



NC DEQ  
SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE AND EQUITY  
ADVISORY BOARD

## PANELISTS



### Dr. Gracie Galloway

Dr. Gracie Galloway is President of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party. She is the only Nurse Practitioner on staff at the Community Free Clinic in Concord, N.C. She graduated from John Tyler Community College in 1982 with an ADN, then the Medical College of Virginia (VCU) in 1985 with a BSN. She attended Nova SE University and obtained her MS in Health Services Administration (business) in 1999. She obtained her MSN, FNP in 2004 from UNC Charlotte working simultaneously on her PhD in public health at Sacramento University which she obtained in 2006. From 1967-1971 she was a volunteer with Catholic Relief in Saigon and Cholon, Republic of Vietnam caring for child rape victims and children of victims of rape. Dr. Galloway has spent more than 40 years dedicated to the care and welfare of the underprivileged, Veterans, homeless and children with food insecurity.



### Sharon Goodson

As Executive Director of the North Carolina Community Action Association and the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies, Sharon C. Goodson is a humble leader whose mission is to ensure that the voice of the disadvantaged and underserved be heard on local, state and national levels. Sharon's reach encompasses nearly 200 agencies across an eight-state region, including the 34 community action agencies operating in North Carolina. She has been instrumental in leading collaborative initiatives with governmental entities, funders, partners and other stakeholders to improve the conditions in which marginalized communities live.



### Louise Mack

Louise Mack has been the President/CEO of Prosperity Unlimited, Inc. since June 1995. Prosperity Unlimited, Inc. is a nonprofit community development corporation that is also approved as a housing counseling agency by the Department of HUD. Prosperity historically works with nearly 1,000 families a year in the area of pre-purchase counseling, foreclosure counseling and financial literacy. Through Prosperity's homebuyer's education and down payment assistance programs they assist in excess of 150 families annually. The organization has built or rehabilitated 70 units of single-family homes and developed 326 units of affordable apartments mainly for seniors in Cabarrus, Iredell and Rowan counties. Louise also is an advocate for housing and fair lending practices in North Carolina in which she has received several awards.



### Ricardo Nazario-Colón

Ricardo Nazario-Colón is an accomplished Higher Education Administrator with over twenty years of experience in various industries including the U.S. Military, Colleges and Universities, Corporate Banking and State Government. Currently, he serves as the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer at Western Carolina University and is the Chair of the Governor's Advisory Board on Hispanic/Latino Affairs in North Carolina and Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Council of the UNC System. On a personal note, he is a published poet, an artist and a former United States Marine.



### Talley Wells

Talley Wells is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD). At NCCDD, Talley works with the 40-member Council appointed by the Governor to improve systems for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities across the state of North Carolina. The goal of this work is to enable every person with a disability in the state to live a full and meaningful life in the community. Talley also serves as the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the North Carolina Governor's Taskforce for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.



### Veronica Carter, Moderator

Veronica Carter currently serves on the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Board as well as the North Carolina Coastal Federation Board of Directors and the Duke Superfund Advisory Board. In November 2019, she was elected and is currently serving as a Councilmember for the Town of Leland, NC. She is a former Civil Servant (UN and US) and retired Army officer. The Governor of North Carolina appointed Veronica to the Coastal Resources Commission, from 2008 through 2012. She has served on the Board of Directors for Cape Fear and Brunswick County's Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Veronica has devoted much of her time to ensuring environmental justice by empowering, advocating, and educating EJ communities in southeastern North Carolina.