



September 4, 2017

Dear ICTC Supporters and Friends,

It has been an exciting year of change and transition for ICTC and we are optimistic about a strong and positive future for our organization. Thank you for your patience as we transition from the leadership of ICTC's founder, Shafia M. Monroe, to the leadership of a highly engaged governing board. We have continued to work with our community of Black midwives, doulas and birth professionals, and are pushing hard to move ICTC to the next level of service and impact.

Some of the recent accomplishments since the retirement of ICTC's founder include:

- As a sign of trust in ICTC's mission and work in our communities, **three grants have been awarded to ICTC by two foundations, the Groundswell Fund and the Oregon Community Foundation. These grants total over \$82,000.00 in support over two years** and they extend the organization's ability to be most effective in its mission to serve Black families and to grow the advocacy role of ICTC at a national level.
- ICTC is very pleased to announce that we have just **added four new and highly talented women to our Board of Directors** who are passionate about empowering women, children and families. At the end of this letter is an updated list of the ICTC Board and their credentials, showing the diversity of professional backgrounds, including backgrounds in midwifery, finance, accreditation, nonprofit management, education, and integrative medicine. The enhanced ICTC Board of Directors is committed to increasing the infrastructural integrity of the organization, refining the mission and vision, and engaging in national maternity conversations surrounding birth equity.
- On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, ICTC will be celebrating its **6<sup>th</sup> annual Afrocentric Pregnancy and Baby Care Fair** in Portland, Oregon. This community and family gathering offers free lead testing, free massages, mini-workshops in birth planning, parenting, baby wearing; music from a well-known African musical group, the Obo Addy Legacy Project; and lots of vendors/exhibitors and kid-friendly activities like face painting.
- We are excited to announce that the **10th International Black Midwives and Healers Conference** will be held in 2019, honoring 400 years since the first Black lay midwife came to America. Due to the transition of the organization this past year, the Board had to make the tough decision to defer the conference from its original 2017 date. It was important for the

Board to focus on successfully delivering its programs and fulfilling its mission. Stay tuned for more details in early 2018.

- Since July 2016, ICTC has completed four **Full Circle Doula Trainings** across the country [Richmond, VA; Washington, DC; and Oakland, CA]. [On August 30, 2017 we announced that ICTC will not be offering doula training in the foreseeable future](#), nor will we be certifying doulas; This curriculum will now be offered by Shafia Monroe Consulting, the creator of the program. For doulas who have been certified by ICTC in the past, ICTC will retain a copy of your certificate, but we no longer issue new certificates. You can reach the Full Circle Doula/Birth Companion Training program at [doulas@shafiamonroe.com](mailto:doulas@shafiamonroe.com), 503-281-1688, and [www.shafiamonroe.com](http://www.shafiamonroe.com).
- ICTC is producing a video that will focus on the **birth experiences of Black women** in the U.S., and in particular Oregon, with a goal of exposing the problem, and improving birth environments, options and equity for Black women nationally.
- ICTC will be collaborating with the **Giving Voice to Mothers Survey Research** currently underway by Saraswathi Vedam.

ICTC will have more exciting news to report this winter about the organization's strategic planning and activities related to our mission and vision, programming, advocacy and convening activities. Stay tuned and stay in touch. In addition, the board is planning a virtual town hall meeting to discuss our plans and respond to your questions about the direction of the organization. You can reach ICTC by contacting us at [ictc@ictcmidwives.org](mailto:ictc@ictcmidwives.org). Thank you for your continued support, and for all that you do for black birthing families.

Sincerely,

Noelene K. Jeffers, CNM, MSN, IBCLC  
ICTC President and Board Chair

#### **ICTC Roster of Board Members (2017-2018)**

Abigail Aiyepola, ND – Vice Chair  
Teneele M. Bailey, MBS  
Heather Clarke, CNM, DNP, FACNM  
Kimberlynn Heller, DO  
Nandi Hill, CPM  
Noelene K. Jeffers, CNM, MSN, IBCLC – President/Chair  
Di Saunders, BA, MS  
Leonne Tanis, BAS  
Essence Williams, RN, BSN, CBC, CCE, SNM