



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega International Fatherhood and Mentoring

"A Mandated Program"



Illuminating Stories About

Fatherhood

Youth Leadership

Mentoring

Brother, You're On My Mind

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No. 2



Ricky L. Lewis
42nd Grand Basileus
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fathers, Our Mandates World-Wide

- Achievement Week
- BYOMM
- College Endowment
- Fatherhood & Mentoring
- Health Initiatives
- Memorial Service
- NAACP
- Scholarships
- Social Action
- STEM
- Talent Hunt
- VREM (Voter Registration, Education & Mobilization)

Greetings Brothers: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated continues to be strong, solid—and in order. As many of you know, I have just returned from Canada and South Korea where I had the opportunity to visit with brothers in the 13th District, the District that truly makes Omega International. I have visited with brothers in all twelve Districts. As I prepare to depart from this sacred role, I leave you with these simple reminders:

Mentoring: There are young black men out in our sphere of influence. They need to see our presence, they need to hear our voices, they need to know that there is a GREAT place for them in this big and diverse world to dream big dreams, think great thoughts and do unforgettable and significant deeds for humankind and the planet. Help them, my brothers!

Health and wellness: There is no better way to provide an unfathomable expression of love, caring and concern for the well-being of your families and friends than to always be conscious of the need for quality health care in all of its forms and specialties. We need quality health care in our daily lives; we need it for all. Let us not forget!

Living trust: Our ancestors left us with a legacy of hope, a prayer, and a purpose. Let us continue that tradition. This we must do for ourselves, our families and in the name of those who paved a way for us to not only survive, but to thrive. Let each of us resolve to not leave this world without a living trust. You owe this to yourself and those for whom you care. Do it my brothers!

Self-care: I continue to pray that your days will be long upon this earth and that you are and will continue to be paying attention to your health and the health of your loved ones. Brother, you're on my mind!

Bequeath: Everyone has a story to tell; a few get to tell theirs to the many. What will be your story and in what form will it be remembered?

I am extremely proud, grateful, and honored that you entrusted me with the *staff of leadership* of this great fraternity for the past four years. For the trust that you bestowed to me, I will be forever thankful. I have endeavored to *lift every voice* of Omega to the highest so that no one will ever attempt to discourage or degrade the wonders performed by Omega men! I yield.

RLL

WHAT'S INSIDE – FEATURED	DISTRICT STORIES - Highlighted	DISTRICTS
Greetings Brothers: Bro Ricky L. Lewis, Grand Basileus p 1	From Impact to Ownership p 16	District 1 p 15
Greetings: Bro. Joshua Jenkins, 2 nd Vice Grand Basileus p 2	Bonding Through Books p 20	District 2 p 20
Omega Int'l Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee p 3	YMOD Achievable Dream p 23	District 3 p 21
Strengthening the Bond: Bro Raymond J. Bell p 4	20-Years Fatherhood p 27	District 4 p 25
What Black Men Want: Bro Robert W. Fairchild p 6	Empowering the Next p 34	District 5 p 31
Excerpt from Speech by Frederick Douglass, July 5, 1852 p 7	When Fathers are Present p 35	District 6 p 35
The Ballot and the Burden: Why... Bro Dr. William A. Smith p 8	7 th Dist. FMC Data Survey p 40	District 7 p 39
Editor's Desk: Science and Technology Corner p 9	Dickson Family Legacy p 46	District 8 p 46
Tennessee State University Clarifies Eligibility for Program p 9	Brotherhood In Action p 48	District 9 p 47
Emotional Intelligence: Bro. Dr. T. Victor Montgomery p11	Searching for Answers p 52	District 10 p 48
Miles Says: Dear Principal, Kids Need More ... p12	Unity, Heritage, Progress p 58	District 12 p 52
PART 2: It's the Student's Fault! Bro Dr. Carl A. Blunt p13		District 13 p 56
A Friend Like Jonathon: Chaplain Charles Clemons p14		

Brother Joshua “Josh” Jenkins, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus

Greetings Brothers, Undergrads and Grads

“The future is not something we simply inherit—it is something we help create.” jj

One of the greatest responsibilities we have as men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is ensuring that the next generation is prepared to lead. Whether through fatherhood, mentorship, or fraternity brotherhood, our obligation is not simply to pass down traditions—it is to pass down knowledge, values, and opportunities that empower young men to succeed.

The world we live in today reminds us that leadership is built through relationships. Fathers help shape sons. Mentors help shape future leaders. Within Omega, we often find ourselves serving in both roles. Some brothers have the blessing of learning from their fathers. Others are guided by mentors who step into that role and provide encouragement, accountability, and wisdom. Regardless of how the relationship is formed, the impact remains the same; strong guidance produces strong leaders.



Joshua “Josh” Jenkins
2nd Vice Grand Basileus
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

As undergraduate brothers, we are often the beneficiaries of mentorship. Graduate brothers invest their time and experience to help us navigate academics, careers, leadership, and life. Yet mentorship is not a one-way street. Undergraduate brothers also have a responsibility to mentor those coming behind us. Whether through youth programs, campus organizations, local schools, or our own chapters, we must actively invest in the next generation of young men. Leadership is not defined by age but by the willingness to serve and uplift others.

This commitment to mentorship is directly connected to our civic responsibility. The generations that came before us fought tremendous battles to secure the rights many of us enjoy today. The right to vote was not freely given; it was earned through sacrifice, courage, and persistence. Honoring that legacy requires more than remembering history—it requires participation in the present.

Today’s undergraduate brothers face challenges that previous generations could not have imagined, but they also possess opportunities to influence change in powerful ways. Across college campuses, students are witnessing policy decisions that affect their educational experiences, organizations, and communities. These realities serve as reminders that civic engagement matters. Decisions made at every level of government impact our daily lives, and those decisions are often determined by those who choose to participate in the democratic process.

That is why our focus must be on voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization. First, we must ensure that we are registered and prepared to vote. Second, we must educate ourselves on the issues, candidates, and policies that affect our communities. Finally, we must mobilize others by encouraging our peers, families, and fellow students to become engaged citizens.



On to the ‘Clave in Cincinnati: First Beautiful Book Tree Goes Online in the Queen City. More to Come.

As Omega men, we have never been called to be spectators. We are called to lead. By strengthening the bonds between fathers and sons, mentors and mentees, and brothers and communities, we help build a future grounded in service, leadership, and civic responsibility. When we mentor intentionally and engage civically, we honor the sacrifices of those who came before us while ensuring that those who come after us inherit opportunities worth protecting.

The future is not something we simply inherit—it is something we help create. Through mentorship, leadership, and active participation in our democracy, undergraduate brothers can continue to move our communities forward and ensure that the legacy of Omega Psi Phi remains strong for generations to come. ///



Omega International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee



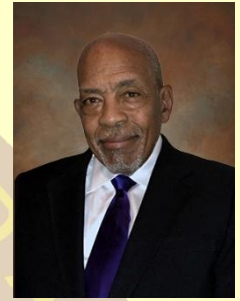
Raymond J. Bell,
Chairman
raybell6h89@msn.com



Keith G. Pemberton
Vice-Chairman
k.g.pemberton@poyfs.org



Cyrill Weems
Vice-Chairman
ceeweems@gmail.com



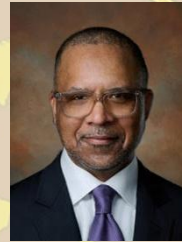
Robert W. Fairchild
Fatherhood Advisor
rfairchi@msn.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
Newsletter Editor/Publisher
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Ahmad Qawi
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Liaison
morpheus8dawg@gmail.com



Jerry Leftwich
Special Projects
JerryLeftwich@yahoo.com



Ah-Lon K. Peoples
IT Support Lead
ahlon.peoples@gmail.com



Eric E. Lindsey
1st District
ericelindsey@gmail.com



Matthew Stevens
2nd District
matt.stevens1@me.com



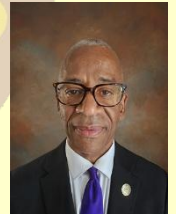
Michael Frazier
3rd District
frazier_mw@hotmail.com



Jehoshaphat K. Jones, DBA
4th District
jehoshaphatkjones@outlook.com



Julius Hill
5th District
juliushill89@yahoo.com



Warren T. Davis
6th District
wtdavis63@hotmail.com



Jonathan Gaines
7th District
7dfatherhood@gmail.com



Michael Graham
8th District
mike.graham1911@gmail.com



Orlando Richards
9th District
tluv.spr87@gmail.com



Cyrill Weems
10th District
ceeweems@gmail.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
12th District
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Michael Robinson
13th District
mrobin12004@yahoo.com

~~~~~ NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~~~~~

September 15, 2026

Submit information for July, August, September 2026

Our Goal: Publish Information from Each District, Each Quarter

About: Building Together!

Fatherhood, Youth Leadership, Mentoring, Brother You're On My Mind

For info: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net

A Message from the Chairman: Brother Raymond J. Bell

Strengthening the Bond | Fathers and Sons Building Together: Honoring Civil Rights, Advancing Our Vote

Greetings Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., let's talk about legacy, responsibility, and love: "Strengthening the Bond—Fathers and Sons Building Together." This theme is not just about family—it is about the future of our people, our communities, and our democracy.

As Omega men, we know that our Four Cardinal Principles—Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift—are not simply words on a shield. They are a roadmap. They are the tools we use to build strong sons, strong families, and strong communities. And part of that strength comes from understanding our power—not just in our homes, but in our society.

To the fathers: your presence is your power. Your sons learn manhood from your example. They learn courage from your decisions. They learn integrity from the way you carry yourself. And they learn citizenship—real, active citizenship—by watching how you show up for your community.

To the sons: you are the continuation of a legacy shaped by giants. A legacy built by men who marched, who organized, who sacrificed, and who refused to be silent. Many of those men wore the Purple and Gold. They fought for civil rights, for dignity, and for the right to be heard. And now, you inherit that responsibility.

Because strengthening the bond between fathers and sons also means strengthening our commitment to justice. It means teaching our sons that their voice matters. It means showing them that voting is not just a right—it is a duty. It is a way of honoring the generations who faced fire

hoses, billy clubs, and poll taxes so that we could walk into a voting booth freely.

When we vote, we protect our communities. When we vote, we shape the schools our children attend. When we vote, we influence the policies that impact our neighborhoods, our safety, and our opportunities. And when fathers and sons vote together, we send a message: our family is engaged, our family is informed, and our family will not be ignored.

But civic engagement is more than Election Day. It is conversations at the dinner table. It is teaching our sons to ask questions, to think critically, to stand up for what is right. It is reminding them that civil rights are not a chapter in a history book—they are a living struggle that requires our continued participation.

So tonight, as we celebrate the bond between fathers and sons, let us also recommit to the work. Let us build not only strong families, but strong citizens. Let us pass down not only wisdom, but responsibility. Let us ensure that our sons understand that leadership begins at home, but it must extend into the world.

Because when fathers and sons build together—when we learn together, vote together, and stand together—we create a legacy that cannot be broken. A legacy rooted in strength, purpose, and the unshakable spirit of Omega.



Brother Raymond J. Bell
Chairman, Omega
International Fatherhood and
Mentoring Committee

What do District Chairmen of Fatherhood and Mentoring have to say about:

Strengthening the Bond | Fathers and Sons Building Together: Honoring Civil Rights, Advancing Our Vote?

2nd District, Bro. Frank R. Dookie, "During the last quarter, chapters throughout the 2nd District have engaged in Men's Mental Health Initiatives, Voter Education and Engagement Activities (Get-Out-The-Vote), and continue extensive Mentoring-In-The-Community. Mentoring was conducted from elementary ages through to high school seniors, to include statewide leadership development programs. Additionally, strategic efforts include: 1) Established relationship with the Our Kids Read Company helped Chapters distribute 5000 Free Children's Books to promote Literacy. 2) Seeking new, efficient, data collection methods to display the above efforts. 3) Offering, through chapter chaplains, daily words of encouragement to our own brothers. Seeking to encourage friendship."

4th District, Dr. Jehoshaphat K. Jones, "The father-son relationship may serve as a critical mechanism and foundational institution for the transmission of values, civic knowledge, and leadership across generations and social barriers. Examining the history of slavery, civil rights, and voting rights provides an opportunity to understand and evaluate the profound sacrifices, legal advancements, and social movements that have shaped American democracy. Within this context, Omega Men play a significant role through their commitment to the Four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. By fostering leadership, mentorship, and community engagement,

Omega Men, as fathers and mentors, contribute to the preparation of future generations capable of improving democratic institutions and advancing the common good in pursuit of our collective aspirations.”

5th District, Bro. Julius Hill, “It is not enough that we know the value of civic engagement. Our goal is to equip fathers and sons to take on the responsibility of civic engagement. We all need to be serious about being active participants and not passive observers. We must provide fathers with the skills to understand and pass on to their sons the power of the vote and the history that accompanies it. That history shows the struggle that people have overcome and the levels of success that can be attained. Teaching our fathers to teach their kids the importance of civic responsibility will not only provide stronger bonding between them but also instill hope, for their future.”

6th District, Bro. Warren T. Davis, “My views on this subject focus on strengthening the bond between fathers and sons through shared experiences, open communication, and working together toward common goals. I believe that when fathers take an active role in their son’s lives, they help build confidence, responsibility, and strong character. By spending quality time together and supporting one another, fathers and sons can create lasting relationships that positively impact families and communities. In addition to these core elements, it is equally important for fathers to model empathy, patience, and respect as their sons grow and develop their own identities. When fathers take the time to listen and understand their sons’ perspectives, they create a sense of mutual trust that strengthens the relationship even further. These positive interactions not only shape a boy’s view of manhood but also teach him how to build healthy relationships with others. Over time, this foundation of support and understanding helps sons feel secure in who they are and confident in the men they are becoming.

Honoring Civil Rights and Advancing our Vote. I also believe in honoring civil rights and advancing our vote as essential parts of a fair and democratic society. Every person deserves equal treatment, respect, and the opportunity to have their voice heard. Protecting civil rights and encouraging voter participation help ensure that communities remain strong, inclusive, and represented. I believe that active civic engagement empowers citizens to influence positive change and build a better future for generations to come. In addition to protecting these fundamental rights, it is important to educate future generations about the value of civic participation and the sacrifices made by those who fought for equality. When communities promote voter awareness, encourage respectful dialogue, and support fair access to the ballot, they help strengthen the democratic process. By staying informed and engaged, citizens not only honor the legacy of the civil rights movement but also ensure that progress continues. This commitment to justice and participation helps create a society where every voice truly matters.”

12th District, Bro. Dr. George D. Taylor, “We (fathers) are builders. I can remember as a young boy watching my dad as he would come home in the evening after a hard day’s work in the Alabama coal mines, providing for his family – my mom, my brother and me. Never complained, never failed to do those things he thought were best for our advancement. He didn’t have a college degree; didn’t have a high school diploma; didn’t have a shingle hanging outside on the fence announcing his specialty or area of expertise in this coal mining camp where I was born eighty-three years ago. But he provided for his family; he helped friends and neighbors; he had a spirit and ability to build. He built the home in which I was raised. I see him best *through these eyes of 83 years* as one who sought to the end, to serve the present age the best way he knew how – putting faith in God and helping others, where and when he could.”

13th District, Bro. Michael Robinson, “As our society continues to face significant changes, the bond between fathers, sons, and daughters remains more important than ever. Born in Alabama in 1965, I have witnessed the sacrifices made by families who fought for civil rights and voting access rights that continue to face challenges today. Strong families help build strong communities by teaching trust, responsibility, and the courage to stand up for what is right. Through education, faith, and civic engagement, we can honor those sacrifices and protect our future. I encourage everyone to stay informed, remain involved, and exercise their right to vote.”

**Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Raymond Bell**

Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood and Mentoring Advisor

Awareness, Advocacy, Partnerships, Celebration

Greetings Brothers, I along with a few other brothers are members of an organization called **Million-Man Vote**. The document you see below was generated from the work of that group. A few years ago, after the Presidential election the question was ask why many Black men didn't vote. We decided to go out and ask the question and find out what was on their mind. After two years of having conversations in many sessions with Black men of many economic and education levels, we concluded and generated the 12 areas of concern listed in this document. In several instances the items listed in this document have been used when expressing Black men concerns to politicians asking for legislative action to address these issues. Please feel free to use this information in your areas. The intent is to provide a targeted focus for Black men. Brother Fairchild



Brother Robert W. Fairchild
Fatherhood Advisor

The Black Man Agenda™ What We Want, What We Believe

1. WE WANT FINANCIAL FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH GUARANTEED JOBS, BASIC INCOME, and SUPPORTS FOR BLACK MEN AND FAMILIES.

We BELIEVE every Black man deserves a job to support themselves and their families with family sustaining wages or a basic income. We also want programs to help fathers, cash assistance for black teens, and low-interest capital loans for Black-owned businesses.

2. WE WANT JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR INCARCERATED BLACK FATHERS.

We BELIEVE no man should be jailed for failing to pay child support if he cannot afford it. The 2011 Supreme Court ruling in *Turner v. Rogers* made it clear that no one can be jailed without proof they can pay. We call for the release of all Black fathers imprisoned for nonpayment since 2012. WE also demand laws that allow fathers to remain part of their children's lives, even if they cannot provide financial support, through mediation and shared custody options tied directly to financial support. We demand an end to states and counties using protective orders as a substitute for custody. The justice and family court system must stop breaking Black families apart.

3. WE WANT FULL HEALTHCARE FOR BLACK MEN AND FAMILIES.

We BELIEVE every Black man deserves free and quality healthcare (e.g. Medicare For All) that prioritizes and focuses on mental health, substance use disorder, suicide, chronic illnesses, and preventive care grounded in the social drivers of health framework. We also want community-based health interventions, such as lead removal, and comprehensive education about issues impacting health and opportunities for more Black men in healthcare professions. Research should target health and environmental issues affecting Black men. We demand an end to environmental racism and exploitation that harms the health of Black communities.

4. WE WANT AN END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND RACIAL PROFILING.

We BELIEVE in holding the police accountable for ongoing brutality and racial targeting. We demand Congress and States pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would stop police from abuses of power. In recognition of this Act, we honor Black Americans killed unjustly by law enforcement, and stand in solidarity against police, political and community violence of all kinds. We want to eliminate qualified immunity, chokeholds, no-knock warrants, racial profiling and pre-textual traffic stops. Non-Armed community policing, universal de-escalation officer training, mandatory body cams and residency requirements must become a normal part of policing.

5. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO VOTE GUARANTEED AND PROTECTED.

We BELIEVE every Black man should have equal access to voting. That includes the automatic right to vote for justice involved Black men that have completed their sentences. We believe that Congress must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect voting rights and stop states from blocking or limiting our votes. We also believe that States should pass versions of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act when the Congress fails to or is unable to pass this legislation.

6. WE WANT STEM-H3 EDUCATION FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.

We BELIEVE in schools and community institutions that teach Pre K-12 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH, HISTORY, HUMANITIES (Art, Culture), and HEALTH that reveals the truth about Black history and prepares our children for success. We also support alternative learning models, vocational education and training. We believe in multiple resourced pathways for access to higher education and low-interest student loan and forgiveness programs. We believe that all public education must be equitably funded, reflect ALL cultures, and teach about the challenges we've endured and the challenges we still face.

7. WE WANT GUARANTEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR HOME OWNERSHIP.

We BELIEVE housing is a right and that every family deserves safe, healthy and affordable housing. We demand programs for building low-cost housing, cooperative housing, support for first-time homebuyers, and resources to make homeownership possible for all. We demand an end of homelessness among black people.

8. WE WANT A MARSHALL PLAN FOR REBUILDING BLACK COMMUNITIES.

We BELIEVE that through racism, Jim Crow laws and redlining, federal, state and local governments have neglected or disinvested in Black communities resulting in poverty, food deserts and crumbling housing, businesses, schools and infrastructure. We demand that there must now be an investment in our neighborhoods with clean environments, job training, education and programs that will stop violence and poverty. Justice 40 funding should go only to states that follow fair rules for supporting our communities.

9. WE WANT LAWS THAT CONTINUE THE COMMITMENT TO END DISCRIMINATION.

We BELIEVE in DEI, and an end to discrimination because of hair, race, religion, sex, culture or background. We want an end to corporate exploitation, white privilege, and racial and social preferences. We demand national and state laws, like the CROWN Act, to protect us in schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

10. WE WANT GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT FOR BLACK MEN WORLDWIDE.

We BELIEVE the fight for Black men's dignity doesn't stop at the border. U.S. foreign policy must reflect a commitment to the well-being of African and Afro-diasporic men globally. That includes peacebuilding, fair immigration policies, and partnerships that empower—not exploit—Black nations.

11. WE WANT REPARATIONS FOR CENTURIES OF RACIAL INJUSTICE.

We BELIEVE Black men are owed reparative justice for slavery, segregation, and systemic harm. Reparations must include direct payments, land, debt relief, and investments in housing, education, and health. We believe that our labor should be valued and celebrated. We demand action on and passage of H.R. 40 and programs that build generational wealth.

12. WE WANT FULL HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY.

We BELIEVE Black men deserve equal protection, dignity, and freedom from discrimination in race, religion, sex, culture and ethnicity, political identity, economic status. We believe Black men deserve the same rights, opportunities, and dignity as anyone else. We demand strong civil rights enforcement and policies that uphold our humanity and spiritual enlightenment in every system. We demand laws and policies to fix the systems that have harmed our families and communities for far too long. ///

An Excerpt From:

~~~~~ Speech by Frederick Douglass, July 5, 1852 ~~~~~

“What, then, remains to be argued? Is it that slavery is not divine; that God did not establish it; that our doctors of divinity are mistaken? There is blasphemy in the thought. That which is inhuman, cannot be divine! Who can reason on such a proposition? They that can, may; I cannot. The time for such argument is past.

“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. O! had I the ability, and could I reach the nation's ear, I would, to day, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced.

“What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.

“Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the old world, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practices of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival.” <http://loveman.sdsu.edu/docs/1852FrederickDouglass.pdf>

The Ballot and the Burden: Why Black Men's Civic Voice Still Matters

By Bro. Dr. William A. Smith, Ph.D.

Jon M. Huntsman Presidential Chair & Distinguished Professor

Iota Iota Iota Chapter, Salt Lake City, UT - (Spring 1984, Tau Theta Chapter, Eastern Illinois University), LM #2050

"Every election cycle brings a familiar question: What is happening with Black male voters?" was

THE QUESTION IS often framed with concern, suspicion, disappointment, or outright blame, particularly when political outcomes fail to meet the expectations of commentators, party operatives, or media analysts.

News headlines, cable segments, and social media debates sometimes portray Black men as politically disengaged, unreliable, or drifting away from collective interests.

At first glance, one might be led to believe that Black men have abandoned their civic responsibilities. But the data, history, and lived reality tell a very different story.

Black men remain among the strongest Democratic-aligned voting blocs in the United States, second only to Black women in support for Democratic presidential candidates and proportionately more supportive than every other major race-gender voting group in the nation. Importantly, this reality exists alongside the extraordinary and historic civic leadership consistently demonstrated by Black women, whose political engagement has long helped sustain Black democratic participation nationally.

Despite this reality, Black men continue to be disproportionately scrutinized and scapegoated whenever election outcomes appear to be in jeopardy, or political results disappoint media analysts and party operatives.

This contradiction reveals something deeper. The issue is not simply voting patterns. Too often, Black men are politically discussed as symbols, statistics, or problems to manage

rather than as citizens whose burdens, aspirations, frustrations, and hopes deserve substantive engagement and democratic respect.

Many Black men are not politically apathetic. They are politically exhausted.

There is a profound difference!

Political exhaustion emerges when communities repeatedly participate in democracy, remain disproportionately loyal to its institutions, and yet continue feeling unheard once elections are over.

"Political exhaustion cannot become political abandonment. Civic frustration cannot become civic withdrawal."

Too often, Black men feel politically visible during campaign seasons but socially invisible when long-term conversations turn to investment, protection, healing, employment, education, mass incarceration, and community stability.

For generations, Black men have participated in US democracy while simultaneously confronting structural barriers tied to employment instability, over-policing, educational inequities, racialized health disparities, mass incarceration, voter suppression efforts, and ongoing public narratives that frequently depict them through suspicion rather than dignity. Yet election seasons often reduce Black men to narrow questions: Will they vote the "right" way? Will they show up and vote in ways that satisfy others' political expectations?

True democratic engagement is not blind allegiance; it is informed participation, public accountability,

and the courage to demand more from every institution seeking Black support.

Black men have earned the right to think critically, vote independently, ask difficult questions, and expect substantive engagement rather than symbolic blame, seasonal outreach, or political entitlement.

That right was not freely granted; it was built through generations of sacrifice, organizing, legal struggle, military service, educational advancement, and collective Perseverance. Their civic value cannot be reduced to election outcomes, polling anxieties, or whether their political choices temporarily satisfy others' expectations.

At the same time, this moment also requires honest reflection within our own communities and institutions. Political exhaustion cannot become political abandonment. Civic frustration cannot become civic withdrawal. This responsibility must be carried in partnership with the enduring civic leadership long demonstrated by Black women, whose labor, organizing, and democratic commitment have also remained indispensable to Black political life.

If Black communities are to remain politically empowered across generations, trusted institutions must continue transforming frustration into informed participation, civic confidence, mentorship, and collective responsibility.

Democracy is sustained not only at the ballot box ... but also ...

TO BE CONTINUED...OCT 1, 2026

Strengthening the Bond & CLOSING THE GAP: Only Four Historically Black Medical Schools (HBMS)

"Are four sufficient to improve access to healthcare? What if there were eight? What do I need to know?"

There are four HBMS standing today when between 1868 and 1910 there were as many as nineteen. The four are: Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, the latter established in Los Angeles in 1966, after the Watts Riots of 1965.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, because of segregation (*Jim Crowism*), and limited educational opportunities at predominantly white public institutions, several medical schools were established to educate Black physicians and healthcare professionals.

These institutions sharply decreased following publication of the 1910 Abraham Flexner Report "**Medical Education in the United States and Canada**," which evaluated the quality of medical education in the U.S. and Canada.

The report, while intended to improve medical standards, led to the closure of most of the Black medical schools operating in the U.S.; in fact, only Howard University College of Medicine and Meharry Medical College survived.

Flexner's report identified several factors that influenced the closure of these HBMS. Among them: funding, segregation and structural racism, hospital access restrictions, and of course, limited state investment in institutions with a mission to support underrepresented communities.

The effects of that report continue to raise questions about the reforms. Aside from reducing institutional training capacity and limiting the production of Black physicians, what has been the effects, if any at all?

We wonder, is there a link between race and health disparities in the United States? A preponderance of evidence supports the belief that diminished access to healthcare for some segments of the population results in poor health for many. If so, is racial parity an antidote to medical parity for all in this country?

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3739050/>

In other words, is it too simplistic to suggest that few HBMS result in fewer Black physicians and therefore the result is poorer healthcare access and greater health disparities in affected populations? Maybe; but many other variables are at play when it comes to improving our access to

comprehensive quality healthcare. Among them are healthcare disparities and physician diversity:

Healthcare disparities arise from many interacting variables including: insurance coverage, income and wealth inequality, geography (rural/urban shortages), hospital availability, transportation access, environmental exposures, language barriers, provider bias and trust issues to name a few.

Physician diversity can help close gaps in access to quality healthcare. Workforce diversity alone is not enough. Research suggests much more: e.g., knowledge of implicit or explicit biases, cultural competence, religiosity, and other factors may influence patient experiences and outcomes.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK220340/>

Going forward, this space may discuss: *Are physician demographics a necessary reflection of population demographics? Does increasing physician diversity improve outcomes? Does increasing HBMS capacity expand quality healthcare access? What if there were eight HBMS instead of four? What would change? What do I need to know about living a healthy life style?*

Finally, in the days ahead, we ask – what must a father know in order to "train his son in the way he should go" to live a quality life? gdt ///

Tennessee State University Clarifies Eligibility for Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr., Institute Accelerated Pathway Program

In an official statement received Saturday May 30, 2026 from the Office of the President, Tennessee State University by this Newsletter regarding information circulating online about the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr., Institute Accelerated Pathway Program, the program is open to all qualified students and is not restricted to any specific gender or race.

Admission is based on academic achievement and readiness for a rigorous pathway toward careers in medicine, dentistry, and other healthcare professions.

The statement reads, "The university remains committed to ensuring access to this opportunity is clearly communicated and understood by

prospective students and families." *The Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr., Institute was established to help increase the number of physicians, dentists, and healthcare professionals prepared to serve underserved communities.*

Eligible applicants must meet specific academic criteria, including a minimum 3.5 GPA and qualifying ACT or SAT scores.

Please note that the inaccurate information originated from external sources not affiliated with Tennessee State University. While the university appreciates the enthusiasm and advocacy, it encourages the public to rely on official university communications for program details.

“We are incredibly proud of the impact this program is having, and we’re grateful for the enthusiasm surrounding it,” said **Barbara C. Murrell**, chair of the institute. “It’s important to clarify that the program is open to all qualified students and is designed to create pathways into medicine and healthcare for those who are prepared to meet the challenge.”

Students selected for the program receive comprehensive scholarship support at Tennessee State University, including tuition, room and board, and fees. While the program provides a pathway to medical and dental schools through partnerships with Meharry Medical College, Belmont University Thomas F. Frist College of Medicine, and Sidney Kimmel Medical College, those institutions maintain their own admissions and financial aid processes.

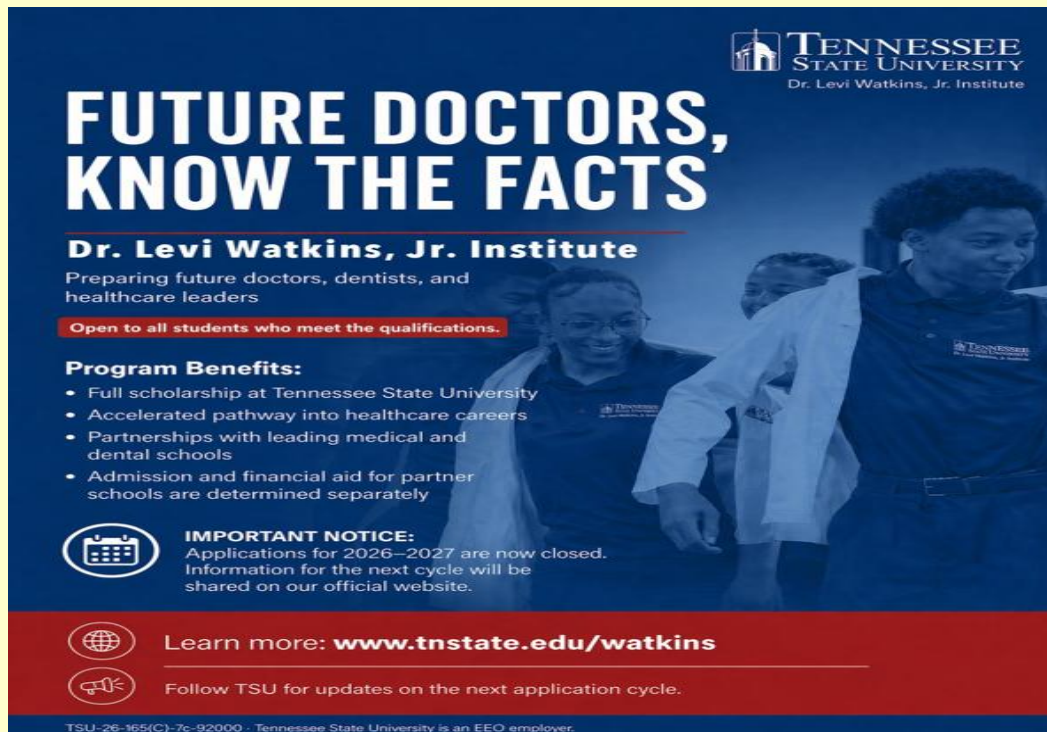
Now celebrating five years, the program has already supported more than 20 students in their journey to and through medical school, continuing to build a strong pipeline of future healthcare professionals.

Tennessee State University is grateful for the continued support and enthusiasm shown by both its internal community and external partners and advocates. This collective support plays an important role in expanding awareness of and access to this opportunity for qualified students.

The application cycle for the 2026–2027 academic year is currently closed.

For accurate information, updates, and eligibility requirements regarding the program, please visit www.tnstate.edu/watkins. Details about upcoming application cycles can also be found at this website. ///

**Mr. Dwayne Tucker, President, Office of the President
Tennessee State University**



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute

FUTURE DOCTORS, KNOW THE FACTS

Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute
Preparing future doctors, dentists, and healthcare leaders

Open to all students who meet the qualifications.

Program Benefits:

- Full scholarship at Tennessee State University
- Accelerated pathway into healthcare careers
- Partnerships with leading medical and dental schools
- Admission and financial aid for partner schools are determined separately

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Applications for 2026–2027 are now closed. Information for the next cycle will be shared on our official website.

Learn more: www.tnstate.edu/watkins

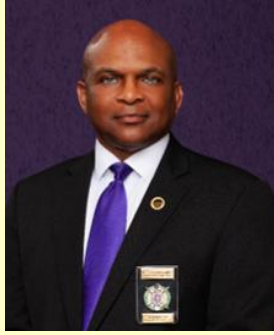
Follow TSU for updates on the next application cycle.

TSU-26-165(C)-7c-92000 · Tennessee State University is an EEO employer.

Emotional Intelligence (EQi): An Essential Element in Fatherhood & Mentoring Curricula

By: Bro. Dr. T. Victor Montgomery, EdD, Basileus, Omicron Omicron Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is taking on the challenge of shaping our youth into productive citizens by being on the frontline through our Fatherhood & Mentoring programs.



Several strategies are employed within these programs as we strive to reach our outcome. One such strategy is to add to the curriculum world-wide **Emotional Intelligence (EQi).**

Adding EQi training to the Omega Fatherhood & Mentoring program curriculum is important; it provides a greater opportunity for our mentees to better understand their emotions, manage their emotions, strengthen their personal relationships, and make better choices. But, before we can teach EQi to our mentees, we must have a clear and concise understanding of what EQi is.

Multi-Health Systems, Inc., a developer of innovative assessments and solutions provides a simple, but clear definition of EQi. It is “a set of emotional and social skills that collectively establish how well we perceive and express ourselves, develop and maintain social relationships, cope with challenges, and use emotional information in an effective and meaningful way.”

There are different versions of EQi. Most models, however, focus on: self-regard, self-actualization, impulse control, decision-making, problem-solving, independence, social responsibility, empathy, and optimism, just to name a few. Each element is critical to the overall

growth and development of the “whole person.”

Our mentees encounter pressures today that we as adults did not experience; we cannot turn a blind-eye if we are to arm them with the skills they may need to achieve their goals in life. Aside from their daily living, they must

cope with other pressures, i.e., academics, social media platforms, interpersonal conflict, negative peer pressure, and mental health challenges.

Having an awareness of EQi can better equip our youth to face those challenges. This is why having an EQi-focused curriculum is vital to a young person’s life as they strive to achieve peace and happiness in their lives, while developing a more well-rounded person, who may not have EQi awareness.

Here are a few fundamental reasons why EQi should be incorporated into our fatherhood & mentoring program curriculum:

1. Emotional Self-awareness: This element is all about your ability to know WHAT you are feeling and WHY – to differentiate between emotions. This will help mentees express themselves in a positive way and give them a better chance of having more impulse control.

2. Impulse Control: The element of impulse control addresses the understanding of the consequences regarding reacting (negative) versus responding (positive) to any given situation. Mentees learn how to think first, pause, and then respond in a suitable manner, which in turn prevents a poor decision outcome.

3. Empathy: When mentees realize their roles and understand their feelings, they are more likely to demonstrate empathy toward others. This in turn, makes the likelihood of them being kinder, better friends and classmates, and more respectful toward adults and those within their communities.

4. Stress Management: Managing stress is something that we all could benefit from. In teaching our mentees how to better manage stress, we are setting them up for success and better health. This element would also allow the teaching of time management skills that could transfer into how they better allocate their time for academics and co-curricular activities. Learning how to manage stress reduces pressure, anxiety, and overall frustration. Mentees should reach out to others for help when they feel stress.

5. Interpersonal Relationships: Interpersonal relations may be the most important element of all. Trust and compassion are key to any relationship. Once mentees have this element in their toolbox, they will have skills that equip them to better resolve conflict, greater effective communication, and skill to work with others in school and other environments.

In summary, a person who has knowledge of EQi will have potential to be a leader and hopefully grow into a productive citizen. Incorporating EQi into our curriculum gives our mentees a foundation upon which to grow, achieve success, and prosper. After all, isn’t that a desired outcome we are trying to achieve through our fatherhood & mentoring program? ///

Dr. T. Victor Montgomery, III, served as Chairman of Fatherhood & Mentoring for Omega U at Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter (PLL) and Men of High Aspiration at Chi Tau Chapter (XT). Brother Dr. Montgomery was named 2025 Florida State Organization (FSO) Father of the Year and Honorable Mention Father of the Year in the Seventh (7th) District.

Miles Says: Dear Principal, Kids Need More Sleep and Here's Why!

By Miles Wallace Taylor Hufford, 8th Grader, Environmental Charter School
Rising 9th Grader, Taylor Allderdice High School

An Opinion

"Pushing back school start times for teens is better for society." myth

There are varying opinions on the best school start times for teens. Some argue school start times should stay the same, others think that schools should start later. I agree with the argument for later start times. Later school start times allow teens to get more sleep and there is even evidence that the later start time can benefit the economy.

Although many people think school start times should stay how they are, schools should start later so kids can get more sleep in the morning and function better in school. According to, "Lack of Sleep Turns Teens into Zombies" by Stephen Ornes, "Studies in the past have shown over and over that sleep-deprived teens face higher risks of obesity and depression — and even car accidents." This shows that starting school later would give teens more time to sleep in the morning which could lower risks of obesity and depression.

Another piece of evidence from "Among Teens, Sleep Deprivation an Epidemic" is, "Sleep deprivation increases the likelihood teens will suffer myriad negative consequences, including an inability to concentrate, poor grades, drowsy-driving incidents, and anxiety." (Ruthann Richter). This shows that if students get more sleep in the mornings, they could function better in school.

It is possible that a later start time can benefit the economy. According to "Later School Start Time Would Benefit Economy" by Kealey Bultena, "That would add about \$152 million U.S. dollars to the economy of Wisconsin, which could increase up to \$1.5 billion after a decade," Hafner said. There is another study that shows that not just the state of Wisconsin's economy can benefit from later school start times but

the American economy in general will also see increases. "The study from the RAND Corporation shows moving school start times to 8:30 a.m., or later would add \$8.6 billion dollars to America's economy two years after the switch." The change is not just good for teens but also benefits the economy.

Some argue that teens should just go to bed earlier so they can wake up earlier, but going to bed earlier doesn't always work because of teens' melatonin. According to "Lack of Sleep Turns Teens into Zombies", "Melatonin helps to regulate the body's natural day-night rhythms... During adolescence, melatonin is secreted later in the day and ramps up at night. This means teens can have trouble if they try to fall asleep before enough of the chemical has been released" (Ornes). This supports that teens need a later bedtime. Because teens have different sleep schedule needs than other age groups, school start times should accommodate their needs. This is why school start times for middle and high school should be pushed back.

Pushing back school start times for teens is better for society. A later school start time benefited the state of Wyoming's economy meaning that over time the national economy could improve if all schools started later.

IN THE FUTURE SCHOOLS SHOULD CONSIDER that teens don't produce all their melatonin until later which is why they can't just go to sleep earlier and need more time to sleep in the morning. In conclusion, I believe that school start times should be later because it allows teens to get better sleep and it could benefit the economy. ///



Point of View: Living History with Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt

Just A Thought: IT'S THE STUDENTS FAULT! PART 2

Dr. Carl A. Blunt

A BRIEF REVIEW from Vol 13, №. 1, Part 1: *The psychologist Gavin McAtee wrote in a 2009 study that in the critical years of primary and secondary school, Black students were associated with what he described as an enduring psychological phenomenon associated with being a member of their particular social group. ...*

If I am interpreting the results of Gavins 2009 study correctly, ... Black students have psychological learning obstacles and are burdened by their own failures for no other reason than for being Black.

Now, let's pivot ... into teacher preparedness or ...



Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt
32nd 1st Vice Grand Basileus
2006-2010

LET'S PIVOT FROM CLAIMS that African American students are victims of their environment by being psychologically disadvantaged and *move into teacher preparedness or lack of it*. The National Center for Education Statistics cites classroom management, maintaining order and discipline in the classroom as a major influence on teacher performance and a key source of teacher's job-related stress. Most teachers surveyed, however, seventy-one per cent (71%) felt very well prepared for this classroom demand. Integrating educational technology has recently become an essential part of expectations for classroom teaching as well.

While many educators and analysts consider educational technology as a vehicle for transforming education, the report goes on to reveal that only 20% feel that they are well equipped to effectively integrate technology into classroom instruction.

On the other hand, a January 2023 report by the National Council on Teacher Quality states that Black teachers have a well-documented positive impact on Black students academic and life experience outcomes. More recent research asks the question whether these positive effects hold for all students, regardless of race, and if so, why?

Davis Blazer, Associate Professor of Education Policy at the University of Maryland begins to answer the question by exploring how strong teaching practices contribute to Black teachers impact for all their students. With research that embraced all teachers of color, he narrowed his lens on just the impact of Black teachers. Blazer used data derived from over a thousand research projects that were randomly assigned to be taught by either a Black teacher or white teacher. The data included test scores, behavioral records, teacher and

student surveys and scored classroom observations. The results were astounding.

Blazer found that being assigned a Black teacher increased students' math and reading test scores and decreased chronic absenteeism by roughly sixty per cent (60%). Those rates and percentages applied to both Black and non-Black students, with several of those benefits still being seen up to six years later. For Black students, it was revealed that being assigned a Black teacher increased students self-reported sense of self-efficacy and engagement.

What was the cause for the Black teacher's positive impact? Blazer analysis revealed elements of old fashioned "good teaching" which included forming strong relationships with students and families, adopting a "growth mindset" and running a well-organized classroom without creating a negative climate. Overall, Black teachers demonstrated more of these good teaching practices and mindsets than their white peers, which Blazer indicated was evidenced by classroom observations and a survey of self-reported attitudes and practices.

IN CONCLUSION, it was also suggested that *some* of the Black teacher's success and positive contributions could be related to social effects such as role modeling, students having teachers that look like them, and the fact that many Black educators go beyond standard and basic teaching practices by making the classroom welcoming and relevant. The dichotomy of Gavins, and Blazers results punctuates the fact that one should conduct their own research and draw their own conclusions on who is at fault. ///

A Friend Like Jonathan — Not Like Saul

For the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fatherhood & Mentoring Newsletter
By Chuck Clemons, 20 B 90, “Preacher,” 12th District Chaplain

A powerful truth emerges when we study the lives of Saul and Jonathan—two men of royalty, influence, and military distinction who both encountered a young shepherd named David. Both were older. Both were leaders. Both offered gifts. Both had the authority to shape David’s future. Yet their hearts could not have been more different.

Saul, the first king of Israel, stood head and shoulders above every man in the nation (1 Samuel 9:2). When Goliath taunted Israel, Saul should have been the one to step forward. Instead, he tried to send David into battle wearing his armor (1 Samuel 17:38–39). It looked generous, but it was rooted in insecurity. After David’s victory, Saul initially rewarded him (1 Samuel 18:5), but when the praises of the people grew louder for David than for him, jealousy consumed him (1 Samuel 18:7–9). The same king who once celebrated David later sought to kill him. Instead of mentoring a young man who could have been his son, Saul allowed ego to eclipse purpose.

Jonathan, however, embodied a radically different spirit. The prince of Israel—the rightful heir to the throne—recognized God’s hand on David. Scripture says Jonathan loved David “as his own soul” (1 Samuel

18:1). He gave David his robe, sword, bow, and belt—not out of insecurity, but out of covenant loyalty (1 Samuel 18:4). He warned David of Saul’s treachery, risked his own life to protect him (1 Samuel 20:30–33), and embraced God’s plan even though it meant David, not he, would be king. Jonathan’s friendship extended beyond his lifetime, shaping generations (2 Samuel 9:7).

Brothers, Omega is blessed with men who lead like Jonathan—men who lift as they climb, who celebrate another Brother’s rise, who protect the bond rather than compete within it. But we must guard ourselves against the spirit of Saul: self centeredness, insecurity, and the fear of being overshadowed. That mindset weakens the brand and fractures the Brotherhood.

LET US CHOOSE JONATHAN’S PATH—covenant loyalty, humility, and joy in another man’s elevation. As Proverbs 17:17 reminds us, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

FIETTS!



**Charles L. “Chuck” Clemons
12th District Chaplain**

—Chuck Clemons Author of Faithful or Fearful and Undivided; Host of the “On Purpose Leader Podcast”

Brother Charles L. Clemons, Jr., 12th District Chaplain, author of Faithful or Fearful?: Responding to the Politics of Fear Hardcover – December 23, 2025, Daphne William (Editor) <https://a.co/d/00ljuYAm>; Brother Clemons is also author of “UNDIVIDED: A Biblical Response to What Divides U.S.,” 1st Edition, 2020

Eta Phi Expands Youth Mentorship Through an Inspiring Ivy League College Tour



April 21 – 25, 2026 – PA, NJ, NY, CT – Brothers of Eta Phi Chapter, in conjunction with the Omega Uplift Initiative, recently took a meaningful pivot from the chapter's annual HBCU College Tour by accompanying fourteen young men from various Boston high schools on an inspiring Ivy League College Tour through Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut.

The tour included visits to Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Columbia University, and Yale University. Throughout the experience, the young men walked historic campuses, explored academic environments, and engaged in conversations about college readiness, discipline, personal responsibility, leadership, and the importance of preparing early for success.

While Eta Phi remains deeply committed to promoting and supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, this expanded tour provided students with broader exposure to a wide range of academic opportunities. The goal was to remind these young men that they belong in every room, on every campus, and in every space where excellence, scholarship, and leadership are valued.

A powerful component of the tour was the presence and support of Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who served not only as chaperones but also as mentors. Local Brothers along the route welcomed the group, poured into the students, shared personal experiences, and offered words of encouragement rooted in perseverance, achievement, brotherhood, service, and

uplift. Their presence demonstrated the strength of Omega's network and the lasting impact Brothers can have when they invest directly in the next generation.

Eta Phi Chapter extends special thanks to First District Second Vice District Representative Bro. Keith Pemberton Jr., Epsilon Iota Iota '25; Bro. Dominick Boyce, Psi Lambda Lambda '85; Bro. Arren Wilson, Omicron '13; Bro Andrew Amoyaw Mu '24; Bro Jaden Wadderburn Iota Gamma '24; Bro. Gerald Akins, Psi Lambda Lambda '25; Bro. Troy Pearley, Xi Phi '25; Bro. Garth Williams, Xi Phi '25; and Torey Bullock Jr. Iota Gamma '25; for their support, encouragement, and commitment to pouring into these young men.

For many of the students, the inspiring Ivy League College Tour represented more than a series of campus visits. It was an opportunity to dream bigger, ask important questions, and begin imagining a future shaped by education, confidence, and purpose. By providing exposure, guidance, and mentorship, Eta Phi Chapter continues to support the development of young men throughout the Greater Boston community.

This summer, the chapter will continue its college exposure initiative with planned tours of Harvard University, Brown University, and Dartmouth College. Through programs that support youth development, college awareness, and leadership formation, Eta Phi continues to advance the mission of Fatherhood and Mentoring while living out our Fraternity's Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. ///

From IMPACT to Ownership: Young Man with a Plan Secures a Permanent Home

“The new facility represents far more than a real-estate acquisition. It is a safe space where young men from neighborhoods throughout Boston can ... build a sense of belonging and aspiration.”



Brother Lenward Gatison Gamma '09 receiving the 2024 Omega Life Membership Foundation IMPACT Grant

Boston, MA – May 19, 2026 Nearly two years after receiving a transformative grant from the Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. (OLMF), **Young Man With A Plan** (YMWAP) has reached another historic milestone: purchasing the building it has called home for the past four years.

In August 2024, YMWAP became the first recipient of OLMF's \$25,000 IMPACT Fund grant. Selected through a vote of OLMF's international membership, the Boston-based mentoring organization was recognized for its commitment to “Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health in the Black Community.” The grant supported the launch of YMWAP's *Wellness Through Arts* initiative and the development of a digital media center where young men could gain experience in graphic design, video production, podcasting, and creative expression.

On January 6, 2026, YMWAP officially purchased 1178 River Street in Hyde Park. What began during the pandemic as a 1,000-square-foot rental has developed into a vibrant mentoring and youth-development hub featuring a fitness area, kitchen, shower, laundry facilities, digital arts room, and dedicated study and meeting spaces.

The new space will strengthen YMWAP's college-access, career-development, alumni-engagement, and mentoring programs while providing young men with a stable home base in the rapidly changing Cleary Square neighborhood.

Ownership will allow the organization to expand into an additional 2,000 square feet on the building's upper level.

On May 19, YMWAP officially cut the ribbon on its permanent home before a gathering of students, alumni, families, supporters, and community partners. Boston City Councilor Enrique Pepén and Councilor-at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune presented a congratulatory resolution from the Boston City Council. Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement and the Mayor's Hyde Park liaison also presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of Mayor Michelle Wu.

The new facility represents far more than a real-estate acquisition. It is a safe space where young men from neighborhoods throughout Boston can develop meaningful relationships, improve academically and socially, explore career opportunities, and build a sense of belonging and aspiration. YMWAP participants attend college at approximately twice the rate of their peers, and program alumni are now contributing to their communities as entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, tradespeople, and members of the military.

Brother Lenward Gatison II Gamma '09 serves as YMWAP's Assistant Director. He joined the staff in 2022 after more than five years of service as a mentor and continues to exemplify the mission of the Omega Uplift Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.

YMWAP's permanent home demonstrates what can happen when philanthropy, mentorship, community partnership, and sustained investment come together. The seeds supported by the OLMF IMPACT Fund continue to grow—providing Boston's young men with a place to learn, connect, heal, and plan successful futures. ///

Iota Chi Chapter Celebrates the Bond Between Mothers and Sons

Submitted by Bro. Reginald Perry,

Dorchester, MA – On May 2, 2026, the Iota Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 1st District, hosted its inaugural Mother-to-Son Dance in Dorchester. The event brought together 71 mothers and 60 sons for an evening dedicated to love, gratitude, family connection, and community uplift.

This historic celebration created a meaningful space for young men to honor the mothers and mother figures who guide, nurture, and support them. From the opening moments of the evening, families were welcomed into an atmosphere filled with joy, respect, and elegance. Sons proudly escorted their mothers, shared dances, took photographs, and created memories that will be cherished for years to come.

The purpose of the Mother-to-Son Dance extended beyond celebration. It reflected Omega Psi Phi's continued commitment to strengthening families, supporting youth development, and promoting positive relationships within the community. By encouraging

young men to publicly express appreciation and respect, the event reinforced important values connected to manhood, family responsibility, and emotional connection.

Throughout the evening, Brothers of Iota Chi demonstrated leadership, hospitality, and service. Their presence helped ensure that families felt welcomed, valued, and celebrated. The event also served as a reminder that mentoring begins not only in formal programs, but also through intentional experiences that teach young men how to honor family, build confidence, and recognize the importance of community support.

The inaugural Mother-to-Son Dance was more than a successful event; it was the beginning of a meaningful tradition. Through this initiative, Iota Chi strengthened families, uplifted young men, and demonstrated Omega's ongoing commitment to service, mentorship, and community impact. ///



Lambda Rho Chapter Hosts “Built to Last: A Men’s Wellness Experience”

On June 11, the Lambda Rho Chapter, through its Fatherhood and Mentoring Program, hosted “Built to Last: A Men’s Wellness Experience” at the North End Recreation Center. The event brought together men from the community for an evening dedicated to promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

The program was coordinated by Brother James Craig, whose leadership and commitment helped provide valuable health information and resources to attendees. The featured speaker for the evening was Dr. Sean Fullerton, Urologist, who shared important information regarding men's health and emphasized the importance of early detection and preventive care.

Participants received education and resources on a variety of health topics, including:

- Blood pressure awareness and management.
- Mental health and emotional wellness.
- Prostate cancer screening and appointment opportunities.
- Healthy lifestyle practices.

- Proper nutrition and exercise.
- Managing chronic conditions through preventive healthcare.
- Community and clinical resources available for diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiac care.

The event highlighted the importance of men taking an active role in their health and encouraged participants to establish healthy habits that will lead to longer, healthier lives. Attendees were also connected with local healthcare providers and community resources to support ongoing wellness and disease prevention.

The Lambda Rho Chapter remains committed to strengthening families and communities through initiatives that address the physical, mental, and social well-being of men and fathers. Programs such as “Built to Last: A Men’s Wellness Experience” demonstrate the Chapter’s continued dedication to empowering men with the knowledge and resources needed to live healthier and more productive lives. ///

Eta Phi Celebrates Fathers, Families, and Community at Tenean Beach



Boston, MA – The Brothers of Eta Phi Chapter hosted their 3rd Annual Father’s Day Celebration on Sunday, June 21, 2026, at Tenean Beach in Dorchester. The free public event brought fathers, father figures, mentors, children, families, and community members together for an uplifting afternoon centered on fellowship, recreation, education, and positive family engagement.

The celebration was made possible in part through a Better Beaches Grant awarded by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Eta Phi’s proposal, **“Father’s Day Cookout on the Beach,”** was selected as one of only 73 projects funded from a record-setting pool of 243 applicants requesting more than \$1.5 million in total support.

The grant helped Eta Phi provide a high-quality community event while also advancing an important goal of the Better Beaches Program: increasing awareness and use of public beaches throughout Boston and Massachusetts. Many of these waterfront spaces are often underutilized by members of our community. By hosting the celebration at Tenean Beach, Eta Phi introduced families to a beautiful public resource and encouraged them to enjoy the recreational opportunities available within their own neighborhoods.

Attendees enjoyed picture-perfect weather, complemented by a refreshing breeze from Boston

Harbor that created an ideal setting for an afternoon at the beach. Throughout the day, families enjoyed music from a live DJ, free food provided by Murl’s Kitchen Food Truck, refreshing ice treats, face painting, children’s activities, and family-friendly games. The location also provided access to a playground, basketball courts, and tennis courts, allowing fathers, children, Brothers, and community members to remain active and participate in friendly competition.

Education was also incorporated into the celebration through a hands-on STEM activity that taught children how to make slime. Young participants mixed ingredients, observed basic chemical reactions, and created their own slime. The activity provided a fun learning experience while giving fathers and children another opportunity to work together, create memories, and strengthen their bonds.

The celebration reflected Eta Phi’s continued commitment to promoting responsible fatherhood, mentoring young people, strengthening families, and creating meaningful community experiences. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the fathers, mentors, and father figures whose consistent presence and involvement make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families. ///

Brothers Recognized for Community Advocacy at NAACP Freedom Fund Event

Waterbury, CT – The Brothers of the Lambda Rho Chapter, through its Fatherhood and Mentoring Program, continue to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to community activism and service. Under the auspices of the Waterbury Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), several Brothers were honored during the Annual Freedom Fund Celebration held on June 6 at the Mattatuck Museum.

The evening's program was elegantly hosted by WFSB Morning Anchor Tracy McCain, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The event recognized individuals whose dedication and advocacy have positively impacted the Greater Waterbury community.

Among those honored were Vice Basileus Charles Green, Esquire, along with Brothers Robert Farrow and James Craig, who were recognized for their selfless advocacy and unwavering commitment to addressing educational, medical, and legal issues affecting the citizens of Waterbury. Their efforts exemplify the



principles of service and uplift that are central to the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The Freedom Fund Celebration also paid tribute to distinguished community leaders with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Honorees included Judge Maurice Mosley, retired Fire

Lieutenant Hank Spellman, and a veteran news reporter who was recognized for twenty-five years of dedicated reporting and advocacy on behalf of people of color and underserved communities.

The Lambda Rho Chapter takes great pride in the accomplishments and leadership demonstrated by its members. Through active engagement in organizations such as the NAACP, the Chapter remains committed to advancing social justice, advocating for equity, and improving the quality of life for individuals and families throughout the community.

As part of its Fatherhood and Mentoring initiatives, Lambda Rho continues to encourage civic involvement and community advocacy, recognizing that strong communities are built through service, leadership, and a commitment to justice. ///

Lambda Rho Chapter and Long Drivers Golf Club Foster Mentorship Through Golf

The Brothers of the Lambda Rho Chapter, in partnership with the Long Drivers Golf Club, successfully hosted an intergenerational golf and mentorship initiative designed to strengthen family connections and promote personal growth through the game of golf.

The program brought together youth, parents, grandparents, and community leaders from diverse professional backgrounds, creating opportunities for mentorship and meaningful conversations. Participants received weekly instruction and access to the Prospect Driving Range, along with short-game training provided by professionals from East Mountain and Western Hills Golf Courses.



A special highlight of the program was the participation of Laniah Moffett, Wilby High School graduate and standout golfer at Howard University, who inspired youth and families through her instruction and example.

The program concluded with families playing three holes together, showcasing the skills they had developed throughout the season. Participants also received Bronze Tee T-shirts and golf equipment, with many youth expressing interests in continuing

with the winter indoor sessions.

Through golf, mentorship, and fellowship, the Lambda Rho Chapter and the Long Drivers Golf Club continue to build stronger families and communities while creating lifelong opportunities for youth. ///

Bonding Through Books: Empowering Dads and Inspiring Young Readers

By Matt Stevens, Chairman, 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee

Jersey City, NJ – In a powerful stride toward advancing family literacy, the 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee (FMC) received its final shipment of 1,000 diverse children's books for the fiscal year 2026 from the **Our Kids Read Foundation**. This final delivery caps off an extraordinary year-long initiative, bringing the 2nd District's total impact to over 5,000 books donated directly to children through local schools, barbershops, and community events.

Brother Matt Stevens, Chairman of the 2nd District FMC, emphasized the profound impact of this collaboration. *"Our partnership with the Our Kids Read Foundation has helped us expand literacy promotion in new and innovative ways,"* Stevens stated. *"We are really excited about specifically sharing these books with fathers and encouraging them to read with their children."*

The Power of a Father's Voice in Literacy: The framework of this initiative is deeply rooted in educational research. According to Jacquelyn Bobien-Blanton, author of *It Takes a Village to Raise a Reader: A Vital and Essential Resource to Unlock a Student's Success*, fathers play a uniquely significant role in determining the reading abilities and comprehension levels of their children. Bobien-Blanton's research highlights that men frequently utilize distinct body language and dynamic facial expressions when reading aloud. This highly expressive, interactive storytelling style captures a child's attention, dramatically increasing their engagement and enthusiasm for books. Chairman Stevens has used this research as a cornerstone to shape the book donation drive, using literacy as a primary vehicle to keep fathers actively involved and deeply connected in their children's daily lives.

Building Templates for Educational Success: A major portion of this year's book donations was channeled directly into the school system through **Brother James Brewer**, Principal of the **Dr. Lena Edwards Academy** in Jersey City. Brother Brewer first connected with the Our Kids Read Foundation during Eta Pi Chapter's end-of-year community celebration, subsequently ordering 4,000 books to distribute to



students at his academy and the surrounding neighborhood.

This program stands as a shining example of how the public education system can partner seamlessly with the Fraternity to meet critical community needs. *"Through Brother Brewer's leadership in this area, Corridor 4 (State of New Jersey) now has a proven template on how to order and most effectively distribute books to children,"* noted Stevens.

Expanding the Footprint: Little Omega Libraries: The final shipment of 1,000 books was delivered to Chairman Stevens to fully replenish the **"Little Omega Libraries"** established across ten cities throughout New Jersey. These custom bookshelves are intentionally placed in local barbershops across cities including Englewood, Paterson, Jersey City, East Orange, Orange, Newark, Elizabeth, New Brunswick, Somerset, Freehold, Trenton, and Camden.

A Vision for the Future: As **Chairman Stevens prepares to step down** from his role at the helm of the 2nd District FMC, he views the landmark partnership with the **Our Kids Read Foundation as a major cornerstone of his tenure**. Looking ahead, the committee aims to scale this wildly successful model across the other four states in the 2nd District (New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware), with a target of scaling total book donations from 5,000 to an ambitious 20,000 books.

Get Involved: To discover more about community literacy programs and book donation opportunities, visit the Our Kids Read Foundation official website at ourkidsread.org. ///

3rd District: Brother Michael Frazier, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Virginia, Washington, D.C.

The Third District Youth Leadership Conference & STEM Expo (TDYLC), sponsored by the Third District Foundation in partnership with the CROP Foundation, brought energy and inspiration to the historic I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth, Virginia on March 27, 2026. With more than 400 high school students in attendance, the event served as a powerful platform for leadership development, innovation, and personal growth. Students engaged with STEM exhibits, connected with peers and mentors, and participated in sessions designed to challenge their thinking about their futures. The atmosphere throughout the day reflected a shared commitment to excellence, opportunity, and the belief that young people have the capacity to shape their own paths.



**Bro. James Harris MS, LPC
Men to Heal Founder & CEO**



THIRD DISTRICT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & STEM EXPO | I.C NORCOM, PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA

We are equally appreciative of Vice President Bro. Bryan McNeal for his presence and support, which underscored the importance of community leadership and partnership in shaping young minds. Special recognition is also extended to our guest speaker, Brian Heat, whose powerful and engaging message resonated deeply with students, inspiring them to pursue their goals with determination and confidence. Additionally, we thank our moderator, James Harris, for guiding the program with professionalism and purpose, ensuring a seamless and impactful experience for all in attendance.

A significant highlight of the conference was the generous \$1,000 donation presented by the Third District Foundation to I.C. Norcom High School. Another outstanding highlight of the 3rd Annual DYLC STEM Expo was the honor of receiving a proclamation award from the Portsmouth Public School Board Chairman in recognition of dedicated service to Fatherhood Mentoring and STEM initiatives. This distinguished acknowledgment reflects the Third District Fatherhood Mentoring & STEM lasting impact on the students and community of Portsmouth, Virginia.



Bro. Davy Smith III, Bro. Cardell Patillo, Jr., Ph.D., Portsmouth Public School Board Chairman, Bro. Myron McDaniels, Third District First Vice Representative, Bro. Michael Frazier, Bro. Bryan McNeal, Vice Principal – I.C Norcom, Bro. Cody Fleming, Crop Foundation Executive Director



Bro. Myron McDaniels presenting \$1,000 check to Principal Tessha Sanders on behalf of the Third District Foundation.



Third District Youth Leadership Conference & STEM EXPO, I.C Norcom High School | Portsmouth, Virginia, Spring 2026



Kappa Iota Iota | Young Men of Distinction (YMOD) | Newport News Virginia | May 2026

The Young Men of Distinction (YMOD) hosted their End-of-Year Luncheon at Achievable Dream Middle and High School in Newport News, Virginia. This annual gathering marked the culmination of an impactful school year dedicated to leadership development, academic excellence, personal growth, and brotherhood.

Achievable Dream Middle and High School, a predominantly African American school, continues to stand as a shining example of what is possible when educators, administrators, counselors, families, and community organizations intentionally invest in the future of young people. Every day, countless individuals pour their time, energy, and wisdom into these students, helping them envision lives filled with purpose, opportunity, and success.



Y.M.O.D | Achievable Dream Middle & High School

THE LUNCHEON PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY to honor the students who faithfully participated in the YMOD mentoring program throughout the year while celebrating their accomplishments both inside and outside of the classroom. Students were recognized not only for their academic efforts but also for their commitment to character, leadership, accountability, and service to others. All students that attended received a monetary gift card for the completion of the school year.



One of the most inspiring aspects of the event was hearing from former YMOD mentees who have successfully navigated their own journeys and returned to encourage the next generation. Their stories served as living proof that mentorship creates a lasting impact and that the seeds planted today will continue to manifest. Students also heard heartfelt remarks from school administrators, teachers, and private citizens who collectively reinforced the tremendous value of the YMOD program and the exceptional young men who represent it.

One of the highlights of the YMOD End-of-Year Luncheon was an inspiring keynote address delivered by Pastor and Coach Dimitri "Meech" Bailey, Youth and Young Adult Pastor at Ivy Baptist Church. Through an authentic and heartfelt message, Pastor Bailey shared his personal journey of faith, perseverance, and manhood while discussing the challenges of maintaining Christian values in the highly competitive world of athletics. He emphasized that remaining grounded in his relationship with God enabled him to navigate pressures, temptations, and distractions while staying true to his purpose and convictions.



Dimitri "Meech" Bailey, Keynote Speaker

PASTOR BAILEY ALSO REFLECTED on his upbringing and the influence of his mother, who provided a strong spiritual foundation and unwavering support throughout his life. He openly discussed how many lessons about manhood were learned through faith, mentorship, life experiences, and personal accountability. His transparency resonated with students and mentors in the audience as he reminded them that success, recognition, and financial gain alone do not provide lasting fulfillment.

"What is your purpose?" Pastor Bailey challenged every student to discover their purpose, explaining that purpose provides direction, discipline, and motivation to overcome adversity and positively impact their families and communities. His words served as a fitting conclusion to another successful year of YMOD, reminding everyone in attendance that mentorship changes lives and that when faith, character, and purpose align, young men are positioned to lead, excel, and continue the legacy of Black excellence. ///

The 4th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Hosts the 3rd Annual Fatherhood Camping Trip With Zeta Omega



**L-R: Group Picture of Families and Youth; Youth catching his first fish; Brother
Dr. Jehoshaphat K. Jones (5 -96 Epsilon Upsilon) with fishing rods**

Newbury, OH – On May 16–17, 2026, fathers, children, and community leaders from Ohio and West Virginia gathered at Punderson State Park for the 3rd Annual Fatherhood Camping Trip, a signature event designed to strengthen family bonds, promote positive father engagement, and create lasting memories through outdoor adventure and fellowship.

Hosted through the collaborative efforts of fatherhood advocates and community leaders, the weekend provided fathers and youth with an opportunity to disconnect from daily distractions and reconnect with one another through meaningful experiences in nature. Participants arrived during a rainy Saturday afternoon and immediately began working together to establish camp, with fathers and children partnering to build tents, organize campsites, and prepare for a weekend of learning, recreation, and relationship building.

Throughout the weekend, participants engaged in a variety of outdoor activities designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and healthy competition. Fathers and youth enjoyed friendly games of basketball and football, while others explored the natural beauty of Punderson State Park through hiking trails that provided opportunities for conversation, reflection, and discovery. Fishing was another popular activity, allowing fathers and children to spend quiet moments together along the water while learning patience and perseverance.

One of the most impactful moments of the camping trip was the evening Fireside Chat on Conflict Resolution. Gathered around the campfire, fathers and youth

participated in an open discussion focused on communication, accountability, problem-solving, and managing disagreements in healthy and productive ways. The session encouraged participants to share personal experiences and explore strategies for resolving conflict within families, schools, workplaces, and communities.

The relaxed outdoor setting created an atmosphere of trust and authenticity, allowing meaningful conversations to take place across generations.

As the evening continued, participants enjoyed fellowship around the campfire, shared stories, and strengthened relationships while experiencing the camaraderie that has become a hallmark of the annual camping trip. The event demonstrated that some of the most valuable lessons in fatherhood occur not in classrooms or meeting rooms, but through shared experiences that build trust, confidence, and understanding.

The 3rd Annual Fatherhood Camping Trip reflected the growing commitment to father engagement throughout Ohio and West Virginia. By combining outdoor recreation with mentorship, leadership development, and family enrichment, the program continues to provide fathers and youth with opportunities to build stronger relationships and create memories that will last a lifetime.

The success of the weekend further reinforced a simple truth: when fathers are present, engaged, and intentional, families grow stronger, children flourish, and communities benefit for generations to come. ///

Fatherhood Greenhouse Opens for Second Annual Growing Season

NEWS 5 CLEVELAND <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQtywoA3kQ>



OMEGA MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

On May 16, 2026, the Fatherhood Greenhouse officially opened for its Second Annual Growing Season, marking another important step in the ongoing effort to strengthen fathers, mentor youth, and cultivate healthier families and communities. The greenhouse has quickly become a meaningful space where fatherhood, education, service, and community development come together through hands-on learning.

The opening of the second growing season welcomed fathers, youth, mentors, volunteers, and community supporters who gathered to prepare the greenhouse for another productive year. Participants worked side by side to organize planting areas, prepare soil, clean garden spaces, arrange supplies, and begin the process of nurturing new growth. The day reflected the spirit of teamwork and responsibility that defines the Fatherhood Greenhouse.

More than a gardening project, the Fatherhood Greenhouse serves as a living classroom. Fathers and youth learn valuable lessons about patience, discipline, consistency, and stewardship. Planting seeds, watering crops, monitoring growth, and harvesting produce all provide practical opportunities to teach life skills while strengthening relationships across generations. The greenhouse also reinforces the importance of food access, healthy living, environmental awareness, and community self-sufficiency.

The Second Annual Growing Season builds upon the success of the inaugural year and expands the vision for

using agriculture as a tool for mentorship and family engagement. Through regular participation, fathers and youth are encouraged to develop stronger communication, shared responsibility, and a deeper appreciation for the work required to produce something meaningful. Each plant becomes a reminder that strong families, like healthy gardens, require care, attention, and commitment.

The opening day also highlighted the broader mission of fatherhood engagement. By creating spaces where fathers can lead, teach, serve, and grow with their children, the program helps strengthen family bonds and promotes positive examples of manhood and community leadership. The greenhouse provides a peaceful and productive environment where conversations happen naturally, skills are developed, and confidence is built.

As the Fatherhood Greenhouse enters its second growing season, it continues to represent hope, renewal, and collective investment in the future. The seeds planted on May 16 symbolize more than fruits and vegetables; they represent the continued growth of fathers, children, families, and communities.

The Fatherhood Greenhouse stands as a powerful example of what happens when service, mentorship, and vision are rooted in action. With each new growing season, the program continues to cultivate not only healthy food, but stronger relationships, stronger families, and stronger communities. ///

Celebrating 20 Years of Fatherhood Excellence: The Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Conference

43 Focus News: <https://www.cleveland19.com/video/2026/06/07/43-focus-cuyahoga-county-fatherhood-initiative/>

Cleveland, OH – More than 500 fathers, families, educators, service providers, community leaders, and advocates gathered in downtown Cleveland for the **20th Annual Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative Conference**, celebrating two decades of advancing fatherhood, strengthening families, and improving outcomes for children throughout Northeast Ohio.

Under the leadership of Bro. Aldonis C. Grimes (25 Zeta Omega), Director of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, the conference showcased a broad network of public agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and workforce development partners working together to strengthen families throughout Cuyahoga County. The event served as both a celebration of progress and a call to continued action on behalf of fathers and children.

A featured component of the conference was the **Town Hall Meeting** moderated by veteran journalist **Harry Boomer** of Channel 19/43 News.

The panel included Judge Nicholas J. Celebrezze of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Tammie Greer of the Cuyahoga County Office of Child Support Services, and Kristian Webb of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services. The discussion focused on father engagement, child support services, workforce opportunities, and community resources available to fathers and families. Attendees participated in an open dialogue that encouraged collaboration and practical problem-solving while addressing challenges facing fathers in today's society.

Educational workshops provided fathers with valuable information and resources to support personal growth and family success. The **Career Development and Opportunities Workshop**, moderated by Maurice Stevens of Career Development and Placement Strategies, focused on employment readiness, interviewing techniques, career advancement, and entrepreneurship. Presenters Joe Little III, Charles Bradford, and Ron Jones shared strategies for achieving professional success while balancing family responsibilities.

The **Fathers Engaging in Their Children's Education Workshop** emphasized the important role fathers play in promoting academic achievement. Moderated by Dr. Kenneth D. Hale of Cuyahoga Community College, the session featured Dr. Johnnie L. Reed, Chris Mosby, James Abrams, and John Story. Presenters discussed ways fathers can become more involved in their children's educational journey, strengthen relationships with educators, and create supportive learning environments at home.

A highlight of the conference was the recognition of the 2026 Honored Fathers. These men were celebrated for their dedication to fatherhood, family leadership, and community service. Honorees included Eric Belk, Samuel Burgess, Alfred Cleveland, Brian Evans, Chauncey Keller, Greg Ochocki, David (D.L.) Patterson, Amir Reid, and Gared Winfree. Their accomplishments demonstrated the positive influence fathers have on children, families, and communities when they remain actively engaged and committed to their responsibilities.



Brothers Al Grimes & Donald Jolly

The conference also recognized **Fatherhood Trailblazers** whose leadership has helped shape fatherhood programming throughout Northeast Ohio during the past twenty years. Honorees included Brother Rev. Fred Knuckles (83 Lambda Mu), Harry Boomer, Senator Sherrod Brown, Dr. Andrew Clark, Councilman Kevin Conwell, Wayne Dawson, Artis Gaines, Dr. Kenneth Hale, Peter Lawson Jones, Teresa Martin, Dr. Charles Modlin, Rev. Brian Moore, Maurice Stevens, Marquette Williams, and numerous others whose service has strengthened families and expanded opportunities for fathers throughout the region.

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Attendees also visited a **Resource Fair featuring more than 70 organizations** providing services related to employment, education, healthcare, housing, legal assistance, workforce development, mentoring, and family support. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., maintained a strong presence throughout the conference. The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Brother Donald Jolly (00 Zeta Kappa Kappa) who provided an uplifting word on the role of fathers.

In addition, **Brother Dr. Jehoshaphat K. Jones** (96 Epsilon Upsilon), Chairman of the 4th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, engaged attendees and shared information regarding fatherhood and mentoring initiatives taking place throughout Ohio and West Virginia. In attendance was Murtis Taylor's Human Services - Operations Director, Nate Phillips (89 Beta Gamma).

The 20th Annual Fatherhood Initiative Conference reinforced a simple but powerful truth: when fathers are engaged, families are stronger, children are more successful, and communities are better positioned to thrive. ///

The Seasons: Highlighting An Omega Man

Brother Ernest Jackson born December 18, 1947, in Montgomery, Alabama attended Stillman College where he matriculated in the Bachelor of Arts program studying in the History department. Brother Jackson graduated in 1970. It was during his scholarship and life preparation days at Stillman that Brother Jackson met the love of his life and wife of fifty-one years, mother of their two children, Janice.

He has extended Omega service in all walks of life having internalized and lived out the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift; values and precepts which continues to resonate with his loved-ones, friends, and family. The true light of Omega has shown in his professional career as Plant Superintendent at the Ryerson Steel Corporation as well.



Brother Jackson is an active leader and member of Southern Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Booker T. Washington High School Alumni Association in Montgomery, Alabama.

Brother Jackson processed into Omega Psi Phi, Inc., at Rho Gamma chapter in 1967 on the campus of Stillman College and is an active member of Beta Iota chapter in the Mighty 4th District.

It was Dr. Joffre Whisenton who piqued Brother Jackson's interest to join Omega. At the time of his initiation Brother Jackson's understanding of the responsibilities and obligations of membership in Omega were "to live a manly life guided by our four cardinal principles," Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

While presently his understanding of what is expected of an Omega is *"to serve and let my light shine as to attract others into Omega."*

Having seasoned Talents, strong Leadership, and willingness to Serve Brother Jackson serves as a mentor to the 110 plus brothers in the Greater Cincinnati area while serving and honing a community focused set of accomplishments he is most proud of in the role as Church Treasurer, Moderator and Trustee Chair.

The highlights of Brother Jackson's Omega-focused years have been in the service as

Basileus of Rho Gamma and Beta Iota chapters. District 4 Marshal and Social Action Chair. Uniquely Brother Jackson has served in the capacity of every office in the Beta Iota Chapter and exhibits stellar performance in the office of Marshall guarding and implementing the chapter By-laws with the application of Robert's Rules of Order.



Brother Ernest Jackson



Omega Men Draw Nie!

Beta Iota: The STAR Chapter: Service Talent Accountable Ready

Xi Alpha Supporting Students During Edgewood Elementary Field Day

Charleston, WV – On May 26, 2026, Xi Alpha Chapter proudly served the students of Edgewood Elementary during the school's annual Field Day celebration in Charleston. The event brought together students, faculty, and community supporters for a day filled with fun activities, teamwork, and school spirit.

Throughout the day, members of Xi Alpha assisted with organizing games, encouraging students, and helping ensure the event ran smoothly. Their presence added energy and positivity to the celebration while reinforcing the importance of community involvement and mentorship.

Field Day gave students an opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities, build friendships, and create lasting memories as the school year comes to a close. The partnership between Edgewood Elementary and Xi Alpha highlighted the value of service and giving back to the local community.

Xi Alpha expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to support the students and staff and look forward to continuing their commitment to youth engagement and community service initiatives in the future. ///

Xi Alpha Chapter Honors Outstanding Scholarship Recipients

Charleston, WV – On May 21, 2026, the Xi Alpha Ques proudly recognized outstanding student achievement by presenting scholarships to deserving graduates from Capital High School and South Charleston High School.

Among the honored recipients was **Taliyah Reeves**, who earned the Xi Alpha Chapter Merit Scholarship after achieving an impressive 4.7 GPA. Taliyah plans to continue her academic journey at Marshall University, where she will further pursue her educational and career goals.

Dwayne Ruffin was awarded the Brother Retired LTC Quewanncoii Stephens and Brother Quewanncoii Stephens II Memorial Scholarship in recognition of his hard work and academic accomplishments. Graduating with a 3.67 GPA, Dwayne will also attend Marshall University this fall.

The Xi Alpha Ques expressed pride in both students for their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. These scholarships reflect the chapter's ongoing mission to support education, empower youth, and invest in the future leaders of the community.

The chapter congratulates Taliyah Reeves and Dwayne Ruffin on their achievements and wishes them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their academic journeys. ///



Omega Men Serve Community at Kanawha County School Exceptional Games

Charleston, WV – On April 17, 2026, several Omega men came together to provide service and support during the Kanawha County School (KCS) Exceptional Games held at Laidley Field in Charleston.

The event brought together students, families, educators, and community members for a day focused on inclusion, encouragement, and celebration. Throughout the games, the Omega men volunteered their time by serving cotton candy to attendees, and helping create a fun and welcoming atmosphere for everyone involved.

The Omegas participation reflected a continued commitment to community service and uplifting youth through positive engagement and support. The KCS Exceptional Spring Games provided participants with an opportunity to enjoy friendly competition, fellowship, and memorable experiences in an environment centered on encouragement and inclusion.

The service provided by the Omega men helped contribute to the success of the event while demonstrating the Chapter's dedication to making a meaningful impact throughout the Charleston community. ///



GEM CITY QUES: Celebrating Dayton's First Little League Team

Dayton, OH – On Saturday, May 10, 2026, the energy at the Goodwill Easter Seals Trotwood campus was electric. The First Dayton Little League was officially launching its season, and the community had gathered for a high-energy "Community Clap-In."

Local marching bands played, the Belmont NJROTC performed, and Trotwood Mayor Yvette F. Page arrived to cheer on the young athletes. At the heart of this celebration stood the Gem City Royalty, a team backed by the Delta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

For the "Gem City Ques," living out their fraternity's creed of "uplift" goes far beyond a financial donation. It is about a constant, physical presence on the diamond. Leading this charge are fraternity brothers like LaVar Glover and Ted Day. These men don't just show up for the pomp and circumstance of Opening Day; they are in the dugouts for every exhausting practice and high-stakes inning,



serving as head coaches, league organizers, and field maintenance crews. By rolling up their sleeves, the chapter intentionally removes the systemic barriers that often keep urban youth away from baseball.

On the field, the Gem City Royalty learn more than just the fundamentals of the game. Between innings, conversations seamlessly shift from proper batting stances to report cards and life choices. Coaches Glover and Day use the baseball diamond as a classroom for character, teaching their players that while a strikeout is temporary, perseverance is a lifelong necessity.

Through the dedicated leadership of the Delta Alpha Chapter, this partnership is achieving its true goal. They aren't just teaching kids how to hit a fastball or turn a double play; they are actively cultivating the next generation of Dayton's leaders. ///



Building Leaders Who Serve: Character as the Cornerstone of Excellence

Murfreesboro, TN – It is found in the quiet discipline of doing what is right when no one is watching and in the unwavering commitment to act with integrity when taking the easier path would be far more convenient. At its foundation, character remains the cornerstone of effective leadership. Before influence can be earned, before strategy can be executed, and before success can be achieved, integrity must first be established. Ultimately, character defines not only who we are, but also how we lead, how we serve, and the trust we inspire in others.

On Friday, March 20, 2026, the brothers of Pi Gamma Gamma visited Holloway High School and facilitated another impactful mentoring session with the Men of Character. During this session, the brothers concluded their ongoing discussion centered around the Cardinal Principles of Omega men, placing special emphasis on perseverance and the critical importance of uplifting the communities we serve.

In true Omega fashion, the brothers shared the powerful poems *See It Through* and *It Couldn't Be Done*, using each as a tool to reinforce confidence, resilience, self-belief, and the determination required to become men of purpose and outstanding character. The messages resonated deeply with the students, serving as a reminder that adversity is often the proving ground where character and leadership are truly developed.



Brothers engaging with students during the mentoring session as they discuss the importance of uplift in the community and the significance of the poem *It Couldn't Be Done*.

The session concluded with an inspiring exercise in service leadership as students enthusiastically collaborated to develop a community impact initiative focused on providing essential hygiene products to individuals and families throughout the Murfreesboro community. Their excitement was evident, reflecting both a genuine commitment to service and an eagerness to transform ideas into meaningful action.

The brothers of Pi Gamma Gamma look forward to proudly supporting this initiative and continuing their investment in developing the next generation of leaders through the Men of Character program, reinforcing the belief that true leadership begins not with position or recognition, but with character, service, and a commitment to uplifting others. ///

Gamma Phi Annual Fatherhood Golf Classic



Brothers with scholarship award winners at the annual Gamma Phi Golf Classic.

Nashville, TN – The Gamma Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through its Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, hosted its Annual Fatherhood Golf Classic on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Vinny Links Golf Course in Nashville, TN. The event brought together brothers, families, community members, and supporters for a day dedicated to celebrating fatherhood, strengthening brotherhood, and investing in the future through scholarships.

A highlight of the event was the recognition of outstanding fathers whose leadership and commitment have made a lasting impact on their families and communities. Mr. Carlton Denson was honored as the 2026 Father of the Year, in recognition of his exemplary community leadership and unwavering dedication to his family. In addition, Chaplain Bro. Damond Bragg received the Lee Milliner Omega Man Father of the Year Award for his leadership, service, and commitment to fatherhood.

The chapter also celebrated academic achievement by awarding scholarships to eight deserving young men. Each recipient received a \$2,000 scholarship to assist with college expenses as they pursue higher education and work toward achieving their personal and professional goals. The scholarships reflect Gamma Phi

Chapter's ongoing commitment to supporting youth development and educational advancement within the community.

Participants enjoyed a day of fellowship and competing on the golf course, taking part in a 9-hole, 2-man scramble tournament. The event also featured raffles, prizes, and opportunities for networking among attendees. Following the tournament, participants gathered to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by members of the Gamma Phi Chapter.

The success of the Annual Fatherhood Golf Classic was made possible through the hard work and dedication of numerous brothers, including Bro. Ray and the Scholarship Committee, as well as Bro. Bennett, Bro. Hill, and the members of the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee. Their collective efforts resulted in a memorable event that strengthened community ties, celebrated fatherhood, and provided meaningful support to future leaders.

The Gamma Phi Chapter continues to demonstrate its commitment to service, mentorship, education, and brotherhood through initiatives that positively impact both its members and the greater Nashville community.

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5th District Omega Men Deliver Excellence Through Mentorship and STEM

Nashville, TN – On March 26, 2026, powerful demonstration of service, mentorship, and community impact was on full display as the men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continued their commitment to uplifting youth through innovative programming during the 78th 5th District Meeting.

Sponsored by the 5th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Program (Chair Bro. Hill, Co-Chair Bro. Hathaway) in partnership with the 5th District STEM Program (Chair Bro. Stoval, Co-Chair Bro. Lee), brothers hosted an engaging and educational STEM event at H.G. Hill Middle School that created an unforgettable experience for students while reinforcing the fraternity's commitment to leadership and service.

Students representing multiple grade levels, classes, and mentoring groups gathered for what proved to be both an exciting and highly informative experience. Participants were paired into teams and challenged to build and race solar battery-powered cars provided through PITSCO, giving them the opportunity to apply hands-on learning while exploring foundational concepts in science, technology, engineering, and problem-solving. Brothers organized both practice lanes and a competitive main track, creating an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, teamwork, and healthy competition.

As students prepared their vehicles and raced toward the finish line, they were simultaneously learning valuable engineering principles and experiencing firsthand how STEM education can be both practical and exciting. The energy throughout the event was undeniable as students eagerly competed, supported one another, and embraced every moment of the challenge.



5th District Representative Bro. White and his wife attending the event to support students at HG Hill Middle School just ahead the 78th 5th District Meeting.



Bro. Dusty Walker preparing tracks for students to use during the event.

In true Omega fashion, the experience extended far beyond the competition itself. Winning participants were recognized with trophies following the races, celebrating achievement and perseverance while reinforcing the importance of dedication and effort. Brothers also provided food and fellowship opportunities, creating space for meaningful conversation, encouragement, and authentic connection with the students.

What made this event particularly impactful was the intentional collaboration between two cornerstone programs, **Fatherhood and Mentoring and STEM**, which together created the ultimate mentoring environment for Omega men to serve. The brothers rose to the occasion with excellence, demonstrating that mentorship is most powerful when paired with engagement, education, and genuine investment in the next generation.

Throughout the event, students remained energized, fully engaged, and visibly excited by the experience. Their enthusiasm served as a reminder that opportunities like these do more than simply educate. They inspire confidence, curiosity, and future ambition.

This event stands as yet another example of how the 5th District of the Omega Psi

Phi Fraternity, Inc., continues to lead from the front, living out its commitment to service while creating transformational opportunities for young people. By combining mentorship, innovation, and brotherhood, Omega men once again proved that when purpose meets service, lasting impact follows.

5th District Representative Bro. White and his wife attending the event to support students at HG Hill Middle School just ahead the 78th 5th District Meeting.
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Gamma Phi Brothers Host Field Day at HG Hill Middle School

Nashville, TN – On May 18, 2026, the Brothers of the Gamma Phi Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee were invited for the fourth year to host and cook hot dogs for the students at H. G. Hill Middle School Field Day.

The Gamma Phi Brothers served 650 students. Once again, the brothers had the opportunity to interact not only with the mentees of our Rites of Passage Program but also with other students who had questions about the men in purple and gold. The adults who work in the school have come to recognize Omega as servants of the community. We are always ready to do what we can to make the community better. ///



Brothers from Gamma Phi hosting Field Day at HG Hill Middle School.

Empowering the Next Generation: The 29th Annual LifeStyle Choices Forum

Louisville, KY – Student Activities Center at the University of Louisville became the center of inspiration and growth as it hosted the 29th Annual LifeStyle Choices Forum (LSCF). As the premier showcase event for the Theta Omega Chapter's youth mentoring program in Louisville, the forum brought together over 600 students from 57 elementary and middle schools across the Jefferson County Public School system for two intensive days focused on personal development and academic excellence.



Students gather in assembly hall for the 29th annual LSCF

Guided by the theme **“The Three C’s: Choices, Chances, and Changes,”** the forum emphasized the critical role these principles play in shaping the trajectory of a young person’s life. Mentors and organizers stressed that the choices made today and the chances taken now are the catalysts for the positive changes seen tomorrow.

The 2026 forum was marked by a significant and successful milestone: for the first time in the event’s nearly three-decade history, young ladies were officially invited to participate. Their integration into the sessions was seamless and enriching, fostering a diverse environment of shared learning. The Phi Eta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi stepped up in a hosting role for the event, ensuring the event thrived on their home campus at the University of Louisville.

The students were reached through powerful words of two dynamic keynote speakers. On Day 1, Pastor Chelsea D. Waitte, Executive Pastor and First Lady of Green Castle

Baptist Church, delivered a heartfelt and inspirational message tailored to grade school students. On Day 2, Brother Da’Marrion Fleming, Founder and Executive Director of Sowing Seeds with Faith, addressed middle and high schoolers. Bro. Fleming’s powerful delivery resonated deeply with the audience of over 326 students,

challenging them to take ownership of their futures.

The agenda was packed with practical knowledge, including a Mini STEM Conference held on both days. To encourage hands-on learning, every participant in the STEM sessions received a 150–200-piece LEGO Tech Set, bridging the gap between play and engineering. The workshop tracks were diverse and impactful. Day 1 covered Financial Literacy, Mental Health, Respect and Responsibility, Transition to Middle School, and Conflict Resolution. Day 2 featured Hip-Hop in 45, Improving Your GPA, Navigating the Criminal Justice System, and Maintaining Healthy Relationships.

Despite the unexpected challenges faced in preparation for this year’s event, the committee of brothers from Theta Omega chapter demonstrated the perseverance that they seek to inspire in their students. Under the leadership of Chairman Brother M. Everett Shoulders, along with Co-Chairs Brothers Kirk Lattimore and Lonnie Golston Jr., the team endured and executed a flawless event.

As the 29th forum concludes, the brothers from Theta Omega chapter are ready to begin planning the 30th Anniversary celebration of the Forum. ///

6th District: Brother Warren T. Davis, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring North Carolina, South Carolina

The Mighty 6th District North Carolina and South Carolina

Chairman Brother Warren T. Davis



North Carolina - When Fathers are Present

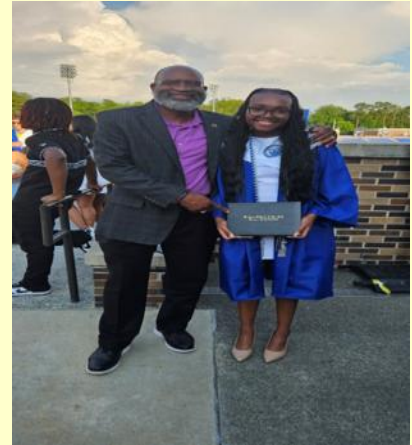
Fayetteville, NC – The Mighty Sixth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Graduate Chapter) is Proud to Honor Brother Mr. J. E. "Chris" Chrishon, Tau Gamma Gamma Chapter Fayetteville as **The Mighty Sixth District 2026 FATHER OF THE YEAR**. For His Service Through Leadership and Resources to our Undergraduates, and Families and Men Who Serve Communities as Fathers and Mentors. At the Mighty Sixth District, 81st Annual Meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina on April 24, 2026. ///



Bro. Darian Daye and children



Bro. Eric Newkirk and daughter



Bro. Angelo Moore and daughter (HS Grad)

Durham, NC – Beta Phi Fatherhood Program - Fatherhood is one of the most influential roles in shaping the lives of children and strengthening communities. Beyond providing for a family, today's fathers are mentors, role models, and consistent sources of support who help guide children through life's most important milestones. When fathers are present emotionally, physically, and mentally, the benefits extend far beyond the household, creating healthier families and stronger communities. One of the most powerful ways fathers demonstrate love and commitment is by showing up especially during major life events such as high school and college graduations. These milestones represent years of hard work, perseverance, and growth. When fathers are present, their support reinforces a child's sense of accomplishment and belonging. Father involvement is not only beneficial for individual families, but also essential for community well-being. Fathers contribute to family stability by providing emotional support, guidance, and structure, all of which promote healthy psychological and social development in children. ///



L-R: Bro. Angelo Moore, Mr. Thomas Farrington (PHEN Founder), and Bro. Antonio Knox, Grand Basileus-40

Durham, NC – Several members of Beta Phi Chapter demonstrated their commitment to being present and equipping themselves with obtaining better awareness about maintaining good mental health with a **“Brother You’re On My Mind”** session. In addition, several brothers partnered with Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) HBCU Strong program to educate and screen fathers for prostate cancer screening at several HBCUs throughout the state of North Carolina. Fathers taking their physical health seriously will allow them to be around longer to maintain their important bonds with their children regardless of their age. ///

Rocky Mount, NC – The Alpha Omicron Chapter in Rocky Mount, NC in May hosted its Father and Child(s) celebration, bringing together more than 90 fathers and their children from local school. The event highlighted the power of family engagement and the vital role fathers play in shaping their children’s academic success. In addition to the chapter’s leadership, **Bro. Warren Davis**, the 6th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, attended and offered strong support for the initiative.

During the program, Brother Corey Mercer and Brother Milton Battle spoke passionately with the fathers about the importance of being actively involved in their child’s education, emphasizing how consistent support at home and at school helps young people grow into confident, responsible, and successful individuals. Bro. Davis reinforced this message by underscoring the district’s commitment to fatherhood, mentorship, and community uplift. Together, their words and presence strengthened the chapter’s ongoing mission to empower families, uplift youth, and build a community where every child feels supported, encouraged, and prepared to thrive. ///



SOUTH CAROLINA Celebrating Fathers and Mentors

Spartanburg, SC – The Mighty Sixth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., (Graduate Chapter) is Proud to Honor **Alpha Omicron** Chapter of Rocky Mount as The Mighty Sixth District **Mentor 2026 FATHER OF THE YEAR**. For Their Service Through Leadership and Resources to our Undergraduates, and Families and Men Who Serve Communities as Fathers and Mentors. At the Mighty Sixth District, 81st Annual Meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina on April 24, 2026.



South Carolina – The Omicron Phi Chapter has demonstrated that kind of service through its fatherhood initiative, Blessed Be the Ties. On May 21, the chapter sponsored Eau Claire High School Senior Awards Night by providing orange ties to more than 60 graduating male students. This effort was not a one-time gesture, but part of a sustained commitment that the Chapter has maintained for the last four years. Through a simple yet meaningful act, the chapter has created a tradition that communicates pride, encouragement, mentorship, and brotherhood to young men at a major milestone in their lives.



From a fatherhood and mentoring perspective, Blessed Be the Ties is especially significant because it places positive male presence at the center of a public educational milestone. Many young people benefit from seeing men involved in constructive, affirming, and service-oriented roles. For some students, gestures like this may reinforce the support they already receive from fathers, relatives, teachers, ministers, or coaches. For

others, such gestures may fill an emotional gap by showing that successful, community-minded men care about their progress. In both cases, the message is powerful: young men deserve guidance, celebration, and accountability as they transition into adulthood. The initiative therefore aligns with the broader goals of fatherhood by strengthening visibility, responsibility, and relational support in the community. ///



South Carolina – The Mighty Sixth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., (Graduate Chapter) is Proud to Honor **Epsilon Nu** Chapter Spartanburg, SC as The Mighty Sixth District 2026 OIFM **Fatherhood and Mentor Chapter of the Year**. For Their Service Through Leadership and Resources to our Undergraduates, and Families and Men Who Serve Communities as Fathers and Mentors. At the Mighty Sixth District, 81st Annual Meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina on April 24th ,2026. ///

Epsilon Nu Chapter, The Bridge Builders (BB) mentoring program of the Epsilon Nu Chapter finished another outstanding year. The year was highlighted by mentee, Caleb Bassett, graduating from high school.

Four years ago, Caleb joined the program, not on track to graduate from high school or qualify for college. Today, he is a proud graduate of James F. Byrnes High School and is headed to SC State University in the fall. He becomes the first Bridge Builder mentee to go from mentee to mentor, moving into the role of ambassador.

The year for BB began in August with various sign-up opportunities for boys to join the program. Right away, the program, led by committee chairs Bro. Alvin Lewis Sr., Bro. Curtis Martin and Bro. Ralph Patin allowed the mentees to put some “skin in the game” by driving their own fundraising with a car wash. These brothers were assisted with consistency by Bros. Dr. Willie Ross, Javion Faison and Joe Broadus.

The BB program, with its many programs was rooted in “Let’s Talk Tuesday”, an uplift session where mentees get to talk about their experiences at school and at home. These were bi-weekly sessions held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The sessions were led by Bros. Javion, Faison and Joe Broadus.

The year ended with a celebration where the boys were recognized for their participation and contributions to the overall success of the program.

Bridge Builders was supported by nine dedicated mentors who collectively contributed more than 350 volunteer hours. The program provided over 20 mentoring sessions, hosted educational and leadership development activities, and completed community service projects. These efforts continue to prepare young men to become productive leaders in their schools and communities. ///



7th District: Brother Jonathan Gaines, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi

89th Seventh District Meeting – Atlanta, Ga Fatherhood & Youth Mentorship Service Award Honors

Submitted by: Bro. Jonathan Gaines
7th District Chairman

It is once again an honor as presiding chairperson to present the 2026 Seventh District - Fatherhood & Youth Mentorship Service Award Chapters and Individual Honorees for their commitment to Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentorship Programming. The Seventh District consisting of the Great States of Alabama, Georgia, Florida & Mississippi have collectively impacted the lives of fathers and youth in over (153) cities and local communities within the U.S. Southern States. We salute all Omega Men and the (10) Service Award Winners for their great contributions and uplift.

Father of the Year

Small Graduate Chapter



Bro. Carlos Palmer
Nu Xi Nu Graduate Chapter
Mississippi



Father of the Year

Larger Graduate Chapter



Bro. Ricky Petty
Lambda Alpha Alpha Graduate Chapter
Florida



Fatherhood Initiative

Small Graduate Chapter



Nu Iota Iota Graduate Chapter
Alabama



Fatherhood Initiative

Larger Graduate Chapter



Epsilon Kappa Kappa Graduate Chapter
Mississippi



Youth Mentorship

Small Graduate Chapter



Lambda Tau Graduate Chapter
Georgia



Youth Mentorship

Large Graduate Chapter



Delta Mu Mu Graduate Chapter
Georgia



Youth Mentee Scholar of the Year

Small Graduate Chapter



Trevor Scott
Iota Upsilon Graduate Chapter
Mississippi

- 4.9 GPA.
- Perfect ACT Test Score (36).
- Omega Lamp Lighter - Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Ocean Springs High School Marching Band.
- National Honor Society.
- President of the International Baccalaureate Club.
- National Merit Scholar Semifinalist.
- Top 1% of Senior Honor Student - State of Mississippi.
- College Selection: Mississippi State University.



Youth Mentee Scholar of the Year

Large Graduate Chapter



Rashad Coleman
Eta Nu Graduate Chapter
Florida

- 4.57 GPA.
- President of Class 2025.
- Student Government President.
- Gentlemen of Influence Youth Mentee.
- Cambridge University AICE Diploma Recipient.
- Florida Bright Future Scholar.
- Broward County High School Senior Leaders Award.
- CCHS JROTC Battalion Commander.
- Army JROTC, National Honor Society.
- College Selection: Florida A&M University.



Youth Mentorship

Undergraduate Chapter of the Year



Upsilon Psi Chapter - Florida
Florida A&M University



Fatherhood & Youth Mentorship State Organization of the Year



Florida State Organization

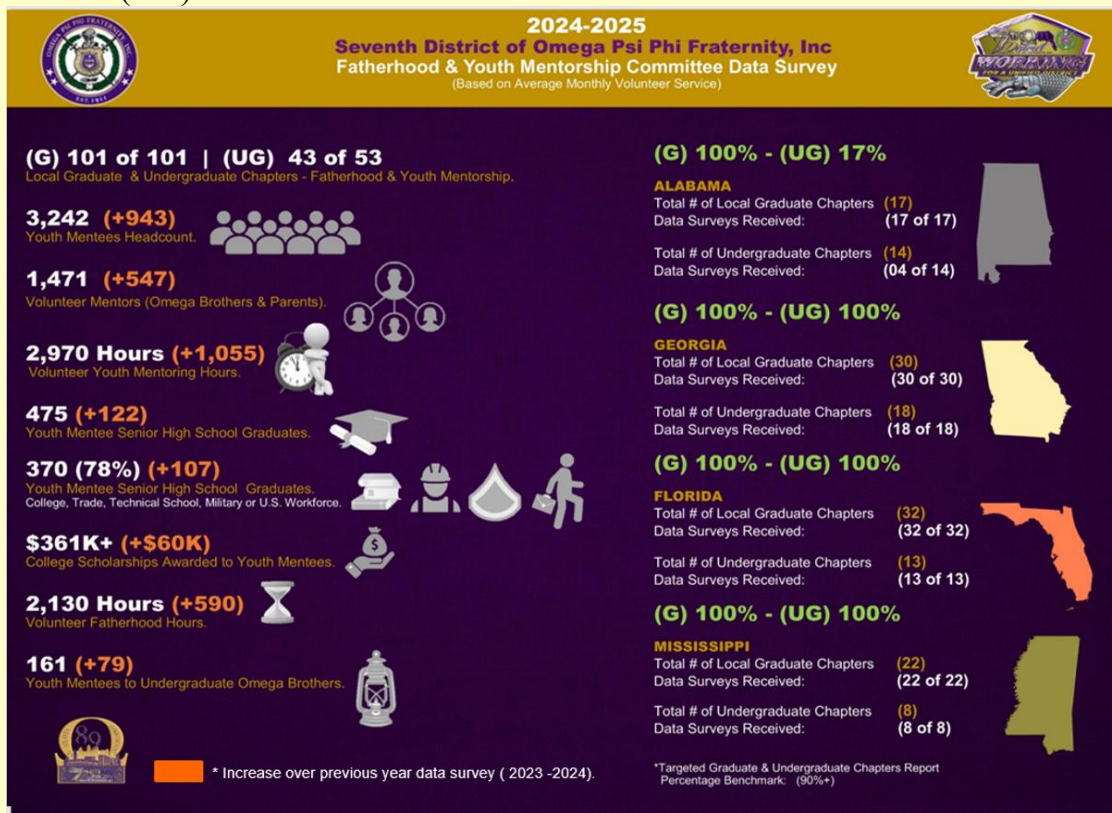


2024 -2025 Seventh Districtwide FMC Data Survey by Numbers

Submitted by:
Bro. Jonathan Gaines, 7th District Chairman

The 7th District Fatherhood and Youth Mentorship Committee conducts an annual districtwide FMC Data Survey to collectively quantify and measure the impact of implemented programming across the great states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi consisting of a combined (153) local graduate and undergraduate chapters. As seen below, during the 2024-2025 survey year, Omega Brothers produced exceptional performance metrics logging (2,970) monthly Youth mentoring hours among (3,242) monthly youth mentees with a High School Senior Graduating Class of (475).

Among the (475) HS Graduating Seniors, (370 / 78%) youth mentees were accepted into college, trade school, workforce & military service. Local Graduate Chapters combined awarded over \$361,000 in College Scholarship funds among college bound youth mentee program participants. The 2025-2026 FMC Seventh Districtwide Data Survey will launch on Friday - June 19, 2026 to be received and completed via LCKRS. ///



89th Seventh District Meeting - Day of Service Youth Mentorship Outreach Initiative

Submitted by:

Bro. Jonathan Gaines, 7th District Chairman



The Fatherhood and Youth Mentorship Committee kicked off the 89th Seventh District Meeting - Atlanta, Georgia with its 2nd Annual Day of Service Community Outreach Initiative in collaboration with the Chi Gamma Gamma Graduate Host Chapter. The Day of Service Project took place at Tapp Middle School with a panel symposium discussion on African American Youths and Mental Health. In attendance were the 1911 Legends Youth Mentorship Program Mentees, Omega Brothers of Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter, Parents and visiting Omega Brothers from across the district.

The panel discussion was moderated by Bro. Barrette Walker along with panelists that consisted of Bro. Marvin Broadwater Sr., Bro. Earl Eurbanks, Sr. & Bro. James LoveJoy. The stars of the panel discussion were the Youth Mentees from the 1911 Legend Youth Program - Tapp Middle School, who presented

questions to the panelists far in advance on a high-level discussion.

In addition to the Day of Service Outreach Initiative, Youth Mentees and Parents of the 1911 Youth Mentorship Program were invited as special guests to the closing Founders' Banquet. Sitting among many giants and great Omega Men within the 7th District of Black Excellence, it was the 1911 Legend Youth Mentees and parents that received a standing ovation for their steadfast education and development as positive minded young men.

We extend congratulations to the Brothers of the Chi Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter - Marietta, Georgia for their outstanding work in the space of Youth Mentorship, and in executing a great collaborative program for the 89th Seventh District Meeting - Atlanta, Georgia. ///



Project Uplift

Kappa Upsilon Chapter - West Palm Beach, Florida

Submitted by:

Bro. Cameron Simmons, Florida - State FMC Chairman



The Lamplighters of the Kappa Upsilon Graduate Chapter attended and participated in **Project Uplift**, a monthly activity focused on cleaning up the neighborhood and community. The location varies each month. Kappa Upsilon Brother Edwin Ferguson, an Elect Member of the Palm Beach County School Board in Florida, representing District 7 since 11.22.2022, communicates with all of Palm Beach County Middle and High Schools, offering the opportunity to receive Community Service Hours aimed at beautifying the community. Brother Ferguson worked directly with the City of West Palm Beach to identify areas of need for cleanup.

This month's clean-up targeted the surrounding community and neighborhood of Palm Beach Lakes Blvd and Tamarind Avenue to 2nd Street Tamarind Avenue (North and South). And 9th Street of Tamarind Ave to Rosemary through 7th Street (East and West).

Seven Men of Omega Psi Phi participated in the Project Uplift clean up. It was a positive activity that captured over 25 youth from throughout Palm Beach County. The initiative consisted of walking the streets and providing community service for students. It also provided the opportunity for chapter members to engage in brotherly bonding and fellowship.



Over 125 participants logged over 100 hours of community service and collected approximately 1300 lbs. of trash removed. Together the Community Cleanup is making a positive impact on our environment and strengthening and beautifying our community.

Project Uplift's goal was to clean up over 10,000 pounds of trash in West Palm Beach, Fl. As of today, Project Uplift has collected over 20,000 pounds of trash from West Palm Beach, Fl. The purpose of the Lamplighter's Program focuses on building responsibilities, and a lifelong journey of being a father. It involves raising, guiding, and supporting our youth's physical, emotional, and psychological development.

Effective fathering inherently involves mentoring. The Lamplighter's Program involves acting as a positive, trusted role model that offers guidance, encouragement, and support to help our youth navigate life's challenges.

It teaches that good fathers do not just discipline; they act as coaches, motivators, and principled guides. Similarly, mentors often act as surrogate father figures for our youth who may not have a strong male role model at home. ///

Seeds of Good Business | Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter - Canton, Mississippi

Submitted by:
Bro. Derian Knox
Mississippi - State FMC Chairman

Canton, Mississippi – April 19, 2026 – The Men of Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter proudly participated in Market Day 2026 through the **Choose To Grow Program** with **In His Steps Ministries**. This event marked the culmination of months of hard work, creativity, and dedication from our Ambassadors and GEMS, who developed business plans, prepared for Shark Tank presentations, and produced their products.

Approximately 50 young entrepreneurs from multiple campuses showcased their innovation, with some earning more than \$300 in just a few hours. Hundreds of supporters attended to shop, encouraged, and invested in the next generation of leaders.

We were honored by the presence of Jackson Mayor John Horhn and Chief of Police RaShall Brackney, highlighting the importance of community engagement and youth development. Epsilon Kappa Kappa understands the value of investing in future leaders. The talent, vision, and entrepreneurial spirit on display prove the future is bright. ///



EKK Brothers Pictured: Enebeli Kanonu – Basileus, Bro. Frank Branch, Bro. Charles Harper, Bro. Winthrop Carter, Bro. Tony Gipson, and Bro. Clarence Irby

Principal Honors in Partnership with Chelsie and Ciarra Consulting, Mentoring All

Submitted by
Bro. Barrete Walker, 7th District FMC Advisor

Brunswick, Georgia – The **Goodyear Elementary School Student of the Year Program** rewards students who work hard throughout the academic school year. When students work hard and accomplish goals set by their teachers and the Lambda Tau Mentoring program, and cry when they are rewarded, that is the true spirit of Omega. Michael Coughenour 5th grade Student of the Year, received an E-bike and a book to read over the summer. The 4th grade Student of the Year received a laptop computer and a book to read over the summer. Also, a 4th grader received a basket of books to read over the summer in support of the Summer Reading Program. Michael's accomplishments include Drum Line, Certificate of Completion, Principal's Award, Principal's Math Excellence, Science, Achieve 3000 Accuracy Award, MAP Growth Goal Award (Math and Reading), Principal's Award of Excellence (MAP 90%), Teacher's Award of Excellence (MAP 89%), and President's Award of Academic Achievement.

Tatum Maxwell's accomplishments include Chorus, Drum Line, Certificate of Completion, Principal's Award, Science, Achieve 3000 Accuracy Award, MAP Growth Goal Award (Math and Reading), Principal's Award of Excellence (MAP 94%), Teacher's Award of Excellence (MAP 94%), and President's Award of Academic Achievement. ///



Youth at Risk | Expose, Empower and Elevate

Submitted by:

Bro. Steven Dean, Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter



East Point/College Park, Georgia –Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter #900, proudly hosted its Fatherhood Initiative: Youth at Risk Program, led by Chairman Dwayne Ellis, with subcommittee chairs Steven Dean and Ural Glanville. This impactful, three-phase program was designed to Empower, Expose, and Elevate pre-teen and teenage students through meaningful engagement, education, and mentorship.

Participants were given a unique opportunity to tour the Fulton County Courthouse, attend a Grand Jury session led by Asst. Chief Brian Salters and ADA De Andre Royals. Superior Court Chief Judge Ural Glanville engaged with prominent community leaders including

Patrick Labat, Fani Willis, and Natalie Ammons of Georgia NOBLE. The experience also included fellowship with the dedicated brothers of the Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter #900.

The initiative successfully served over 128 students from Paul D. West Middle School, Stone Mill Elementary School, and Cooper Middle School, providing them with a healthy, nutritious lunch before returning to their respective schools. The program's impact and community significance were further highlighted through coverage on FGTV, showcasing its commitment to guiding and uplifting the next generation of leaders. ///

Omega Lamplighters of West Central Mississippi.

Submitted by:

Bro. Derian Knox, Mississippi - State FMC Chairman

Vicksburg, Mississippi

– West Central Mississippi Omega Lamplighters recently demonstrated their commitment to service and gratitude by providing lunch for the counselors and administrative staff at Vicksburg High School. The gesture was made in appreciation of the countless hours, dedication, and support these educators and professionals provide to students throughout the school year. Lamplighters personally thanked those who work to help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. Counselors and administrative staff play a vital role in guiding students through challenges, celebrating achievements, and helping them prepare for life.

Representing Lamplighters were graduating seniors who delivered the meals and expressed the organization's



appreciation. Pictured from left to right are John Williams, Jaydon Lee, and Brinson Williams (not pictured but present, Keywon Moore), all graduating seniors and members of the Omega Lamplighters Program.

"Lamplighters believe in recognizing those who make a positive impact in the lives of young people," said Executive Director Dr. Christopher Barnett. "Our counselors and administrative staff invest so much in our students, and this was a small way to say thank you for all they do." Omega Lamplighters of West Central Mississippi continue to emphasize leadership, scholarship, service, and respect for community partners who help shape the future of local youth. Through projects such as this, the organization seeks to instill the importance of gratitude and community engagement in its members. ///

Fruit of a Community Village & Family.

Submitted by:

Bro. Derian Knox, Mississippi - State FMC Chairman

Jackson, Mississippi – On May 31, Brothers of Beta Alpha proudly celebrated our 2025–2026 Mentee, Jayden Flowers, as he crossed the stage and graduated from Callaway High School in Jackson, Mississippi. Jayden’s positive spirit, infectious energy, and genuine love for others have made a lasting impression on everyone around him. His graduation is not only a reflection of his hard work and dedication, but also the tremendous support system that has encouraged him every step of the way.

This fall, Jayden will continue his educational journey at Hinds Community College, where he plans to major in Education. His decision to pursue a career that impacts future generations speaks volumes about his character and commitment to making a difference.



Beta Alpha is incredibly proud of this outstanding young man and excited to see what the future holds. Jayden, keep reaching for the stars, chasing your dreams, and inspiring those around you. The next chapter is yours to write, and we have no doubt it will be filled with success, growth, and greatness. Congratulations, Jayden! Your Beta Alpha family is cheering you on every step of the way! ///

Blues City P.U.P.S. (Positive Upliftment, Purpose, and Service).

Submitted by:

Bro. Derian Knox, Mississippi - State FMC Chairman
Iota Omicron Chapter

Clarksdale, Mississippi – The Iota Omicron Club’s Blues City P.U.P.S. program is dedicated to developing young men in grades 9th through 12th through mentorship, education, leadership, and community service. Meeting twice monthly, participants engage in discussions focused on college preparation, financial literacy, personal wellness, current events, healthy hygiene practices, and Black history. Guided by its mission to engage, educate, and enhance young men within the community, the program provides meaningful experiences through community clean-up projects, reading initiatives with elementary students, car washes, job shadowing opportunities, etiquette training, teacher appreciation activities, and other service-oriented events.

The program continues to make a positive impact by fostering scholarship, character, leadership, and personal growth. This academic year, Blues City P.U.P.S. reached an important milestone by welcoming three new members into the program, further expanding its commitment to developing future leaders and strengthening the community through service and brotherhood. In addition to this achievement, Mack Williams IV distinguished himself by earning the prestigious Walter L. Johnson



Scholarship, named in honor of former Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. member Walter L. Johnson of Iota Omicron Chapter. His accomplishment reflects the program’s emphasis on academic excellence, perseverance, and personal development.

Through its continued dedication to mentorship, education, and service, Blues City P.U.P.S. remains focused on its goal of Building Better Men and Building a Better Community. ///

8th District: Brother Michael Graham, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota

The Dickson Family Legacy of Leadership, Scholarship, and Brotherhood

Submitted by Brother Mike Graham
8th District FMC Chairman

Recognizing Brothers Brandon Dickson, Sr., Brandon Dickson, Jr., and Jahi Dickson of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The Mighty 8th District proudly highlights Brother Brandon Dickson, Sr., whose example of family, faith, leadership, and service continues to inspire brothers throughout the District. Brother Dickson, Sr., recently celebrated a remarkable family milestone as both of his sons, Brother Brandon Dickson, Jr., and Brother Jahi Dickson, graduated from college and continued to distinguish themselves through academic achievement and fraternal leadership.

In a heartfelt message shared about his sons, Brother Dickson, Sr. reflected on the blessing and responsibility of fatherhood: “My only prayer was to deliver you into adulthood healthy, God-fearing, in your right mind, debt free, and educated. My gift to an undeserving world: a Computer Scientist and an Engineer! I am blessed beyond my understanding to have had the honor of being your father. BE OWT QUE’S!!!”

Reminder, my sons: “The attacks on your life have much more to do with who you might be in the future than who you have been in the past. The enemy fears you becoming who God made you to be, because you carry a powerful anointing.”

That message captures the spirit of FAMILY First; a belief Brother Dickson, Sr., has lived daily and modeled with purpose. Through his steady leadership, guidance, and devotion, he has watched his sons grow into accomplished young men whose work reflects discipline, excellence, and commitment to service.

Brother Brandon Dickson, Jr., and Brother Jahi Dickson, both Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Omicron Sigma Chapter, have established themselves as leaders in academics and in their fraternal work.



Their accomplishments include graduation from Harris-Stowe State University and Saint Louis University, along with meaningful service and representation at the chapter, district, and international levels as undergraduate leaders. In Spring 2026, Brother Dickson, Sr. celebrated the extraordinary accomplishment of seeing both of his sons—also his fraternity brothers—graduate, a milestone so rare that it may never be duplicated.

The Dickson family’s example is one of achievement rooted in faith, brotherhood, and perseverance. Their leadership and discipline reflect the flagship characteristics of the Mighty 8th District—strength, service, scholarship, and the courage to lead by example. Brothers like those in the Dickson family are just one example of the great brotherhood comprised within the 8th District, Home of the Heavy Weights.

With extreme appreciation and respect, the 8th District, Home of the Heavy Weights, salutes Brothers Brandon Dickson, Sr., Brandon Dickson, Jr., and Jahi Dickson for their accomplishments, graduations, and continued commitment to excellence.

Dickson Brothers—we salute you! ///

Brother Paul Booker Leads by Example Through Memorial Day Service



San Antonio, TX – There comes a time in every man's life when he must decide who he wants to be, the legacy he wants to leave, and the impact he hopes to make on society. For Brother Paul Booker (1-98-00), a member of Psi Alpha Chapter that decision includes ensuring the next generation understands the value of service, sacrifice, and giving back to others.

On May 24, 2026, Brother Booker participated in the annual Memorial Day Flag Placement Ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery. More importantly, he brought along two young men who are especially important in his life—his son (Mr. Gavin D. Booker) and nephew (Mr. Elijah K. Odom). Together, they joined approximately thirty-five volunteers, including 20 Omega men and fifteen family members and friends, in placing more than 1,200 American flags on the graves of

military veterans who served our nation with honor and distinction.

For Brother Booker, the event was about much more than placing flags. It was an opportunity to teach by example. As Mr. Gavin D. Booker (Gavin) and Mr. Elijah K. Odom (Elijah) walked among the rows of headstones, they received a firsthand lesson in gratitude, respect, and remembrance. Gavin learned that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured through the sacrifices of brave men and women who answered the call to serve our nation, with many making the ultimate sacrifice.

The experience highlighted the importance of mentoring young men through meaningful acts of community service. In a society often driven by instant gratification and fleeting moments, Brother Booker demonstrated that leadership begins with action. By involving Gavin and Elijah in honoring our nation's fallen heroes, Brother Booker helped instill values that will endure long after the flags are retrieved. His actions reinforced the importance of raising young men who understand the significance of sacrifice, selfless service, and giving back to their communities.

Brother Booker's example reminds us that one of the greatest investments we can make is in the lives of young men. By teaching service, gratitude, and responsibility

today, we help develop future leaders who will continue to honor those who came before them and serve those who come after them. As Memorial Day reminds us, some have served, and some have given all—gone but never forgotten.

Results & Measurable Outcomes

- Total number of people in attendance: thirty-five
- Total Omegas involved: twenty
- Family members and friends: fifteen
- Flags placed: More than 1,200
- Monies raised: \$0
- Photos taken: Numerous photographs documented the event
- Total man-hours contributed: 52.5 hours
- Community Investment Value: \$1,826.48 (52.5 hours × \$34.79/hr.)

The event engaged approximately thirty-five volunteers who worked side-by-side for 1.5 hours to honor our nation's fallen service members. Beyond the placement of 1,200 flags, the day's greatest impact may have been the lesson passed from one generation to the next reminder that service, respect, and gratitude are values that must be taught, practiced, and preserved.

The success of this event reflects Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continued dedication to service, leadership, and uplifting the communities we serve. ///

Brotherhood in Action: How One Foundation Is Saving Black Men's Lives, One Year at a Time

By Sean T. Long, President, One Omega Foundation, Inc. | Immediate Past Tenth District Representative



We started the Father's Day CookOWT to honor Black fathers, Black manhood, and Black families. What began as a celebration has evolved into something far greater — a day dedicated to the mental and physical health of Black men. Three years in, it has become a movement.

On June 20, 2026, Washington Park on Chicago's South Side was transformed into a space where Black men could come together, be cared for, be celebrated, and be challenged to live longer, healthier, more intentional lives. The 3rd Annual Black Men's Wellness Day/Father's Day CookOWT, presented by One Omega Foundation, Inc. — the philanthropic arm of the 13 Chicagoland chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. — delivered its most powerful event to date.

Against All Odds: To appreciate what happened at Washington Park that Saturday, you have to understand what was happening everywhere else in Chicago that same weekend.

The city was alive. The historic grand opening of the Obama Presidential Center drew global attention to the South Side. Juneteenth celebrations filled neighborhoods across the region. Dave Chappelle performed to sold-out crowds. Black Boat Weekend brought thousands to the lakefront. In every direction, Chicago had something extraordinary to offer.

And yet, several thousand people chose to spend part of their Father's Day weekend getting health screenings, running a 5K, and investing in their wellness. That is not a coincidence. That is the power of Omega.

Bigger, Bolder, Better: Year 3 raised the bar in every measurable way. The 5K run was the largest in the event's history. Health screenings — including blood pressure checks, diabetes assessments, and other critical services — surpassed last year's numbers, with more men screened than in any prior year. The Kid Zone expanded to a larger footprint, giving Black children a space to play while seeing their fathers and uncles invest in community. The main stage grew as well, with WGCI's Leon Rogers serving as host for a portion of the day's programming.

The depth and quality of the health programming this year was made possible through a strategic partnership with the African American Male Wellness Agency (AAMWA), whose healthcare network brought institutional firepower to the South Side of Chicago. Through AAMWA, the event secured partnerships with the University of Chicago Medicine,

Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, and many other leading healthcare organizations — ensuring that the men and families who walked through Washington Park had access to world-class health resources. That partnership is a force multiplier for this mission, and it is one we intend to build on for years to come.

The event was covered across WGCI, V103, Power 92, and ABC7, and the Chicago Defender — one of the most storied African American newspapers in the nation — published a feature story, ensuring this chapter of Omega history was documented for the record.

Leadership That Showed Up: An event of this magnitude reflects how the Talented Tenth District shows up for the community. On this day, district leadership showed up in full force.

Bro. Steven Watkins, 35th Tenth District Representative and Grand Marshal for the 2028 Grand Conclave, was in attendance, as was Bro. Charles Bruce, Former Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and 27th Tenth District Representative. Two pillars of fraternal history whose presence in that park spoke volumes about the district's commitment to this mission.

Our Grand Counselor, Bro. Clement Osimetha, traveled to be with us. Past 12th District Representative Bro. Kwane Dow added to a distinguished fraternal presence that also included Bro. District Counselor Keith Spence, District Keeper of Finance Bro. Lewis Rhone, and International Fatherhood and Mentoring Vice Chair Bro. Cyrill Weems. ///

Community Champions: The event drew civic leaders and community champions who understand that Black men's wellness is not just a health issue — it is a justice issue.

Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowery brought greetings and continued his steadfast support. Bro. Donald Dew, President and CEO of Habitative Systems, and Bro. John Roberson, Executive Vice President of the Obama Presidential Center, lent their voices to a day that mirrored the Center's own mission of uplifting Black communities on the South Side. Bro. Melvin Branch, Deputy Chief of the Chicago Police Department, stopped by to show personal support — a gesture that resonated deeply. Bro. Rael Jackson of Real Men Cook and Bro. Shawn Frison, Owner of Blaque's Lounge, demonstrated what it looks like when Black business leaders invest in Black men's lives through meaningful sponsorship.

Moment That Stopped the Clock: In an event filled with powerful moments, one rose above the rest.

The Father of the Year recognition has become the emotional heartbeat of Black Men's Wellness Day — a moment the crowd waits for and never forgets. With Year 1 honoree Bro. Paxton Collins and Year 2 honoree Bro. Kenneth Jackson proudly in attendance to pass the torch, One Omega Foundation was honored to

name Bro. Jason Poindexter as the 3rd Annual Father of the Year. In a tribute that carried the weight of legacy and love, Bro. Poindexter was presented with a Championship Wrestling Belt



named in honor of our fallen Brother, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. — a symbol that the fight for Black families is a championship worth winning.

What made this moment extraordinary was the nomination itself — written by his daughter, Jayla. Her words drew tears and applause in equal measure. In a few powerful paragraphs, Jayla reminded everyone present of exactly why this work matters. Not the screenings, not the speakers, not the stage — but the children who are watching us, learning from us, and writing about us. That is the legacy we are building.

People Behind the Mission: None of this happens without people who give themselves fully to the work. Vice Chairs Dr. Michael Davis and Christopher Glenn anchored the

planning and execution of the entire event, bringing vision, discipline, and relentless energy to every detail. Bro. Derron Strickland worked triple duty on event day, filling every gap without complaint. And to every volunteer who set up tables, registered participants, administered screenings, and stayed until the last chair was folded — this event belongs to you as much as anyone.

Year 4 Is Coming: Black Men's Wellness Day/Father's Day CookOWT is no longer just an event. It is a movement — one that began with a simple commitment to honor Black fathers and has grown into a full-scale community health initiative that is saving lives on Chicago's South Side.

One Omega Foundation was created to ensure that the 13 Chicagoland chapters of Omega Psi Phi speak with one unified philanthropic voice. A voice that says Black men deserve to live. Black fathers deserve to be celebrated. And Black boys deserve to see what healthy, whole, engaged manhood looks like.

The 4th Annual Black Men's Wellness Day will be even larger. The mission remains the same.

Let's save Black men's lives. Let's be examples for our Black boys. And let's show the world what brotherhood looks like in action.

See You There Next Year. ///

Trading Places: Omega men honor graduating seniors on Father's Day through service, sacrifice, and celebration

By: Bro. Cyril Weems

On Sunday, June 21, 2026, while many fathers across Southeast Michigan were being celebrated with cookouts, cards, quiet moments of appreciation, and well-earned rest, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated chose a different kind of Father's Day tribute. They traded the comfort of being honored for the responsibility of honoring others, gathering in the Metro Detroit area for Celebrating the Children of Omega, an event devoted to six graduating high school seniors and the families, fathers, mentors, and brothers who helped guide them to that milestone.

The day's meaning rested in that simple but powerful exchange. The men gave up a holiday centered on fathers so they could pour encouragement, recognition, and love into the next generation. In doing so, they demonstrated that fatherhood, mentorship, and brotherhood are not limited to private families or individual households. They are community responsibilities, carried out through presence, sacrifice, and intentional support.

A Father's Day

Redefined: For many, Father's Day is a pause—a time to receive gratitude for lessons taught, sacrifices made, and love given. But at Celebrating the Children of Omega, the men of Omega Psi Phi turned that pause outward. They used the

day not to center themselves, but to affirm young people who had reached a major milestone and were preparing to step into the next chapter of their lives.

The graduating seniors became more than students in caps and gowns. They represented promise, perseverance, family investment, and community hope. Each senior exemplified a story of late-night studying, early mornings, personal challenges, and the steady guidance of parents, guardians, mentors, teachers, and neighbors. By choosing to celebrate them on Father's Day, the Omega men made a clear statement: the success of children is one of the greatest honors any father, mentor, or community leader can receive.

Service Rooted in Omega's Principles: The act reflected the long-standing spirit of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and our Cardinal Principles—Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Since 1911, the fraternity has historically placed scholarship and service at the center of its mission. Its commitment to academic achievement is not ceremonial; it is a lived expectation that calls members to encourage young people, reward excellence, and help prepare future leaders.

In Southeast Michigan, that mission took on a deeply local expression. The Metro Detroit area has long been shaped by families, churches, schools, civic organizations, and service groups that understand the importance of showing up for youth. On this Father's Day, the men of Omega Psi Phi joined that tradition by creating a space where achievement was named, applauded, and remembered.

The celebration was presented in partnership with the Southeast Michigan Omega Foundation Incorporated (SMOFI), the nonprofit entity focused on and structured to support Omega Psi Phi's mentoring and scholarship efforts across multiple chapters in the Southeast Michigan area. Through that partnership, the event reflected both fraternal love and organized



community investment, connecting the fraternity's service mission with practical support for young scholars.

Celebrating the Children of Omega: Celebrating the Children of Omega was more than an event title. It was a declaration of belonging. To call these seniors "Children of Omega" was to recognize that their accomplishments mattered to a wider brotherhood and that their futures were tied to a community willing to invest in them. Interestingly, the scholars this year were all daughters of Omega men and the message was clear: you are seen, you are valued, and your next steps matter.

Six graduating seniors were recognized: Samantha Weems, daughter of Bro. Cyrill Weems of Epsilon Theta '93; Jordan Davis, daughter of Bro. John Davis of Nu Sigma '95; Layla Bohannon, daughter of Bro. Benjamin Bohannon of Kappa Lambda '87; Jamesyn Douglas, daughter of Bro. Mark Douglas of Tau Kappa Kappa '01; Brooke Brown, daughter of Bro. Cliff Brown of Iota Psi '95; and Breyana Jackson, daughter of Bro. Brandon Jackson of Theta Gamma '97. Together, they represented not only individual achievement, but also the enduring legacy of Omega families committed to education, leadership, and uplift.

The celebration gave families a chance to reflect on what had been accomplished and what lies ahead. The scholars displayed their accomplishments, accolades, and awards, allowing guests to see the range of their academic, extracurricular, and personal achievements. The program also included heartfelt addresses from fathers to their accomplished graduating seniors, followed by dinner, dancing, and fellowship. What unfolded was not merely a ceremony, but a family-centered gathering filled with pride, gratitude, joy, and shared expectation for the future.

Trading Places, Lifting Futures: The phrase "Trading Places" captures the beauty of the moment. On a day when fathers might normally sit in the place of honor, these men stepped aside so graduating seniors could take that seat. They traded applause for action. They traded personal celebration for public service. They

traded one day of recognition for a lasting investment in young lives.

That kind of selflessness is not small. It teaches young people that leadership is measured not only by titles or positions, but by what one is willing to give. It reminds families that community care still exists. It tells graduates that they are not walking into the future alone.

As this Class of 2026 moves forward from high school into college and other paths, the memory of June 21 should travel with them. They were celebrated by men who believed their achievement was worthy of a holiday. They were lifted by fathers and Omega brothers who understood that the best way to honor fatherhood is sometimes to stand in service to their children.

IN THE END, CELEBRATING CHILDREN OF OMEGA was not a departure from Father's Day. It was Father's Day at its highest expression: men giving of themselves so the next generation could feel supported, encouraged, and prepared to rise. In Southeast Michigan, on that Sunday in June, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated showed that true fatherhood and true brotherhood are both acts of uplift.

Special thanks to Bro. Dannon Holley- Upsilon Gamma 99' and Bro. Larry Price- Tau Kappa Kappa 01' for orchestrating and facilitating the celebration even though they did not have scholars participating in the event this year. ///



Siji Obi with his wife and son, greeting the Grand Basileus as he arrives for a backyard cook-out. GB-42 doing his part to bust tables during the Memorial Weekend Holiday at the Host home of Omega Chapter Brother Harold Reese, Omega Chapter in Altadena, California.

Searching For Answers about Raising Daughters

By Siji Obi, F 1-25 Zeta Tau Chapter



Siji Obi and his daughter Folasade, celebrating her graduation from Temple University-Japan where she earned a BA in Japanese language with a minor in political science.

Altadena, CA – As a provider for your family, you want to give your daughters everything. However, there are times in which you have to say “no.” And these are times that can truly test your resolve and your authority as a father.

The following is situation that tested my resolve and ultimately led to a life lesson and true growth for my daughter and myself.

In the summer of my daughter’s transition from sophomore to her junior year in high school, she wanted to go on a trip with my wife out of the country. Her grandfather was going to take care of it. She is his second oldest granddaughter.

At this point I felt like she was getting a little spoiled; every time she asked for something, she got it.

This time I put a stipulation that she needed at least a B average in order to go on this trip. She did not take it seriously. She ended up with a B- and I told her she could not go. She was upset. She did not speak to me for the entire summer. My wife was trying to change my mind to let her go, I stood pat. It was a valuable lesson that actions have consequences.

My daughter is an enthusiastic fan of the Japanese culture. It turns out that that directed her anger and disappointment to learning Japanese on her own. She did her research and found a travel abroad program for students to stay with a Host family for the summer. She also applied for a scholarship through the program. In the spring, she triumphantly presented her plans to participate in this program – Youth for Understanding. She presented her plans and her B+ average. With that she was on her way.

It was a great life lesson for both of us. I learned that being an authority figure, as dad is hard. I also learned that you must give your children room to grow and obstacles to overcome. She learned that not everything is handed to you. If you want something, do the research and get it done. ///

Delta Iota Iota Honors Nine Outstanding Fathers via Annual Fatherhood Initiative

Bro. John Ervin, III



MODESTO, CA — In celebration of Father's Day and the vital role fathers play in strengthening families and communities, Delta Iota Iota Chapter recently honored nine exceptional men during its annual Fatherhood Initiative Father of the Year Recognition Program.

The annual event recognizes fathers who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment, leadership, and dedication to their children and families. Family members, community leaders, fraternity brothers, and supporters gathered to celebrate the positive impact these men have made through their unwavering devotion to fatherhood.

This year's Father's Day recipients are: Austin Grant, Jorge Perez, William Patterson, Jason Conway, Antony Little, Jorden Wyrick, Dwan Robinson, Marques Barron, Johnnie Garcia.

The Fatherhood Initiative was established to highlight the importance of engaged and responsible fathers while encouraging men throughout the community to take an active role in the lives of their children. Organizers emphasized that fatherhood extends far beyond financial support and includes mentorship, guidance, emotional support, and serving as a positive role model.

"Children thrive when fathers are actively involved in their lives," John Ervin III, chair of the chapter's fatherhood and mentoring committee noted during the program. "A father's consistent presence, love and guidance helps shape confidence, character, discipline,

and resilience. The men we honor today exemplify the very best qualities of fatherhood."

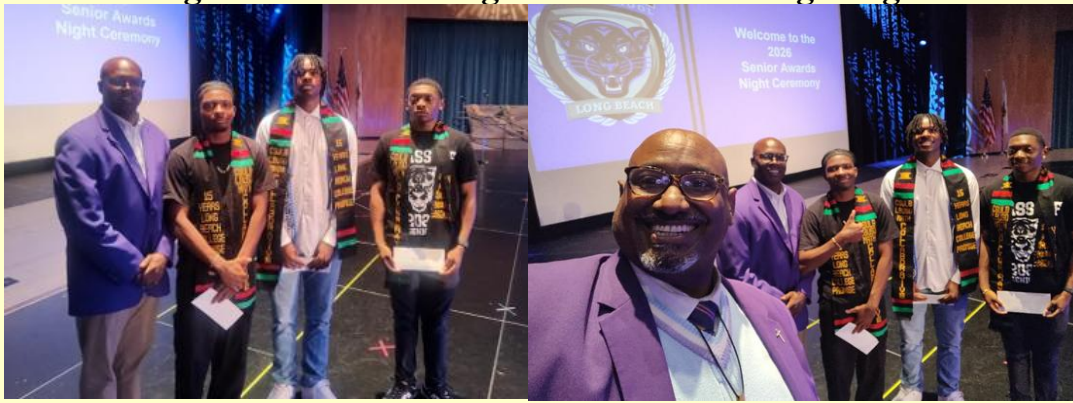
Research continues to demonstrate that children with involved fathers are more likely to perform better academically, develop healthy self-esteem, and make positive life choices. Fathers play a critical role in helping children navigate life's challenges while teaching values such as responsibility, integrity, respect, and perseverance.

The ten fathers recognized during this year's ceremony were selected because they consistently demonstrate these qualities through their actions and commitment to their families. Whether attending school activities, mentoring their children, supporting extracurricular interests, or providing daily encouragement and guidance, each honoree serves as a powerful example of what it means to be an engaged father.

Delta Iota Iota Chapter's annual Fatherhood Initiative reflects the fraternity's longstanding commitment to uplifting communities through service, leadership, and family engagement. By recognizing outstanding fathers each year, the chapter seeks to inspire other men to embrace the life-changing responsibility of fatherhood and strengthen the next generation.

As Father's Day approaches, the chapter encourages all fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, mentors, and father figures to continue investing in the lives of young people. Their influence not only shapes individual children but also contributes to stronger families and healthier communities. ///

Long Beach Jordan High School Mentoring Program



Long Beach, CA – June 15, 2026 – During the most recent quarter, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Rho Iota Iota Chapter continued its commitment to mentoring and developing young men at Long Beach Jordan High School through a series of educational, leadership, and character-building presentations. The program's objective is to expose students to positive role models, provide practical life skills, strengthen capacity, and increase personal and academic success.

In addition to the mentoring sessions, chapter members participated in Jordan High School's Scholarship Awards Night, where the chapter proudly awarded three deserving students with \$1,000 scholarships in recognition of their academic achievement, leadership potential, and commitment to their future goals.

Program Topics

African Americans and Law Enforcement: Students explored the historical and contemporary relationship between African American communities and law enforcement. The presentation provided context regarding the evolution of policing, community engagement, civil rights, and the importance of understanding both challenges and opportunities for positive community relationships.

Artificial Intelligence – Part 1: Students were introduced to the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Topics included foundational concepts, real-world applications, emerging technologies, and how AI is transforming our world.

Artificial Intelligence – Part 2: Building on the introductory session, students examined practical uses of AI, ethical considerations, career opportunities, and strategies for leveraging AI responsibly as a tool for learning. Students were encouraged to think critically about the opportunities and responsibilities associated with emerging technologies.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Divine Nine: This presentation provided students with an overview of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), commonly known as the Divine Nine. Students learned about the history, values, service contributions, and leadership legacy of historically Black Greek-letter organizations and their impact on communities throughout the nation.

Leadership of Self: Students participated in a discussion focused on personal leadership, self-discipline, accountability, goal setting, decision-making, and character development. The session emphasized the importance of leading oneself before leading others and highlighted habits that contribute to long-term success.

Youth and the Law: Students gained valuable knowledge regarding legal rights, responsibilities, and consequences that impact young people. Topics included decision-making, accountability, interactions with law enforcement, and understanding how choices can influence future educational and career opportunities.

Impact: The mentoring program continues to provide students with exposure to important life skills, leadership development, cultural awareness, career exploration, and educational opportunities. Through meaningful discussions and positive mentorship, participants are encouraged to make informed decisions, pursue academic excellence, develop confidence, and prepare for success beyond high school.

The Rho Iota Iota Chapter remains committed to supporting the young men of Long Beach Jordan High School and helping them develop the knowledge, character, and leadership skills necessary to become productive citizens and future leaders in their communities. ///

Rho Nu Nu Chapter Strengthens the Community Through Mentorship and Service



Graduates of the Rho Nu Nu Chapter's inaugural mentorship program receive certificates of completion alongside Chapter mentors. Pictured from left to right: Brother Christopher Williams, mentee Christian Miller, mentee Malachi Century, Brother Jasen Williams.



Brothers of the Rho Nu Nu Chapter and school personnel gather after participating in career pathway presentation at Otay Ranch High School. Pictured from left to right: Dr. Richard Vernon Moore, Brother John McKay, Brother Christopher Williams, Brother Athanison Monroe, Principal Julio Alcala.

San Diego, CA – During the spring months of 2026, the Rho Nu Nu Chapter celebrated two meaningful milestones that reflect the Fraternity's commitment to mentorship and community engagement. The Chapter recently completed its inaugural mentorship program, bringing together a group of young men for a series of discussions and activities focused on leadership, accountability, education, character, and civic responsibility.

Rather than simply offering advice, Brothers shared personal experiences, encouraged open dialogue, and challenged participants to recognize their own potential. The program was designed to help young men develop the confidence and life skills needed to navigate obstacles while preparing to become future leaders in their families and communities.

The importance of mentorship has always been central to the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Through consistent guidance and positive example, Brothers have an opportunity to invest in the next generation and demonstrate that success is built through discipline, perseverance, and service to others. The completion of this inaugural program marks the beginning of what the Chapter hopes will become a lasting tradition of



Career Pathways Group Photo: Brothers of the Rho Nu Nu Chapter pose with students following a career pathways discussion at Otay Ranch High School. Pictured Brothers and students.

leadership development and a commitment to the youth of their community.

In addition to the mentorship program, Brothers of Rho Nu Nu volunteered at Otay Ranch High School by participating in career pathway presentations. Students were introduced to a variety of professional opportunities and were encouraged to think beyond current circumstances as they plan for their futures. By sharing their own educational and career journeys, the Brothers provided practical advice while reinforcing the value of education, preparation, and perseverance.

These efforts represent more than individual events. They reflect the Chapter's commitment to strengthening families and communities by investing time, knowledge, and experience in the lives of young people. Whether through formal mentoring or career exploration, Rho Nu Nu Chapter remains dedicated to helping young men discover their purpose and realize that there is no boundary to what they can achieve. ///

Building Tomorrow: 13th District STEM Fair Inspires Toronto Students Through Innovation and Mentorship

By Brother Christopher Infantry

Toronto, Canada - As part of the 33rd Annual 13th District Meeting, the 13th District brought its commitment to Social Action to life through a dynamic STEM Fair in partnership with Elmbank Junior Middle Academy in Jamestown, Toronto.

The initiative reflected the fraternity's enduring focus on mentorship, youth development, and community engagement by creating a hands-on learning experience for students in Grades 7 and 8. Inside the school, a classroom was transformed into an interactive exhibition space where students designed, built, and presented original STEM projects to visiting Brothers and community leaders.

Student exhibits highlighted creativity, innovation, and real-world application. Projects included mechanical systems such as ski lifts, elevators, and bicycles; renewable energy demonstrations featuring windmills; structural engineering models inspired by the CN Tower and Eiffel Tower; and biological displays including cell models. Each project showcased technical understanding, problem-solving, and confidence as students explained both the design process and the scientific principles behind their work.

The event was strengthened by the presence of fraternity leadership, including 42nd Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis, 13th District Representative Freddie Thompson, IV, former 13th District Representative Jonathan Griffin, Sr., Host Chapter Basileus Ibrahim Bukenya, members of the District Council Executive, and Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter.

Special recognition is extended to Brother Courtney Brown and Grade 8 teacher Paula Davis, whose leadership helped make the initiative possible.

More than a one-day event, the STEM Fair demonstrated the power of mentorship in action, connecting students with role models, reinforcing the value of education, and inspiring the next generation of innovators, builders, and leaders. ///

Photos, Top to bottom:

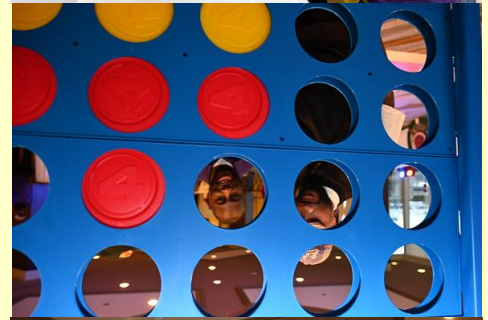
1 – 42nd Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis observes STEM static displays created by students from Elmbank Junior Middle Academy.

2 – The Garden Games Up 4 served as an engaging STEM display activity that encouraged participants to think strategically while fostering teamwork, communication, and collaboration.

3 – The STEM building block activity introduced students to key engineering concepts, including structural stability, balance, weight distribution, and design optimization.

4 – 13th International District Representative Freddie Thompson, IV, with students from Elmbank Junior Middle Academy.

5 – Brothers of the 13th International District view STEM static displays.



When I was a Young Boy Artwork Presentation

By Brother Christopher Infantry



Photo L – Artwork “When I Was A Young Boy”; Photo R – Brother Ibrahim Bukenya, Basileus of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter in Toronto, Canada, presented the artwork “When I Was a Young Boy” to 42nd Grand Basileus Rickey Lewis on behalf of the chapter as a tribute recognizing his leadership and service.

Toronto, Canada – The Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter presented the 42nd Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis with a special commemorative gift as a token of appreciation for his presence and leadership during the 33rd Annual 13th District Meeting held in Toronto from Thursday, April 16, through Monday, April 20, 2026.

The collection of artwork is titled “When I Was a Young Boy” and was created by Brother Simbarashe Chirisa (2-Spr-12-Alpha Delta Xi), a talented Brother of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter. Brother Chirisa is an accomplished artist whose work spans multiple mediums, including sketching, traditional painting, oil on canvas, and more recently, digital art.

For this particular presentation, Brother Chirisa utilized digital painting techniques to create the pieces. Digital painting is a modern artistic process where artwork is created electronically using specialized software and

digital tools that emulate traditional painting methods such as brush strokes, layering, texture blending, shading, and color composition. While the final work is created digitally, the artistic principles remain rooted in classical visual storytelling and portrait artistry.

The concept behind “When I Was a Young Boy” reflects themes of reflection, growth, legacy, memory, and the journey of Black men through leadership, brotherhood, and life experiences. The artwork was intended to capture emotion and narrative while also serving as a meaningful cultural and fraternal tribute to the Grand Basileus.

The presentation was very well received during the 33rd Annual 13th District Meeting and represented both the creativity and brotherhood of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter, while showcasing the artistic talents that exist within our fraternity. ///

Unity, Heritage, Progress: Lambda Beta Beta Chapter Supports The 3rd Annual Black Cultural Festival

By Brother Voris D. Crooms



2nd Vice President NAACP Honolulu Branch, Bro. Howard L. Covington, Sr., NAACP Honolulu Branch, Youth President, Micah Acfalle, and Black Culture President for Radford HS; Brother Voris Crooms (STEM Chairman) and Brother Derric Burgess and students engaging in hands-on engineering activities; Fatherhood and Mentorship Chairman, Brother LaShaun Joyner, shares a moment of mentorship at the necktie station; Brothers stand united with the NAACP to increase membership and support the fight for civil rights.

Honolulu, Hawaii – The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Lambda Beta Beta Chapter, were proud to stand alongside students and faculty for the 3rd Annual Black Cultural Festival where, the vibrant sounds of the Caribbean and the powerful echoes of tradition filled the Waipahu High School Cafeteria.

The day began with a stirring tribute to both national and cultural heritage, as the room fell silent for the National Anthem and the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” The atmosphere was one of celebration and community, drawing together organizations like the Buffalo Soldiers MC, the Barack Obama Museum, and fellow members of the Divine Nine.

From the rhythmic grace of local elementary and high school Hula performers to the infectious beats of an Afro-Latina band, the festival served as a powerful melting pot, celebrating the rich history of the Caribbean Islands and Black culture through food, music, and dance.

Omega in Action: Mandated Programs

Consistent with the Fraternity’s commitment to service, the Chapter utilized the festival to advance Omega’s Mandated Programs. As a “Manhood” organization, Omega Psi Phi remains dedicated to the uplift of our communities through targeted outreach:

- **STEM:** STEM Chairman, Brother Voris Crooms, hosted a hands-on station where students assembled LEGOs and complex figures. This initiative reflects the Fraternity’s mission to “encourage students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,” ensuring our youth are prepared for the global economy.
- **Fatherhood and Mentorship:** Fatherhood and Mentorship Chairman, Brother LaShaun Joyner, led an impactful session teaching students the art of tying a necktie. This program aims to provide “positive role models for our youth,” and for many young men present, this was their first time wearing a tie—a moment that

sparked significant interest in the Chapter’s ongoing mentorship efforts.

- **Scholarship and Social Action:** Scholarship Chair, Brother Roddue Hamilton, and Social Action Chair, Brother Derric Burgess, engaged directly with students and patrons. Omega is “dedicated to being a powerhouse of service,” and the Brothers highlighted the vital importance of academic excellence and a visible presence in the local community to foster progress.
- **Talent Hunt:** Talent Hunt Chair, Brother Dishan Romine was also present as he provided information to High School students about the Talent Hunt Program.

Strengthening the Front Lines with the NAACP: In a powerful show of solidarity, the Chapter joined forces with the local NAACP Branch. Brother VB Howard L. Covington, Sr., who also serves as the 2nd VP for the local branch, worked tirelessly to spread the mission of the NAACP: to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Their joint efforts were highly successful, welcoming 15 new adult and youth members into the fold, reinforcing the ranks in the continued fight for civil rights and social justice. Special thanks to Brothers Brandon Morton and David Dew for their presence and support in making the day a success.

A Call to the Future: The 3rd Annual Black Cultural Festival was more than just a look back at history; it was a snapshot of a brighter future. By mentoring the youth, sparking an interest in STEM, and reinforcing the mission of the NAACP, the Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta are ensuring that the bridge between our heritage and our future remains unbreakable.

As the music faded and the tables were cleared, one thing remained certain: the spirit of community in Waipahu is thriving, and the work of Omega continues. ///

13th International District Congratulates First-Time Dads

By Brother Michael Robinson



Photo L – Brother David Delgado of Eta Iota Iota Chapter in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands with his 8-month-old newborn son Zahir José Delgado. Photo R – Brother Pablo Ramos from Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan holding his beautiful daughter Rue Lia Renee Ramos born on March 3, 2026.

13th District – The Brothers of the 13th International District proudly extend their heartfelt congratulations to two Brothers who recently embarked on one of life’s most rewarding journeys “fatherhood”.

During the past year, Brother David Delgado of Eta Iota Iota Chapter in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Brother Pablo Ramos of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan, became first-time fathers. Their growing families mark a special milestone not only for them personally, but also for the District as a whole.

Becoming a father for the first time is a joyous occasion that brings both excitement and responsibility. As new heads of their households, first-time dads often experience the sudden realities of increased financial responsibilities, career expectations, and the emotional

and physical demands of caring for a newborn. While the challenges can be significant, the rewards are immeasurable.

From the unforgettable moment of holding their child for the first time to the quiet routines of daily care, these precious experiences create memories that last a lifetime. The early days of fatherhood are filled with meaningful milestones that help build a strong and enduring bond between father and child.

The Brothers of the 13th International District celebrate and commend Brother David Delgado and Brother Pablo Ramos as they embrace this new chapter of their lives. We wish them and their families continued happiness, health, and countless blessings on their fatherhood journey. ///

Eta Iota Iota Chapter Tees Up Mentorship and Opportunity for St. Croix Youth

By Brother Melake T. Whyte, II



Photo L – Bro. Quincy Lewis (Basileus), Bro. David Pugh, Bro. Clement Heyliger, and Bro. Jimmy Warren. Photo R– Brothers Jimmy Warren, David Pugh, Clement Heyliger, and Quincy Lewis helping students on the basics of a "golf swing"

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - On April 4th the brothers of the Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with the Crucian Purple and Gold Foundation and The Buccaneer Hotel and Resort, came together to provide a unique and enriching experience for sixth-grade students of Juanita Gardine Elementary School on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Led by professional golf instructor Kenny Peets, students participated in a half-day workshop designed to introduce them to the fundamentals of golf. From learning proper grip and stance to executing both driving and putting techniques, the students rotated through hands-on instruction at the driving range and putting green; actively applying what they learned in real time.

More than just a lesson in sport, the experience opened the door to new possibilities. Golf, often viewed as an expensive and less accessible activity, is not always within reach for many youth in the community. This

initiative provided meaningful exposure, allowing students to step into an environment they may not otherwise encounter.

The impact was immediate and evident. Students demonstrated enthusiasm, focus, and a genuine eagerness to learn, many expressing interest in continuing lessons and further developing their skills.

Following the instructional session, the brothers hosted a pizza party for the students, creating space for fellowship, encouragement, and continued mentorship before the students returned to school.

Through partnerships and purposeful engagement, the Eta Iota Iota Chapter remains committed to creating opportunities that broaden perspectives and inspire the next generation. By meeting youth where they are and introducing them to where they can go, the chapter continues to embody its mission of uplift, service, and lasting community impact. ///

13th International District Conducts Inaugural Black History Quiz Bowl

By Brother Cortez Pree



Photo L— Lambda Xi Chapter Black History Quiz Bowl 1st Place Team: Brother Terrence Settle, Jade Harris, Amya Prince, Ralph Gee, and Basileus Brother Eugene Gibbs. Not pictured Amya Prince and Malachi Conteh. | Photo R – Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Black History Quiz Bowl 2nd Place Team Basileus Zerbin Singleton, Luke Nakamura, Natalie Nakamura, Traci Nakamura, Brandon Pree, Cortez Pree, Jr. and Brother Cortez Pree.

13th District – The 13th International District of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., successfully conducted its inaugural Black History Quiz Bowl virtually on May 3, 2026.

The Quiz Bowl brought together youth from across the District to celebrate and demonstrate their knowledge of Black history and the achievements of influential leaders from around the world.

Brother Cortez Pree served as the Chairman for the event, while Brother Robert Taylor assisted with timekeeping and adjudication to ensure a fair and competitive Bowl experience.

The inaugural competition featured two outstanding teams representing Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan, and Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea.

Prior to the event, participants were provided with a comprehensive study guide highlighting the notable accomplishments and contributions of both historical and contemporary Black icons.

The Lambda Xi team consisted of: Malachi Conteh, Jade Harris, Amya Prince, Ralph Gee, and Heaven Dawkins. The Sigma Gamma Gamma team consisted of: Cortez Pree, Jr., Brandon Pree, Natalie Nakamura, and Luke Nakamura.

Both teams demonstrated exceptional preparation, teamwork, and knowledge as they competed through five challenging rounds of questions. At the conclusion of the competition, Lambda Xi emerged as the 2026 Black History Quiz Bowl Champion, earning the inaugural title through an impressive performance.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, both the Lambda Xi and Sigma Gamma Gamma teams will advance to represent the 13th International District at the International Black History Quiz Bowl Competition to be held in June.

Brother Cortez Pree expressed his appreciation for the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by all of the participants. "I am extremely proud of the preparation, sportsmanship, and academic excellence demonstrated by both teams throughout this competition.

Their commitment to learning and celebrating Black history embodies the purpose of this program, and I look forward to building on this success and making the 2027 Black History Quiz Bowl even bigger and better."

The 13th International District remains committed to promoting scholarship, leadership, cultural awareness, and youth development by providing meaningful opportunities that educate, inspire, and encourage future generations. ///

The 13th International District Conducts Successful 2026 Virtual Talent Hunt Program

By Brother Cortez Pree



Photo L– 1st Place 13th District Talent Hunt Winner James Chapla representing Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Tokyo, Japan. Photo M – 2nd Place 13th District Talent Hunt Winner Laura Mari Martinez-Taveras representing Nu Nu Nu Chapter in the Dominican Republic. Photo R – 3rd Place 13th District Talent Hunt Winner Calesse Council representing Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan.

13th International District – The 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., successfully conducted its annual Talent Hunt Program virtually on May 1, 2026. The district is comprised of Brothers serving communities around the world through Chapters located outside the continental United States.

With a presence in 16 countries, spanning 4 continents and 19 time zones, the 13th International District continues its proud tradition of showcasing exceptional young talent from across the globe. The 2026 Talent Hunt Program featured eight outstanding contestants who demonstrated remarkable skill, creativity, and dedication in their respective disciplines.

First Place honors were awarded to James Chapla of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter. A sophomore at Yokota High School in Yokota, Japan, James captivated the judges with a piano solo originally composed by Erroll Garner and arranged by Shuhei Hosaka.

Second Place was awarded to Laura Martinez of Nu Nu Nu Chapter. A senior at Cristo De Los Milagros in the Dominican Republic, Laura delivered a beautiful classical vocal performance of El Hombre Que Yo Amo, showcasing both exceptional vocal talent and artistry.

Third Place honors were earned by Caleese Council of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter. A senior at Kadena High School in Okinawa, Japan, Caleese performed an inspiring praise dance that she personally choreographed and developed, demonstrating both creativity and expressive talent.

Brother Cortez Pree, who serves as the 13th International District Talent Hunt Chairman, expressed his appreciation for the unwavering support and dedication of the Chapters' Talent Hunt Chairmen and committee members throughout the district.

"I am extremely pleased with the commitment and collaboration demonstrated by our Chapters' Talent Hunt Chairmen, whose efforts were instrumental in making the 2026 13th International District Talent Hunt Program another outstanding success. Their dedication to providing opportunities for our youth to showcase their talents is truly commendable, and we look forward to an even more successful program in 2027."

The 13th International District remains committed to fostering excellence in education, the arts, and youth development while continuing the longstanding tradition of recognizing and encouraging exceptional young talent throughout its worldwide jurisdiction. ///

Lambda Xi Chapter Launches Mental Health Awareness Month With Virtual “Brother You’re On My Mind” Program

By Brother Michael Robinson

South Korea – The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., kicked off Mental Health Awareness Month with a Virtual Mental Health & “Brother You’re On My Mind” program on May 3, 2026.

Approximately 28 participants from the Republic of Korea Divine Nine community and across the United States joined the Zoom event.

Moderated by Brother Michael Robinson, the program focused on mental wellness, education, healing, and community support. Basileus Eugene Gibbs opened the event, emphasizing the importance of mental health conversations in strengthening families and communities.

Brother Ronald Kincey, who organized the panel, highlighted the value of mentorship and supporting future behavioral health professionals.

Featured presenters included Dr. Teresa Gear, Dr. Tina D. Pipkin, and Nutritional Therapy Educator Ms. Ursula Francois-Anderson.

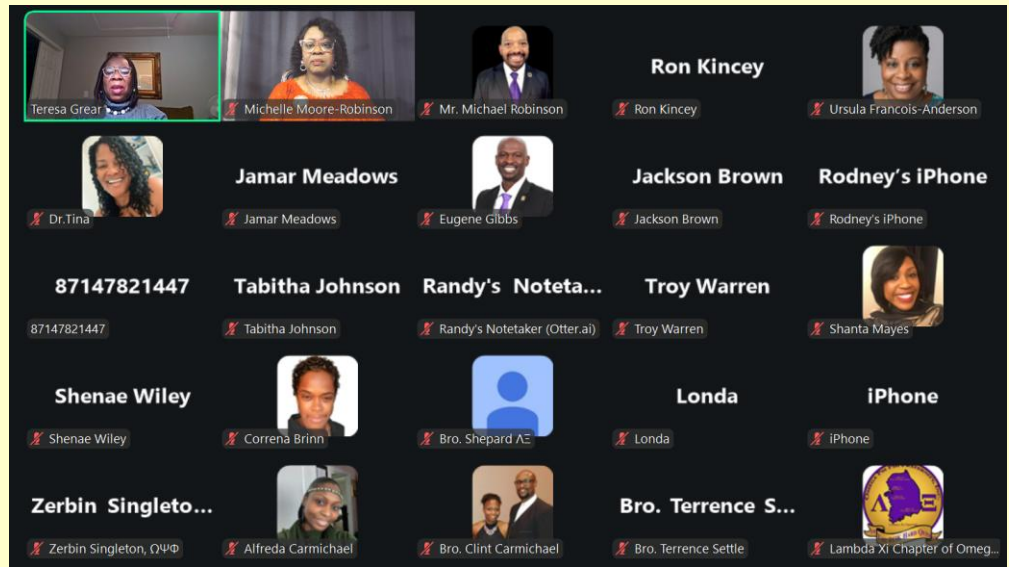
Dr. Gear discussed Black male mental health, addressing barriers to seeking care and encouraging participants to recognize stress early, build support networks, and seek professional help when needed. Kincey shared his personal journey through grief after the loss of his granddaughter, stressing that asking for help is a sign of strength.

Dr. Pipkin’s presentation on “Soul Care” encouraged attendees to process pain rather than suppress it and

create safe spaces for honest conversations. “Seeking help is not weakness,” she said. “It is strategy.”

Ms. Ursula Francois-Anderson explored the effects of chronic stress on physical health, discussing the importance of understanding health indicators such as blood pressure and blood sugar levels while promoting healthy nutrition and stress-management practices.

During the question-and-answer session, participants discussed parenting, emotional healing, and accessing mental health resources overseas. The event concluded with gratitude from attendees and organizers, reinforcing the chapter’s commitment to mental wellness, brotherhood, and community care. ///



Brothers in Service: Upsilon Lambda Lambda Supports Shirakaba House Children

By Brother Michael Preaster



Brother Michael Preaster and Brother Randy Pringle of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter delivered food to youth at Shirakaba House in Yokosuka, Japan

Yokosuka, Japan – Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter recently carried out a meaningful act of service by delivering two boxes of food to Shirakaba House for children in Yokosuka, Japan.

Their efforts reflect the fraternity's continued commitment to uplifting communities and supporting

youth through charitable outreach and humanitarian service.

Shirakaba House, a facility dedicated to caring for children, received the food donation with sincere gratitude. The contribution will help provide essential nourishment and support for the children, ensuring they continue to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Acts of service like this demonstrate the impact that community engagement and brotherhood can have on those in need.

The Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter continues to exemplify the fraternity's cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Through initiatives such as this outreach to Shirakaba House, the brothers demonstrate that service extends beyond meetings and events, reaching directly into communities where support is needed most.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter remains committed to service, community engagement, and uplifting youth throughout the Far East and beyond. ///

Friendship is Essential to the Soul!