

PORTRAITS OF EXCELLENCE

A project by state Rep. Patty Kim and photographer Michelle Green.

.....

Last February, a singular event took place in Harrisburg. Dozens of prominent local men gathered inside the House of Music, Arts and Culture (H*MAC) to have their pictures taken.

What made that this gathering so special? It was a photo shoot for “50 Men Who Exemplify Black Excellence,” a project that is part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr.

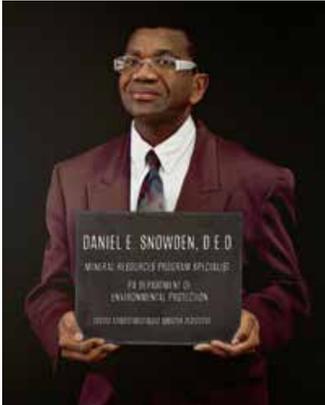
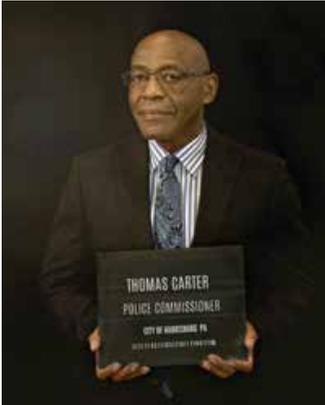
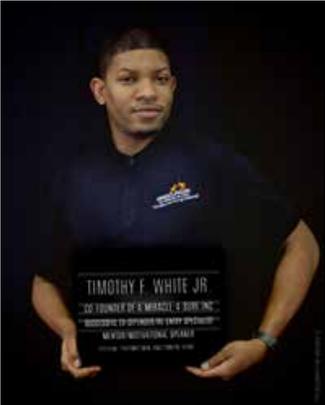
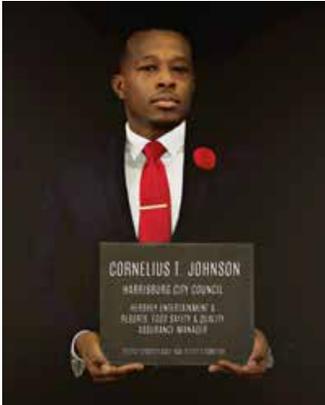
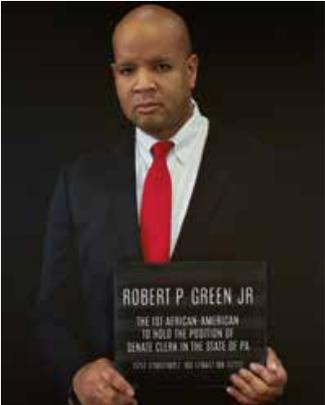
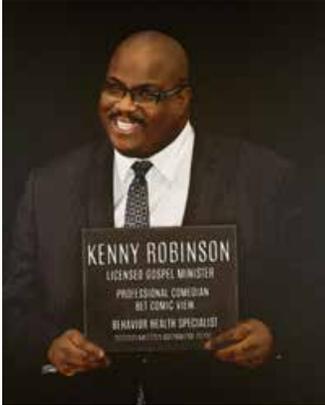
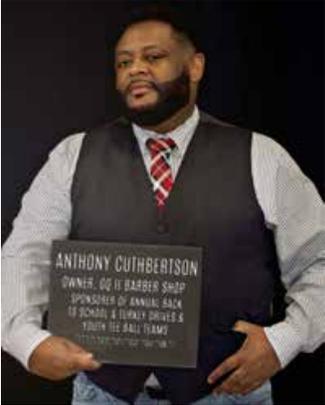
Organized by state Rep. Patty Kim and photographer Michelle Green, the project features portraits of government officials, businessmen, athletes, artists and others from around central PA. The intent is both to honor these men and to serve as inspiration for the next generation.

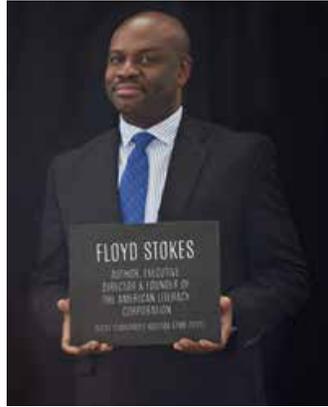
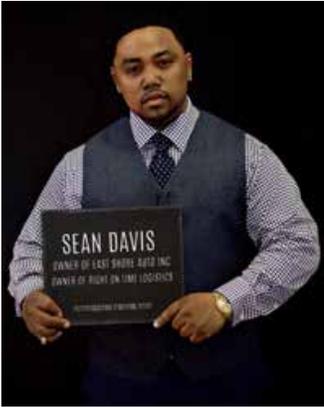
TheBurg is excited to share some of these powerful images. A reception for the project will be held on April 4, 6 to 8 p.m., inside the main rotunda of the state Capitol. The photos also will be part of a mobile exhibit for students and will be used to raise money for youth programs.

For more information, visit the Facebook page: “State Representative, Patty Kim & Michelle G Present.” Also, visit Green’s Facebook page: “Photography by Michelle G.”

--Lawrance Binda

.....





.....

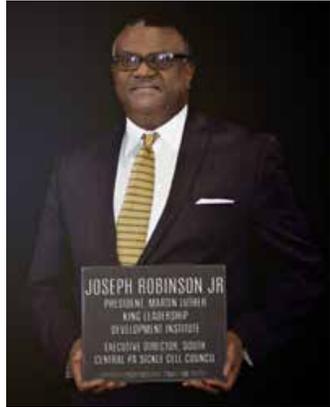
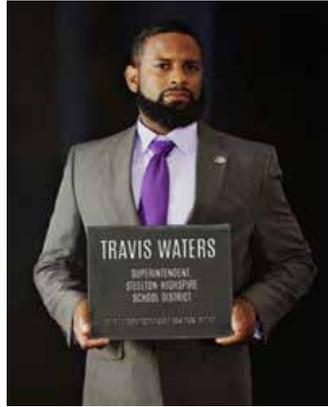
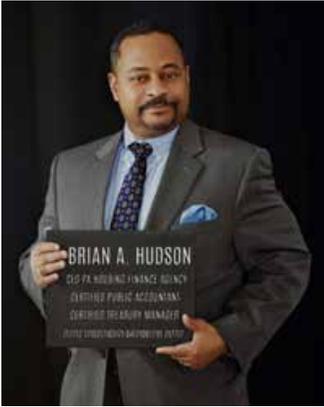
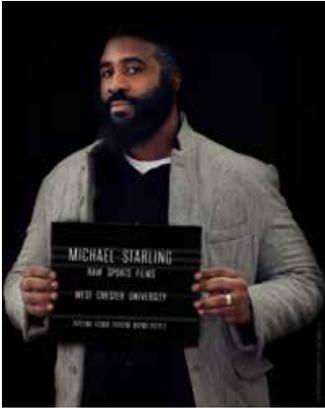
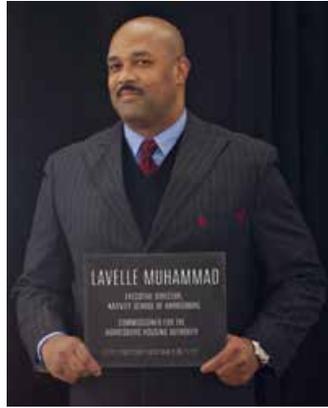
Artist's Statement

“As we approach the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s death, we realize there is still much work to be done as far as the perception of men of color in our society. Too often, our young men see their fathers, uncles, cousins, brothers, friends, and mentors cast as “thugs” and “gangsters.” They face the conflict of wanting to fit in with the images society tells them to be, and the knowledge that they can create a better future for themselves.

This is our chance to shape the narrative that our young men are confronted with. By utilizing the power of positive imagery, we can show them that they don’t have to succumb to what society believes they are. Rather, by showcasing a wide variety of businessmen, political staff, entrepreneurs, and artists, we will expose our youth to a wide variety of careers and potential life paths. We hope that, though this series, Dr. King’s dream is kept alive and we can have a profound impact on Central PA’s youth.”

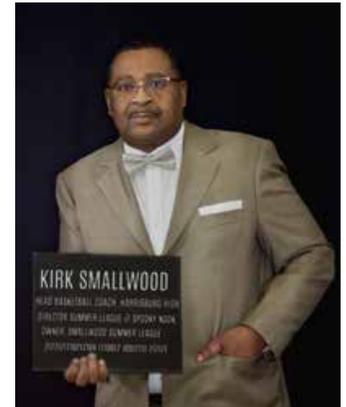
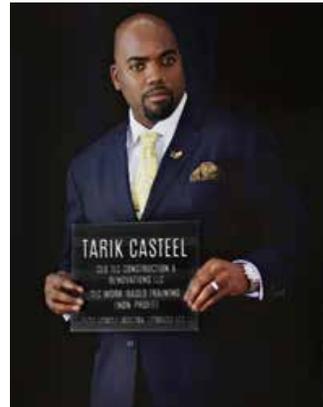
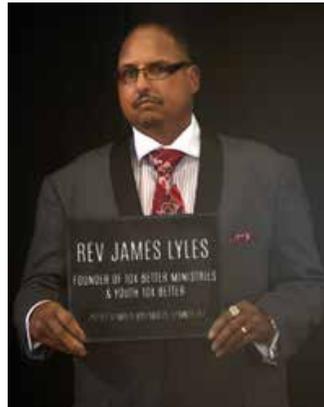
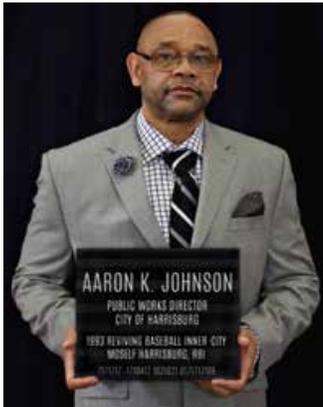
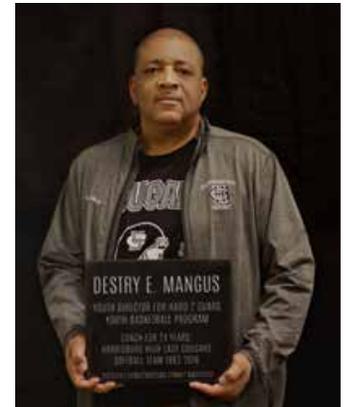
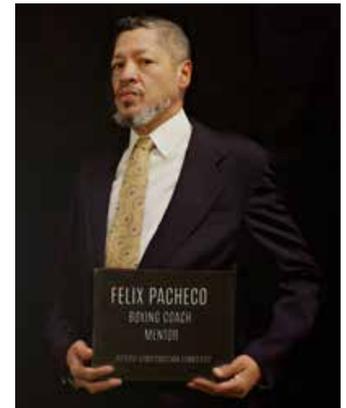
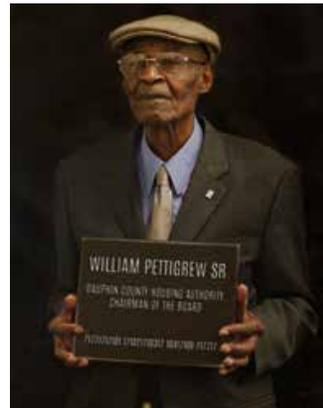
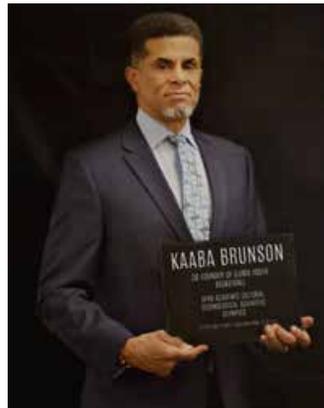
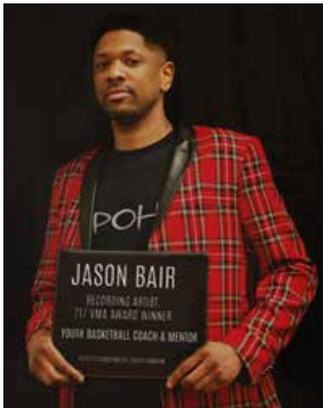
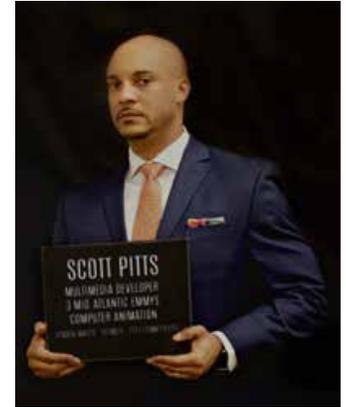
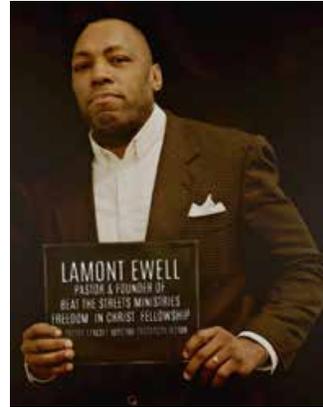
--Michelle Green

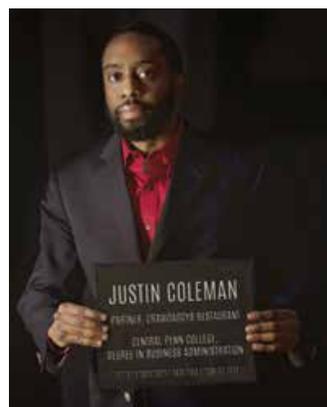
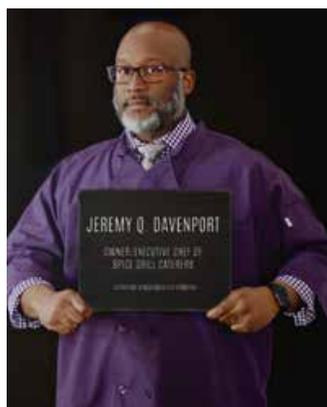
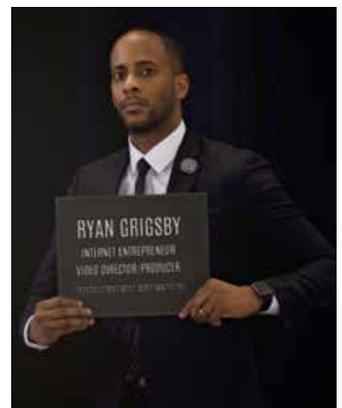
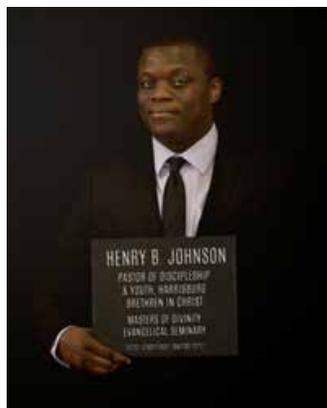
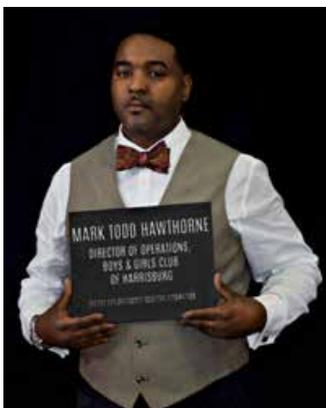
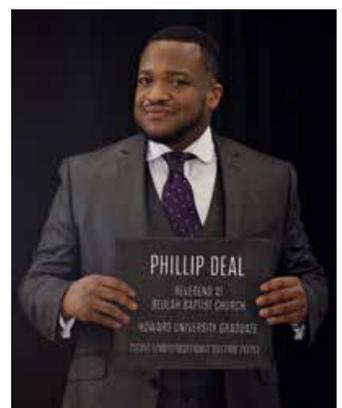
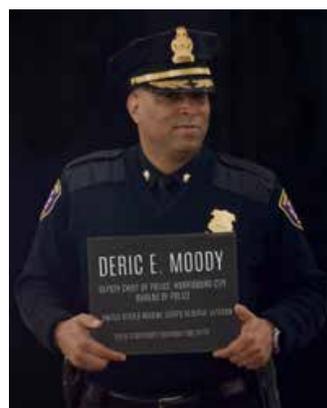
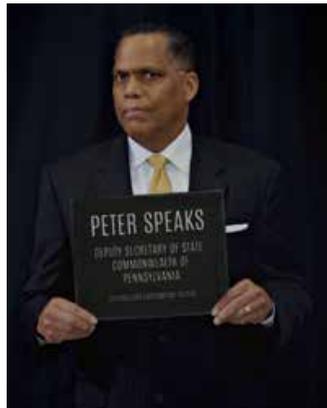
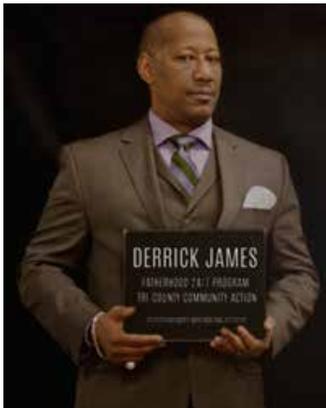
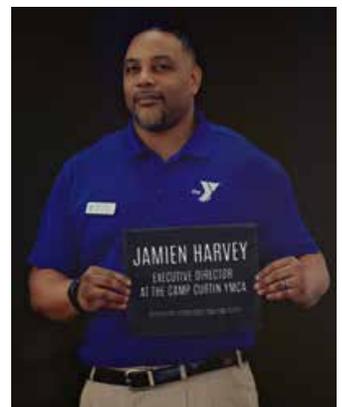
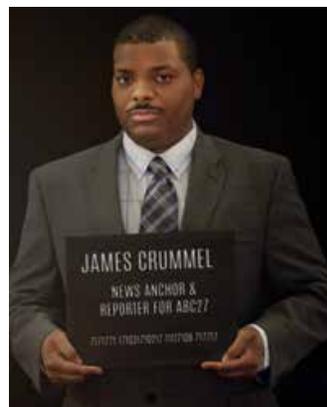
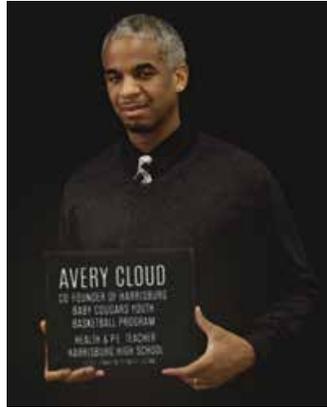
.....



“A MUGSHOT MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON OF COLOR PEOPLE SEE FROM HARRISBURG. THAT’S NOT WHO WE ARE.”

-REPRESENTATIVE PATTY KIM





**EXHIBIT
RECEPTION:**

**APRIL 4, 6-8 P.M.
INSIDE THE MAIN
ROTUNDA OF THE
STATE CAPITOL**