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**Center for Urban Progress**

**RELEASE**

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**THE POLICIES AND NEEDED LEGISLATION IN THE SECOND OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO BE  
THE FOCUS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT**

A national summit of scholars from universities and policy think tanks will meet in Washington, DC on the campus of Howard University on February 1, 2013 for the Fourth Annual Black Economic Summit to discuss and analyze policy options and initiatives during President Obama's second term. A central theme of the Summit will be the remarkably persistent racial disparities in U.S. society and how policymakers should seek to address them.

Scholars from leading universities (Duke, Howard, Georgetown, the New School, and John Jay College), and think tanks (the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Brookings Institution) will take a hard look at issues such as wealth and income disparities, unemployment and labor, housing, health, education and treatment of returning veterans. U.S. Representative Robert ("Bobby") Scott (D-VA) and Bernard E. Anderson of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School will examine the current economic crisis, especially with regard to its impact on African Americans, and offer policy prescriptions for the President's second term.

Distinguished scholar and policy expert, James ("Jim") Carr, who has served in senior positions with the Opportunity Agenda, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, and Fannie Mae, will speak on the challenges that continue to afflict the housing market.

Other presenters at the day-long Summit will include Howard University economist William Spriggs, until recently Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy and currently chief economist for the AFL-CIO, as well as Drs. Charles Betsey, Rodney Green, Haydar Kurban and Omari Swinton from the Howard University Department of Economics; Dr. Lorenzo Morris and Jonathan Hutto from the Howard University Department of Political Science; Duke University economist Dr. William ("Sandy") Darity, known for his advocacy of a federal job guarantee for all workers; and other scholars from the Duke Research Network, including Margaret Gayle and Rhonda Sharpe. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies will be represented by President & CEO Ralph Everett and Dr. Wilhelmina Leigh, an expert on wealth accumulation and housing policy.

According to Summit organizers, the event will provide an array of innovative policy options aimed at driving informed advocacy for progressive social change and to create alternative thinking to the deadlocked and polarized "inside the Beltway" policy discourse.

The event will be held at the Blackburn Center on Howard University's main campus from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on February 1, 2013 and includes a luncheon address by Jim Carr. Registration is required for the conference and luncheon.

The event will be live streamed from a link at <http://www.coas.howard.edu/economics>