

Alma Scott-Buczak '74

2014 Lafayette Leadership Institute Keynote Speaker



Alma Scott-Buczak was appointed the Assistant Executive Director of Human Resources for New Jersey Transit in October 2002. In this capacity, she leads a team of 80 exempt and non-exempt professionals who provide strategic staffing, employee relations, employee engagement, policy design and implementation, EAP, medical services, compensation, executive training and HRIM support to the 11,000 person transportation organization that is the largest and most complex state-wide agency in the country.

Her professional saga began in 1974, when she was hired out of Lafayette by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York directly into a specialized Management Training program

which afforded her positions as both a research and an operations analyst. In her seven year tenure with “The Fed,” Alma ultimately discovered her passion for human resources when she became the College and Executive Recruitment Manager. She then transitioned to upper-level Human Resources management with Pfizer, where she managed human resource policies, procedures, and practices for the Sales, Marketing, Medical, Finance, and I.T. departments over her nineteen years in Pfizer’s US, Caribbean, United Kingdom and Israel offices. Finally, she spent two years as the Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Facilities of the Innovex Division of Quintiles, LLC, before obtaining her current position with New Jersey Transit.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Alma is a luminary in many philanthropic and political organizations in the state of New Jersey: she has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Council on Adoptable Children, Deaconess and Directress of Religious Education for Victory Tabernacle FBH Church in Englewood, New Jersey, as President of the Teaneck, Englewood & Vicinity Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club, Inc. and held several positions with the Garden State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management. For the past 10 years, she and her husband have personally funded a book scholarship for high school and college graduates of New Jersey F.B.H. churches.

Alma has maintained profoundly deep and productive ties with Lafayette College, serving as a College Trustee as well as a Founding Member of the McDonough Network, Lafayette’s African-American Alumni Network. She has hosted numerous interns and externs within her various lines of work, and has made invaluable contributions to the Association of Black Collegians, the Council of Lafayette Women, the McKelvy Scholars program, and many more.

She holds an AB in Economics from Lafayette, a graduate certificate in Compensation Management from New York University, a graduate certificate in Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action from Cornell University, a graduate certificate in Organizational Design and Development from the New School University and an MA in Human Resources Management from New School University where she was the 1987 Lubin Scholar. She also holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources certification from SHRM’s HR Certification Institute.

Alma resides in Cliffside Park, New Jersey with her husband William Buczak; a retired Macy’s executive who is now the head of customer care for OSG Billing Services. In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching television and spending time with her grandchildren Michael, Ashley and Patrick; and her natural and extended family.