

## African American Code of Conduct Annis Collins

I firmly believe that the quality of life for African-Americans will never be fully realized until we as African-Americans demonstrate a love and respect for self and others, which is the legacy of our forebears. Because our actions speak our true sentiments, we as African Americans must return to behavior that is morally fit, ethically sound, and thoughtfully responsible within our families, neighborhoods and communities. To do anything less would be to deny the cultural strengths upon which our survival has depended on for centuries. To do anything less would be to deny the beliefs, practices, and values that are the underpinning of our cultural heritage. We can no longer allow self-destruction to rob us of the resiliency, stamina and focus that have made us unique, helped us to succeed and given, us hope. To aid in rekindling within each of us a spirit of self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-control that leads to the betterment of all. Therefore, we have created the following Code of Conduct for African-Americans:

### As an Individual:

- \* I fully accept and embrace my cultural heritage as being an integral part of my personhood. I will exercise my right to vote with diligence, and encourage my African American brothers and sisters to do likewise. I will conduct myself with dignity and honor at all times. I will be the best person I can possibly be.
- \* I will respect and love my African-American brother and sister, whatever their station in life.
- \* I will act as an agent of positive change within my home, neighborhood, community, in an effort to ensure the dignity, rights and respect of all African-Americans.
- \* I will do all that is within my power to protect and guide African-Americans of all ages, but especially our youth, from society's destructive elements, such as drugs, crime, abuse and neglect.
- \* I will not be involved in any illegal activities under any circumstances nor endanger or jeopardize my African-American brothers and sisters. I will always support and promote businesses that is owned by African-Americans or other ethnic groups that demonstrate a dedication, sensitivity and commitment to serving the needs of African-Americans: As my Parental Creed: I will instill in my children Pride in being African-American and will instill in them a sense of spirituality, which is the foundation of African-American family life. I will instill in them a desire to strive for excellence. I will dedicate my life to empowering them and all African-American children by example, advocacy, and involvement. I will actively participate in the education and development of my own children as well as the the children of my African-American brothers and sisters.

I enthusiastically embrace and agree: Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_