

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 03, 2024

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## **NAAIA National Celebrates Outstanding Leadership at 2024 Conference Awards Gala**



**New Orleans, LA** – The National African American Insurance Association (NAAIA) proudly announces the recipients of its 2024 Leadership Awards, recognized at the Annual Gala and Awards during the NAAIA National Conference. The gala brought together industry leaders, professionals, and partners to celebrate excellence, innovation, and commitment within the insurance sector.

These awards highlight individuals that have made significant contributions to the insurance industry through their leadership, innovation, mentorship and championship of inclusion, equity and access.

NAAIA honored outstanding professionals across four categories:

- **Emerging Leader Award:** Krista Scott
- **Agent & Broker Leadership Excellence Award:** Rhoda Murray–West
- **Corporate Leader Award:** Paul Kearney
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Dr. Leroy D. Nunery, II

**Krista Scott**, Assistant Vice President and Territory Manager at Zurich North America, manages broker and customer relationships in the Chicagoland area and Wisconsin. With a background in Middle Market Property & Casualty underwriting at The Hartford, she has demonstrated expertise across various industries and territories. Krista is also the President of the NAAIA Dallas Fort Worth Chapter and an active community volunteer. Recognized for her leadership and achievements, she was named a Rising Star by Insurance Business America in 2021 and received the 2024 RISE “35 Under 35” Award.

**Rhoda Murray–West**, Senior Vice President in Marsh’s Casualty Practice and President of the NAAIA Houston Chapter, is an accomplished leader with over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry. Specializing in broking large domestic and international casualty accounts, particularly in the energy and utility sectors, she has earned a stellar reputation for her expertise and collaboration with risk managers. Rhoda is also a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, actively driving initiatives as Manager of Marsh’s Colleague Resource Groups and serving on Marsh’s US DEI Council.

**Paul Kearney**, Chief Claims Officer at AF Group, is an industry leader with over 20 years of strategic experience. In 2023, he was named one of the Top Ten Chief Claims Officers in the U.S. by Financial Service Review. Prior to AF Group, Paul served as AVP of Workers’ Compensation

at Travelers Insurance. Known for his expertise in claims management and leadership, he is also a dedicated mentor and board member of Compass Bridge, a foundation he created to support young entrepreneurs in underprivileged communities. Additionally, Paul is a nationally ranked chess player, reflecting his passion for strategy and leadership.

**Dr. Leroy D. Nunery II** is the Principal and Founder of Plūs Ultré, a management consulting firm, and President of Evolution Advisors LLC. He has made a profound impact on the insurance industry, notably through his leadership in authoring the groundbreaking *2018 Journey of African American Insurance Professionals* study and the *2023 Next Steps on the Journey* study. His influence extends beyond insurance, and his interdisciplinary expertise continues to shape diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across industries.

Dr. Nunery's diverse career spans corporate banking, capital markets, and the NBA, where he held executive roles in human resources and business development. He has served on numerous non-profit and corporate boards, including Lafayette College and Pitney Bowes, Inc., and has been a sought-after speaker and advisor on topics like education, economic development, and diversity. His work has earned him recognition in leading publications, and he is also a Senior Consultant with Leaders-By-Design/Leader's Edge and a Council Member with the Gerson Lehrman Group. Dr. Nunery holds degrees from Lafayette College, Washington University, and the University of Pennsylvania, and has completed executive programs at Wharton and the Aspen Institute.

Additionally, the **NAAIA Greater Hartford Chapter** was awarded the **2024 Chapter of the Year**, which acknowledges a chapter that has demonstrated excellence in programming and community impact. Claude Howard, President and Trevon Canada, Vice President, were on hand to accept the honor.

Stay tuned for further updates, where we'll be sharing more about the incredible achievements and backgrounds of these honorees.

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### **ABOUT NAAIA**

The National African American Insurance Association (NAAIA) creates a network for people of color and others affiliated with the insurance industry. With over 2,700 members and 24 chapters nationwide, NAAIA is dedicated to the professional development and empowerment of its members, serving as a gateway to diverse talent at every level of the industry.

Visit [www.naaia.org](http://www.naaia.org) to learn more.