



Marie Blistan
Immediate Past President
New Jersey Education Association
180 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08607

Dear President Blistan,

We are pleased to inform you that Building One New Jersey will honor you at our **September 24 Conference on School Segregation in New Jersey** with the *Shirley Chisholm Breakthrough Leader Award*.

The conference, *School Segregation in New Jersey - A pandemic of inequality & lost opportunity*, will take place on **Friday, September 24 • 10:00 am to 3:00 pm • The Conference Center at Mercer**.

We hope you will join us along with **Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman** (the first recipient of the *Shirley Chisholm Breakthrough Leader Award*) during an afternoon ceremony where we will recognize you for your powerful leadership of the NJEA and steadfast commitment to racial justice and educational opportunity for *all* children in New Jersey.

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black female member of the United States Congress and first woman (and first African American) to seek a major party nomination for president, was an educator who rose to power and prominence because of her commitment to social and racial justice and her refusal to be defined or limited by the stereotypes, prejudices and expectations of others.

As an educator and powerful union official, it is our pleasure to recognize you among the breakthrough leaders of our time who defied expectations, advanced the interests of your members and acted as a force for change and progress for millions of poor, working class, and middle class families in New Jersey. We looking forward to working with you in the future as you continue to defy expectations and advance the cause of social justice, civil rights and equal opportunity for all children, families and communities.

We will follow up with you with more details on the conference and the awards reception scheduled for Friday, September 24, from 12 to 1:00 PM at **The Conference Center at Mercer** on the Campus of Mercer County Community College in West Windsor Township, NJ.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Rev. Willie Dwayne Francois III and Rev. Kenneth Darryl Ray Clayton
Conference Co-Chairs
NJ Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ-CARE) / Building One New Jersey