

BROTHER LESLIE ELUS



**Candidate for
2023 Alumni
Brother of the
Year Award**

**COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY**

Better Informed
and More Engaged
in Policy

**ALPHA
LEADERSHIP**

**MEMBERSHIPS
& AWARDS**

**HEALTH
EDUCATION**

PHILANTHROPY & YOUTH

Leadership
Driven by
Action, Not
Position



Doing the Work of

Alpha

Through Service
& Leadership

WWW.LESLIEELUS.COM

Brother Leslie A. Elus

Candidate for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
2023 Alumni Brother of the Year Award

“ Leaders put their people into a position to do great things without them. The legacy of successful leaders lives on through the people they touch along the way. ”

- JOHN MAXWELL



Leadership Overview

Since my initiation into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in the spring of 2006, I have worked with fidelity to promote the fraternity's national programs, initiatives, and objectives on local, district, regional, and national fronts. As a College Brother, I served the Eta Delta Chapter in the offices of Associate Editor of the Sphinx, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and Second Vice President. In addition, I served as Chairman of the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant, Scholars Bowl, MLK High School Oratorical Contest, March of Dimes, and Relay for Life Committees. Upon graduation, I joined the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter and used my collegiate experiences to improve my graduate chapter's local activities. As an Alumni Brother, I have had the opportunity to serve the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter as its Associate Editor of the Sphinx, Recording Secretary, College Chapter Advisor, Vice President, and now Chapter President. While as a committee chairman, I revamped Iota Pi Lambda's Brother's Keeper, March of Dimes, Relay for Life, fundraising, and community service programs. Through my vision of creating a network of community partners - concerned citizens, businesses, fraternal groups, and nonprofits - the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter has been able to exponentially increase its impact and influence on the communities of southern Miami-Dade County.

As I have navigated the ranks of the Fraternity, it has been my personal mission to mentor and empower all Brothers desiring to advance the vision of our Seven Jewels. As a Chapter President and College Chapter Advisor, I have the duty of leading, motivating, and inspiring Brothers in different seasons of their fraternity membership. I am vigilant in my effort to overcome the challenges posed in uniting people together and working strategically to maximize our collective output. I enthusiastically support the Eta Delta Chapter in its efforts to stimulate the growth and cultivate the professional development of its members. I am inspired by the energy our College Brothers continuously inject into our Fraternity and am humbled to serve as a guide on their journey through College Life. On both fronts, I am encouraged by the confidence the Iota Pi Lambda and Eta Delta Chapters have entrusted in me and the opportunities these positions offer to propel the mission of our great fraternity forward.

Concurrently, I also served on the Iota Pi Lambda Education Foundation Board. The Foundation serves as the service and philanthropic arm of my chapter. In this capacity, I served as the Foundation's Scholarship Committee Chairman, Secretary, Vice President, and am its immediate Past President. While a member of the foundation's executive leadership team, I worked for five years to restructure the organization from the ground level - instituting an annual minority youth scholarship program, implementing its adopt-a-classroom project, creating several comprehensive community outreach programs, establishing a youth mentoring program, and coordinated its involvement with domestic and international relief campaigns.



Leadership Overview (continued)

Extending beyond my local activities, I have assisted in the coordination and implementation of numerous Florida District programs, Southern Region initiatives, and national political and social action projects. Most notably, I served as the 2016 FFAC Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest Committee Chairman, Editor to the District's Torch Newsletter, Co-Chairman to the South Area's 2019 Founders' Day Celebration Weekend of Activities, 2019 FFAC Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant Committee and 2020 Protect the Vote National Committee. Currently, I serve as the Florida District's South Area Director, Southern Region Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, and Member-at-Large on the Project Alpha National Committee. Periodically, I have also served as a presenter during Alpha University on the duties of Chapter Historian and the Associate Editors of the Sphinx and IMDP education sessions.

In addition to my service to Alpha, I am a proud member of Prince Hall Freemasonry and volunteer with several youth and community health organizations. Notably, I have been a member of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project since 1998, having been a former youth participant and now as a Mentor. As a recipient of the I Have a Dream Foundation Scholarship, I mentor K-12 and college students on the importance of a college education, offer admissions guidance, and career development counseling. For my expertise on college admissions, I have been asked to serve as a feature speaker to students at over a dozen high schools across Miami-Dade County and provide pro bono admissions services through my company, Sphinx Tutoring and Academic Services. Furthermore, I am active on local taskforces which support the research and advocacy work of our national partners the March of Dimes and American Cancer Society.

Fraternity Involvement At-Large

- 17+ Years continuous active membership
- Life Member #13015
- 2012-2017, Associate Editor of the Sphinx, Iota Pi Lambda Chapter
- 2013-2015, Secretary, Iota Pi Lambda Education Foundation
- 2014-2015, Editor, Torch Florida District Newsletter
- 2014-2021, Director of Public Relations, Florida District
- 2014-2016, Recording Secretary, Iota Pi Lambda Chapter
- 2014, 2015, 2020, Presenter, Alpha University
- 2015-Present, College Chapter Advisor, Eta Delta Chapter
- 2015-2017, Vice President, Iota Pi Lambda Education Foundation
- 2016-2019, Vice President, Iota Pi Lambda Chapter
- 2016, Chairman, Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest, Florida District
- 2017-2019, President, Iota Pi Lambda Education Foundation
- 2019-Present, President, Iota Pi Lambda Chapter
- 2019, Co-Chairman, South Area Founders' Day Weekend Celebration Committee
- 2020, Member, Protect the Vote National Committee
- 2020-Present, IMDP Presenter
- 2021-Present, Member, Project Alpha National Committee
- 2021-Present, South Area Director, Florida District
- 2021-Present, Director of Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships, Southern Region
- 2022-Present, Chairman, FOCUS HBCU Fair, Southern Region
- 2022-Present, Chairman, Heart of Gold Blood Drive, Southern Region
- 2022-Present, Chairman, Graduate & Career Resource Fair, Southern Region



Fraternal Leadership Outcomes

- \$75,000+ Raised in monetary, service, and in-kind goods to support the Iota Pi Lambda Education Foundation
- \$125,000+ Raised in monetary, service, and in-kind goods to support Iota Pi Lambda Chapter programs
- \$11,000+ Raised for March of Dimes as Chapter Committee Chairman
- \$12,000+ Raised for Relay for Life as Committee Member
- \$2,000+ Donated to Community Health Services of South Florida, Inc. Youth Crisis Center
- \$2,500 Raised for the FFAC JC Rawls Education Foundation
- 10,000+ Hours completed in service to the Fraternity since 2011
- 6,500+ Community service hours to Miami-Dade County since 2011
- \$350,000+ Raised in support of the Southern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- 1,350+ College acceptances and \$15M+ scholarships awarded during SRC FOCUS HBCU Fair
- 350+ College acceptances and \$5M+ scholarships awarded during SRC FOCUS HBCU Fair
- South Carolina Record for the most blood units donated in a day during SRC Heart of Gold Blood Drive in conjunction with American Red Cross
- Implemented SRC Graduate School and Career Resource Fair
- Cumulative volunteer service economic impact appraised at over \$1M (since 2011)
- Chapter has been consistently featured in the Sphinx magazine every year since 2012
- Chapter has been consistently featured in a major print and electronic newspaper chronicling Miami-Dade County community activities since 2012
- 2013 Chapter Proclamation from Miami-Dade County
- 2013 Chapter Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Coral Gables
- 2013 Chapter Proclamation from the City of Homestead
- 2014 Chapter Commendation from the City of Miami
- 2014 Chapter Proclamation from the City of South Miami
- 2014 Chapter Proclamation from the Florida Senate
- 2015 Chapter Proclamation from the City of Florida City
- 2015 Chapter Proclamation from the City of Miami
- 2015 Chapter Proclamation from the Town of Cutler Bay
- 2015 Chapter Proclamation from the City of Sweetwater
- 2017 Chapter Community Service Award from the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi National Sorority



Fraternal Leadership Outcomes (continued)

- 2018 Chapter Proclamation from the Village of Palmetto Bay
- 2019 Chapter Service 1906 Award from Southern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- 2019 Third Place Civic Organization Team Fundraising March of Dimes Miami-Dade
- 2019 Florida Health Department SWAT Grant
- 2020 Black Voters Matter Grant
- 2020 When We All Vote Grant
- 2020 APA Newsletter When We All Vote Chapter Feature
- 2021 Black Voters Matter Grant
- 2021 Florida Health Department SWAT Grant
- 2021 APA Good Health Wins Grant
- 2021 APA Project Alpha AIDS Healthcare Foundation Grant
- 2021 Secured National APA Partnership with Tailored Brands, Inc. for C2C Initiative
- 2021 Fifth Place Company, School, & Org Teams for Miami-Dade March of Dimes
- 2021 Third Place (Divine 9) Org Team for Miami-Dade March of Dimes
- 2021 Seventh Place overall ranking of fundraising teams for ACS Miami Fusion Event
- 2021 First Place Company Fundraising Team for ACS Miami Fusion Event
- 2021 APA Project Alpha National Award
- 2022 Florida Health Department SWAT Grant
- 2022 APA Good Health Wins Grant
- 2022 Black Voters Matter Grant
- 2022 Ranked in top ten individual fundraisers for Miami-Dade March of Dimes
- 2022 Fourth Place (Divine 9) Org Team for Miami-Dade March of Dimes
- 2022 Sixth Place overall ranking of fundraising teams for ACS Miami Fusion Event
- 2022 Top ten individual fundraisers for ACS Miami Fusion Event
- 2022 First Place Company Fundraising Team for ACS Miami Fusion Event
- 2023 Black Voters Matter Grant
- 2023 Florida Department of Health SWAT Grant
- 2023 Chapter Proclamation from Miami Dade County Public Schools for Service





Honors and Recognition

- 2013 JM Family Enterprises African American Achievers Nominee
- 2019-2021 Miami Dade County March for Babies Circle of Champions
- 2019 Man of Distinction Award from the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi National Sorority
- 2020 Legacy Miami's Most Influential and Powerful Black Professionals
- 2020 Sant La Class V Leadership Fellow
- 2020-2022 South Florida American Diabetes Association Circle of Champions
- 2020 Commendation from the City of North Miami
- 2020 Commendation from Miami-Dade County
- 2020 Shoutout Miami Feature Article
- 2020 Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters Charles H. Greene Award of Merit
- 2021 Catalyst Miami HEAL Spring Cohort
- 2021 Catalyst Miami Neighbors to Leaders Fellow
- 2021 Southern Region Charles H. Greene Award of Merit
- 2021 Catalyst Miami LIGHT Summer Cohort
- 2021 Top Ten Alpha Phi Alpha Southern Region March of Dimes Individual Fundraisers
- 2021 Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters Augustus M. Witherspoon Leadership Award
- 2021 VoyageMIA Feature Article
- 2021 PhilanthropyMiami Donor Next Door Honoree
- 2021 Kazah Temple #149 AEAONMS Noble of the Year Award
- 2022 South Miami Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. Making a Difference Award
- 2022 Catalyst Miami Alumni Feature Article
- 2022 Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Myrtle Beach
- 2022 Top five fundraiser for the Florida District Topsy Cookie Fundraiser
- 2022 Canvas Rebel Feature Article
- 2022 Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters Outstanding Alumni Brother of the Year

Community Involvement

- 12+ Year member of Prince Hall Masonry
 - Master Mason
 - Holy Royal Arch Mason
 - Royal and Select Master Mason
 - Knight Templar
 - 32° Scottish Rite Mason
 - Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine
 - Order of the Eastern Star
- 13+ Year member of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- 16+ Years as a Mentor for the I Have a Dream Foundation, Inc.
- 16+ Year as a Mentor for the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project
- South Florida Ronald McDonald House
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami
- Boys and Girls Club of Miami Dade
- South Dade Branch of the NAACP
- Miami-Dade Chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council
- Chairman, South Dade Divine 9 Pact
- ASKColestars, Inc.
- Dialysis Visionary Works, Inc.
- Miami-Dade Collective Impact Taskforce
- Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade
- AmeriCorps
- South Florida March of Dimes Advisory Board



Health Education & Promotion

As a clinical research assistant, I have had the opportunity to work on several research projects on issues that grossly affect African Americans. I have had the privilege to complete a clinical investigative research internship to develop a patented universal oral rinse test for early detection of oropharyngeal cancers. To advance the mission of our project, I volunteered to create and implement educational initiatives and analysis of experimental data collected from a head and neck cancer pilot study underway in the Liberty City, Florida community. For this initiative, I developed educational brochures and flyers on the study and cancer awareness for participants, facilitated workshops for community members on the project, and fostered relationships between my research lab and several pharmaceutical companies to acquire resources to support the study. Additionally, I have worked to recruit research participants to determine HIV prevalence in various zip codes across Miami-Dade and Broward counties. For this project, I worked to educate community members and study participants on the importance of HIV/AIDS testing, infection prevention, and available treatment. Coupling my field and advocacy experiences, I am leading the Iota Pi Lambda and Eta Delta Chapters in their joint effort to conduct a robust Project Alpha Virtual Series for youth and young adults through the fraternity's AIDS Healthcare Foundation Pilot Program.

As a member of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Noble of the Mystic Shrine, I maintain several positions within Kazah Temple #149. As the Temple Recorder, I have worked to incorporate modern day technology and business practices into our daily operations. In doing so, I have streamlined Kazah's digital communication, reporting measures, and financial accounting practices - from its antiquated model - to meet conventional standards. Besides being a member of the Divan, I also serve on several of the Temple's community outreach committees. As chairman of the Temple's Community Health Initiative Committee, I have led the Temple to raise over \$5,000 for the South Florida Chapter of the American Diabetes Association within the past three years. In

conjunction with our philanthropic efforts, I secured a MOU with the Jessie Trice Community Health Center as part of a strategic health awareness campaign for the residents of the City of Opa-Locka and Miami Gardens. Our health awareness partnership includes designing educational literature on health conditions disproportionately affecting people of color and distributing this information via social media and print publication streams. Additionally, we provide periodic on-site health screening and education forums in several community and residential facilities within the City of Opa-Locka, FL.

In 2021, I organized COVID-19 vaccination distribution sites in both the northern and southern ends of Miami-Dade County. This granted me the opportunity to form collaborative partnerships with the South Florida I DID It Campaign, Nomi Health, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion under the direction of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office in a concerted effort to educate and immunize citizens residing in covid infection hot zones across Dade County.

This year, I had the pleasure of fostering a partnership between the Southern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and the American Red Cross (ARC). To debut this partnership, we launched the Hearts of Gold Blood Drive during Alpha South's regional convention. During this inaugural activity, we collected 109 units of whole blood and set a historical record for the state of South Carolina for the largest number of whole blood units donated in a single day. In addition, Bro. Kues and the Eastern Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross facilitated a CPR and AED certification training free of charge for Brothers. Moving forward, I will be serving as the liaison between the Southern Region and ARC to foster employment, professional development, humanitarian relief, and community outreach activities opportunities for brothers and local chapters operating throughout the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and North & South Carolina.





Community Advocacy

I developed the Alpha Leads through Education, Advocacy, Development, and Service (L.E.A.D.S.) Project to address a need for southern Miami-Dade residents to be better informed and more engaged on matters pertaining to health, education, and public policy.

Our first program held was an expungement clinic. In conjunction with the Miami-Dade Public Defenders Office of Carlos J. Martinez and Florida House Representative Kionne McGhee, the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter hosted a restorative rights resource clinic in Homestead, FL. Legal experts, and representatives from local and state administrative offices, provided their services at no cost to attendees. Event attendees were treated to light refreshments and received counseling on a range of restorative rights resources; event facilitators helped to answer questions and determined what services patrons may best qualify for. Correspondingly, qualifying participants were guided by onsite staff who helped prepare their Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Application for Certification of Eligibility and gather all necessary documents for the submission of the application. Collectively, we were able to serve nearly 50 Miami-Dade County residents, 24 of whom received restorative rights services. The event was the first restorative rights workshop hosted by the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

Due to the recent emergence of legal precedents that challenge American civil liberties, and/or hinder access to the democratic process, it has become essential to create opportunities that bring about restorative forms of justice geared towards those populations who are most in need of it. It was my hope that by providing these services, participants regain equitable access to the workforce, education, and the ballot. With this objective in mind, our chapter decided to target the often marginalized (and neglected) South Miami-Dade municipalities to facilitate a seal, expungement, and restorative rights processes event. It was our hope that an event of this nature would bring solace to a multitude of families, and we also believed that a project of this scope may serve as an impetus to many others who wish to engage in future social service endeavors.

To galvanize local community groups, I worked to form the South Dade Divine 9 Pact to pool the resources of the Black Greek Letter Organizations serving the communities of South Dade. After leading the coordination and execution of a live streamed Mayoral Candidate Forum on July 30, 2020, the Pact unanimously elected me to serve as its leader and develop its strategic plan to encourage voter engagement in preparation for the November Presidential Election. Following the event, I have directed the strategic distribution of collateral material on voting registration, vote by mail, and census completion in low voter turnout precincts across southern Miami-Dade County. Over three months, I coordinated the activities for a dozen groups - over 100 volunteers per canvassing event - to distribute voter education materials.

As a result of the success of the Alpha LEADS project, the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter has received grant funding from Black Voters Matter and When We All Vote to continue its efforts to educate southern Miami-Dade County residents on public policies that affect their standard of living and provide

them the tools necessary to become catalysts of change. These programs include hosting community forums on relevant public works activities in the community, workshops on public advocacy, working with community partners and government officials to adopt policies that benefit residents who reside in urban, suburban, and rural areas, distribution of voter education materials, programs to educate youth and young voters on civic responsibility, political & social justice, environmental justice, home ownership, entrepreneurship, and wealth building. Our youth programs have been expanded at multiple high schools within our community with the support of our nonprofit partners serving the area. Thus far, I have secured partnerships from two state universities, organic gardening nonprofits, and the Miami-Dade Professional Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to help facilitate the academic portion of the environmental justice program during the 2021-2020 school year. Through my service with AmeriCorps, I can continue to work with several organizations dedicated to improving our community through civic engagement and advocacy.





Philanthropy

As connoted by Alpha Phi Alpha's aims - Manly Deeds, Scholarship and Love for All Mankind - charity and philanthropy help to form the underpinnings of our great Fraternity. Since my admission into this Fraternity in 2006, I have worked diligently to support Alpha Phi Alpha's commitment to its various philanthropies and related charitable ventures within southern Miami-Dade County. My personal commitment for health promotion and education has inspired me to lead my chapter's fundraising efforts for the March of Dimes and Relay for Life.

Recognizing a need for creative fundraising models for my small chapter, in 2019 I instituted the Wings for Babies Competition as a March of Dimes Fundraiser which allowed us to triple our fundraising results. To do so, I worked with Bro. Ricky Stuart to foster a partnership between the Iota Pi Lambda, Eta Delta, and Zeta Alpha Lambda Chapters with Hurricane Grill & Wings to raise funds for the March of Dimes. Together, we raised over \$4,600 in support of the March for Babies South Florida Philanthropy Campaign. Within a year, I led Iota Pi Lambda from raising several hundred dollars to ranking third place amongst Miami-Dade County March of Dimes Civic Organization Donors. That same year, Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters within Miami-Dade and Broward Counties collectively raised nearly \$7,000 in support of March of Dimes.

Impart to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to host the 2020 and 2021 Wings for Babies Competition. Despite this hardship, Iota Pi Lambda raised over \$6,000 for the Miami-Dade County

Chapter of the March of Dimes in the spirit of the Gwen Carmon Alpha/Zeta Challenge. In the future, Bro. Stuart and I hope to expand the Fraternity's local partnership to its 700 chapters located throughout the country and the markets of the FAT Brands, Inc. family of restaurants. FAT Brands is a leading global franchising company that strategically acquires, markets, and develops fast casual and casual dining restaurant concepts around the world. The company currently owns seven restaurant brands - Fatburger, Buffalo's Cafe, Buffalo's Express, Hurricane Grill & Wings, Yalla Mediterranean and Ponderosa and Bonanza Steakhouses - with over 300 locations open and more than 300 under development in 32 countries.

As co-chairman, I worked closely with my chapter's Relay for Life Committee to devise a plan to execute our philanthropic goals. As a result of the generosity and commitment of our Brothers, we were able to donate over \$12,000 to the American Cancer Society through our team and memorial fundraising efforts over the past three years. Additionally, I have extended my expertise in coordinating small group philanthropy fundraising to the local Prince Hall Shriners efforts for the South Florida American Diabetes Association. As its team captain, the Miami Prince Hall Shriners have raised over \$5,000 in honor of their National Diabetes Initiative during 2020-2022. To date, this is the largest amount ever raised for the American Diabetes Association by a single PHA Shriener Temple in the country.



Youth & Mentoring

In support of the Southern Region's FOCUS HBCU Initiative, in 2019 I devised a plan to partner with the Pi Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to conduct a HBCU Fair at Homestead Senior High School. This event proved to be the first activity of its kind held at the school. As a result of our collaboration, we were able to assist over 60 high school seniors gain admission into at least one of our 40 HBCU Partner Schools.

Per the requests of the students, we returned to the school to host a HBCU admissions boot camp. For this session, I developed a guide sheet to assist students in determining which schools they would like to apply to and personally met with each student to help tailor their application list. By the conclusion of our fair and admissions book camp workshop, we helped to facilitate over 100 HBCU acceptances and nearly 1.5 million dollars in merit scholarship dollars awarded to students at Homestead Senior High School.

Impart to the global pandemic, in 2020, the South Dade Alpha and AKA Chapters ventured into a virtual series format open to students across Miami-Dade County. We launched our program at 14 partner high schools and pledged to directly assist their students on admissions to HBCUs and provide college assistance program support through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's #CAP Program. As a result of our previous success, Miami-Dade County Public School District, United&Unlimited, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and City Year partnered with us to expand the reach of this program. Thanks to the support of NSBE, our program model has been able to highlight unique STEM education and scholarship opportunities available for students attending HBCUs across the country. Participants of the series included students and high school counselors throughout Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and the Bahamas.

During the winter and spring terms, we held our hybrid HBCU Admission Bootcamps series to help students navigate the admissions process. In

conjunction with our sorority partner's HBCU 4 Life and #CAP Programs, we hosted virtual workshops on FAFSA, personal statement writing, resumes, and provided tips on how to create competitive scholarship applications. By the completion of both target programs, we were able to facilitate the award of over 500 HBCU admission acceptance letters and over \$16 million in merit scholarships to 2021 FOCUS participants over four years. The success of the program during a pandemic helped to cement our partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and 40+ HBCU Partners to recruit students from the area and offer them adequate support and financial resources to attend their respective universities.

For the consistent outcomes I have achieved within my local chapter, I was asked to coordinate a FOCUS HBCU Fair during the Southern Region Convention. The region's FOCUS HBCU Fair was the opening activity of the convention, serving as one of several community initiatives held during our gathering. Approximately 800 South Carolina high school juniors and seniors (from Horry and its neighboring counties) convened at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The event featured over 30 HBCUs from across the country and a dozen educational partners to facilitate on-spot admission, preferred admission, and scholarship giveaways. During our event, our HBCU partners awarded over 350 college acceptance letters and \$5 million dollars in merit scholarship dollars. Additionally, the Southern Region and its educational partners awarded eight \$1,000 scholarships to high school and students during the program.



In response to the Fraternity's call to increase efforts in youth mentoring, I have worked conscientiously to develop the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter's Men of Tomorrow: Alpha Phi Alpha Leadership Academy. Our program recruits middle and high school age boys. MOT participants are paired with Chapter Brothers who volunteer to serve as their mentors based on their capability and mutual interests. Participants meet twice a month, alternating between our structured workshop programs and tutoring. As the MOT Community Resource Liaison, I am charged with the responsibility of securing African American male professionals to speak at our signature workshops. Our workshop topics include mental health, health and wellness, peer pressure, and goal setting. MOT members earn service hours by participating in our chapter community service projects. In addition, I personally work with our high school seniors to guide them through their college admissions and scholarship search process. With my assistance, Paul Griffin – our graduating Class of 2020 member – received full ride scholarship offers to attend college at four of our partner HBCUs.

Inspired by the need for increase dialogue with our youth, I created a virtual series to encourage healthy conversation and dispersion of knowledge to young men within the community. AMOS, the Alliance of Men Oriented in Service, Virtual Youth Dialogue Series serves to bridge the generational divide between working male professionals and local boys under a banner of respect, understanding, and tolerance. Given the significant number of boys growing up in single family households, AMOS provides an alternative means for youth to receive

sage wisdom often passed down from father to son. It is a ten-part dialogue series targeting school age Black and Latino boys across Miami-Dade County. Throughout the fall and spring seasons, attendees participate in thought provoking discussions featuring African American men who are experts in their field sharing their insight on a different topic of focus. This past year's discussion topics focused on making wise decisions, the history of Black Miami, youth wealth building opportunities, career options after college, community policing, and forgiveness. The host groups include the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter, Pi Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Richmond Heights-Perrine Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Men Mold Men (Triple M) Youth Group, and Miami Prince Hall Shriners. Youth participants range from elementary school to college students with a simple focus of empowering the next generation of men to resist the temptation of crime and set their ambitions for success.

Committed to my own personal growth as a leader, I have participated in numerous Alpha University and other fraternity hosted leadership development opportunities over the years. Aptly, I have completed several community leadership development institutes facilitated by university, government, and nonprofit entities serving the residents of Miami-Dade County. My participation in these leadership education programs have allowed me to further cultivate my skills as a community organizer, grant writer, and public policy advocate while promoting the mission of our fraternity.



Membership & Awards

- 🏆 Lodge Patent
- 🏆 Holy Royal Arch Patent
- 🏆 Cryptic Patent
- 🏆 Knights Templar Patent
- 🏆 32nd Degree Patent
- 🏆 OES Patent

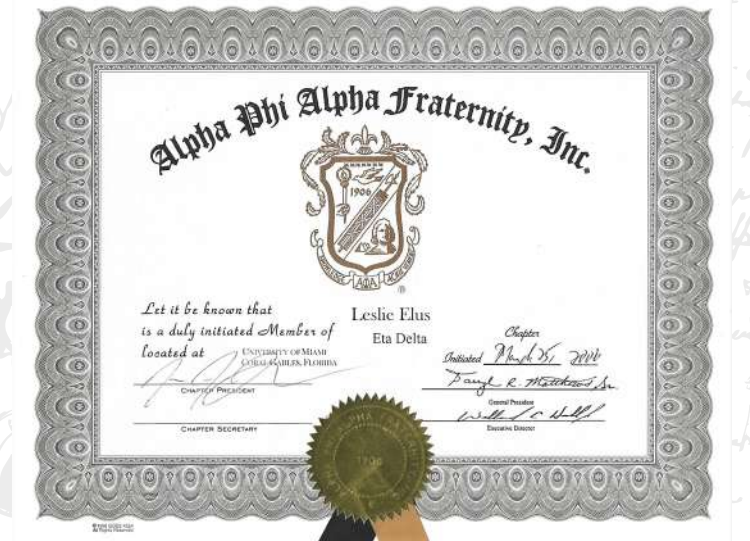
- 🏆 Alpha Pi Chi Award
- 🏆 Miami Dade County Commendation
- 🏆 North Miami Commendation
- 🏆 Jack & Jill Award
- 🏆 Noble of the Year Award

- 🏆 Catalyst Miami
- 🏆 Sant La Medal
- 🏆 March of Dimes Medal
- 🏆 ADA Medal
- 🏆 AmeriCorps Service
- 🏆 Philanthropy Miami

- 🏆 FFAC Greene Award
- 🏆 Region Greene Award
- 🏆 FFAC Witherspoon
- 🏆 Myrtle Beach Award
- 🏆 Alumni Brother Award



Membership & Awards





CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP



This certificate of membership presented to:

Sir Knight Leslie Elus

UNION GRAND COMMANDERY NO. 22

Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar Masons, Commonwealth of Florida, Prince Hall Affiliated

By this token of membership, you are entitled to all Rights & Benefits of St Arthurs Commandery No. 90 and also of this Grand Commandery, and upon the death of said member, if in good standing with his local Commandery and the Grand Commandery, the beneficiary, herein named shall receive such contributions as the Grand Commandery shall from time to time prescribe. Member #22090091

Presented this 14th Day of March 2020

Rico Merritt

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Rudolph Owens III

Eminent Commander

Leslie Elus

Member's Signature



Kenneth Ferguson

Eminent Grand Recorder

Bonnie F...

Recorder

Islamiyat Adebisi

Print Name of Beneficiary

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION



Recognizes

Leslie Elus

Sant La Fellow- Class V

On behalf of the city of North Miami, we commend you for your invaluable leadership, professionalism and dedication to the progression of the Haitian Culture. In honor of your completion of the Sant La Fellows Leadership Development Program, we extend our warmest appreciation and gratitude for all that you have devoted to the progression of civic engagement. Your hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated. We wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Presented on this 24th day of October 2020



Philippe Bien-Aime
Philippe Bien-Aime
Mayor



COACH OF THE YEAR

Leslie Elus

is hereby recognized for her ability to adopt and transmit the FISH philosophy, use of communication model for peers during this summer



PRESENTED BY: Joana Ruano, Center Director

ON THIS DAY: December 6, 2019

Constitutionally Established at Philadelphia, Pa.
December 12, 1900

Incorporated Under the Laws of the District of Columbia
November 13, 1901

"In Faith We Trust"



Aleikum Es Salaam

Es Salamu Aleikum

IMPERIAL COUNCIL

*Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine
of North and South America and Jurisdictions, Inc.*

Kuwat Wa Chadab

Be it known that Noble Leslie A. Elus whose name is written in the margin hereof was created on September 9, 2019, and is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and in good standing in Kazah Temple No. 149 at Miami, Florida which is lawfully and constitutionally established by us, and is entitled to be received, welcomed and honored as such everywhere. Given under our hands and seal of the Imperial Council, this 7th day of the Month Shawall Hegira 14 41 which corresponds to the 27th Day of May, 2020.

Handwritten signature



Attest: Ronaw Rutenens Imperial Recorder Charles W. Dunford Imperial Potentate

Daily Inspiration: Meet Leslie Elus

December 2021

Hi Leslie, please kick things off for us with an introduction to yourself and your story.

Growing up in a close-knit Haitian family, I learned the importance of service and community from a very young age. For over a decade, I have worked with the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (South Dade Alphas) to reignite the fraternity's engagement in southern Miami-Dade County. Some of the activities I have led include instituting an annual minority youth scholarship program, adopt-a-classroom project, revamping several community outreach programs, establishing a youth mentoring program, coordinating fundraising efforts for March of Dimes and American Cancer Society, and facilitating the South Dade Alphas involvement with a number of domestic and international relief campaigns.

Alright, so let's dig a little deeper into the story – has it been an easy path overall and if not, what were the challenges you've had to overcome?

Access and limited resources pose the greatest challenges to community engagement and advocacy efforts at large. At times, it feels like the needs of the community eclipse my best efforts to combat inequities in my areas of focus, notably in education, healthcare, and socioeconomic. With these challenges in mind, it is important to foster collaborative ventures with groups who share similar ideals. Equally, it is important to identify individuals with vested interests in the public trust and wellbeing of all to foster real change.

Thanks for sharing that. So, maybe next you can tell us a bit more about your work?

As a community advocate, I work with community stakeholders to expand portals of access for underrepresented groups of people. Primarily, my efforts are focused on improving access to higher education, career training, professional development, wealth building, and healthcare. As the President of the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. I provide vision for my fraternity's local implementation of its activities. Additionally, I am a member of the Prince Hall Affiliate Masonic Order where the scope of my community involvement includes coordinating annual Christmas toy giveaways, Thanksgiving food baskets, health fairs to meet the needs of underserved communities of color, workshops for youth on professional dress & etiquette, college readiness, resume & cover letter writing, career planning, and applying for financial aid & scholarships.



LESLIE Daily Inspiration: Meet Leslie Elus



What makes you happy?

One of my greatest joys in the world is my family. I have been blessed with the privilege of having a supportive village of relatives, mentors, and peers who support my ambition and commitment to public service. In this facet, it is important to have a dependable network of peers to keep me grounded – and sane – throughout my daily pursuits.




Kazah Temple #149

Desert of Florida - AEAONMS - Oasis of Miami

National Alcohol Dependency Awareness Month
Supporting the Elimination of Excessive Alcohol Consumption



Alpha Phi Omega



WELCOMES INTO MEMBERSHIP

Leslie A. Elus
Alpha Phi Chapter
University of Miami

AND BESTOWS UPON THIS INITIATE ALL THE RIGHTS,
BENEFITS, AND PRIVILEGES OF THIS

NATIONAL SERVICE FRATERNITY

on this 5th day of May, 2012

Founded December 16, 1925 at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.



CERTIFICATE

OF RECOGNITION

The City of Myrtle Beach Acknowledges

Leslie Elus

Southern Region Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated

for your commitment to serving others. Your dedication and leadership through local and national programs strengthens the community. We applaud the community service offered by the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.



Brenda Bethune, MAYOR



March 31, 2022
DATE

Introducing MIAMI'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AND POWERFUL BLACK PROFESSIONALS OF 2020



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LESLIE ELUS
President
Isla Elus Leadership Chapter
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



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RAHEL WELDEYESUS



L'CHANDRA WILLIS



American Diabetes Association - South Florida

Published by Marc Ada Staff Florida 171 · 2m

Congratulations to our newest Champion for a Cure - Leslie Elus who hit over \$1,000 in funds raised for the upcoming October 17th Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes in Florida. Join us at www.diabetes.org/stepoutsoflo



Congratulations!

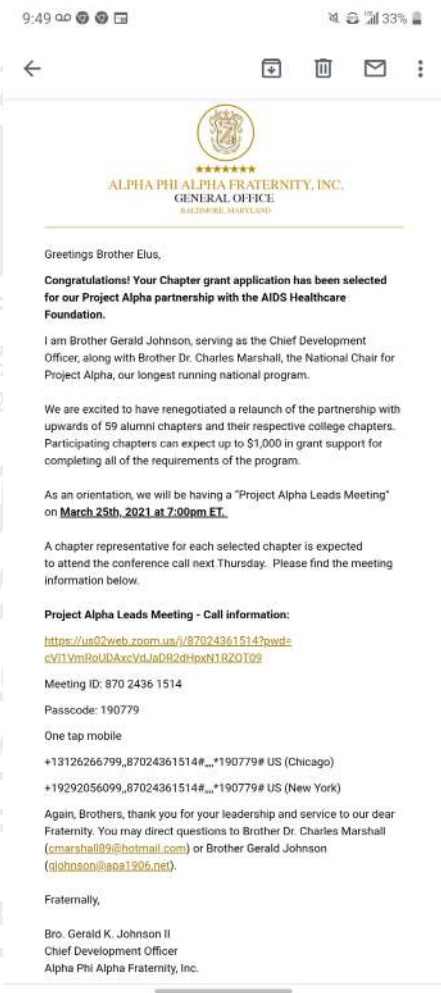
Leslie Elus

is a 2020 Champion with over \$1,000 raised!

Team: Kazah Nobles and Daughters



www.diabetes.org/StepOutSoFlo



Articles & Recognition

December 2020

SHOUTOUT MIAMI

LESLIE ELUS



Hi Leslie, let's talk legacy – what do you want yours to be?

The true impact of a person's life is measured in the moments spent uplifting others. To this regard, I'd like my legacy to be illustrated by the number of individuals I have been fortunate to help improve their station in life, inspire positive change or acts of noble deeds.



Alright, so let's move onto what keeps you busy professionally?

I have always held a passion for healthcare and service. For some time, I have worked as a Research Assistant and Instructor working to develop the clinical skills of EMS, Nursing and Physician Assistant students. In addition, I work as a STEM tutor for K-12 students. In part to the shift brought along by the COVID-19 pandemic, I was inspired to launch my referral-based company – Sphinx Tutoring and Academic Services. Pursuing this venture has challenged me to use my creative instincts to provide a myriad of services in a world currently driven by virtual meeting spaces. As an entrepreneur, I have been able to leverage the full range of my skill set to create a

We had the good fortune of connecting with Leslie Elus

practical business model that offers a wide range of education support services at a fair cost. No child should suffer academically due to lack of access to teaching support, supplemental resources, and proper academic



advising. It is my hope to grow my business and sustain its viability while I pursue my education to become a medical doctor. To me, business and civic engagement work in tandem in our efforts to build thriving communities. This is why I am involved with several fraternal organizations actively working to improve the social and communal structure of southern Miami-Dade County.

Any places to eat or things to do that you can share with our readers? If they have a friend visiting town, what are some spots they could take them to?

Included on my ultimate traveler's guide, there are several bucket-list stops I recommend to friends vacationing in Miami. For my shopaholics, few places compare to the shopping outlets at Dolphin Mall. As a beach goer, I highly recommend following a day schedule consisting of breakfast at the Big Pink on Collins Avenue, jet skiing and/or parasailing in Miami Beach, followed by



lunch and drinks at Wet Willie's on Ocean Drive. For a taste of the exotic Caribbean cuisine that is a hallmark of Miami's culture, no trip would be complete without dinner at Ortanique's on the Mile. Depending on the season, my friends and I would catch a Miami football game at the Hard Rock Stadium or the Miami Heat at the American Airlines Arena. To wrap up our fun filled week, we would reflect upon our excursions over brunch at Greenstreet Café in Coconut Grove.



The Shoutout series is all about recognizing that our success and where we are in life is at least somewhat thanks to the efforts, support, mentorship, love and encouragement of others. So is there someone that you want to dedicate your shoutout to?

I'd like to dedicate my shoutout to several groups of people. Foremost, to my family, most especially my wife Nancy and son Andrew, thank you for your unwavering love, support, and encouragement. To my Brothers of the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Kazah Temple #149 A.E.A.O.N.M.S., thank you for providing me an avenue to serve our community. Without your mentorship, trust, and investment, none of my dreams would have become a reality.

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ipl1906

Website: www.ipl1906.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ipl1906

CHAPTER NEWS



Iota Pi Lambda Chapter members pose with Florida House Representative Kionne McGhee (wearing the black hat) and Miami-Dade County Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez.

BROTHER LESLIE ELUS, ETA DELTA '06, IOTA PI LAMBDA

South Dade Alphas, County and State Agencies Collaborate to Restore Rights of Local Residents

The Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted a restorative rights resource clinic in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Public Defenders Office of Carlos J. Martinez and Florida House Representative Kionne McGhee in Homestead, Florida.

Due to the recent emergence of legal precedents that challenge American civil liberties, and/or hinder access to the democratic process, it has become essential to create opportunities that bring about restorative forms of justice geared towards those populations who are most in need of it. Legal experts, and representatives from local and state administrative offices, provided their services at no cost to attendees.

"We are here to help as many people as possible...if you have a past record that should not keep you from working..." says Carlos J. Martinez, the lead attorney in the Miami-Dade County Public Defenders' Office during his welcome address at the July 20th event. "We can check out a few things and try to help everyone...We have a lot of young people here and [local agencies] to make sure we do all we can to have your rights restored."

The event was the first restorative rights workshop hosted by the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office.

Community partners for the expungement clinic included: the Miami-Dade State Attorney Office of Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade County Elections, Miami-Dade County Police Department, Florida Restorative Rights Coalition, Career Sources Florida, and Avant School of Excellence. Thanks to the Haitian Lawyers Association, Florida New Majority, and United & Unlimited, the clinic was able to provide several FDLE Application Fee Vouchers.

Event attendees were treated to light refreshments and received counseling on a range of restorative rights resources; event facilitators helped to answer questions and determined what services patrons may best qualify for.

Correspondingly, qualifying participants were guided by onsite staff who helped prepare their Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Application for Certification of Eligibility and gather all necessary documents for the submission of the application.

"We are here because we are doing some great things in the South [Miami-Dade] people," says Florida House Representative Kionne McGhee during the event streamed on Facebook Live.

KAPPA KAPPA University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Ark.

AFTER RECEIVING DEVASTATING news about Jamaya Johnson and her battle with cancer, Kappa Kappa Chapter brothers at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark., sprung into action and created "A Desire for Jamaya" bone marrow donor registration drive. The event was held in late February on the university campus.

Johnson, 14, is an eighth-grade student from Louisiana who has battled blood cancer for two years. Doctors say her only hope to survive lies in getting a bone-marrow transplant; however, no members of her family are a suitable match.



Kappa Kappa Chapter brothers team up with members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority to register bone-marrow donors at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark., in February.

Realizing that African-Americans make up only seven percent of the national donor registry, Kappa Kappa brothers recognized the urgent need to

register donors, especially those of African-American descent, which led to the potentially life-saving registration drive on their campus. ★



Iota Pi Lambda Chapter members deliver donated goods. Pictured from left: Brothers Leslie Elus, Darren Handy and Chris Stevenson.

IOTA PI LAMBDA Miami, Fla.

IN COLLABORATION WITH Walmart and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program, the brothers of Iota Pi Lambda Chapter in Miami recently donated more than \$2,000 in toys and classroom materials to the Isaac A. Withers Head Start and Child Care Center.

The center provides developmental and child care services during the work week to more than 150 children up to six years old. Items donated to the Withers Head Start Program included textbooks, teacher guides, student workbooks, educational devices, and instructional tools for the classroom. The Head Start program was selected, from a pool of fraternal and community recommendations, as a site in great need

NU BETA LAMBDA Stockton, Calif.

THE BROTHERS WHO call Stockton, Calif., home recently celebrated their fifth anniversary of conducting a mentoring program in the city. There to help celebrate the event were several dignitaries and officials, including a U.S. congressman, president of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, the mayor and president of the local school board, and a member of the California State Assembly.

Members of the community have applauded the chapter for making an impact on the local community—especially the young people who are mentored by Alpha brothers. ★

2013 Inauguration Commemorative Edition ★ THE SPHINX 33



Members of Iota Pi Lambda Chapter and Eta Delta Chapter pay a visit to teachers at Caribbean Elementary School to donate needed school supplies.

**ETA DELTA CHAPTER
University of Miami Shows
Actions Speak Louder**

By Ezzard C. Rolle Jr.

THE 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR is proving to be a quite busy one for the brothers of Eta Delta Chapter at the University of Miami (UM) in Florida. Just before school started, members capped off a summer of service mentoring young people for the Kulula Project in Miami's Coconut Grove neighborhood.

The Kulula Project is a program of the UM School of Education, a year-long mentorship program which provides activities rooted in African culture and history. Topics discussed covered self-awareness, relationship-building, skill-development, leadership-training and community service. Brothers mentored a group of 30 children, ages five to 14, and also took the group on a museum field trip and held ongoing discussions about college education and careers.

At the beginning of the school year, in collaboration with the Iota Pi Lambda Alumni Chapter in the Richmond Heights neighborhood, brothers took part in a back-to-school supply drive for Caribbean Elementary School in South Miami-Dade County. The university's

William R. Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development assisted the brothers. Through this joint effort several hundred dollars in much-needed school supplies were donated.

By October, brothers began putting their feet to work to help women and help find a cure for cancer. On Oct. 10, they participated in the 6th Annual Walk for Myeloma, hosted by Beta Sigma Chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority. The chapter made a financial contribution, and brothers participated in the opening ceremonies and the walk around Lake Osceola on the UM campus.

Several days later, on Oct. 16, Eta Delta brothers participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure held at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami. Together, with the Bahamian Students Association in the 5k walk, the

two organizations raised \$300 in the fight against cancer. ★



Brother Ezzard C. Rolle Jr. mentors a child at the Kulula Project Mentorship Program last summer.

Winter 2011 ★ THE SPHINX 31

Privacy

BY BROTHER LESLIE ELUS

RE-ENVISIONING PHILANTHROPIC FUNDRAISING

SOUTH FLORIDA ALPHA PHI ALPHA CHAPTERS, HURRICANE GRILL & WINGS PARTNER TO RAISE MONEY FOR PREMATURE BABIES

The Iota Pi Lambda (IPL, South Miami), Eta Delta (HD, University of Miami), and Zeta Alpha Lambda (ZAL, Ft. Lauderdale) Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. in conjunction with Hurricane Grill and Wings recently raised more than \$4,600 in support of the 2019 March for Babies South Florida Fundraising Campaign.

That campaign, which was Phase II of a four-year-partnership first initiated in 2016 by ZAL chapter with Hurricane Grill and Wings, whose corporate office is located in Coral Springs, FL - one of the municipalities of Broward County, was to extend the philanthropic partnership opportunity to additional chapters in South Florida.

The collaboration involved Alpha Phi Alpha hosting a series of team hot wing eating contests called "Wings for Babies" as well as the restaurants food servers soliciting donations, resulting in the doubling of total March of Dimes donations from years past.

The competition was aired via live stream on several social media platforms, which allowed viewers to pledge their support for March of Dimes and their favorite team. The winning teams received gift cards from either Hurricane Grill and Wings or Target, while individuals with the fastest times (speed champions) received prizes supplied by local partners of the March of Dimes.

IPL's March of Dimes Team Co-Captain, Bro. Chris Stevenson, notes that "the support of our College Brothers was vital...Eta Delta was instrumental to the success of the wing eating contest."

Collectively, Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters within the two counties have raised nearly \$7,000 in support of March of Dimes.

Fouad Hatem, restaurant manager and franchise co-owner of Hurricane Grill and Wings-Kendall says that he is "committed to our cause...and the [brand] will do everything in its power to foster this relationship."

The pact hopes to expand its local partnership agreement to the fraternity's over 700 chapters located throughout the country, operating within the markets of FAT Brands, Inc. family of restaurants. FAT Brands is a leading global franchising company that strategically acquires, markets, and develops fast casual and casual dining restaurant concepts around the world. The

company currently owns seven restaurant brands - Fatburger, Buffalo's Cafe, Buffalo's Express, Hurricane Grill & Wings, Yalla Mediterranean and Ponderosa and Bonanza Steakhouses - with over 300 locations open and more than 300 under development in 32 countries.



Pictured above are representatives from the Iota Pi Lambda, Eta Delta, and Zeta Alpha Lambda Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. along with several staff members and the manager of Hurricane Grill&Wings Kendall. From left to right, Bro. Ricky Stuart (ZAL), Bro. Jonathan Cola (HD), restaurant servers and Fouad Hatem (Hurricane Grill and Wings manager), Brothers Chris Stevenson and Gilbert Estime (IPL).

The March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. began collaborating on the fraternity's Project Alpha national program in 1980. Designed to provide young men with the most current information on teen pregnancy prevention and reproductive health, Project Alpha consists of a series of workshops and informational sessions facilitated by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brothers.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that preterm birth among African American women is about 50 percent higher than the rate of preterm birth among white women. Similarly, black women are 3-4 times as likely to experience birth complications as their peers.

Further analysis suggests that the lack of adequate reproductive health education, primary care resources, and healthcare provider biases remain primary factors to women of color having elevated risk for birthing complications.

This reality hits home, personally, for several brothers in the South Florida area who have had to face the challenges of preterm birth which resulted in terminal outcomes. For these reasons, Brothers have been working diligently to both educate the community and raise funds for this noteworthy cause. **S**

SUMMER 2019

65

Privacy



IPL HOSTS RELAY FOR LIFE IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS, FLA.

In May, fifteen teams gathered at Sweet Home Baptist Church for the site's first Relay for Life event. The event, organized by Iota Pi Lambda Chapter, hosted more than 100 participants that took part in the 18-hour walk-a-thon, to raise awareness and generate funds for cancer research. Each team tent posted signage information on a different form of cancer. IPL brothers raised nearly \$800. Collectively, participants raised more than \$7,000 for the American Cancer Society.

ETA SIGMA LAMBDA

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

ETA SIGMA LAMBDA BROTHERS DEVELOP YOUNG LEADERS IN SILICON VALLEY

Brothers in the northern California recently conducted their annual Rites of Passage program for teenage boys. Each fall and winter, for 16 weeks, the brothers of Eta Sigma Lambda Chapter in San Jose, Calif., conduct the long-running mentoring and self-maturation program for teenage African-American boys living in Silicon Valley.

The program, operated in partnership with the Oriki Theater of Mountain View, takes the boys through a comprehensive and intensive journey from "boys to men." Each session ends with an authentic African-inspired passage ceremony during which the boys are "returned to the village" (i.e., their families and loved ones) ready to begin to assume the responsibilities of manhood.

Chapter brothers serve as directors on the program's board and as mentoring staff and session facilitators. Adding to the program's success is Eta Sigma Lambda's collaboration with college brothers from Epsilon Mu Chapter at San Jose State University and Nu Sigma Chapter at Stanford University. Together, they have executed the Project Alpha and Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College national programs during the sessions. Four boys completed the program this year, and over the 10-year history of the program, the chapter has facilitated the rites of passage of more than 90 boys.



Brothers from Eta Sigma Lambda and Omicron Theta Lambda Chapters, in Oakland, Calif., stand with young men who participated in the Rites of Passage program in April.

South Dade Alphas, AKAs Bring HBCU Opportunities to Homestead High

The Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (IPL) and Pi Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (PDO) partnered with Homestead Senior High School to host the school's first "Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Fair." The event's objective was to expose Homestead students to unique academic and athletic opportunities offered by institutions that were created to meet increasing education demands of African Americans.

Prior to the Civil Rights Act, African Americans faced many unprecedented challenges to gain access to education and social services during the Reconstruction Era. For a century following the abolishment of slavery in United States (in 1865), African Americans in the southern states were denied admission to post-secondary institutions to pursue higher education. Similarly, several universities across the country adopted quota policies which restricted Black American enrollment numbers to their institutions. As a result, colleges and universities were established for students of African descent to educate subsequent generations of black intellectuals and professionals of color. Currently, there are over 100 HBCUs across the continental U.S. and Caribbean islands between the private and public sectors of education. Having events like the HBCU Fair provides students with a glimpse of the rich collegiate foundation created for African Americans, recited Soror Karla Revere (WVSU Alumna and PDO HBCU for Life Chair).

The college fair featured on-site admission and scholarship opportunities for qualified students to attend some of our nation's top HBCUs. Attendees received a *Passport for Success* which contained suggested questions for college admission officers, answered general questions on securing financial aid, and provided a comprehensive list of participating schools. Soror Bonita Cooper, President of PDO, shared with attendees that "sometimes HBCUs are overlooked and overshadowed by larger colleges and universities. This fair helps to equalize the playing field-exposure is key!" Students who visited all the suggested stops to college admission were eligible to participate in raffles for cash prizes, gift cards to local attractions, or print copies of *iHover: A Parent Guide to Student Success Strategies* written by Soror Tara Turner (PDO).

Devon Grussmark, school-site College Advisor Program Counselor, shared that *the HBCU Fair at Homestead Senior High School was a truly impactful experience for the Bronco community. Thanks to our partnership with the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Pi Delta Omega*

Chapter, our students had the invaluable opportunity to be recognized for their academic excellence and gain acceptance to some of the country's top schools. They were also able to access the scholarships and grants that all students need to be successful. Additionally, our younger student body had the chance to learn about the unique experiences that these competitive HBCUs have to offer and learn how these institutions would support them in preparing for and earning a meaningful and prosperous career. It was remarkable to watch our Broncos maneuver the fair with excitement and engage with recruiters to build meaningful connections that will continue to support them through their college application process. The event; planned, organized, and facilitated by our incredibly valuable fraternity and sorority partners; is one that created new pathways that our Broncos are excited to explore! In fact, the students are excited about "what's next" and were excited to see how this partnership grows!

Following the HBCU Fair, we hosted an HBCU Admissions Boot Camp to help graduating seniors submit their last round of applications to our partner schools and scholarships. Brother Gilbert Estime, who attended both events, expressed that it was a "pleasure to be a part" of this hands-on opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth. From these combined activities, we were able to serve 1,000 students, over 110 college acceptance letters were awarded, and amass over a \$1,000,000 in renewable scholarships offers for program participants. Brother Takevess Hatcher (Homestead High Alumnus and Fall 2018 initiate of the IPL) remarked that "these events were a great way to pay forward the opportunities of exposure to college someone afforded me when I was a high schooler." The 2020 class of Broncos is composed of 350 graduating seniors.

Thank you to our HBCU partners in attendance for helping ensure the college fair's success: Howard University, Philander Smith College, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Shaw University, North Carolina Central University, Florida Memorial University, Morehouse College, Grambling State University, and Tennessee State University. Tougaloo College, Fort Valley State University, Albany State University, Savannah State University, Hampton University, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Benedict College, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina A&T University, Alabama State University, Talladega College, and Southern University also provided collateral materials to support the activity. The program helped initiate a newly forged agreement between Homestead High School and its 30 HBCU Partners to recruit students from the area and offer them sufficient support and financial resources to attend their respective universities. **S**



Don't miss out on savings. [SEE AD](#)

Obituaries

S. FLORIDA TIMES. DECEMBER 1, 2022

Irene Cara, singer-actor of 'Fame,' 'Flashdance,' at 63

ASSOCIATED PRESS. DECEMBER 1, 2022

Ga. Speaker Ralston at 68

ASSOCIATED PRESS. DECEMBER 1, 2022

UNCATEGORIZED

MIAMI ALPHAS HELPED MAKE MLK HISTORY

ROBERT BEATTY — OCTOBER 26, 2011

SHARE ON:

mlk_memoria Special to South Florida Times

While some of our brothers were attending the Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters District Conference in Tampa — winning the state's 2011 Chapter of the Year and other awards — a faithful few brothers of Beta Beta Lambda Chapter were among the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity who traveled to Washington, D.C. for the official dedication of the Dr. Martin Luther King National Memorial on Oct. 16.

This event, staged at Potomac Park adjacent to the memorial site, was televised live on TV One, C-Span and other media outlets. Thousands of people witnessed the presenters and entertainers who provided spoken word/speeches and musical interpretation on the sense of pride and achievement felt in building the only national memorial for an African American. Various speakers expressed that the continued quest for the "Beloved Community" is far from being achieved, and that civil rights, along with equal economic prosperity for all, is a goal that still must be reached for America.

BROTHER LESLIE ELUS

**Candidate for 2023
Alumni Brother of the
Year Award**

Leadership Driven by
Action, Not Position

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