



THE IDEAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
PRESENTS THE 2024

INFINITE HOPE

SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS



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IDEaL

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Greetings to Our Honored Guests,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the IDEaL Education Foundation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Infinite Hope Scholarship Gala held in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With heartfelt appreciation and gratitude, thank you for your support of the Foundation and our community partners. We are extremely excited to be able to share the great work that we've accomplished during the last year, especially as we launched our Inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Workshop for high school students last summer. This year's Gala is especially memorable as it marks thirty-one years of committed service and impact by the Foundation in the Chicagoland Community.

Generous donors like you have enabled the Foundation to award more than \$270,000 in scholarships to hundreds of high school and college students since our inception; to provide funding to over a hundred students who have attended various Leadership Development Institutes across the Midwest; to support Cub Scout Pack 350 and BSA Troop 350 in the Dolton/Riverdale/Burnham communities for over eighteen years; to mentor outstanding young men from Leo Catholic High School for the last eight years and most recently, students attending Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. College Preparatory and Kenwood Academy High Schools. Our students have graduated from college and entered the workforce as educators, engineers, scientists, physicians, computer specialists, and businessmen. Your support has opened doors for young people that otherwise may have remained closed for a lifetime.

As we celebrate thirty+ years of service, we realize there's still much more work to be done. That's why we launched a Gun Violence Prevention Initiative in partnership with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and the Black Community Provider Network (BCPN). Over 3 weekends, we mentored dozens of young men at UCAN Chicago to reduce the incidence of gun violence in the south and west sides, thus positioning them for a brighter future with endless possibilities.

We hope you enjoy the program this afternoon and we humbly request your support later in the Infinite Hope Scholarship Gala as we present additional opportunities to partner with us as we continue to make a difference in Chicago and its surrounding areas.

Yours in service,

Marcus A. Payne
Chairman, Board of Trustees, IDEaL Education Foundation





Greetings and salutations,

I am humbled as well as overjoyed to extend congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to IDeal Education Foundation as we celebrate over thirty years of dedicated service. From the very start, this organization has focused on enriching the lives of precocious young people in addition to those of our communities who have been marginalized within today's society. To say the least, it is a goal of ours to leave a lasting impression on the lives of individuals entrusted to our care by carrying out the shared vision of the members who deemed it prudent to initiate this platform so long ago. I believe that we stand on the great shoulders of the men who laid the foundation for us while at the same time, we lean for support on the shoulders of our current members, partners, and supporters.

With this in mind I especially want to thank our supporters for the many contributions, gifts in kind, volunteered time, the encouragement, and your silent partnership as you lent your talents in some effective way. It has not gone unnoticed nor do we neglect to applaud you for responding to our Macedonian call as you've so willingly come to our side to aid us in this work. If it were not for you, it would be dubious to suggest we could have made it this far!

Now I would take a moment to express to the recipients of the service and sacrifices that have been rendered. We celebrate you with the utmost praise. For it is you that have been the driving force within our hearts. It is in you scholars that we have an ineffable confidence that you will succeed in reaching your educational and professional goals. It is in the parents, guardians, chaperones, and volunteers that we do not find it difficult to see the value proposition of our involvement. For it is the progress we have witnessed from our mentees that makes it all worthwhile.

This however would not be complete without acknowledging the Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Iota Delta Lambda Chapter who are always there to continually build on that foundation. Your empathetic leadership, your character, your tenacity, and your common touch, has been an essential part of any success we could have ever attained. Thank you again for another year of service. We appreciate your willingness to spread your generosity to the broadest extent and the many ways you helped our foundation leave a profound impact.

As we build for the future, let us continue to personify the Infinite Hope of our dear Brother Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prophetically ushered into the perspective we take so very seriously in this era. In the words of the sage, "It's too early to quit but not too late to get started". From this, we glean the urgency is ever before us. The tides of indifference continue to crash upon us and the winds of change keep blowing against us but we must forge ahead, onward and upward, conscientiously pledging our lives to the uplifting of wholesome youth, helping them to transcend to New Heights.

Dr. Keith B. McGee Iota Delta Lambda, Chapter President



To the Brothers of Iota Delta Lambda,

I want to thank you for your service to the Chicagoland community. The impact that you have made on the lives of families is immeasurable.

To chapter leadership and the IDEAL Educational Foundation's leadership, I commend you on your investment in our youth, who need our guidance more now than ever.

Finally, to the planning committee for the Infinite Hope Scholarship Gala, your commitment to excellence is a testament to who we are as Alpha men and as supporters of education.

Much success on your gala!

Fraternally rooted,

Franklin Stacy, Jr.

Brother Franklin Stacy, Jr.
29th Midwestern Regional Vice President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.



THE DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Congratulates

**THE BROTHERS OF IOTA DELTA LAMBDA
ON A SUCCESSFUL INFINITE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP GALA**

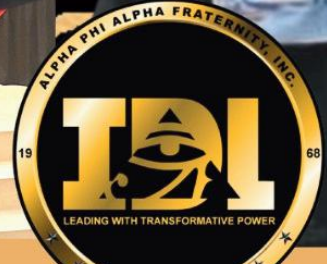


IOTA DELTA LAMBDA

LEADING WITH
TRANSFORMATIVE
POWER



505TH HOUSE OF ALPHA



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. • Mu Mu Lambda Chapter
Key# 556 • Glen Ellyn, IL

Congratulates Iota Delta Lambda's Scholarship Event!



ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED
MU MU LAMBDA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION • MU MU LAMBDA CHAPTER

KENTUCKY
DERBY
DAY PARTY

Scholarship Fundraiser

SAT. MAY. 4. 2024

1:00PM - 6:00PM

Williams Inn Pizza & Sports Bar
2210 S. Michigan Ave. • Chicago, IL 60616

Early Bird: \$75.00 • General Admission: \$125.00

Purchase Tickets at
www.TicketFalcon.com/e/2024derby/

For More Info Contact Brother Dorsey at 773.610.5429

Join
Mu Mu Lambda
on
May 4, 2024
for
Derby Day!





Congratulations



For more than three decades of unwavering
commitment to the well-being and
development of young individuals!
We also want to congratulate every
Scholarship and Community Award winner!!!





Announcing An Evening With

**5X GRAMMY AWARD
WINNING ARTIST**

Lalajah Hathaway

**XI LAMBDA
CENTENNIAL GALA**

June 15th 2024

MARRIOTT MARQUIS CHICAGO 2121 S. PRAIRIE AVE.



Congratulations to the IDeaL Education Foundation and Iota Delta Lambda Chapter on the 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Infinite Hope Scholarship Gala.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

IDEAL Education Foundation

for over 30 years of dedicated service to youth and young people!



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FOR

WORSHIP
SUNDAYS @ 11AM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

"THROUGH IT ALL SERIES"

12PM & 7PM

"PRAYER, PRAISE & PROCLAMATION"

7PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30AM

STREAM US  @MTMBC104

DR. KEITH B. MCGEE I, PASTOR

10400 South Halsted Street,
Chicago, IL 60628

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Ideal Education Foundation

for over 30 years of dedicated service to youth and young people!



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LEO

Creating possibilities for life

OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

features a rigorous curriculum that prepares our students for college, the military or the work force with an emphasis on reading, writing, math, technology and language arts.



95% Percent of students receiving financial aid or scholarships

10,000 AND COUNTING Legions of Leo Men

More than **97 YEARS** educating young Leo Men

Graduation rate over the last 12 years: **100%**

\$2,400,000 Scholarship money received by Leo's Class of 2023

230 young Leo men in the building

LeoHighSchool.org

100% enrollment increase in the last 10 years

99% Percent of parents who feel engaged in Leo

50% of faculty members are Leo Men



*Lifting our voices in song, we perform all over the city.
We march proudly in the South Side Irish Parade.*



*We compete with honor and distinction on the playing fields,
the track and the basketball court.*



*True to our Mission, we continue to educate, to inspire, to motivate.
When we graduate, on Mother's Day, we celebrate
another phenomenal year at Leo High School.*

LEO

LEO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

7901 S. Sangamon Chicago, Illinois 773-224-9600 LeoHighSchool.org

A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN A THERAPEUTIC SETTING



UNLOCK THEIR WORLD

THE KEY

Providing a path to hope for students facing a mental health challenge and/or those with ASD. Offering a therapeutic day program characterized by:

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- An ambitious curriculum paired with proper supports
- Strong fine arts + music programs
- A rich array of student co-curricular opportunities



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[OSCHOOL.ORG](https://oschool.org)



Lance Wallace, MD



Franciscan Physician Network
20939 S. Cicero
Matteson, IL 60443
708-709-9375

Medical School: Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, IL – 1990

Internship: Northwestern University – 1990-1991

Residency: Northwestern University – 1991-1993

Fellowship: Chief Medical Resident – 1993-1994

Certifications: Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine

Admitting Privileges: St. James Hospital & Health Center, Ingalls Memorial Hospital

Practicing Medicine in the South Suburbs Since: 1995

What is blood sugar?

The main sugar found in the blood and the body's main source of energy

What is diabetes?

A disorder in which blood glucose (sugar) levels are elevated

Whatever your primary healthcare needs are:

General healthcare
Diabetic treatment & education
Cholesterol treatment & education
Gynecological exam
Blood pressure screening
Asthma/Bronchitis care
Osteoarthritis
Headaches/Migraines
Plus much more

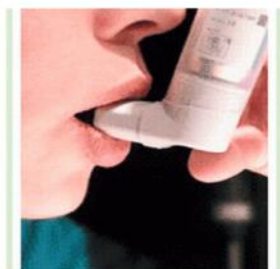
What is cholesterol?

A substance normally made by the body, but also found in foods from animal sources, like beef, eggs, and butter. Too much cholesterol in the body can lead to narrowing and blockage of the arteries

Dr. Lance Wallace is available



Blood Sugar screening



Asthma/Bronchitis Care



Headache/Migraine Care



Blood Pressure Screening

Lance Wallace, MD
Internal Medicine

Looking forward to taking care of your healthcare needs



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IDEAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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Congratulations IDeaL Education Foundation for 31 years of service and youth advocacy from
S.S. P.S.O.A.P.W | Fall '23



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INFINITE HOPE

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE
KENDALL EASTERLY



Current Academic Status:

Senior, High School: Whitney M. Young Magnet
High School

Higher Education Admission:

Northwestern University

Future Academic Pursuit:

Major: Computer Science

Personal Belief:

“Being present and helping out can make a big
difference in people’s feeling of control over
stressful situations.”



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INFINITE HOPE
SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE
MALACHI RAMSEY



Current Academic Status:

Northwestern University

Personal Belief:

"The path to success may look like an upward slope, however, true success, is right in front of you, all you must do is accept it."



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

JAMAR JACKSON



Current Academic Status:

Senior, High School: Kenwood Academy
High School

Higher Education Admission:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Future Academic Pursuit:

Major: Media Arts/Digital Media
Technology/Computer Science

Personal Belief:

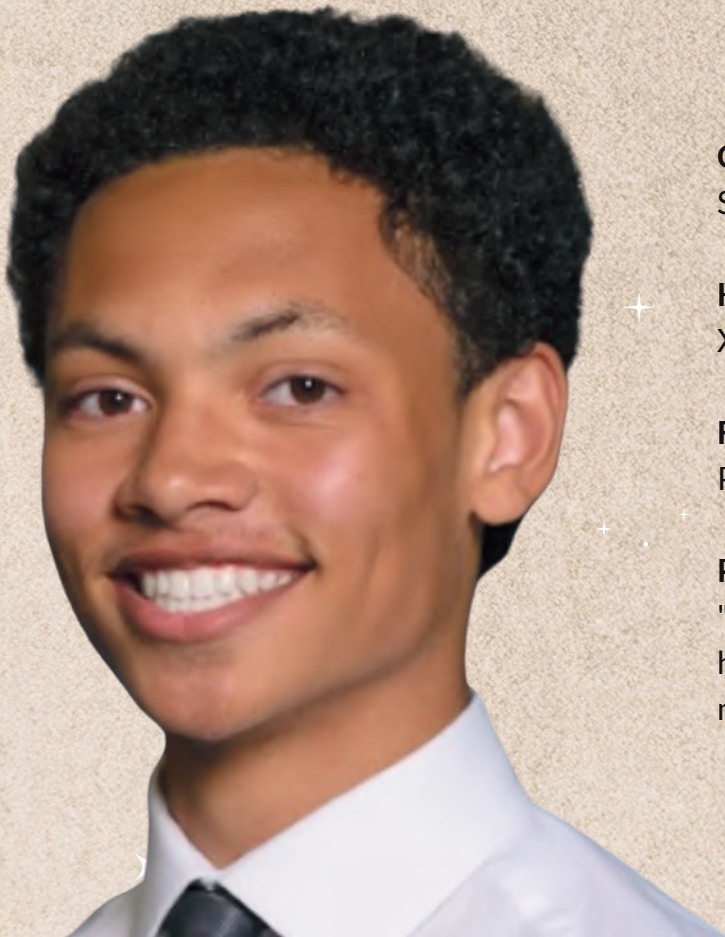
“My passion for multimedia art derives from my
desire to be present and represented in
our modern world.



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INFINITE HOPE
SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE
DANIEL MASON JR



Current Academic Status:

Senior, Neuqua Valley High School

Higher Education Admission:

Xavier University of Louisiana.

Future Academic Pursuit:

Psychology

Personal Belief:

"I wear my identity as a badge of honor, raising my head confidently as I voice my thoughts, express my words, and accomplish my goals."



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INFINITE HOPE

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE
ELIJAH COLEMAN



Current Academic Status:

Senior, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

Higher Education Admission:

Business Administration

Future Academic Pursuit:

Morehouse College

Personal Belief:

"As I've grown, I've come to understand how important it is to serve others. My personal challenges and academic journey have taught me to build confidence, empathy, and a sense of responsibility toward others."



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INFINITE HOPE
SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

ELIJAH COOPER



Current Academic Status:

Senior, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men,
Englewood Campus

Higher Education Admission:

Millikin University

Future Academic Pursuit:

Biology

Personal Belief:

"Inspired by Dr. King's words, I continue to ask myself, 'What am I doing for others?' and strive to answer through my actions, embodying the spirit of service in every endeavor."



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NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

JOSEPH VINSON



Current Academic Status:

Junior, The University of Memphis

Current Academic Pursuit:

Sports Leisure Management

Personal Belief:

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE
DAMILOLA ALIU

Current Academic Status:

Senior, Walter Payton College Prep

College/University Admitted To:

Pending Acceptance

Anticipated Major:

Engineering

Personal Belief:

“There is no doubt that racial disparities in healthcare undeniably exist and are detrimental to not only minorities but society in general. My goal is to be an engineer and through it, I hope to impact other social factors like health and racial disparities.”





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SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

JAKAI SMITH



Current Academic Status:

Junior, Chicago State University

Current Academic Pursuit:

Communication, Media Arts, and Theater

Personal Belief:

"One of my goals in going to college is to gain the ability to create change in my city and to set an example for the next generation."



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INFINITE HOPE

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

DONTE AND KUIANA
CLEAVES SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDEE

ALONTE' REYNOLDS



Current Academic Status:

Senior, Ogden International High School

Future Academic Pursuit:

Computer Science

Personal Belief:

"I've dealt with confidence issues through school but have managed to overcome fears in the classroom when needing help"



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INFINITE HOPE
SCHOLARSHIP GALA
NEW HEIGHTS

DONTE AND KUIANA
CLEAVES SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDEE
JALEN BROWN

Current Academic Status:

Senior, Lindblom Math and Science Academy

Higher Education Admission:

University of Missouri

Future Academic Pursuit:

Accounting

Personal Belief:

"When you are in a position to help somebody, it is morally wrong if you don't. To me, this is what success is in life. Being unselfish, being able to offer to people, and achieving at a high level."





THE IDEAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE 2024

INFINITE HOPE

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

SCOUTS AWARDEE

Thank You for Over a Decade
of Service and Leadership.

JEFFREY CRAY



Jeffrey, your journey with the Boy Scouts began over a decade ago, fueled by a passion for service and a desire to make a difference. In these ten years, you've exemplified the Scout Oath and Law in every endeavor, demonstrating courage, kindness, and integrity in all that you do. Your leadership has been nothing short of inspiring. As a mentor to younger Scouts, you've guided them with patience and wisdom, instilling in them the values of teamwork and perseverance. But perhaps most importantly, Jeffrey, you've shown us what it means to lead by example. Your unwavering commitment to the principles of Scouting has touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving a legacy that will endure for years to come. It is with great honor and pride that we present you with this award, recognizing your decade of service and leadership. May it serve as a symbol of our gratitude and admiration for all that you've accomplished.



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

Harmony in the Arts Award

MR. ANDRE & FRANCIS GUICHARD



Located on the first floor of the Bronzeville Artist Lofts, Gallery Guichard features a rotating collection of modern and contemporary works from numerous global artists including, Abiola Akintola, Stephen 'Sayo' Olalekan, Pearlie Taylor, Marlene Campbell, Andre Guichard, and many others.

Gallery Guichard offers a wide range of products and services, including, but not limited to, fine art sales, home and office curation packages, fine art rentals, gallery rentals, heirlooms, and portrait pieces. You can call our offices for quotes and more information.

Gallery Guichard has proven itself as the safe haven for fine art enthusiasts looking to immerse themselves in a rich culture that touches the soul!

For more information visit:

www.galleryguichard.com



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

Unsung Hero Award

DION DAWSON



Dion Dawson is a food-fighting social entrepreneur, philanthropic leader, and founder focused on health equity through an innovative and logistical lens. Dion's penchant for challenging the solvency of food insecurity through the stabilization of the supply chain has reinvigorated the traditional food distribution model and has been met with worldwide attention. With data-driven operations, consistent quality, and a deep commitment to a resident-informed process that meets residents and recipients where they are, he prioritizes the end-user experience.

Dion's Chicago Dream is to improve health outcomes & center health equity through its industry-leading approach to addressing food security at the intersection of last-mile delivery and logistics.

Dion's Dream is to use nutritional philanthropy as a catalyst to build community and transform lives. As an idea born in the heart of Englewood to give back to the community that raised him, Dion's initiative has expanded into a nonprofit social enterprise model that champions workforce development and the stabilization of food quality. Dion's Chicago Dream's Fridge, Deliveries and Vaults provide a full suite of food access solutions for the diversity needed of health equity circumstances.

For more information on Dion's Chicago Dream visit:
www.dionschicagodream.com



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

Educational Equity Award

MARCUS BROWN



Marcus Brown a social sciences teacher at William H. Ryder Math & Science Specialty School with a passion for giving back to our youth. With over ten years in the field of education. I believe that our young men need to see positive men in their lives. Men that motivate and uplift them daily.



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SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

The Legacy of Hope
Award

**DR. MARLON HAYWOOD
& THE URBAN MALE NETWORK**



Dr. Marlon Haywood was born and raised on the Southside of Chicago in the Englewood area. Never one to let his environment dictate his future, he received his Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Roosevelt University. He has a Master's Degree in Adult & Higher Education and a Bachelor's of Arts in Liberal Studies from Northern Illinois University (NIU).

Dr. Haywood's life's mission is to be a positive source of change in the lives of young people, in particular young minority men. His professional resume is one deeply rooted in service. While serving as a Transition Specialist, he noticed the completion rate for African American males who received their GED was low. To serve as an intervention, he developed the male mentoring program Urban Male Initiative, a program that provided academic support to first-generation male students at Malcolm X College. Dr. Haywood has expanded his work to include elementary and high schools, where he started Urban Male Network, a non-profit organization to works with teenage male youth in Chicago.

For more information on Dr. Haywood visit:

<https://www.urbanmalenetwork.org/about-us>



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HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

Hopeful Minds Award

VENITA ABRAMS



Venita "Queen" Abrams-Credit is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. An alumna of Columbia College, a dedicated Chicago Public School Drama Teacher, a Motivational Speaker, a Poet, a Mother, a Grandmother, Playwright, she has written over 30 plays, including her new play "Addiction" a profound exploration of Self-manipulation, betrayal, and deception set to debut Dec. 7th & 8th 2024, adds another layer to her legacy of impactful storytelling, author of 2 booked, 3rd book "From The Inside Out, an autobiography that relives highs, lows and lessons learned in each chapter of her life. It will be an inspiration and encouragement to others. It's to be released in Spring 2024. As a Wife, Abrams completed not one but two Master's degrees and will start her Ph.D. in the Fall of 2024—three soul-stirring soundtracks.

"Shattered, But Not Broken," a poetic collection, echoes the blues of life's challenges and the praises of triumph. "Prince C.J.," a motivational children's book, speaks to the hearts of the young, planting seeds of inspiration. In 1991, the seeds of Queen's vision sprouted into NeKe's Theatre Company, a Non-Profit (501c3) organization that hosts Drama Summer Camp for children from 6 to 18 years old. This entity, born out of a desire to inspire, took to the streets of Chicago, touching lives with inspirational theatrical productions involving children and adults. The city's papers chronicled her involvement in community theatrical projects, painting a vivid picture of the impact of art on transformation.

For more information on Ms. Abrams visit:

www.nekestheater.com



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HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

STEM Pioneer Award

CORNELIUS GRIGGS



Cornelius was raised as a ward of the state for most of his childhood and grew up in the City's toughest neighborhoods, including Cabrini Green and the Austin communities on the West side of Chicago. His relationship with his grandfather, along with other mentors enabled him to overcome adversity and uncomfortable circumstances. His pursuit of knowledge led to degrees from Chicago State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Northwestern University. Cornelius also honorably served his country during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, completing two tours in Qatar and Iraq earning him an Army Commendation Medal. Cornelius is the President of GMA Construction Group ("GMA"), a Minority and Veteran-owned small business that provides General Contracting, Construction Management, Design-Build, and Cost Engineering services. He is also the President of GRE Ventures LLC ("GRE"), a real estate development company focusing on building affordable housing in disadvantaged communities. Cornelius's story is not just one of professional achievements but also profound community engagement and service. He has served in numerous capacities, including as a Board Member for Introspect Youth Services, and Commissioner at the City of Chicago Community Development Commission.



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HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

Urban Vanguard Award

PASTOR JOHN H. HANNAH & THE GREENWOOD OASIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New Life Covenant Southeast Church Senior Pastor, bestselling author, and acclaimed speaker Pastor John F. Hannah, alongside the Greenwood Oasis board of directors, are dedicated to propelling our event space to new heights. Our mission centers on fostering growth and community transformation in Greater Grand Crossing and the south side of Chicago. Through diverse events and job initiatives, we aim to ignite cultural and economic progress, leaving a lasting impact.

"The Movement," a 13-foot outdoor art installation by a renowned artist, symbolizes positive momentum in the community. Crafted from unconventional materials, the stainless steel sculpture features seven dancers, embodying the spirit of progress. Pastor Hannah emphasizes its role in showcasing urban art creatively and fostering community expectations.

Board Member Brittany Applegate underscores the significance of "The Movement" as a symbol of the South side's positive trajectory, instilling hope and creativity. Like Chicago's iconic "Cloud Gate," or "The Bean," it is poised to become a historic landmark, uniting communities and inspiring creativity. The official unveiling is slated for 2024.





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INFINITE HOPE

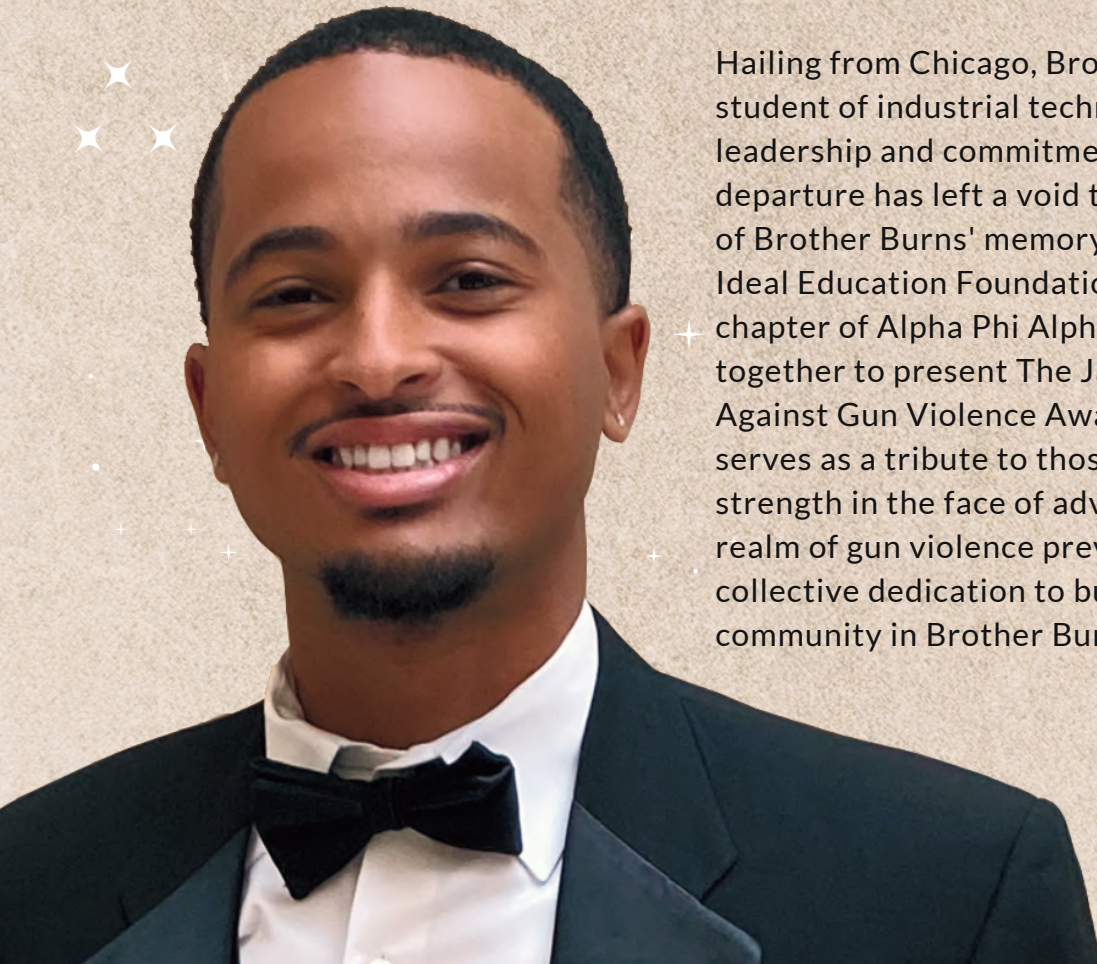
SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NEW HEIGHTS

HONORS COMMUNITY AWARDEE

The Jaylen Burns Guardians
Against Gun Violence Award

BRO. JAYLEN BURNS



Hailing from Chicago, Brother Burns was a dedicated student of industrial technology at JSU, admired for his leadership and commitment to service. His untimely departure has left a void that cannot be filled. In honor of Brother Burns' memory and our shared mission, The Ideal Education Foundation and The Iota Delta Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. come together to present The Jaylen Burns Guardians Against Gun Violence Award to his parents. This award serves as a tribute to those who display unwavering strength in the face of adversity, particularly in the realm of gun violence prevention. It symbolizes our collective dedication to building a safer, more resilient community in Brother Burns' honor.



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Congratulates IDEaL
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