

18th annual National Black Business Month™

Virginia leads states in annual ranking of climate for Black-owned businesses: Biden-Harris administration has big gap to fill to meet goals for supplier diversity in federal contracts: *Pandemic to Prosperity: State of Black Business, 18th edition* Order at blackbusinessmonth.com

For Immediate Release:

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SAN FRANCISCO – Virginia is the top-rated state on the Black Business Affinity Index, reports *Pandemic to Prosperity: State of Black Business, 18th edition*, the official publication of the 18th annual National Black Business Month in August.

John William Templeton, author of the report since 2003, said, “Although other states use Virginia’s SWAM program as a best practice, the governor and legislature are not satisfied and are undergoing a thorough examination of their efforts to include African-Americans in the state’s economy.”

In a discussion of the book Tuesday with Sen. James Sanders, D-Queens, chair of the economic development committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and Kenneth Ebie, executive director of Black Entrepreneurs NYC, Templeton called for an end to “chit’lin economics,” and a shift to “whole hog prosperity.”

The top five states were: Virginia, Illinois, Maryland, New York and Ohio.

While highlighting strategies such as the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, Florida’s Black Business Investment Corporations, Oregon Cares Black Relief Fund, historically underutilized business programs in Texas and North Carolina and Washington State’s Sub-cabinet for Supplier Diversity, *Pandemic to Prosperity’s* review of disparity studies in all 50 states shows that the approaches of the past 40 years have failed to reach the vast majority of the 3 million Black-owned businesses.

President Joseph R. Biden’s move on June 1 to increase federal contracting with small disadvantaged businesses starts from a low level of just 8,900 contracts to Black firms in Fiscal Year 2020, according to the report. Half of those contracts are in just six states.

Templeton calls for the Biden-Harris administration to support the goal of 15 percent SDB contracting by encouraging federal agencies to reach 100,000 contracts with Black-owned firms, particularly in health care and professional, scientific and technical services, the second and third largest Black business sectors. This can be done by using Small Business Innovative Research grants and HUBZone designations to put federal dollars in the communities hardest hit by the pandemic which are labor surplus areas.

Pandemic to Prosperity includes a ranking of states based on the number of federal contracts to Black-owned firms and the Black Business Affinity Index rankings, which use the Ten Key Factors for Black Business Success, developed by Templeton through longitudinal research on Black neighborhoods since 1984.

The author is the first African-American to edit a business newspaper, at the San Jose Business Journal in 1987, and a 48-year veteran journalist. He is author of a trilogy on the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments and opens San Francisco Juneteenth with a 30th anniversary of his four volume *Our Roots Run Deep: the Black Experience in California*, for which he won the Library Laureate award in 2002.

A video about the book is being released as part of the launch of the Black-owned social media site RepItSocial, which presented at the conclusion of the eight week How to Do Equity symposia April 3-May 15 in preparation for the report.

Another groundbreaking firm that presented was Mathematical Modelling Inc., which has created a 13-million bit dynamic encryption tool, which can solve many of the problems being faced with ransomware.

Participants in the four weeks included: California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, Board of Equalization Chair Malia Cohen, Rear Adm. Denise Hinton, Food and Drug Administration Chief Scientist; Rear Adm. Richardae Araujo, FDA Associate Administrator, Dr. Pierre Theodore, vice president global public health, Johnson&Johnson and Dr. Lila Collins, Associate Director for Therapies, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. A summary of the program is in the June issue of the *Journal of Black Innovation*.

Templeton created Our10Plan: the African-American economic strategy in 2015, releasing it at the Los Angeles conference of NBCSL. It calls for reaching a ten percent share of US GDP for African-American aggregate income by achieving ten percent of that income as capital in Black-owned banks; and ten percent of Black-owned businesses hiring employees.

Only 135,000 of 3 million Black firms hire employees. Our10Plan calls for raising that number to 350,000, including a growth from 1,000 to 25,000 Black manufacturers.

Pandemic to Prosperity praises the availability of \$9 billion from the U.S. Treasury from recent appropriations to acquire non-dilutive capital in minority depository institutions, which make 60 percent of loans to Black-owned businesses and 60 percent of residential loans to Black home buyers. In 2020, their capital based was \$5 billion, insufficient for a \$1.3 trillion African-American market.

The report highlights entrepreneurs like Tulsa-based Colleen and Donnie Nabors, who operate a national diagnostic testing firm which began providing COVID-19 tests in the first week of March 2020, and Dallas-based 2M Clinical, led by Drs. Eddilisa and Marcus Martin, who used their expertise in geospatial epidemiology to track the course of the disease for federal agencies, local governments and clinical trials.

With 425,000 African-Americans in health care/social service businesses, this is a prime opportunity to dramatically expand federal contracting and address health equity.

As of June 1, only 25 percent of African-Americans had been fully vaccinated, less than half the overall rate.

National Black Business Month has filed a petition for rulemaking with the Securities and Exchange Commission for Truth in Equity to address transparency among public

companies making claims about supporting Black businesses and Black communities in general.

It calls for disclosure as to whether firms are complying with the Joint Standards of the Federal Financial Institutions Examining Council and for public release of their EEO-1 forms required by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

NBBM is working with pension funds to assure that investors have a reliable way to assess whether firms are truly addressing systemic racial economic inequity.

Templeton is chair of the board of the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corp., serving Brownsville, with the densest population of public housing in the nation.

CBEDC's OWN Brownsville initiative is changing the ratio from 90 percent renters to owners of homes and businesses, working with the city of New York to develop parcels of vacant city-owned land beginning with the Bville Hub incubator.

He is also a trustee of Presbyterian Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL which has developed a cybersecurity program which is placing students in internships this summer.

As a historian, he provides weekly sea cruises from Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco to illustrate the 6,000 sites of the California African-American Freedom Trail each Sunday in June.

His instructional television network, ReUNION: Education-Arts-Heritage, has provided curriculum for schools for 30 years. It premieres a 30-part series on the 15th Amendment during August.

Templeton was commissioned to do the first State of Black Business report, Loaded Dice, in 2003 by fellow Howard alumnus Frederick E. Jordan Sr., P.E., owner of California's first Black-owned civil engineering firm and engineer for much of the Port of Oakland as well as the rebuild of the Cypress Structure after the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Both have traced their ancestries to Africans who arrived in the United States long before the American Revolution and to their African homelands.

The opening of the book tells the story of Paul Cuffee, who took his father's Ghanian first name as his last name as he built a ship to run the British blockade during the American Revolution and supply Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. By the time of the War of 1812, Cuffee had expanded his fleet so that he was able to have an audience with President James Madison, the first African-American to visit the White House.

Like Samuel Fraunces, George Washington's chef and owner of Fraunces Tavern, the oldest building in New York City, Cuffee demonstrates the central role of Black businesses throughout American history.