

Culture Workers Bureau (CWB) 2009-2010 Speakers Tour

Dr. John Trimble Educator and Activist



John Trimble's early involvement in activism centered around his participation as a High School student in the Open Housing campaign in Chicago in the mid-60s under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. John continued his activism and organizing at Northwestern University in 1967. During his four years there, Northwestern was a hotbed of student activism. The call for 'Black Power' led to building seizures, campus closures and intense confrontations. As a graduate student at Stanford, John continued his organizing, serving as founding member of the Stanford Black Scientist and Engineers. After graduation, John went on to help organized the first organization of Black scientists and engineers in Silicon Valley (Bay area of California) in the early 70's. Inspired by reading Kwame Nkrumah and Marcus Garvey, John shifted his focus to work around Africa. He helped to organize African Liberation Day in Oakland California working with the local African Liberation Support Committee and raised funds for 'Relief for Africans in Need in the Sahel' (RAINS). After hearing Kwame Ture speak at Stanford University in February 1975, John realized that Pan-Africanism was the solution he was searching for and immediately signed up to join a work-study circle of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party .

Dr. Trimble holds Masters degrees from Stanford University in computer science and from UC Berkeley in operations research as well as a doctorate in systems engineering from Georgia Tech. Dr. Trimble is currently an Associate Professor in Systems and Computer Science at Howard University. His numerous research interests include 'the study and development of appropriate technology for national development in Africa and other underdeveloped regions'. He has organized workshops on this topic at the international Africa – African-American Summit in Ghana, national workshops and symposium in Washington DC, and international conferences and local seminars in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Dr. Trimble chaired the planning committee for international conferences on appropriate technology held in Bulawayo Zimbabwe, in 2004 and 2006 and in Kigali Rwanda in 2008. Dr. Trimble has also served as founding director of the Howard University Project on Appropriate Technology, and Vice-chair of the Howard University Republic of South Africa Project. He served as a visiting Professor at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo Zimbabwe from 2003-2004. Dr. Trimble served as the Dean of Information and Communication Technology for Umutara Polytechnic University in Rwanda from 2006-2008. He has served as an Information technology consultant in Zimbabwe, Rwanda, South Africa, and Mauritius.

Dr. Trimble can speak, conduct workshops or organize conferences on a number of topics ranging from:

- **Appropriate Technology: Technology to Empower the People**
- **Technology, Climate Change and Socialism as the only Solution**
- **Our Knowledge Society: Information and Communication Technology in Socialist Transformation.**
- **The Role of Universities in Africa Today**