

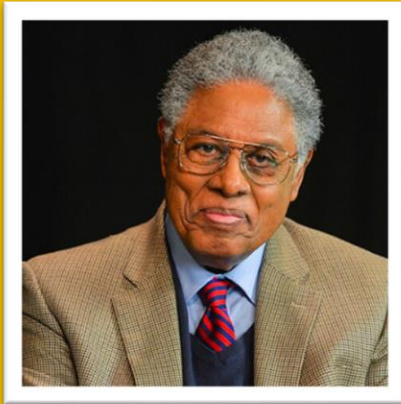
## **Economics Leaders Profile Cards: Possible Applications & Activities**

### **ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

1. Students could play a matching game after hearing/reading the cards. They must match the photograph to the description.
2. Students could compare the experiences of the women and men separately and/or together to better understand the successes attained and the difficulties that were faced.
3. Students could be assigned one of the people and research information/find reputable sources that confirm the accuracy of the information on the card. This allows them to practice media literacy skills.
4. Students could be placed in teams based on the cards and called upon to share important information about the person with the class. This helps to practice speaking and listening skills.
5. Students could create a display, video, podcast, etc. based on the information on the cards to help other community members learn about the experiences of these important Black Leaders.
6. Students could read or listen to books about other Black economic leaders and compare their experiences to those of the individuals on the cards.
7. Students could create a play or dramatic event using the accomplishments and efforts explained on the cards.

### **SECONDARY STUDENTS**

1. Students could compare the experiences of the women and men separately and/or together to better understand the successes attained and the difficulties that were faced.
2. Students could be assigned one of the people and research information/find reputable sources that confirm the accuracy of the information on the card. This allows them to practice media literacy skills.
3. Students could compare the experiences of people from the cards to other Blacks from history that they know (e.g., Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, William Still, Harriet Tubman, etc.)
4. Students could create a display, video, podcast, etc. based on the information on the cards to help other community members learn about the experiences of these important Black leaders.
5. Students could create research questions involving entrepreneurship, savings, and investing using information from the cards as a beginning.



## **THOMAS SOWELL**

Born: 1930  
Gastonia, NC



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER THOMAS SOWELL**

- Experienced segregation in the South and faced discrimination when his family moved to New York City.
- Dropped out of high school.
- Served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.
- After the war, he restarted his education.
- Graduated from Harvard University with a degree in Economics.
- Earned a Master's degree in Economics from Columbia University and a Doctorate from the University of Chicago.
- Mentor was Milton Friedman.
- Has written 45 books.
- Guided the thinking on economic policy of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.
- Continues to teach at Stanford University



## **WALTER E. WILLIAMS**

Born: 1936 — Died: 2020  
Philadelphia, PA



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER WALTER E. WILLIAMS**

- Raised by his mother while living in public housing. Experienced poverty and segregation.
- Inspired by the opportunity to earn money to help his family. Started working at 10 years old by picking blueberries and shoveling snow.
- During mid-teens, had a part-time job at a brokerage firm. Saved enough money to buy stock in Pepsi and start investing.
- In 1959 was drafted into the Army. Challenged the Jim Crow standards.
- Earned his degree in Economics in 1965, and both his Master's and Doctorate in Economics from UCLA.
- Disagreed with government programs designed to help the poor. Believed they hurt entrepreneurial thinking and created dependence.
- Taught at George Mason University for decades.



## **SADIE TANNER MOSSELL ALEXANDER**

Born: 1898 — Died: 1989  
Philadelphia, PA



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER**

#### **SADIE TANNER MOSSELL ALEXANDER**

- First African American to receive a Doctorate in Economics in 1921.
- Even with this achievement, faced discrimination in trying to find a job that reflected her educational achievement.
- Because of this hardship, went back to school and became the first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.
- Prior to World War II, her civil rights activism involved working for economic and social justice for Black workers.
- Wrote articles supporting labor unions and explaining the need for government regulation of economic activity.
- After World War II, chose to work for human rights and the end of Jim Crow.



## **PHYLLIS ANN WALLACE**

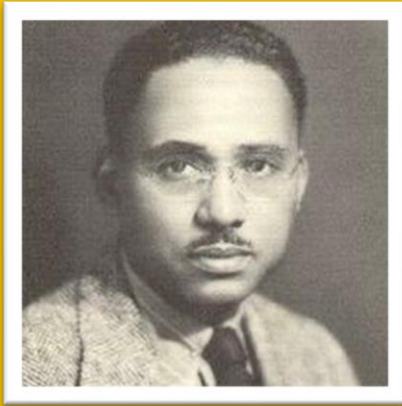
Born: 1921 — Died: 1993  
Calvert County, MD



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER**

#### **PHYLLIS ANN WALLACE**

- Despite ranking # 1 in her graduating class at what would later be Frederick Douglass HS in Baltimore, was not allowed to go to the University of Maryland. There were strict segregation laws.
- Went to New York University and graduated with a degree in Economics in 1943.
- Went to Yale University and received Master's and Doctoral degrees in Economics.
- Worked for the federal government and became an expert on the economy of the Soviet Union.
- Joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Studied employment policies that discriminated against Blacks.
- Taught economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



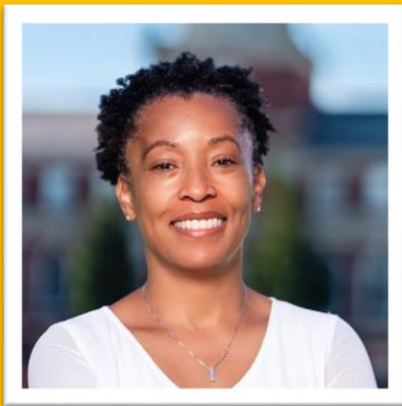
## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN HARRIS JR.**

Born: 1899 — Died: 1963  
Richmond, VA



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER ABRAHAM LINCOLN HARRIS JR.**

- During childhood experienced discrimination, but also learned the importance of the goal of integration.
- Father was a butcher at a German American meat shop. Saw the need for people to be able to trade with one another regardless of race or ethnicity.
- After serving in World War I, he finished degree at Virginia Union University.
- Earned his Master's in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1924.
- In 1930, became the second Black American to receive Doctorate in Economics.
- Work and writings focused on how to help the Black consumer.
- Wrote about trade issues and the necessity to support the banking needs of Blacks.
- Became a leading voice on the economic needs of Blacks.



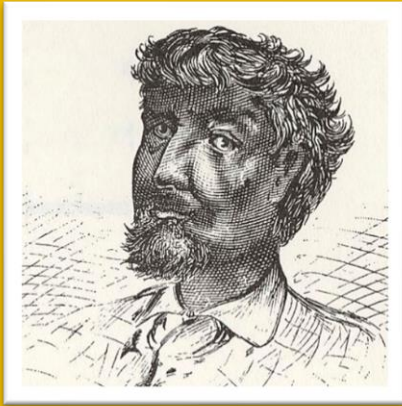
## **RHONDA VONSHAY SHARPE**

Born: 1966  
Harlem, New York



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER RHONDA VONSHAY SHARPE**

- Was raised in Richmond, Virginia, and has a degree in Mathematics.
- Received Doctorate in Economics in 1998 from Claremont University.
- Has taught at Bucknell University, Duke University, and Columbia University.
- Well known for research on the relationship between economics, education, and sports.
- An example would be research on wages for the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). This research guided collective bargaining between the players union and team owners.
- Created and continues to run the Women's Institute of Science and Race (WISER).
- The goal of the organization is to help women grow their role in the global economy.



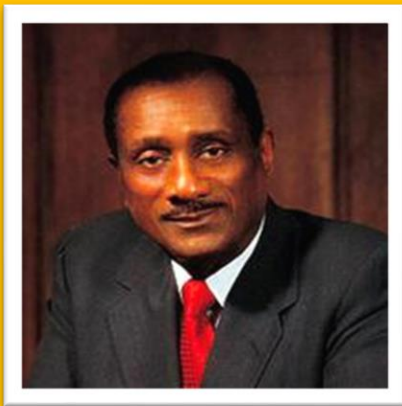
## **JEAN BAPTISTE POINTE DUSABLE**

Born: 1750 — Born: 1818  
Hispaniola



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER JEAN BAPTISTE POINTE DUSABLE**

- Written records of his life do not begin until the 1770s. Was of African descent.
- The importance of his life was not studied until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.
- In the late 1700s and early 1800s, made what is modern-day Chicago a trading center.
- Changed the economy by bringing goods from other places to the market. Enabled people to barter to get things they needed and wanted.
- Also located the trading center along the Chicago River. This became a model for other trading centers in North America.
- Later sold the trading center and moved to what is today, St. Louis, Missouri.
- A museum near Chicago is dedicated to his life and accomplishments.



## **JOHN H. JOHNSON**

Born: 1918 — Died: 2005  
Arkansas



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER JOHN H. JOHNSON**

- Family moved to Chicago in 1933.
- Attended DuSable HS in Chicago. Classmates included Nat King Cole and Redd Foxx.
- During high school was active in many leadership positions. Two that would be important to his future would be the school newspaper and class yearbook.
- Took a job working for an insurance company. One of his jobs was to prepare a monthly collection of newspaper articles. This would lead him to become a publisher.
- In 1942 he published the *Negro Digest*. This publication covered Black history, literature, arts, and cultural issues.
- Would also publish two magazines designed to appeal to Blacks: *Jet* and *Ebony*. Millions of copies of these news magazines have been sold.
- He received many awards for his work.





## **MADAM CJ WALKER**

Born: 1867 – Died: 1919  
Louisiana



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER MADAM CJ WALKER**

- Was orphaned at age 7. Only formal education came from attendance at church.
- Started working as a servant before age 10.
- The name Madam C.J. Walker came from her third marriage to a newspaper salesman.
- Suffered from severe dandruff and other scalp ailments, including baldness.
- Hair loss led to the development of a line of products specifically for Black women in 1905.
- Traveled the country giving lectures and demonstrations of her products. By 1908, she opened her first factory.
- Was the first American woman to become a millionaire.
- Gave thousands of dollars to charities. Even after her death, her company expanded into Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, and Haiti.
- In 2022, a line of her products was sold in Wal-Mart under the name, Madam.



## **THOMAS L. JENNINGS**

Born: 1791 – Born: 1856  
New York, NY



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER THOMAS L. JENNINGS**

- Was an inventor, trader, and entrepreneur.
- Apprenticed as a tailor and eventually was able to open his own store.
- The store became one of the largest in New York City.
- Developed a process for cleaning clothes known as “Dry Scouring.”
- His customers often complained that their clothes were being ruined by stains. Started experimenting with different chemicals that could protect the fabric while removing stains.
- In 1821, patented this process, becoming the first African American to hold a patent.
- Earned a large amount of money. Used this wealth to support abolitionist organizations and to promote voting rights for Blacks.



## **CHRISTIANA CARTEAUX BANNISTER**

Born: 1819 — Born: 1903  
Rhode Island



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER CHRISTIANA CARTEAUX BANNISTER**

- Moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where she worked as a wigmaker and hairdresser.
- Was an entrepreneur who became known as the "hair doctress." Created income by hairdressing and selling her own hair products.
- Opened successful beauty salons in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- Used wealth to support the Underground Railroad and financed the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment of Black soldiers.
- The movie *Glory* is based on the activities of these soldiers.
- Years later, concerned about the challenges faced by retired Black domestic workers, most of whom were women, opened the Home for Aged Colored Women.
- In 2003, was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.



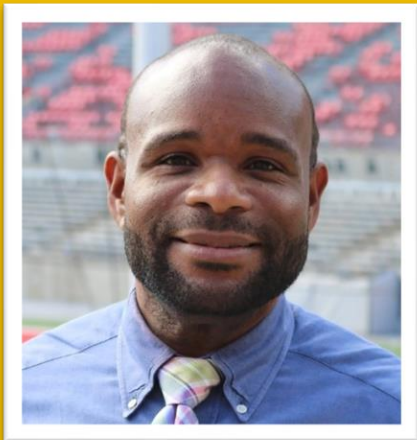
## **ROBERT SENGSTACKE ABBOTT**

Born: 1870 — Died: 1940  
Georgia



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER ROBERT SENGSTACKE ABBOTT**

- Parents were freed slaves.
- Studied the printing trade at Hampton University and graduated in 1896.
- Continued education by earning a law degree in 1905 from the Kent College of Law in Chicago, Illinois.
- With .25¢ (in today's dollars - \$8.00) started a newspaper designed to appeal to Blacks. It was called *The Chicago Defender*.
- Encouraged Black migration from the South to escape discrimination and find good-paying jobs.
- Published the 'Defender's 9 Goals' which included increasing jobs for Blacks as engineers, firemen, and in the federal government.
- The *Chicago Defender* developed a nationwide circulation. It became the largest Black-owned newspaper in the United States.



## **TREVON D. LAGAN**

Born: 1979  
Minnesota



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER TREVON D. LAGAN**

- Currently Professor of Economics at The Ohio State University.
- University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D., Economics, 2004 University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Economics and Demography, 2003 University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.S., Economics (Honors), 1999.
- 2014, became the youngest-ever president of the National Economic Association.
- Named by Fortune Magazine as “One of the 19 Black Economists You Should Know and Celebrate” in 2020.
- Current research focuses on racial inequality and economic history.
  - Research into the election of Black politicians after the Civil War, which led to increased tax revenues that were put toward public schools and land ownership reform.
  - Research into the long-term economic impact of the Tulsa Race Riots in 1921.



## **NINA BANKS**

Born: 1964



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER NINA BANKS**

- Hood College, magna cum laude, Majors: Economics and Social History, Ph.D. Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Associate Professor of Economics at Bucknell University.
- Publications focus on social reproduction and migrant households, black women and work, and the economics of the first black economist in the U.S. — Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander.
- Research on Black women’s unpaid work in America (childcare, housework, community activism and collective action).
- Serves on the Board of Directors of the National Economic Association (NEA) and the editorial boards of Feminist Economics and The Review of Black Political Economy.
- 2021 President of the National Economics Association.





## **MELLODY HOBSON**

Born: 1969  
Illinois



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER MELLODY HOBSON**

- Graduated from Princeton University, 1991.
- Internship at Ariel Investments, one of the largest African American-owned money management/mutual fund companies in the US.
- In 2000 she became the President of Ariel Investments. Continues in that position today.
- Selected:
  - Ebony magazine's "20 Leaders of the Future" (1992).
  - Working Women Magazine's "20 Under 30" (1992).
  - The World Economic Forum's "Global Leaders of Tomorrow" (2001).
  - The Wall Street Journal's 50 "Women to Watch" (2004).
  - Time Magazine 2015 Top 100 Most Influential People in the World.
- 2017 became the first African American Woman selected to lead the Economic Club of Chicago.
- 2020, Chairwoman of Starbucks Corporation.



## **CALVIN E. TAYLOR**

Born: 1942  
Maryland



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER CALVIN E. TAYLOR**

- First job was selling the Baltimore Afro American newspaper at 10 years old.
- Could not finish his degree at Morgan State because of lack of money.
- In 1964 he started working as a driver and delivery specialist for United Parcel Service (UPS).
- In 1966 he was made a Supervisor, and by 1970 a Division Manager. He was the first Black to hold both jobs.
- In 1973 he was made the District Manager of Nebraska. Again, the first Black at UPS to hold this title.
- Went on to become a Senior Vice-President and the first Black member of the Board of Directors (1991).
- In 1973 he had stock worth \$20,000. In 1999 when he retired, it was worth \$40 million.
- Donated more than \$25 million to Morgan State University to provide scholarships.



## **WILLIAM D. BRADFORD**

Born: 1944  
Alabama



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER WILLIAM D. BRADFORD**

- BA Economics (1967) Howard University, MBA (1968) Ohio State University, PhD. (1971) Ohio State University
- Former Dean of the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington from 1994-1999.
- Recognized by the Review of Black Political Economy, Top 20 African American Economists in the U.S., 1990.
- Former president of the National Economic Association, 1984.
- Inducted into the Minority Business Hall of Fame in 2013.
- Tabor 100 Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013. Tabor 100 is an association of entrepreneurs and business advocates who are committed to economic power, educational excellence, and social equity for African Americans.
- Research Areas: Minorities and Small Business Ownership, Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance



## **REGINALD F. LEWIS**

Born: 1942 - Died: 1993  
Maryland



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER REGINALD F. LEWIS**

- His father was a small business owner. His mother was a teacher.
- Graduated from Virginia State University, 1965. Completed his law degree at Harvard University, 1968.
- From 1970s-1990s was likely the richest African American in the world.
- In 1983, left corporate law to establish the TLC Group L.P, a private equity firm.
- In 1987, he bought Beatrice International Foods for \$985 million. TLC Beatrice was a snack food, beverage, and grocery store business. It was the largest African American owned and managed business in the U.S at the time.
- In 1993, Forbes listed Reginald F. Lewis among the 400 richest Americans.
- He was a philanthropist. Created the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation in 1987. Helped to pay for scholarships at Howard and Harvard Universities.
- A \$5 million grant from his foundation helped build the African American Museum in Baltimore after his death.



## **EARL S. GRAVES**

Born: 1935 - Died: 2020  
New York



### **FACTS ABOUT BLACK ECONOMICS LEADER**

#### **EARL S. GRAVES**

- First job was at age 7 selling boxed Christmas cards for his uncle..
- Graduated from Morgan State University.
- Founder of *Black Enterprise* magazine.
- In 1968 he sat on the Federal Government's Small Business Administration (SBA) board.
- During his time with the SBA, he was convinced that Black businesses needed advice on how to properly operate. Started a national newsletter for this purpose.
- In 2002, Graves was named as one of the 50 most powerful and influential African Americans in corporate America by Fortune magazine.
- He was appointed by George W. Bush to be on the Presidential Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- On April 26, 2007, Earl G. Graves Sr. was inducted into the Junior Achievement U.S. Business Hall of Fame.
- In his honor, Morgan State University's business school was named Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management. It was opened in 2015.