seattle University.



**MILDRED SETTLE BUNTON '32
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1973

Arrived at Penn State in 1929 as the first black female student on campus; distinguished career as director of dietetics, Freedmen's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital), and associate professor of medical dietetics, Department of Allied Health Professions, Howard University, Washington, D.C.



JACK L. BURLEY '65

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1999

Retired vice president, H.J. Heinz Co.; one of *Ebony* magazine's 50 Top Black Executives in Corporate America; board member, Urban League of Pittsburgh and Bidwell Training Center; member, executive committee, Campaign for Penn State; former board member, Penn State Smeal College of Business Alumni Society; Cornerstone Society, Penn State McKeesport.



****ARTHUR H. COLEMAN '41**

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1979

Physician, attorney, and founder of one of the nation's first community health centers (1968); National Medical Association Certificate of Merit (1978); fellow, American Academy of Forensic Sciences; president, American College of Legal Medicine; San Francisco Board of Supervisors Certificate of Honor for humanitarian work; M.D., Howard University.



JULIAN ABELE COOK JR. '52

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1985

Senior judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (appointed in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter following 30 years in private practice); J.D., Georgetown University (1957); LL.M., University of Virginia (1988); NAACP Distinguished Citizen of the Year (1970); U.S. Army Signal Corps (1952-54).



RONALD R. DAVENPORT '58

Alumni Fellow Award, 1973

First non-Catholic dean, Duquesne University School of Law (1970-80); former partner, Buchanan Ingersoll; co-founder and chair, Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation; former board member, U.S. Committee for Economic Development, National Urban League, and the John Heinz History Center; former host, "You and the Law" television series.



JUDITH LOFTIN DAVENPORT '61

*Distinguished Alumni Award, 1995
Alumni Fellow Award, 2001*

Retired dentist; co-founder, Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation; president, Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation (1992-94); trustee, Birmingham Foundation, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Foundation, Carlow College, Andy Warhol Museum, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, and Pittsburgh Public Theater.



MURRY N. DEPILLARS '76g

Alumni Fellow Award, 1989

Artist, former dean, and professor emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Arts; past president, National Conference of Artists(1973-77); past member, American Association for Higher Education, International Council of Fine Arts Deans, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, and National Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities Fine Arts Commission.



TABBETHA A. DOBBINS '02g

Alumni Achievement Award, 2007

Assistant professor of physics, Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University; National Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship (2002); member, Louisiana Science Teachers Association; member, Louisiana State University Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices User Participation Committee.



WILLIAM A. DONAN '68

*Alumni Fellow Award, 1994
Distinguished Alumni Award, 2006*

Retired president, Baxter International Pharmaseal Division; retired Southeast region president, Allegiance Healthcare; founder, Executive Management Consulting, LLC; past member, Smeal College of Business Alumni Society Board; established scholarship, MBA fellowship, and endowed professorship in Smeal College of Business (promoting student and faculty diversity).



****BENSON L. DUTTON '33**
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1971

Retired director of construction, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; first dean, School of Engineering, Tennessee State University (1950-56); professor of engineering, Hampton Institute and Tennessee State (1940-50); chief bridge design engineer, City of Philadelphia (1956-65); fellow, American Society of Civil Engineers.



KENNETH C. FRAZIER '75
Alumni Fellow Award, 2001
Distinguished Alumni Award, 2003

Executive vice president and president, Global Human Health, Merck & Co.; senior vice president and general counsel, Merck & Co.; member, Merck & Co. Management Committee; vice president for public affairs, Merck & Co.; first general counsel, Astra Merck; partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath (1978-92); J.D., Harvard Law School (1978).



MIRIAN GRADDICK-WEIR '78g, '81g
Alumni Fellow Award, 2003

Executive vice president, human resources, Merck & Co.; former executive vice president, human resources and AT&T executive committee member; AT&T Catherine B. Cleary Management Award (1990); *HR Executive* magazine's HR Executive of the Year (2000); Distinguished Psychologist in Management Award (2003).



ROOSEVELT "ROSEY" GRIER '55
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1974
Alumni Fellow Award, 1991

Professional football player, Los Angeles Rams (1955-56); humanitarian, entertainer, author, and ordained minister; founder, Giant Step, Inc., (federally funded program providing job training for disadvantaged youth and housing for senior citizens in Los Angeles); past board member, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation and Special Olympics; outstanding lineman, Nittany Lion football team (1951-54).



CARLA J. HARGROVE '97g
Alumni Achievement Award, 2006

Professional actress, *Hairspray* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Broadway), *My Brother's Keeper* (off-Broadway), and *Dinah Was*, a musical about blues singer Dinah Washington (tour); John Barrymore Award for outstanding performance by a supporting actress in a musical; Black Theatre Alliance Award for best featured actress in a musical.



FRANCO HARRIS '72
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1982
Alumni Fellow Award, 2005

Record-setting professional football player (Pittsburgh Steelers, 1972-84) who played in four Super Bowls; NFL Rookie of the Year (1972); MVP, Super Bowl IX (1975); NFL Man of the Year (1976); *College and Pro Football Weekly* Player of the Decade; Pro Football Hall of Fame (1990); owner, Super Bakery, Inc. (innovative and healthy food products).



ROBERT C. HUTCHINS '70g, '73g
Alumni Fellow Award, 1984

Executive Director, Opportunities Academy of Management Training, Philadelphia; teacher and administrator, public schools and universities (25 years); Marcus Foster Award for Outstanding Service to Education (1979); Presidential Citation, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (1981); former director, Philadelphia Parkway Program.



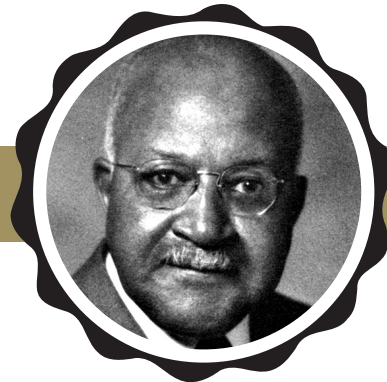
MARGARET LUCAS JACOBS '73g
Alumni Fellow Award, 1985

Former dean and professor of art, College of Creative Arts, West Virginia University; chair, department of art, North Texas State University (1983-86); Art Teacher of the Year, Florida State University (1973); executive committee, American Council on Education Council of Fellows; prolific writer, panelist, and art exhibit juror.



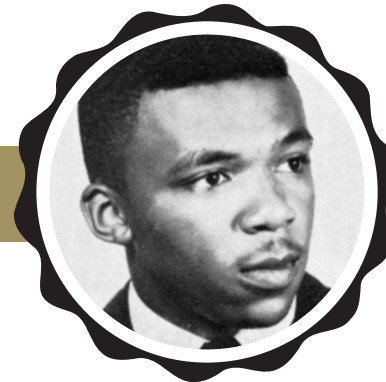
GORDON JOHNSON '63g
Alumni Fellow Award, 1998

Founder, president, and CEO, Neighbor to Family, Inc. (foster family program); former president and CEO, Jane Addams Hull House Association (non-profit social service agency); former director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Ford Foundation and John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University Innovations Award (1986).



**JOSEPH L. JOHNSON '18
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1977

Professor and department head, physiology, Howard University (1931-1970); dean, College of Medicine, Howard University; leader, Washington chapter, Southern Conference for Human Welfare (fighting discriminatory practices in public accommodations); Distinguished Service Award, University of Chicago Medical Alumni; founding member, U.S. Committee, World Medical Association.



JOHN R. KEMP III '66
Alumni Fellow Award, 1999

Retired president, exploration and production, Americas of Conoco, Inc. (now ConocoPhillips); president and managing director, Conoco Norway (1991); vice president of exploration production for operations in South America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (1993); Gold Achievement Award, Co-operative Developmental Energy Program (1995); Centennial Fellow Award, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (1996). *Photo from LaVie 1966.*



KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY '96g
Alumni Achievement Award, 2007

Professional actor and television personality; host, *The Planet's Funniest Animals* (Animal Planet); leading cast member, *MADtv* (Fox); company member and comedy writer, Second City—Detroit and Second City e.t.c. (Chicago); founding member, Planet Ant Theatre (Michigan); playwright, *Big Mama's Wedding*; Joseph Jefferson Award (honoring excellence in Chicago theatre).



STANLEY B. LATHAN '67
Alumni Fellow Award, 1982
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1984

Independent television director; Emmy Award, directing, PBS series *Black Journal* (1970); Best Director, Jamaica Film Festival (1974); director, “*Almos’ a Man*” and “*The Sky is Gray*” (PBS), *American Short Story* series (1980 Grand Prize, American Film Festival), *A House Divided: Denmark Vesey’s Rebellion* (1982 PBS series on history of slavery in America).



SHIRLEY MAHALEY MALCOM '74g
Alumni Fellow Award, 1995
Distinguished Alumni Award, 2001

Head, directorate for education and human resources programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science; organizer, 1983 Panel of Experts on Science, Technology, and Women; advisor, Gender Working Group and Gender Advisory Board, U.N. Commission on Science and Technology for Development.



RONALD L. MALLET '69, '70g, '73g
Alumni Fellow Award, 2007

Professor of physics, University of Connecticut; world-renowned physicist and leading authority on time travel; member, American Physical Society and National Society of Black Physicists; author, *Time Traveler: A Scientist’s Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality* (2006); first recipient, Penn State Altoona Outstanding Alumni Award (2006).



EDDIE N. MOORE JR. '68
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1999

President, Virginia State University; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award in Education (1995); former assistant comptroller for accounting and reporting, Commonwealth of Virginia; appointed state treasurer, Commonwealth of Virginia (1990-93); decorated Vietnam War veteran; established Ronald McNair Scholars Program (with Penn State) to prepare underrepresented students to earn doctorates.



****WILLIAM H. MOSES '33**
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1980

Prize-winning architect; professor and head, department of architecture, Hampton Institute (architectural library is dedicated to him); initiated Hampton's architecture curriculum; winner, contest to design Virginia's exhibit for 1939 World's Fair (Moses's design was never constructed after state officials discovered his race); weekly newspaper columnist, "A Dark Point of View" (1971-86).



HERBERT NIPSON '40
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1973

Retired executive editor, *Ebony* magazine; executive editor (1973-87), managing editor (1951-73), associate editor (1949), *Ebony* magazine; Outstanding Journalist Award, Capital Press Club (1965); editor, *Brown American* magazine, Philadelphia (1940-41); World War II veteran (1941-45); master of fine arts, University of Iowa; former board member, Urban League and NAACP.



EMMETT PAIGE JR. '74g
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1988
Alumni Fellow Award, 1993

Retired Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (41-year career serving in the United States and abroad); first black to reach general officer rank in Signal Corps; Distinguished Service, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, and Joint Service Commendation medals; president and chief operating officer, OAO Corp. (aerospace engineering and information systems firm).



****JAMES H. ROBINSON '49**
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1978

Surgeon, teacher, and administrator; clinical professor of surgery, associate dean, and director of student affairs, Jefferson Medical College; clinical assistant professor of surgery, Hahnemann Medical College; board member, Eberly College of Science Alumni Society; member, Alumni Council and Executive Board, Penn State Alumni Association (the Alumni Association's Equal Opportunity Award is named for him); M.D., University of Pennsylvania (1953).



****MATTHEW T. ROBINSON '58**

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1994

One of the original creators of *Sesame Street*; author, *The Gordon of Sesame Street Storybook*; writer and producer, *The Cosby Show*; wrote and produced the movies *Save the Children* (1973) and *Amazing Grace*, starring Moms Mabley (1974); playwright, *Keyboard*; screenwriter, *The Possession of Joe Delaney*; NAACP Image Award; Urban League Achievement Award.



ALISIA SALTERS '88

Alumni Fellow Award, 2007

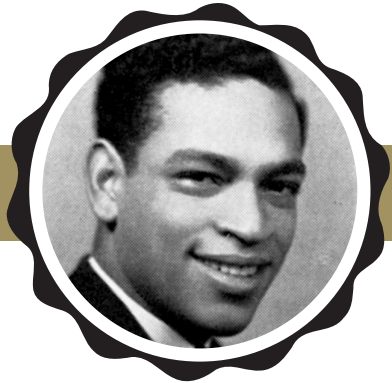
Reporter, ESPN; sideline reporter, college football and NBA; correspondent, ESPN Reports; previous assignments: Olympic Games (1998, 2004), World Cup (2002), Women's Final Four basketball (2004), Rose Bowl (2006), and NBA finals (2006-07); reporter/correspondent, ABC's *World News Tonight*; four-time winner, National Association of Black Journalists award for journalistic excellence; former member, Lady Lions basketball team.



JAMES H. STITH '72g

Alumni Fellow Award, 2005

Internationally known physicist and leading authority on physics education; vice president, Physics Resources Center, American Institute of Physics; retired colonel and faculty member, U.S. Military Academy (first African American named to the tenured faculty); former professor of physics, Ohio State University; fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science.



****HENRY R. SMITH JR. '39**

Distinguished Alumni Award, 1982

Long-time judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; manager, Housing Authority, City of Pittsburgh; director, Allegheny County Office of Economic Opportunity; state president, NAACP; trustee, Carnegie-Mellon University, Duquesne University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Point Park College; J.D., Duquesne University School of Law (1949). *Photo from LaVie 1939.*



****JOHN H. STANFORD '61**

*Alumni Fellow Award, 1990
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1998*

Retired Major General, U.S. Army (30-year career included tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam); CEO, Fulton County (Atlanta), Ga.; superintendent, Seattle Public School System; Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, and Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters.



MENASSIE M. TADDESE '97g

Alumni Achievement Award, 2006

Director of Finance, Africa & Middle East (AfME) Pharmaceutical Business, Pfizer, Inc.; alumnus, Pfizer Corporate Finance Rotational Development program; lead role in corporate finance integration during Pfizer's \$60 billion acquisition of Pharmacia; board member, Smeal College of Business Alumni Society; former board member, Minority MBA Affiliate Program Group, Penn State Alumni Association.



WALLACE TRIPLETT III '49

Distinguished Alumni Award, 2007

Former NFL star; outstanding tailback at Penn State (1946-48); first black to play in Cotton Bowl (1947); first black player drafted to the Detroit Lions; first NFL player drafted during the Korean War; following NFL retirement (1953), built career in insurance and real estate; management and safety teacher, Chrysler Corp.



BRUCE W. TROTMAN '65

Alumni Fellow Award, 1985

Managing partner and physician, Digestive Disease Specialists, Bradenton, Fla.; former director and professor of medicine, Methodist Hospital, SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn; faculty member, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (1973-84); professor and chair of medicine, Meharry Medical College (Nashville, Tenn.); fellow, American College of Physicians; M.D., University of Pennsylvania (1969).



****BRIDGES A. TURNER '39g, '41g**
Alumni Fellow Award, 1985

Dean and faculty member, School of Technology, Texas Southern University (1948-80); director, Minority Manpower Resources Project (assisting minorities in studying engineering, earning college degrees, and becoming professionals at major companies and government agencies); faculty member, Hampton Institute (1941-48); author, *From a Plow to a Doctorate, So What?* (autobiography).



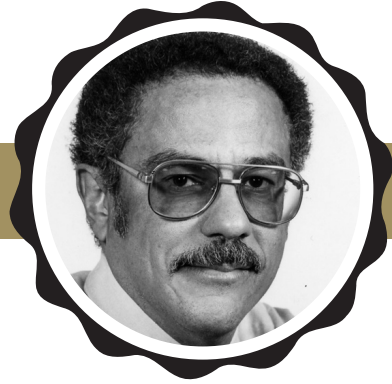
****JAMES E. WALKER '72g**
Alumni Fellow Award, 1988

Vice president for academic affairs and provost, University of Northern Colorado; dean, College of Education, California State University at Hayward (1980-87); chair, Department of Special Education, Illinois State University (1977-80); assistant professor of special education, Southern Illinois University; co-author, *Behavior Management: A Practical Approach for Educators* (1984).



GERRI WARREN-MERRICK '73
Alumni Fellow Award, 2002

Vice president of corporate community relations, AOL Time Warner (focuses corporation's attention on areas with potential for greatest philanthropic impact on community, art and culture, and educational organizations); New York City Partnership David Rockefeller Fellow; New York Women's Agenda Star Award (2002); Woman of Distinction, Girl Scout Council of Greater New York (2002).



WARREN M. WASHINGTON '64g
Alumni Fellow Award, 1989
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1991

Director of Global Dynamics Division and senior scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research (expert in atmospheric science and climate research using computer modeling); co-authored, *Introduction to Three-Dimensional Climate Modeling* (1986); fellow, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, and American Association for the Advancement of Science.



DONALD L. WATSON '50
Alumni Fellow Award, 1989

Deputy director, resource management, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); directed development of nation's first energy conservation building and appliance efficiency standards, California Energy Commission (1975-80); interim director, Caltrans (1987); former director, Los Angeles District, Caltrans; Black Engineer of the Year President's Award (1988); former Alumni Council member, Penn State Alumni Association.



HARDY WILLIAMS '52
Distinguished Alumni Award, 1997

Father of the Black Independent Political Movement and first independently elected African American in Pennsylvania state government; five-term state representative, Pennsylvania; state senator, Pennsylvania (1982-1998); former chair, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and Philadelphia Senate delegation; former trustee, Penn State (1972-75).



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University Park, PA 16802
814-865-LION (6516)
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