



# Michael Gray

HCD Ph.D. Current Student

## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### Bachelor's Degree

Economics

Seton Hall University - South Orange, NJ

### Master's Degree

Business Administration (MBA)

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Michael Gray is a long-time resident of Newark, NJ, and a native of Liberia, West Africa. He currently serves as District Director and Senior Advisor in the Congressional Office of United States Representative Donald M. Payne, Jr., where he administers the constituent affairs of over 800,000 constituents. Michael managed the Office of Municipal Council President Donald M. Payne, Jr. of the City of Newark (New Jersey's largest municipality); the Office of Freeholder-At-Large Donald M. Payne, Jr. of Essex County (New Jersey's second-largest county); and was an intern/volunteer and mentee of the late Congressman Donald M. Payne, Sr., Chairman of the US House of Representative's Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Michael previously worked as an information technology consultant for U.S. Social Security Administration, PaineWebber, GE Financial, Alpha Professional Tools, and Marriott. Currently, he serves as a member of the Boards of Directors of the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity, University Heights Science and Technology Park, and Kemetyu Global Economic Development Corporation. Michael is an advocate of numerous national and international causes. Through the offices of the late Congressman Donald M. Payne, Sr. and Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr., he helped advanced good governance, educational policies, and health programs for the benefit of African American and Hispanic/ Latino communities, as well as African and Caribbean nations.

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He has spearheaded humanitarian assistance for the peoples of Liberia, Haiti, Ivory Coast, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and other nations with significant immigrant populations in New Jersey.

Michael is the founder of the Save Our Nations Foundation, an educational and charitable organization established to create awareness for social progress by increasing access to educational and health/medical resources for peoples of color, locally and globally. He has been honored for his humanitarian leadership and community service accomplishments, including receiving The Human Rights Award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Newark Branch; The Danny Glover Power of Dreams Award; Diamond Award by the New Jersey Conference Women's Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church; and The Archbishop Michael J. Francis Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Relations by the Cathedral Alumni Association New York Metro Chapter, among others.