

NC

A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund



Mobilize. Impact. Change

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NCAPREF.ORG



State: North Carolina

Core Constituency/Target Audience: Black and Indigenous communities; working families

Website: <https://ncapref.org/>

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The North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Education Fund is an organization of Black trade unionists and community activists fighting for racial equality and economic justice for all Americans. They work to improve the quality of life for economically disadvantaged families by providing the necessary resources that improve their standard of living and foster self improvement, self empowerment, and self sufficiency. The Institute is named for A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, who were preeminent African American labor leaders and fathers of the modern American civil rights movement. They believed the fight for workers' rights and civil rights were inseparable.

The North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund continues Randolph and Rustin's work to ensure social, political and economic justice for all working Americans. The NCAPREF engages in voter registration, direct voter contact for candidates at all levels, and litigation to fight anti-worker and anti-voter legislation.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

The NCAPREF supports Democratic candidates for state legislature in 49 state Senate districts and 110 State House Districts. They work year-round to educate voters across the state, and to mobilize Black, Indigenous and working class voters for elections at all levels of government.

Through their electoral initiatives, NCAPREF works to build power within disenfranchised communities.

Through this strong grassroots constituency, the NCAPREF will influence voter turnout on specific issues in counties across the state. Their goal is to educate and motivate the electorate, and build enthusiasm for voting in 2022 and beyond.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout the year, NCAPREF team members contact target voters and hold deep conversations. They utilize a digital campaign structure, persuasion mail, relational organizing, and text messaging to educate and motivate voters, while building capacity for future initiatives.

In 2020 alone, NCAPREF made more than 1,754,000 phone calls, knocked on 183,713 doors, sent over 1,081,297 text messages, made over 10 million Facebook impressions and sent over 1 million pieces of mail. Through their efforts, APREF has significantly increased the number of young North Carolinians involved in the electoral process.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO ORGANIZATION

NCAPREF works to engage voters in support of a wide range of issues, including healthcare, environmental justice, and education.

Their policy priorities include:

- Civil rights, including strong anti-discrimination measures and affirmative action.
- Policies that promote decent wages, high growth, and full employment.
- Labor law reform and worker health and safety protections.
- Decent minimum standards of living for all, including anti-poverty programs, a fair minimum wage and a comprehensive safety net.
- Universal affordable healthcare.
- Paid sick leave, paid family leave, and affordable child care.
- Education and training programs.
- Environmental justice measures that address climate change and help us transition to an equitable clean energy future.

STATE BRIDGES SPEAKERS

Melvin Montford, President and CEO



Melvin F. Montford is President and CEO of the North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Education Fund. He provides strategic planning, training, and information technology to the NCAPREF team, and also serves as Executive Director for North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute, their affiliated 501(c)3. Long before most of us had even heard of the Koch Brothers, Melvin was fighting back against their influence in our elections and democracy. He has been pushing for workers' rights for decades.

Melvin is a Black administrator, union activist, labor leader and community leader. He has worked on organizing, GOTV, and voter registration projects for more than forty years. At just 19 years old, he got involved in labor organizing, becoming the Recording Secretary of his local union, the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) Local 5-347.

In September 1976 after helping lead a seventeen week strike against Weyerhaeuser Company he became President of Local 5-347. He held the position of president for 12 years.

In 1988, Melvin decided to pursue a full-time career within the labor movement, becoming the National Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for the International Woodworkers of America and the union's first Black officer. He later became the union's first Black National Vice-President. In that role, he served as the lead litigator for the union on arbitrated grievances and was involved in the union's strategic planning. In 1994, Melvin became a union Business Representative, performing collective bargaining, arbitration, contract administration and organizing in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Melvin is a board member for the Labor Network for Sustainability, has received the Catalyst – Green Tie Award from North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Shavon Leach, Digital and Organizing Director



Shavon Leach is the Digital and Organizing Director for North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Leadership Studies from Peace College, now known as William Peace University. She has her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management from Southern New Hampshire University. She has received training in Non-profit Management for Duke University.

Shavon Leach was the Executive Assistant for North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute (NCAPRI) for 6 years. In that role, she was responsible for leading phone banking, canvassing and voter registration efforts. She has served the NCAPREF in various roles, including Executive Assistant, Youth Leader, and Executive Director of the Raleigh Youth Chapter for over a decade.

IN THE NEWS

- [Coronavirus NC: Free face mask distribution underway](#)
- [Suit challenges NC's strict liability law on felons voting](#)
- [Activists are fighting new voter suppression tactics in court](#)

NC FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Current Control: Divided Government (since 2017)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2024
- **Length of State Senate & House term:** 2 years
- **Redistricting:** The North Carolina State Legislature draws Congressional and state maps
- **Sister District Target:** Blue Inroads