

Job Training to Break Cycle of Low Employment

Non profit helps young adults reach full potential

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

David Greenidge is working to break a cycle of low employment and housing that keeps too many young men and women from our community from reaching their full potential.

Several years ago, he and other concerned residents got together to survey why people couldn't find jobs in the King neighborhood of northeast Portland. They found many members of the black community were out of work due to a prior criminal history.

Greenidge then went to work to break the criminal justice bonds. As a resident of Portland, he founded the National Urban Housing & Economic Community Development Corporation to help former offenders turn their lives around with job training and housing assistance.

According to a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report from 2016, African-Americans are over represented in the Multnomah County jail system—they represent 5 percent of the overall population, but they represent 27 percent of its jail population. That disparity is impacting many people of color economically.



David Greenidge

A Poverty in Multnomah County report from 2014 showed black residents are over-represented in the county's impoverished population—36 percent of the black population are in poverty, while only 14 percent of whites are in poverty. Furthermore, a study from 2001 to 2006 examining three states found that less than half of people returning to their community from prison had secured a job.

"I saw people needing help and I thought we could put together a nonprofit that could help them," Greenidge said, describing the start to his specialized program about two years ago.

Greenidge said he discovered that one

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A non-profit rooted in Portland's African American community provides training in construction as a way to break a cycle of low employment impacting young men and women from our community.

African American Alliance for Homeownership

Presents the 19th Annual

Homeownership Fair

Saturday, October 28, 2017

10am - 3pm

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Pre-registration NOT Required

Opening Remarks by Michael Montgomery, Vice President US Bank



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