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PRESS RELEASE

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NERC's C.R.O.W.N. Forum Provides Training in Celebration of World Afro Day and Passage of SB 327

LAS VEGAS, NV – In celebration of World Afro Day and passage of SB 327, now known as Nevada's version of the C.R.O.W.N. (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Act, the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC) will hold its inaugural C.R.O.W.N. Forum on two (2) dates and times. The first session on September 14th is geared towards employers and organizations. The second session on September 15th is tailored towards the community and coincides with the celebration of World Afro Day. The state is honored to feature special guest and Nevada's own National Teacher of the Year, Juliana Urtubey in the 9/15 session. Each free, virtual session will provide attendees with information about the law from leading experts. Attendees will also be able to ask questions and access resource information about Nevada's C.R.O.W.N Act.

After SB 327 was signed by Governor Sisolak on June 4, 2021, Nevada became the 12th state to offer protections to Nevadans in employment and schools based on hair texture attributed to African Ancestry. At the 9/14 session, employers and organizations will have an opportunity to hear about best practices, how to identify harassment under the new law, how to address it in the appropriate manner, and how to mitigate these specific complaints in the workplace and in educational institutions. The 9/15 session will focus on educating the public about the new legislation, its protections and how to file a discrimination complaint with NERC under Nevada's C.R.O.W.N. Act.

"With the recent increase of C.R.O.W.N. Act cases occurring nationwide, it is vital the public be informed of the protections extended to them through this new law and that our state's employer groups gain knowledge about the related harassment and discrimination in the workplace and in our schools," said Senator Dina Neal.

Moderated by NERC Administrator Kara Jenkins, the virtual event's distinguished panelists will offer their knowledge and experience in dealing with these specific cases and features: Senator

Dina Neal, bill sponsor for SB 327; internationally recognized U.S. anti-discrimination law and race scholar Professor D. Wendy Greene; Teacher and instructional strategist, Juliana Urtubey, National Teacher of the Year; Nevada student and aspiring attorney, Naika Belizaire; Cedric Cole, Executive Manager, Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action/ADA and Title IX programs for the Clark County School District (CCSD). Lila Vizcarra, Chief Compliance Investigator/Outreach Specialist to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission will serve as co-moderator.

“Nevada’s statute is a pivotal step towards dismantling race-based natural hair discrimination Nevadans may experience as well as ensuring effective civil rights protection against racial discrimination for all,” said Professor D. Wendy Greene, C.R.O.W.N. legal expert and SB 327 Co-Presenter.

“This training is timely, and it’s vital that we educate all Nevadans about the protections in this statute to prevent charges,” said NERC Administrator Kara Jenkins.

Existing law prohibits certain employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, joint labor-management committees, contractors, or schools from engaging in certain discriminatory employment practices. Under Nevada’s C.R.O.W.N. Act, “race” includes traits associated with race, including, without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles. Additionally, under the new law, the Department of Education must provide a safe and respectful learning environment in all its educational institutions and prohibit bullying and cyber-bullying based on hairstyle and race.

Individuals interested in attending the virtual events are encouraged to pre-register via NERC’s web site at detr.nv.gov/Nerc/crown-forum to access the link to register via Eventbrite. For more information, contact NERC at 702-486-7161 or Nerc-outreach@detr.nv.gov

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ABOUT NERC: Per statute, the mission of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (the " Commission") is to protect the welfare, prosperity, health, and peace of all the people of the state, and to foster the right of all persons reasonably to seek, obtain and hold employment and housing accommodations, and reasonably seek and be granted services in places of public accommodations without discrimination, distinction or restriction. NERC has offices in both Northern and Southern Nevada.