

# The West Indian American

Serving the Caribbean/American  
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## Hartford Healthcare Enters Into Medical Support Exchange With Jamaica



Hartford Healthcare CEO Jeff Flaks and Jamaica's Minister of Health Dr. Christopher Tufton signing MOU agreement.

By Mark D. Milward

The Jamaican Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton along with Consul General Alston Roach Wilson, OD, arrived in Hartford, Connecticut September 21, 2022, for a monumental event. It was the signing of an MOU agreement with Hartford Health Care CEO Jeff Flaks.

As explained by Minister Tufton the MOU agreement which aims to establish a medical resource exchange of doctors and nurses between the two countries is a significant undertaking that will benefit both communities and for Jamaica it launches their Code Care initiative that was introduced by Minister Tufton at the Jamaica Diaspora 2022 conference in June.

Code care was a plan devised as a result of a backlog in surgeries in Jamaica and a lack of sufficient resources to meet medical services demand. The signed MOU will enable a flow of nurses and doctors that will travel back and forth to Jamaica and take up residence for extended periods of time to support Jamaica's health care needs. During the residencies, nurses will receive training and sharing of "best practices" in medical protocols, in addition to providing medical resource support to address the current backlog that came about as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consul General Wilson, who working with the Hartford Healthcare's leadership brought this "win-win" situation for both communities, coordinated the MOU agreement arrangement.

Hartford, Connecticut has the third largest population of Jamaicans in the United States, and the Caribbean population is the largest immigrant population in the state. Once again, the Diaspora community led by the West Indian Social Club of Hartford (WISC) and the West Indian Foundation (WIF) were instrumental in supporting the effort and were present during the MOU signing agreement.

Veronica Airey-Wilson, Jamaican and former Hartford Deputy Mayor and past president of the WISC presented welcoming gifts to the Minister and Consul General Wilson for the occasion.

Donovan Longmore, the Connecticut co-chair for the US Northeast Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) stated, "The signing of the MOU is a major achievement for our health care sector. The collaboration to establish programs that will provide short-term assignments especially for nurses stems from the establishment of Code Care."

## Jamaican-Born Hartford's Own Dr. Trisha Bailey To Receive Caribbean American Heritage Award

By Mark D. Milward

Trisha Bailey, a Ph.D graduate from the University of Connecticut (UCONN), and a graduate of Weaver High School is now the CEO of Bailey Medical Supplies, Bailey Pharmacy and Bailey Scrubs.

The Jamaican-born entrepreneur and philanthropist recently made the largest donation in university history toward the renovation of Greer Fieldhouse at the Storrs campus of UCONN. Dr. Bailey will be presented with the Luminary Award at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Awards in Washington, DC, November 18, 2022.

Dr. Bailey attended the University of Connecticut (UCONN) on scholarship as a track athlete after graduating from Weaver High in 1995. She graduated from UCONN in 1999 and shortly thereafter began working as a stockbroker in Hartford with Solomon Smith Barney.

Years later, she moved into pharmacy as a sales representative and after being confronted with the corporate glass ceiling for women, quit and started her own medical recruiting company. She continued pursuing her education, and eventually earned her MBA and Doctorate degrees from the University of Phoenix. She also has certifications from the University of Kentucky (pulmonary) and New

York University (cardiology treatment). The new building at UCONN will be called the Bailey Student Athlete Success Center. Her decision to donate to the university is as she stated, "UCONN gave me my first opportunity in life. So for me, it's greater than simply a gift and bigger than a building in my name. It started my life. They took a chance on the talent I did not necessarily see and they believed I would take advantage of the opportunities that were given me. And I have, with the blessings of God."

At the donation announcement ceremony, Dr. Bailey spoke in glowing terms about her mother who commented on how she raised her and her sister as a single parent working two and three jobs to ensure they had food and shelter and that they grew up happy.

Dr. Trisha Bailey spoke about how she never knew she was poor growing up in Jamaica and walking miles to school each day with her sister who now also has her doctorate degree.

Dr. Trisha Bailey has been quietly building her fortune and beginning to receive rewards and accolades that came from being a successful businesswoman and philanthropist. She has projects in Jamaica valued in excess of US\$41 million, including condominium developments in Red Hills and St.



Dr. Trisha Bailey

Andrew. She is building a beach home in Portland valued at US\$3 million and a luxury resort in Portland with a project value of US\$20-25 million. Dr. Trisha Bailey also owns a real estate development company in Jamaica called Bailey's Choice Homes, which is currently constructing the luxury resor

Recently, she gave opening remarks at a Jamaica Stock-Exchange sponsored event in

Kingston for the book launch of Prof. Neville Yings' book "Servant Leader in Action" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIDteuq4Bpc>).

She had not expected to speak but it was most appropriate given the topic on servant leadership, a role she has been fulfilling in the US Diaspora and in Jamaica.

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## Hartford Healthcare-JA Exchange Program

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Consul General Wilson went on to explain that “the partnership established with Hartford Healthcare is more comprehensive than the original intent of Code care, which was primarily aimed at addressing the backlog of surgeries in Jamaica. With Hartford Healthcare the arrangement includes remote training for nurses as well as residency exchanges between Jamaicans and US resident nurses. The MOU also establishes an agreement aimed at improving healthcare outcomes for patients on the island and includes support with general needs such as equipment and supplies.”

Previous to the Hartford visit, the Code Care initiative was also established with the University of Miami; however not as comprehensive as the agreement with Hartford Health care.

The Hartford Jamaican Diaspora community responded with appreciation for the arrangement with Hartford Healthcare. Many in attendance at the MOU signing were pleased with the outcome of the visit. They expressed gratitude in knowing that their relatives, friends and citizens back home can anticipate improvements to Jamaica’s health care system and receive support with supplies, materials, equipment, and training.

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Through the Bailey-Archie’s Charitable Foundation, Dr. Bailey has helped boost the graduation rate by nearly 50% at a local school in Orlando, Florida where she currently lives. She contributes to programs aimed at supporting single mothers; supports weekly food drives and provides scholarships, which have helped many in her community, go to college.

Construction of the Bailey Student Athlete Success Center at UCONN is expected to begin in the fall of 2023. The 80,000 square foot training and academic support facility will house six Olympic Sports pro-

## Dr. Trisha Bailey

grams.

As a pioneer in being the only black woman in the home medical equipment industry, she was nominated in 2021 for HME (Home Medical Equipment) Woman of the Year. It is an award that recognizes women globally for their leadership in the market. Her company Bailey’s Medical equipment & Supplies, also placed as a finalist in the HME awards.

Now as Jamaica’s wealthiest woman, Dr. Bailey is poised to accept the prestigious Caribbean American Heritage Award (CARAH) from the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS). Jamaica is proud, Hartford Connecticut is proud and the honors are expected to continue for this outstanding servant leader and soon to be billionaire.

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# Sen. McCrory Welcomes New Laws

**State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor)** announced that 80 new state laws will take effect Saturday, October 1, 2022 including the creation of a new state holiday recognizing Juneteenth, supporting youth mental health and suicide prevention, and increasing job training.

The laws are either new laws passed in the recently concluded 2022 legislative session or are sections of new laws passed in 2021 or 2022. Regardless, they all take effect on Saturday, October 1, 2022.

“Over many hours during the legislative session, my colleagues and I are hard at work collaborating with constituents and local advocates to craft bills that will make our state a fairer place to live that uplifts all residents,” said **Sen. McCrory**. “Many of the laws that we pass start by a constituent reaching out to speak to us. As always, I encourage people to be civically engaged in their communities and to share ideas on how we can make Connecticut a greater place to live, work, and open a busi-

ness.” Among the 80 news laws taking effect on Saturday, October 1, 2022 are:

\* Sections of House Bill 5001 establish a 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, and require that phone number to be printed on all Connecticut public college and university student ID cards.

\* Senate Bill 334 makes commercial driver's license (CDL) exams available to inmates who are within six months of their release date – supporting job training and employment opportunities, while reducing recidivism

\* Senate Bill 350, which creates the new legal Connecticut state holiday of "Juneteenth Independence Day" on June 19 of every year to commemorate the final emancipation of all American slaves. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, thereby freeing the slaves, but news of that decree was not delivered to the remote Confederate state of Texas until more than two years later by a Union general on June 19, 1865. President Biden recognized



**Sen. McCrory speaking on the Senate Floor during the 2022 Legislative session**

Juneteenth as a national federal holiday last year.

\* House Bill 5170 requires adequate (which is defined) shelter for a dog if it is left outside for more than 15 minutes in extreme heat or cold, and requires dogs that are tethered to a

stationary object to be provided with regular water.

\* Sections of House Bill 5373 now require police chiefs to notify POST (the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council) anytime an officer has

used unreasonable, excessive or illegal force which resulted in someone's serious physical injury or death; intentionally harassed and threatened someone based on their class; or was terminated, resigned or retired due to previous malfeasance.

\* House Bill 5349 requires police departments to notify a deceased person's next of kin within 24 hours after identifying that deceased person. The new law stems from two incidents in 2021 when police failed to notify two different families of the death of their family member.

\* Sections of Senate Bill 972 provide free communications services to inmates and child detainees in juvenile detention facilities – including phone calls, video and email – as a means of hastening their rehabilitation. Connecticut had a history of charging inmates \$4.87 for a 15-minute phone call, the second-highest rate in the country after Arkansas.

\* Senate Bill 116 requires pesticide companies to provide direct notice to individual homeowners living on lakes or ponds – instead of simply publishing notice in a local newspaper with general circulation in the area – of their intention to apply pesticides to the lake or pond on a particular day at a particular time.



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# Jamaican Pilot Leads All-Black Female Flight Crew, Tribute To First Black Woman To Earn Pilot's License



American Airline's All-Black Female-Headed Flight Crew

By Stephanie Korney

On August 22, 2022, American Airlines Pilot Captain Beth Powell, 41, one of the only black women to hold the rank of captain in an American commercial airline, headed an all-black, female flight crew in honor of the 100th anniversary of the first public flight by a

black woman, Bessie Coleman. Coleman earned her pilot's license in 1921, the first black woman to do so. The flight journeyed from Dallas to Phoenix and was part of the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars tour hosted by American Airlines during the week of August 22.

Captain Powell was raised in St. Mary, Jamaica. She earned a private pilot's license when she was 17 and a commercial license at age 18. She has worked as a commercial airline pilot since she turned 21. In an interview with Essence magazine, Powell said her interest in aviation was prompted by her love of anything



Captain Beth Powell

that had to do with numbers. When she was 15, a teacher informed her that she was a "technical learner," which made her suited for a career as a pilot, mechanic, or engineer.

When she first brought up the idea of becoming a pilot, her father asked if female pilots even existed. However, her family, especially her mother, was very supportive of her dream and encouraged her to find the best flight school available, driving her from place to place in an effort to ensure she made the best choice.

The example set by her father in terms of ambition and his attitude toward life helped Powell overcome the challenges she encountered. He also provided financial support as she began her career journey.

Powell said it was difficult to be a black woman trying to succeed in a male-dominated industry. When she entered flight school in the US, there were no other students who looked like her, but she committed herself to work harder than anyone else. She focused on being a part of something greater than herself. Her determination to succeed was everything to her, and she often remembered her father telling her, "Failure is not an

option," and her "attitude would determine her altitude." She also cited Bessie Coleman as a major inspiration as a woman who always found ways to persevere regardless of the difficulties she faced. Knowing that Coleman had succeeded motivated Powell to continue blazing a trail for black women in aviation.

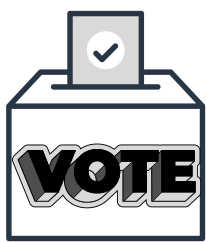
Powell is committed to helping other women succeed. According to Sisters of the Skies, an organization for black women airline pilots, there are currently fewer than 150 black female airline pilots in the United States.

Working to inspire others, Powell plans to merge her scholarship with Sisters of the Skies, to expand outreach efforts to black girls and provide them with information about the possibilities of a pilot's career. She also plans to visit schools to raise awareness of aviation, scholarships, and the new cadet program at American Airlines.

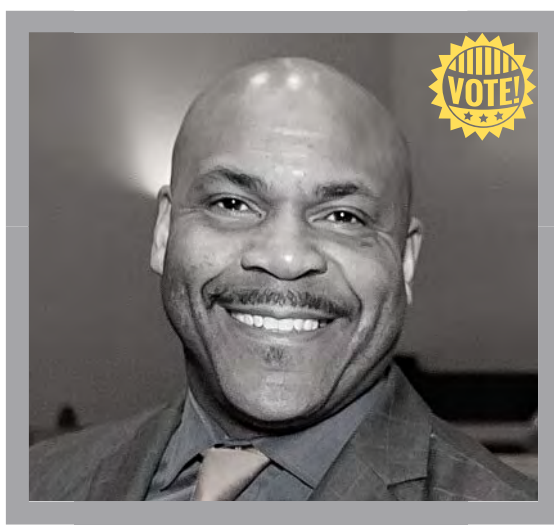
Powell said she was thrilled to lead the crew on the flight honoring Bessie Coleman. A day after the flight, students at the Academies at South Mountain in Phoenix met with representatives of the Bessie Coleman Foundation and American Airlines pilots to explore opportunities in aviation.

Source: Source: Jamaicans.com

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Approved by Doug McCrory, Paid for by McCrory for Senate, Treasurer Bernadette Lockett