

# **LWVNYS 2025 Biennial Conference**

Albany NY

June 2, 2025

***DEI Panel with Follow Up at “Let’s Talk” : Prioritizing DEI work is vital for engaging all Community and League members to participate effectively in a diverse and strong democracy.***

## **Speaker Listing:**

### **Angelica Kang, Esq., (she/her/hers)**

Most recently the Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Officer for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services from December 2021 to June 2025. There, she served on the Executive Leadership Team, ensuring that the agency's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility is authentic, evidence-based, and sustainable. Angelica also serves as the elected chair of the 2024-2025 Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council Board. June 2025, Ms. Kang will begin at the New York State Office of General Services as Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Counsel.

Ms. Kang received her BA from Fordham University and obtained her JD from Fordham University School of Law. Having dedicated her entire professional career to public service, she has served in the Peace Corps, the Fordham Law School Stein Scholars in Public Interest and Ethics Program, as a NYS Excelsior Service Fellow, Assistant Corporation Counsel at the City of Albany, and the Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Albany. A convert to the beauty and pace of Upstate New York, she lives in Niskayuna, NY with her family, dog, and cat.

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### **Olivia Hill**

We will hear from Olivia Hill as Luncheon Speaker as well as DEI panelist. She will be sharing her experiences as a candidate for office, a member of the military, and the first openly transgender person to be elected to public office in the state of Tennessee. She will discuss the impact of her transition and how her drive to advocate for what’s right led to her run for public office. Council Member at-Large, Olivia Hill was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee.

A Navy veteran, Olivia served in the engineering division for ten years, seeing combat in Desert Storm. While serving her country, Olivia gained unique expertise in electrical engineering, a set of skills she utilized to become the Senior Supervisor of the Vanderbilt University power plant,

managing a 24/7 operation with a budget of over 100 million dollars. In recent years, Olivia has served as a community leader, educating the public about the difficulties faced by women and the LGBTQ+ community. Olivia was elected to a four year term on the Council in September 2023 as the first openly transgender person in the state of Tennessee.

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### **Samuel Caldwell, MBA**

Serves as Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Equity and Chief Diversity Officer at the State University at Albany. He joined the University's Division of Inclusive Excellence in 2019, was named Interim Chief Diversity Officer in 2020, and was appointed Chief Diversity Officer in 2021.

During that time, the Division of Inclusive Excellence has developed and enhanced training and deepened collaborative relationships with campus partners to effectively serve the campus community in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and further a culture that values diversity and embraces equity and inclusion.

Under his leadership, the University at Albany has been cited for its work in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including the INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023), and the Seal of Excelencia (2022). He is a past board member of the Association for Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and immediate past chair of the APLU's Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Sam has deep experience as a corporate professional in project management, problem-solving, issue resolution, lobbying, and risk mitigation. He has held positions of increasing scope and responsibility in sales, customer care, policy, government affairs, and operations, including profit/loss accountability. He is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, having led multidisciplinary teams on process improvement initiatives resulting in over \$9 million in financial benefits.

Sam served honorably in the United States Coast Guard Reserves, most recently at the rank of Lieutenant.

His community and civic engagement include past board service with the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, Bethlehem (NY) Chamber of Commerce, Senior Services of Albany, Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, and current board member of the Capital District YMCA. He is a life member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Sam holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Rutgers University and an MBA from Strayer University. He has also completed programs with the Rutgers Center for Management Development and the Center for Creative Leadership, and earned certificates in diversity and inclusion from Cornell University and the University of South Florida.

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### **Guest Participants:**

#### **Lakia Green**

Associate Director of Inclusive Excellence (Programming)  
Division of Inclusive Excellence, State University at Albany

**Kate Wood**

Associate Director of Inclusive Excellence (Planning)  
Division of Inclusive Excellence, State University at Albany

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**Panel Moderator / Discussion Facilitator**

**Regina Tillman, M.S. (she/her/hers)**

LWVNYS Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Member, LWV Albany County  
(Bio in Conference Materials)

**Handout Title**

LWVNYS DEI Committee 2025  
*Advancing Diversity - Equity - Inclusion*  
*Ten Ideas for Taking One Step at a Time*