



BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE - WASHINGTON, D.C.
CARL T. ROWAN CHAPTER

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For more information, visit us at
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BACKGROUND

The Carl T. Rowan Chapter of Blacks In Government (BIGCTR), formerly known as the U. S. Information Agency (USIA) BIG chapter is committed to the mission, goals and objectives of BIG's National Organization and the Department of State (DOS). The national organization was established in 1975 and incorporated under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976 as a non-profit employee support, advocacy, and resource organization for civil servants at the federal, state and local levels. BIG National consists of 11 regions of which BIGCTR is located in Region XI.

In April 2001, the Department of State recognized the USIA-BIG Chapter and recommended a name change because USIA no longer existed. In August 2001, the USIA-BIG Chapter was renamed the Carl T. Rowan Chapter in honor of a former U.S. Ambassador and director of the USIA.

WHAT BIGCTR IS DOING

Collaborating with DOS partners including the Office of Civil Rights, and other Affinity Groups, BIGCTR provides a variety of programs:

- ❖ **Advocacy**
 - Diversity in Foreign Affairs
- ❖ **Youth Programs**
 - Professionalism Day
 - Training In Communication: Oratorical Competition
- ❖ **Professional Development**
 - Information Session: Senior Executive Service
 - Lessons in Leadership
- ❖ **Community Service & Outreach**
 - MLK Day of Service
 - Clothes and Food Drives
- ❖ **Health and Wellness**
 - Collaboration with the DOS Office of Medical Services' Health and Wellness Program (MED)

Most notably BIGCTR provides college scholarships to students to help them achieve their educational goals while attending college. In 2005, BIGCTR started the Evangeline "EJ" Montgomery Scholarship Program in honor of a former DOS employee and well-known curator, printmaker, and mixed media artist. Each year, \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to local high school graduates and one undergraduate college student majoring in Art and/or Art History at a luncheon reception in their honor. Funds are raised through the sale of artwork pieces of fellow artist friends of EJ. To date, approximately \$73,750 has been awarded to 72 Washington area high seniors and 10 undergraduate college students.