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# Miss Connecticut

## **The Miss CT Scholarship Organization, Inc. to Host Virtual Panel Event: The Black Queen Experience – A Discussion About Women of Color in Pageantry Past and Present**

Esteemed Former Titleholders to Discuss Racial Inequities within the Pageant System and Beyond

**Connecticut, June 30, 2020** – The Miss CT Scholarship Organization, Inc., a non-profit scholarship program for women, will host a free live virtual panel event featuring four former Organization titleholders to discuss “The Black Queen Experience” on July 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. The panel will serve as a platform for the participating former titleholders to share their experiences competing, and how the world of pageantry can diversify, and become a more welcoming place for women of color.

The panelists include:

- Ericka Dunlap, Miss America 2004, Miss Florida 2003, PR and Branding Consultant

- Olivia McMillan, Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2015, Miss Warner Robins 2020; Graduate of The Juilliard School
- Tanisha Chea, Miss Connecticut 2002, Miss Georgia USA 2005, Marketing Executive & Brand Innovator
- Trenee McGee, Miss Windham County 2017, Miss New Haven County 2016, Connecticut City Councilwoman

Farah Bernier, D&I practitioner, Certified Professional Executive Coach, and Human Resources Executive Partner will moderate the dynamic panel to highlight each participant's personal experience in pageantry, and their observations for what can be done to mitigate racial inequity in the pageant industry, as well as in the workplace.

"The Miss America Organization stresses the importance of young women being informed on relevant, current news and historical events. The Black Lives Matter movement has rightfully taken center stage in our society today, and it is incumbent upon us to bring to light the individual experiences of women of color as it relates to our world," said Ashley Reid, Executive Director / Treasurer, The Miss CT Scholarship Organization. "We are thrilled to have these outstanding women share their time and insights with us to help us all make meaningful improvements to the Organization in regard to racial equality."

The event is open to the public at no cost. Registration is required. Visit <https://missct.org/events> to register.

### **About The Miss CT Scholarship Organization**

The Miss CT Scholarship Organization, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer operated organization that supports the advancement of women in society by embracing diversity, education and civic action. The organization's mission is to invest in the education of women in Connecticut and propel their future. Candidates who participate are awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and in-kind sponsorships each year. The Miss CT competition is a preliminary to the Miss America competition.

Contact: Kate Ottavio Kent, VP, Public Relations, [kate@missamericact.org](mailto:kate@missamericact.org)