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BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1975 to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 43rd year (Volume XLIII) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters. For bdpatoday or web portal advertising rates, publication schedules, online calendars, and newsletters, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.

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WASHINGTON, DC— Earlier this year, the National Urban League (NUL), a renowned civil rights nonprofit, released its annual assessment of the socio-economic fitness entitled,”Save Our Cities: Powering the Digital Revolution.”

Aina Hunter, of Diverse Issues in Higher Education, reported this study revealed post-secondary students of color are still, on the whole, less likely than White students to focus on subjects that fall within the rubric of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Moreover, this report also noted those undergraduates who do choose a STEM major are less likely to continue their studies at the graduate level.

National BDPA President, Mr. Terry Morris (left), returned to Washington, D.C. where he met with Marc Morial (right), National Urban League’s President and CEO, and HBCU executives to discuss broader public private partnerships with funded engagements. Visit bdpa.org.

WASHINGTON — Career Communications Group (CCG), producer of the BEYA STEM Conference, an annual event hosted by CCG’s Black Engineer magazine, announced Anthony “Tony” Mitchell (right) as the 33rd Black Engineer of the Year. He was presented their award on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park. Mitchell leads Booz Allen Hamilton’s strategic development and execution of the management consulting firm’s Justice, Homeland Security, and Transportation business. Recently, Mitchell served as deputy lead for defense and intelligence business, where he executed strategic initiatives to drive growth and financial performance.

In the community, Mitchell serves as a board member and chair of the Audit Committee of United Through Reading, an organization dedicated to uniting U.S. military families through the gift of reading. He holds a B.S. in electrical engineering from the General Motors Institute (now known as Kettering University) and an M.S. in information systems management from The George Washington University.

Sources: NBDPA and BDPA-DC
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In 2011, Earl A. Pace, Jr. was inducted into the IT Hall of Fame as an innovator for co-founding BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates.
Emmit J. McHenry is a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient from National BDPA’s Washington, D.C. Chapter. As founder of Network Solutions, Inc., Mr. McHenry became one of the world’s Internet and “dot-COM” pioneers for commercializing the TCP/IP protocol for computer network interoperability. His firm managed the domain name system (DNS) registry. He received his degree in communications from the University of Denver and served in the United States Marine Corps as a Communications Officer.
Norman Mays, founded BDPA of Greater Washington, D.C. (BDPA-DC) and BDPA Cleveland. His 40-year journey with Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) began in 1975, when founders Mr. Earl A. Pace, Jr., and the late David Wimberley created BDPA’s Philadelphia Chapter. He heard about the organization from Mr. Wilbur McReynolds, a mutual friend of Earl A. Pace, Jr., BDPA’s Co-Founder. At that time, Mays was a Captain in the U.S. Army, stationed at Ft. Meade, Maryland and assigned to the first official US Army organization dedicated to Computer Systems Security. After being invited as a speaker at one of the Philadelphia Chapter’s monthly program meetings, and coming to understand the value of BDPA’s mission statement, Mays joined BDPA in 1976, not realizing that he had begun one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. Norman Mays is shown above during BDPA-DC’s 40th Anniversary Gala with the Chapter’s High School Coding Competition (HSCC) teams.
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Jesse L. Bemley
Ph.D., Founder, Joint Educational Facilities, Inc.

As the Founder of District-based Joint Educational Facilities, Dr. Jesse L. Bemley launched BDPA’s National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) Program as well as BDPA’s National I.T. Showcase Program.

For over three decades, thousands of BDPA Student Members in the National Capital Region and across the United States have directly and indirectly benefited from Dr. Bemley’s innovation and foresight across advanced computational topics rapidly evolving today — many have since received graduate and STEM degrees.
The Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) co-hosted an event for Joint Educational Facilities (JEF) and BDPA Student Members interested in HP’s Unix (HP-UX) operating systems and artificial intelligence (Ai).

HP-UX was HP’s proprietary implementation of the Unix operating system (OS), based on UNIX System V and first released in 1984.

In this historic 1990 photo, the three students (center) in this session later developed an Ai “Model of a Black Teenager” using Prolog while at JEF. They eventually received masters degrees and lead IT projects, today!
In the early 1990's, National BDPA's Chicago Chapter became the nation's largest and most influential BDPA Chapter by developing and nurturing corporate advisory councils (CACs) with leading I.T. employers and banks across the region. BDPA Chicago also published local and national newsletters with ads and CAC funding.

(Seated L-R) Belinda Betts, Sheila McCaskill, Debra Rice, Wanda Brown, and Dee Jones. (Standing L-R) Jeff Jordan and the late Ollie Morgan, Chapter President and publisher.
R. Wayne Hicks, Jr. served as the National President for BDPA in addition to multiple national and local BDPA Chapter roles.

For the last myriad of years Mr. Hicks served as Executive Director for BDPA’s Education & Technology Foundation (BETF) and BDPA’s National Director for Corporate Sales. Having leadership roles in BDPA’s Cincinnati, Detroit, and Los Angeles Chapters, Mr. Hicks was known the world over as “Mr. BDPA.”
Perry Carter joined BDPA in 1983 as co-founder of Temple University’s BDPA Student Chapter. Upon graduation and completion of Naval ROTC, Carter served as a Data Systems officer in the United States Marine Corps. He served as the Public Affairs Officer for the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) and founding publisher of *NNOA Meridian*, BDPA's *I-Plus Magazine*, and *bdpatoday*. In 1990, Carter chaired National BDPA’s annual Technology Conference and Career Expo in Washington, D.C. In 1996, Carter led BDPA’s transition to the Internet as the organization’s first Web Master successfully launching *BDPA.org* with Silicon Graphics, HP, and U.S. Black Online during BDPA's annual Technology Conference in Atlanta.
One of National BDPA’s first student chapters was launched in 1983 at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. The chapter was co-founded by the late Juan Noyles and Perry Carter to gather data processing knowledge and career information to share with new BDPA Student Members.
National BDPA’s High School Computer Competition (HSCC) hit 2001, the first century of our 3rd millennium, with reckless abandon. Over 25 teams from participating BDPA Chapter cities fielded teams for annual national scholarship rounds.

Powered by IBM, Mayo Clinic, and Rochester Public Schools, National BDPA’s Southern Minnesota HSCC Team (above) became the most diverse set of “top coders” and JrDevs in the nation amassing more world HSCC Championships than all other BDPA Chapters combined. They closed out 2K’s first decade with four consecutive HSCC Championships by 2010 and one more in 2011 — five championships in a row.

The bar is raised each year for every HSCC team heading to #BDPACon, National BDPA’s annual technology conference.
Dr. Juan E. Gilbert is a human-centered computing expert and associate chair of research under the Preeminence Initiative at the University of Florida. Dr. Gilbert is chair of the University of Florida’s Department of Computer & Information Science and Engineering (CISE) and has many inventions to his and his lab's credit. Dr. Gilbert gained recognition when the electronic voting interface he created became a new standard for universal accessibility in elections after successful applications in Oregon, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin. A lifetime BDPA Member, Dr. Gilbert earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Cincinnati, one of the youngest African Americans to do so.
You’ve probably seen Mario Armstrong on TV as a two time Emmy Award–winning talk show host and Digital Lifestyle Expert® or as a regular contributor on NBC’s TODAY Show, CNN, and NPR. Or maybe even on Inside Edition, Dr. Oz, Steve Harvey, or Rachael Ray.

Mr. Armstrong is host of the Emmy winning Never Settle Show, the world’s first crowd-produced, livestreamed talkshow with live participation from in-studio and online audiences. Mr. Armstrong is shown above interviewing Denise Hebner, Head of Diversity and Inclusion Americas for UBS on BDPA-TV, during BDPA’s 2008 Conference.
Sharrarne Morton (center) of Morton Media is one of BDPA’s cofounders of Popular Technology TV (PTTV) and Executive Producer of special programming.

A radio and television host and local personality in the Greater Washington, D.C. area, Ms. Morton provided unprecedented access to media outlets never before offered to the technology industry nor underserved communities. She also serves as BDPA’s EmCee.
Commemorating Black History Month

For several decades, National BDPA’s local chapters have established unique relationships with corporate sponsors and mission partner employee resource groups (ERGs).

AT&T’s ERG and Interns are shown in this iconic photo during an annual TECH and Media Reception co-hosted by SiriusXM Satellite Radio and BDPA-DC in 2016.

The #TECHandMEDIA hash-tag was adopted by local NABJ (WABJ-DC) and NBDPA (BDPA-DC) chapters to commemorate the convergence of “Tech and Media.”
National BDPA President Gina Billings and Black Entertainment Television (BET) CEO Debra L. Lee during the 2006 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), in September 2006.  

#TECHandMEDIA
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Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA)

Dr. Tyrone Taborn, President, Career Communications Group (CCG), and BEYA with Ms. Monique Berry, President-Elect, National BDPA; and Mario Armstrong, Digital Lifestyle Expert, TV Host and Emmy Award Winning Media Personality during BEYA 2009. BDPA’s Baltimore Chapter was BEYA’s Host BDPA Chapter. Annual BEYA Conferences create connections between students, educators, and STEM professionals while facilitating partnerships with local STEM resources.
BDPA’s Cleveland Chapter wins the 2006 Tubbs-Jones Economic Impact Award from the Consortium of African American Organizations (CAAO).

Willard (Will) Brown accepts BDPA’s award on behalf of Cleveland’s Host BDPA Chapter.

This special award originally was presented by the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-Ohio, 11th District).
General Kevin Nally, USMC (left), Director for C4, Deputy Commanding General for MARFORCYBER and the DCIO for the United States Marine Corps, presents Lieutenant Colonel Joseph H. Carpenter, US Marine Corps (Retired) National BDPA's Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2012 National BDPA Technology Conference. Lt. Col. Carpenter is a Montford Point Marine and is the Marine Corps' first African American Data Systems officer.
Dr. William Bundy (center), U.S. Naval War College and BDPA IT Institute provost, at the Founder's VIP Reception during the 2012 National BDPA Awards Gala in Philadelphia with Admiral Roughead, CNO and Earl A. Pace, Jr., Co-Founder, National BDPA.

Dr. Bundy launched National BDPA’s first certification programs for I.T. professionals. Several members received Project Management Professional (PMP) certifications with other industry certifications.

He is one of the Centennial Seven African American submarine skippers who served during the first 100 years of the U.S. Navy’s Submarine Service.
Marines from the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) assigned to the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, VA served as judges during NBDPA’s Regional High School Computer Competition (HSCC) and coding events at Bowie State University in June of 2008. Students from Hartford, CT (above), Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC vie for scholarships and internships during annual BDPACON events.
For several decades, National BDPA's local chapters have established unique relationships with corporate sponsors and mission partner employee resource groups (ERGs).

Members of Deloitte's team are shown in this iconic photo with Larry Quinlan (center), Deloitte's Chief Information Officer (CIO), during #BDPACON18 in New Orleans, LA.
Each year, BDPA members travel to Austin, Texas to attend the annual *South by Southwest®* (SXSW) Conference and Festival.

Participating in 2013’s *Stomp the Divide* panel at SXSW is: (L-R) Navarrow Wright (Interactive One), Ayori Se (Salesforce), Chris Bennet (Black Founders and Soldsie), Christine Celise Johnson (DiversiTech), Cleavon Blair (Blosme) and Greg Greenlee, founder of *Blacks in Technology*. 
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In 2009, National BDPA received $50,000 from Oracle launching BDPA’s Oracle Scholars Program for qualified BDPA Student Members.

Each year, student finalists from local BDPA Chapters apply for scholarships to advance college education or vocational training.
BDPA’s Washington, D.C. Chapter was selected as one of Best Buy Children Foundation’s grant recipients in 2011 for community outreach and STEM programs.

BDPA Student members participate in coding competitions, application development, and graphic design programs offered by participating local BDPA Chapters.
Gloria Parker served on the Obama-Biden Transition team in 2008 – 2009 as the co-team lead on National Archives and Government Printing Office (GPO) Agency Review Teams. She also served on the TIGR (technology) team for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to the task of understanding the status of tech initiatives in these agencies, Ms. Parker was responsible for understanding the need for open government in each Federal agency.

Ms. Parker is shown with Keith Scott, BDPA-DC, during a BEYA reception in Washington. A Hampton University alum, Ms. Parker is one of the first African American CIOs to lead federal agency technology deployments.
Alabama’s latest BDPA Chapter was founded in 2013. **BDPA’s Huntsville Chapter** was co-founded by Dr. Marvin Carroll, Mirie Westbrook, and Perry Carter.

National BDPA NEC Members **Teresa Williams**, Regional Vice President, BDPA South (second from the left), and **Curtis Jenkins**, Vice President, Member Management (third from the left), are shown presenting the Charter to Mr. Westbrook.
One of National BDPA’s first publications was *I-Plus Magazine*. Apple Computer, Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), U. S. Navy, Hallmark Cards, Perot Systems, Kraft General Foods, and GE Information Services were among the larger advertising accounts and featured career articles. In 1996, when BDPA launched its first web page during the National Technology Conference, last editions of I-Plus signified our new world order — the Internet.
The Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF), formed in 1996, began with conversations between prominent technology executives who found that only 3% percent of information technology management roles were being held by Black professionals. Studies suggested that not enough Black professionals were positioned for senior-level technology positions nor projected across BDPA’s pipeline and tech industry executive staffing models.

This discussion sparked those executives to action as they were compelled to reach, teach and cultivate those aspiring technology professionals. Under the leadership of Carl Williams, the 501c(3) organization was founded in Chicago, Illinois and began the work of recruiting those Black professionals who ranked among the “Who’s Who” in technology, as well as those companies and individuals looking to support the mission of the organization.
Lieutenant General Alonzo E. Short, Jr., U.S. Army (seated to the right of the lectern) was BDPA’s Keynote Speaker during during the annual National BDPA Technology Conference in 1990. General Short, an HBCU alumnus and distinguished graduate of Virginia State University, was stationed in Fort Huachuca, Arizona where he was Commanding General from 1990 to 1991 of the U.S. Army Information Systems Command.

The Defense Communications Agency (DCA) was renamed in 1991 to the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) to reflect its newly expanded role as a combat support agency. General Short served as DISA’s Director from August 1991 to July of 1994 where he retired in Arlington, Virginia.
Lt. Gen. Ronnie D. Hawkins, Jr., U.S. Air Force (Retired) was the Director, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Commander, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) – Department of Defense Information Networks (DODIN), Fort Meade, Maryland. He led a global organization of military and civilian personnel who plan, develop, deliver, and operate joint, interoperable, command and control capabilities and a global enterprise infrastructure in direct support of the President, Secretary of Defense, and other mission partners across a full spectrum of operations. In 2010, General Hawkins was BDPA-DC’s annual Community Awards Banquet keynote presenter.
Lieutenant General Robert S. Ferrell became the U.S. Army's CIO/G-6 on December 23, 2013. As Chief Information Officer, General Ferrell reported directly to the Secretary of the Army, setting strategic direction and objectives with a $10 billion budget for the Army network and supervised all Army C4 (command, control, communications, and computers) and IT functions. In 2017, General Ferrell received National BDPA's Washington, D.C. Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award during an annual awards gala at Bowie State University. (L-R) PTTC Director, Mr. Thurman Jones; Mr. Robert Ferrell, Vice President, Public Sector Strategy for Worldwide Technology; and Dr. Daryl Stone, Assistant Professor and P.I., Bowie State University.
Lucinda Cunningham is recognized as the first African American female to be promoted to Captain in the United States Coast Guard during a promotion ceremony. The United States Coast Guard was the 2014 Federal Sponsor of the Year for National BDPA’s Washington, D.C. Chapter. While assigned to Coast Guard Cyber Command, Captain Cunningham accepted BDPA’s award on behalf of the United States Coast Guard at an awards gala hosted by Bowie State University.
The United States Coast Guard officially opened their new headquarters on 29 July 2013 in Southeast Washington, D.C. near the Anacostia River. CGHQ units relocated to their new building which later was renamed the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building.

Vice Admiral Manson Brown (above), Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, discusses his four mission areas which include Human Resources Engineering and Logistics, IT, and acquisitions. He is shown here sharing new leadership opportunities within the Coast Guard with National BDPA's Washington, D.C. student members and coding teams on a special tour. VADM Brown retired in 2014 as the Coast Guard's top-ranking black officer.
More than two-dozen engineers and scientists received National awards and recognition during 20th anniversary Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) celebrations at the Baltimore Convention Center. Dr. Marvin P. Carroll, a Howard University graduate and President of Huntsville, Alabama-based Tec-Masters, Inc., was honored as one of BEYA’s 2006 Entrepreneurs of the Year. Dr. Carroll (left), co-founder of Huntsville’s BDPA Chapter, stands with General Benjamin S. Griffin, Army Materiel Command.

During the awards gala in Philadelphia, Admiral Roughead received National BDPA’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his personal dedication to outreach and leadership. The Admiral became the first Service Chief in BDPA’s history to attend BDPA’s annual National Technology Conference.
The Honorable BJ Penn assumed responsibilities as Acting Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) on March 13, 2009. He was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) on March 1, 2005. On August 8, 2009, Mr. Penn was the highest ranking federal official in the United States to attend a National BDPA Technology Conference. He was on deck to present a Navy Scholarship to Ms. Raven Stevenson, one of National BDPA's High School Coding Competition (HSCC) finalists in Raleigh, NC.

Pictured (L-R) is Ms. Denise Holland, President NBDPA; the Honorable B. J. Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN); Lieutenant Dennis Holmes, US Navy; and Vice Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., US Navy.
Ensign Raven Stevenson becomes National BDPA’s first High School Computer Competition (HSCC) alumna to receive a Commission in the United States Navy and U.S. Armed Forces. Her “First Salute” was captured live during Naval ROTC Commissioning ceremonies for the Class of 2013 at Duke University. Ensign Stevenson received a full Naval ROTC Scholarship during National BDPA’s 2009 Technology Conference and HSCC Scholarship round.
In 1999, a young high school student from Waldorf, Maryland was enrolled in her local BDPA Chapter’s high school coding competition (HSSC).

After earning a degree from Stanford University and receiving her MBA from MIT, Stephanie Lampkin launches Blendoor in 2015, a Silicon Valley start-up.
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#HOPEProjectIsBlackHistory — Raymond Bell, Jr.
Founder, H.O.P.E. Project DMV
Carlos Buskey (right) was a college student working at a hotel in Richmond, Virginia when he was discovered by Annette Yates (center), the Host Chapter’s President. BDPA Richmond was hosting a Regional BDPA Technology Conference when Buskey mentioned his interests and work in computer sciences to Ms. Yates. Today, Dr. Carlos Buskey is a Professor at Howard University’s School of Business. He received degrees from Virginia State University and Bowie State University. These HBCUs have long-term and distinguished relationships with BDPA and BDPA Chapters. In this historic photo, Dr. Buskey is shown with Rufin Bell (Chapter Co-Founder) and Ms. Yates where he was the Keynote Presenter during the Chapter’s 20th Anniversary.
LISNR® is one of the world’s most advanced ultrasonic data platforms. No WiFi. No wires. LISNR is one of CNBC’s #Disruptor50 firms and recent winner of several CES Innovation Awards.

Co-Founded by Rodney Williams (right), LISNR is an Industry leader in Data-Over-Audio. LISNR uses sound to evolve across emerging Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G markets. Mr. Williams has an MBA from Howard University and is a Member of National BDPA’s Cincinnati Chapter.
Aaron Saunders (right), Chief Executive Officer of Clearly Innovative, Inc. received BDPA-DC’s 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Mr. Saunders successfully led an app development team deploying mobile applications for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Honorable Muriel Bowser (above), Mayor of the District of Columbia, joined community tech leaders, executives from the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), Howard University deans, and Mr. Saunders during the 2017 grand opening of In3. Inclusive Innovation Incubator (In3), founded by Mr. Saunders, is the District of Columbia’s first community space focused on inclusion and innovation where under-resourced members have access to the space and services needed to launch, build, and grow very successful businesses. Mr. Saunders is a Member of BDPA’s DC Chapter.
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GOES-S 2018
GOES-T 2019
GOES-U 2023

JPSS-1 2017
JPSS-2 2021
JPSS-3 2026
JPSS-4 2031

BDPA’s Annual Earth Day Tech Summits

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an American scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce that focuses on the conditions of the oceans, major waterways, and the atmosphere. Above, NOAA Meteorologist Dr. DaNa Carlis, a Howard University alumnus, delivers geospatial tech and satellite presentations during National BDPA’s inaugural Earth Day Tech Summit in Washington, D.C. in In3’s Incubator near Howard University.

#CyberEarth17
National BDPA's *Information Technology (IT) Showcase* allows student presenters from educational institutions across the United States to present and demonstrate their research. All presentations represent advanced computing and technical topics presented by college and high school students to an audience of corporate representatives. IT professionals and students participate in this 2-day event held annually during National #BDPACON events.
Commemorating Black History Month

Students participate in a weekend industry day and inner-city open house at the Joint Educational Facilities (JEF) training center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Jesse Bemley, BDPA DC and JEF Executive Director co-hosted a High Performance Computing (HPC) primer with Dr. Paul Gray, University of Northern Iowa, for area youth, October 15, 2006.

"Little Fe", as opposed to “Big ‘Iron’”, is a portable HPC computational cluster for educational use developed by Dr. Gray’s team.
The Million Man March was a gathering of African-American men in Washington, D.C., on October 16, 1995. The march was held on the National Mall.

Organized by leading groups of civil rights activists and the Nation of Islam working with civil rights organizations, the National African American Leadership Summit, founded by Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., formed the Million Man March Organizing Committee.

National BDPA's Washington, D.C. Chapter was the March's Host Chapter for participating BDPA Members. (L-R) Michael Harvey, BDPA-DC's Chapter President, with Jimm Middleton (Membership) and Perry Carter (Communications) on committees.
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