



Shavonda Sumter
Assemblywoman
New Jersey General Assembly
State House
125 W State St
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Assemblywoman Sumter,

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 a lunchtime ceremony where we will recognize you for your powerful work representing the people of the 35th legislative district and for your breakthrough role as statewide chair of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus.

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, refused to be defined or limited by past assumptions, biases or the narrow expectations of others.

As a prominent and accomplished legislator and the first female chair of the powerful NJLBC, you are well poised to further break boundaries, defy expectations and provide statewide leadership around the critical issues of racial justice and economic opportunity for millions of New Jersey's poor, working class and middle class families of *all* backgrounds.

It is our pleasure to recognize you among the breakthrough leaders of our day and look forward to working with you in the days ahead as we advance the cause of social justice, civil rights and equal opportunity for *all* of our 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