



## National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

### EASTERN REGION

[www.nspdkeasternregion.org](http://www.nspdkeasternregion.org)

Dr. Patsy O. Squire, *Eastern Regional Director*



## July 2020



Dear Graduating Seniors,

We're elated to see you arrive at this great milestone in your life. You prevailed, even though proms, graduations, and our 72<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Region Youth Conference came to a halt due to COVID-19. Within four months this year, we witnessed several historical events. The protests to support the "Black Lives Matter" Movement. A movement to reform many societal issues such as: Police Brutality, Voter Suppression, Poor Schools, and Economic Disparities., Then we celebrated Juneteenth, rejoicing the day slaves were freed in Galveston, Texas two years after The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863. You have education, experiences, and memories that can't be taken from you. Your senior year 2020 is one for the history books. Congratulations! You Made It!

Thank you for allowing the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated to be a part of your Village. We encourage you to find your Why? To find your purpose. Like birds, we're gently pushing you out the nest to fly, to soar towards your purpose, to serve others, and to pursue your educational and career goals. **Purpose** and **Passion** are two powerful forces: purpose is the very reason something exists, and passion is the enthusiasm and excitement that drives one's actions. According to Roy T. Bennett, "If you have a strong purpose in life, you don't have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there."

Hopefully, out of purpose and passion, you will find a way to serve others. I challenge you not to be afraid of your journey, but to lean on our Creator for strength and take one day at a time. You have what it takes to reach your goals. The Village consisting of parents, relatives, educators, peers, mentors, elders, churches, and the community have made deposits to your being, to your spirit, and to your soul. The world awaits your greatness. In the words of the Songwriter, Audra Day, "It's your time to Rise Up!"

It's your time to Rise Up!  
And move mountains  
You're gonna rise up  
like the day  
You'll rise up unafraid

You'll rise up  
High like the waves  
You'll rise up  
In spite of the ache  
You'll rise up  
And do it a thousand times again  
When the silence isn't quiet  
And when it feels like it's getting hard to breathe  
And you feel like you're dying  
But I promise you'll take the world to its feet  
And move mountains  
All we need is hope  
And for that we have each other  
We'll rise up  
And we'll do it a thousand times again

Sincerely,

*Dr. Patsy O. Squire*

Dr. Patsy O. Squire  
NSPDK Inc., Eastern Regional Director

A large, 3D-rendered number '2020' in a vibrant red color with a gold metallic sheen and a slight shadow beneath it, set against a plain white background.





*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"*

**Galatians 6:9**

Just when I was concentrating fully on this newsletter, grateful for the opportunity to distract me from the 'pandemic', social unrest, voting irregularities, and my own personal concerns, yet another Black man is murdered by a policeman. When I organized the collage of Black victims of police killings, the picture of Rayshard Brooks (as the most recent victim) wasn't included. Over and over again since the killing of George Floyd, victims' families, community leaders, clergy, politicians, and even news media personalities are all saying the same thing, **'we're just tired'**. Watching family members conduct press conferences with dignity and composure, when full of frustration and distraught, encouraging protesters to engage in peaceful / non-violent demonstrations as to not destroy businesses, landmarks, and property – while at the same time, seeing and hearing them plead for justice as the tears pour from the eyes of heavy hearts and weary souls.

*"The battle is in our hands. And we can answer with creative nonviolence the call to higher ground to which the new directions of our struggle summons us. (Yes, sir) The road ahead is not altogether a smooth one. (No) There are no broad highways that lead us easily and inevitably to quick solutions. **But we must keep going.**" Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

But, we are sick and tired of being sick and tired. Some describe what's happening as "it feels different this time, like something positive and good is happening". People comment on how the demonstrators are diverse this time, that the videos of the killings speak for themselves, that we won't be ignored this time. So, I take solace in the assignment assigned to my hands, our Eastern Region Newsletter.

Great things are happening in the Eastern Region and with our sorority! We have a praying leadership. Our Supreme Basileus, Eastern Regional Director, and

sorors continue praying for our world, country, leaders, students, families, and for each other. Lifting up the name of Jesus to deliver us from all that seek to rob us of the promised joy we have as God's own.

Hope you enjoy seeing the faces of your graduating Xinos and Kudos. They should put a smile on your faces. Our youth should be celebrated for all of their achievements and accomplishments amid new educational challenges and learning shifts. As educators, we too share in their disappointments at not being able to participate in those senior rights-of-passage activities like the prom, class trip, graduation, awards and student recognition programs. But, being the administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, and support personnel that we are – we've found creative ways to make some things happen for our graduates and their families. School districts and our chapters truly extended

themselves to make **The Class of 2020** unforgettable.

Kudos sorors for delivering our programs during a time such as this! Perhaps out of necessity, but nonetheless, even the reticent among us, are on board with technology, *now*. Various technology platforms allowed chapters to continue our programs: chapter meetings, see and talk with each other, have our Founders' Day service and program, see the men in our lives interact and read to children, worship and pray together, and explore various resources to help us plan what's next.

Keep the faith sorors and don't you get weary. Looking forward to seeing you at the Eastern Regional Conference in July.

Clarena S. Jones  
Public Relations Director,  
Eastern Region

**Rayshard Brooks**  
**Atlanta, GA**



# Class of 2020

Hi, everybody! Aniyah, thank you for that beautiful introduction. I could not be prouder of everything you've done in your time with the Obama Foundation. And, of course, I couldn't be prouder of all of you in the graduating class of 2020. As well as the teachers, and the coaches, and most of all, parents and family who guided you along the way.

Now, graduating is a big achievement under any circumstances. Some of you have had to overcome serious obstacles along the way. Whether it was an illness, or a parent losing a job, or living in a neighborhood where people too often count you out. Along with the usual challenges of growing up, all of you have had to deal with the added pressures of social media, reports of school shootings, and the specter of climate change. And then, just as you're about to celebrate having made it through, just as you've been looking forward to proms and senior nights, graduation ceremonies, and — let's face it — a whole bunch of parties, the world has turned

upside down by a global pandemic. And as much as I'm sure you love your parents, I'll bet that being



stuck at home with them and playing board games or watching Tiger King on TV is not exactly how you envisioned the last few months of your senior year.

Now, I'll be honest with you. The disappointments of missing a live graduation, those will pass pretty quick. I don't remember much of my own high school graduation. I know that not having to sit there and listen to a commencement speaker isn't all that bad. Mine usually go on way too long. Also, not that many people look great in those caps. Especially if you have big ears like me. And you'll have plenty of time to catch up with your friends once the immediate public health crisis is over. But what remains true is that your graduation marks your passage into adulthood. The

time when you begin to take charge of your own life. It's when you get to decide what's important to you — what kind of career you want to pursue. Who you want to build a family with. The values you want to live by. And given the current state of the world, that may be kind of scary.

If you planned on going away to college, getting dropped off at campus in the fall, that's no longer a given. If you were planning to work while going to school, finding that first job is going to be tougher. Even families that are relatively well-off are dealing with massive uncertainty. Those who were struggling before, they're hanging on by a thread. All of which means that you're going to have to grow up faster than some generations.

This pandemic has shaken up the status quo and laid bare a lot of our country's deep-seated problems. From massive economic inequality, to ongoing racial disparities, to a lack of basic health care for people who need it. It's woken a lot of young people

up to the fact that the old ways of doing things just don't work. And it doesn't matter how much money you make, if everyone around you is hungry and sick. And that our society and democracy only work when we think not just about ourselves, but about each other.

It's also pulled the curtain back on another hard truth, something that we all have to eventually accept once our childhood comes to an end. You know all those adults that you used to think were in charge and knew what they were doing? Turns out they don't have all the answers. A lot of them aren't even asking the right questions. So, if the world's gonna get better, it's gonna be up to you. That realization may be kind of intimidating, but I hope it's also inspiring. With all the challenges this country faces right now, nobody can tell you, "No, you're too young to understand." Or, "This is how it's always been done." Because with so much uncertainty, with everything suddenly up for grabs, this is your generation's world to shape.

Since I'm one of the old guys, I won't tell you what to do with this power that rests in your hands. But I'll leave you

with three quick pieces of advice — first, don't be afraid. America's gone through tough times before. Slavery, civil war, famine, disease, the Great Depression, and 9/11. And each time, we came out stronger. Usually because a new generation — young people like you — learned from past mistakes and figured out how to make things better.

Second, do what you think is right. Doing what feels good — what's convenient, what's easy — that's how little kids think. Unfortunately a lot of so-called grownups — including some with fancy titles and important jobs — still think that way, which is why things are so screwed up. I hope that instead, you decide to ground yourself in values that last. Like honesty, hard work, responsibility, fairness, generosity, respect for others. You won't get it right every time, you'll make mistakes like we all do. But if you listen to the truth that's inside yourself — even when it's hard, even when it's inconvenient — people will notice. They'll gravitate towards you, and you'll be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

And finally, build a community. No one does big things by themselves. Right

now, when people are scared, it's easy to be cynical and say, "Let me just look out for myself or my family or people who look or think or pray like me." But if we're gonna get through these difficult times, if we're gonna create a world where everybody has opportunities to find a job and afford college, if we're gonna save the environment and defeat future pandemics, then we're gonna have to do it together.

So be alive to one another's struggles. Stand up for one another's rights. Leave behind all the old ways of thinking that divide us — sexism, racial prejudice, status, greed. And set the world on a different path. When you need help, Michelle and I have made it the mission of our foundation to give young people like you the skills and support to lead in your own communities. And to connect you with other young leaders around the country and around the globe. But, the truth is, you don't need us to tell you what to do, because in so many ways, you've already started to lead.

Congratulations, class of 2020. Keep making us proud.

**President Barack Obama's Commencement Speech, "Dear Class of 2020"**

# Congratulations

## Gladys Merritt Ross Memorial Scholarship

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**HUNTER SAMUEL**  
Epsilon Alpha Chapter

**CHASE KNOX**  
XI Chapter



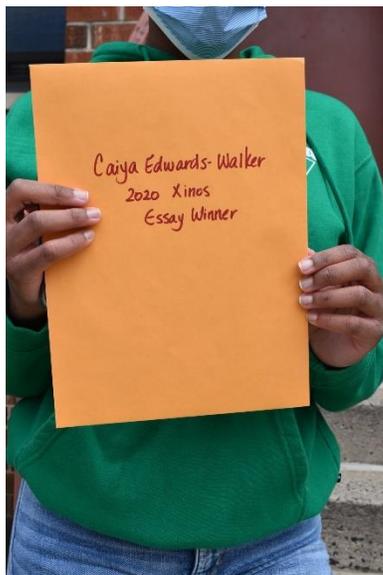
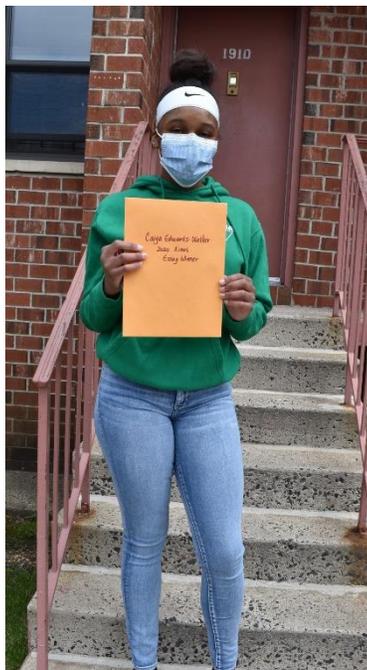
2020

YOUTH CONFERENCE ESSAY WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS

**CAIYA EDWARDS-WALKER**

**ALPHA CHAPTER**



***This Soror just completed her Ed.D.!***

Dr. Tara Vanessa Dowdell  
will be hooded virtually  
on

September 18, 2020

at 9:00 AM by

Dr. Heather Welzant,  
Dean of Education

She also received two Post  
Master's Certificates in  
Curriculum and Instruction and  
Leadership and Accountability.



**Congratulations**

**Soror**

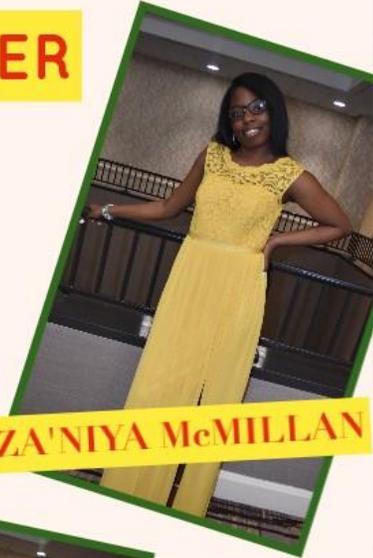
**Dr. Tara**

**Dowdell**

**ALPHA CHAPTER**



**KENYA WOODSON**



**ZA'NIYA McMILLAN**



**RACQUEL PETIT-FRERE**



PICCOLLAGE



**ISAIAH MOSES**

**TAHSHAUN TOWNES**



PICCOLLAGE

*Congratulations!*

## ALPHA GRADUATES

Racquel Petit-Frere  
Donald M. Payne Sr. HS  
Montclair State University  
Music Education

Za'Niya McMillan  
Henry Snyder HS  
Hudson County Community College  
Culinary Arts

Isaiah Moses  
Henry Snyder HS  
Hudson County Community College

Tahshaun Townes  
Bayonne HS  
DeVry University

Kenya Woodson  
Hudson County Schools of Technology-County Prep  
St. Peter's University  
Special Education / Mathematics



*Congrats!*  
JASON TWUM-BARIMAH  
CLASS OF 2020  
INDIANA UNIV. OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

# GAMMA CHAPTER



*Congrats!*  
SHELBY LEWIS  
CLASS OF 2020  
WEST CHESTER  
UNIVERSITY



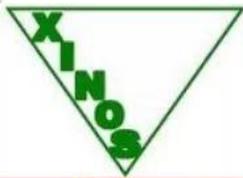
*Congrats!*  
CARL SHORT, JR.  
CLASS OF 2020  
BALTIMORE CITY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*Congrats!*  
ANTONIO JOHNSON  
CLASS OF 2020  
U.S. NAVY



*Congrats!*  
ANYSA THOMAS  
CLASS OF 2020  
GOING INTO  
THE WORKCOLLAGE



## National Decision Day 2020 Gamma Xinos & Kudos



Shelby Lewis



Alicia Copeland



Carl Short, Jr.



mlewis5



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
OF PENNSYLVANIA



*Congratulations!*

## GAMMA GRADUATES

Jason Twum-Barimah

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Antonio Johnson

United States Navy

Shelby Lewis

West Chester University

Carl Short, Jr.

Baltimore City Community College

Anysa Thomas

Going into the Workforce



**EPSILON CHAPTER  
KENNEDY MINOR  
XINOS Treasurer  
West Virginia  
University**

**Not Pictured:**

**MYRA CUFFEE**



**THETA CHAPTER  
DAMANI  
MADIR**

**Christ the King HS  
Ithaca College  
Sports Media and  
Broadcasting**





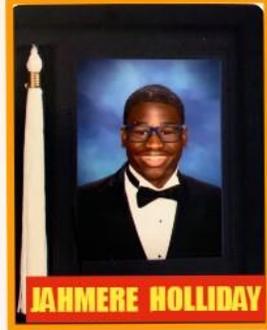
**CLIFTON BERRY**



**CHASE KNOX**

**XI CHAPTER**

**GRADUATES**



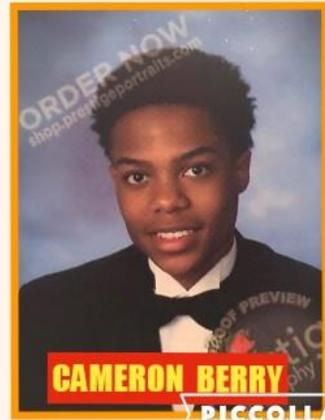
**JAHMERE HOLLIDAY**



**AKIRA SWAIN**



**JADA SEARCY**



**CAMERON BERRY**

PICCOLLAGE

**XI CHAPTER**

**SENIOR PARADE and AWARDS CEREMONY**

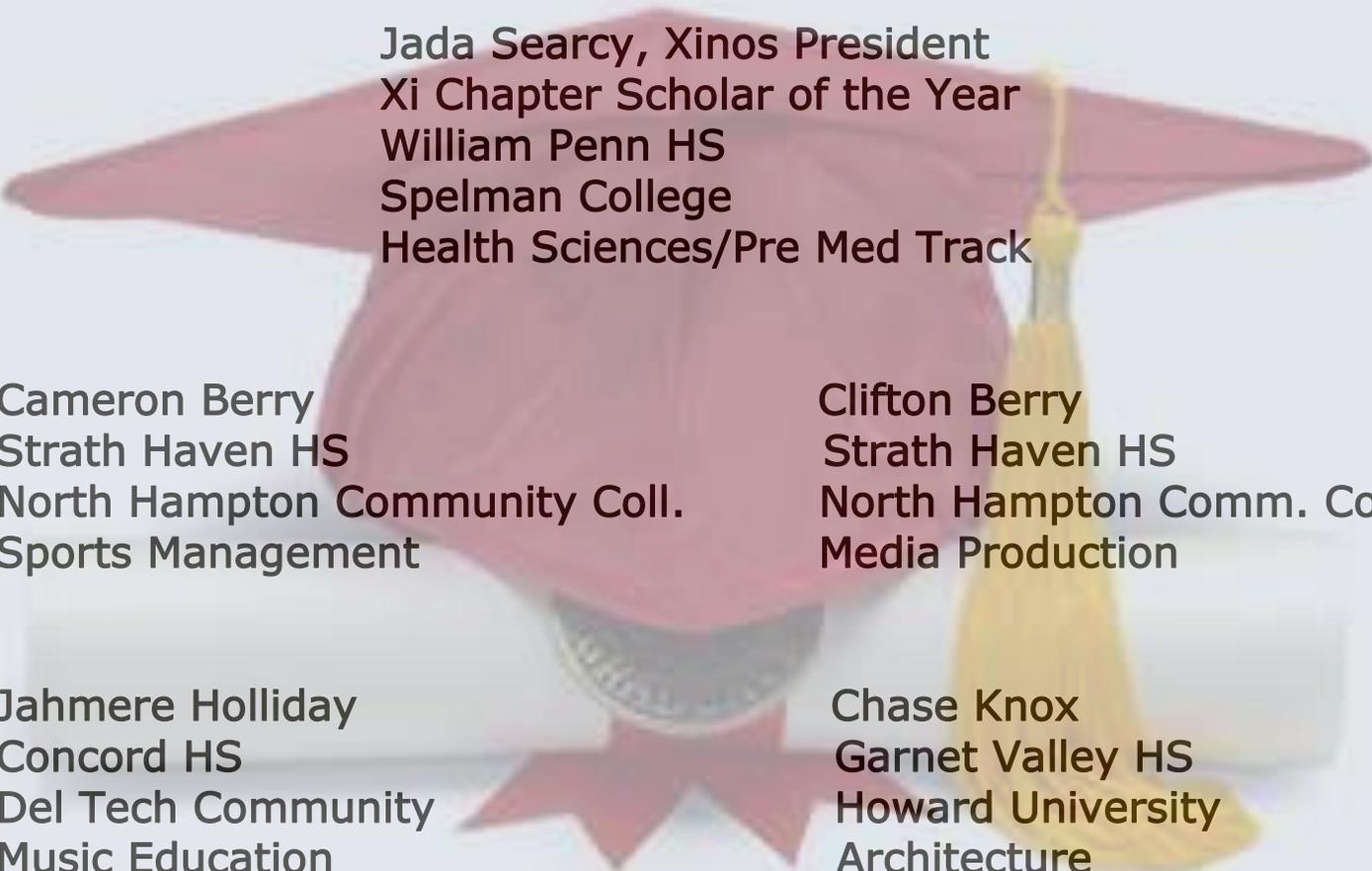


PICCOLLAGE



# *Congratulations!*

## XI CHAPTER GRADUATES



Jada Searcy, Xinos President  
Xi Chapter Scholar of the Year  
William Penn HS  
Spelman College  
Health Sciences/Pre Med Track

Cameron Berry  
Strath Haven HS  
North Hampton Community Coll.  
Sports Management

Clifton Berry  
Strath Haven HS  
North Hampton Comm. Coll.  
Media Production

Jahmere Holliday  
Concord HS  
Del Tech Community  
Music Education

Chase Knox  
Garnet Valley HS  
Howard University  
Architecture

Akira Swain  
William Penn HS  
Del Tech Community College  
Biology



DAJOURNAY GREEN



MACKENZIE DIXON



MAKAI REESE



JASMINE HAYES

PICCOLLAGE

# *Congratulations!*

## PI GRADUATES

Mackenzie Dixon  
The College of NJ  
Law School

Jasmyn Hayes  
Mercer County Community College  
Doctorate in Psychology

Dajournay Green  
Morgan State University  
Registered Nurse

Makai Reese  
William Paterson University  
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

# RHO CHAPTER



**IVANA THOMPSON**



**TARYN DENNIS**



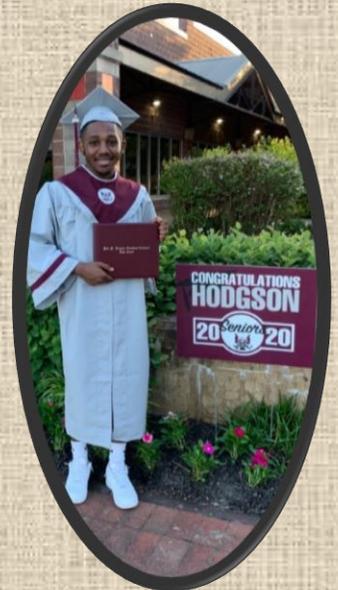
**MAYA BIRCHETT**



**ASIAH GREEN**



**JADE TATUM**



**JADEN SMITH**

# *Congratulations!*



## RHO GRADUATES

MAYA BIRCHETT

TARYN DENNIS  
Mount Pleasant HS  
Hampton University

ASIAH GREEN  
Middletown HS  
Delaware State University

JADEN SMITH  
Hodgson Vo-Tech School  
Delaware Technical Community College

IOTA

JADE TATUM  
Appoquinomink HS  
Delaware Technical Community College

IVANA THOMPSON

\*\*\* IOTA CHAPTER - VITORIA TAYLOR



# National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

Beta Lambda Chapter \* Winston-Salem, NC \* Donna H. Mickens, Basileus

## 2020 GRADUATES

### XINOS

**Kaylan Brock** - Atkins Academic & Technology High School \* Winston-Salem, NC  
She will attend North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC in the fall, where she will be majoring in Biomedical Science.



**Cierra Godfrey** – (Dual Enrollment) Quality Education Academy  
Winston-Salem, NC and Forsyth Technical Community College. She will be attending North Carolina A & T State University in the fall, majoring in biology. Here career goal is to become an Obstetrician – Gynecologist.



**Kimberly Gregg** – Atkins Academic & Technology High School \* Winston-Salem, NC  
She will be attending North Carolina Central University in the fall, where she will be majoring in Psychology.



**Raja Huntley** - Atkins Academic & Technology High School  
She plans to attend Fayetteville State University in the fall, where she will major in Biology (Pre-Med). Her career goal is to become a Pediatrician.



**Jada Moye** – Parkland Magnet High School \* Winston-Salem, NC  
She will be attending North Carolina Central University in the fall, where she will be majoring in Criminal Justice.



**Cheyenne Payne** – R. J. Reynolds High School \* Winston-Salem  
She will be attending Forsyth Technical Community College in the fall, where she will major in Nursing.



### KUDOS

**Bryson Holmes** - Atkins Academic & Technology High School  
He will be attending University of North Carolina – Charlotte, where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.



**Jarred Smith** – Atkins Academic & Technology High School  
in Winston-Salem, NC. He will be attending Guilford College in Greensboro, NC in the fall, where he will major in Sports Medicine.



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS



BETA OMICRON  
KUDOS

KEEP GOING  
KEEP GROWING  
KEEP GLOWING

CLASS OF 2020



**Carson Fronerberger (President)**

Carson will be attending Rutgers University at New Brunswick, New Jersey, he wants to work in Mathematics, cyber security, interested in learning algorithm and machine learning- the neural network teaches itself.

Outstanding information- He's excited, being the Kudos president was a very interesting experience and a nice opportunity for him to cultivate his leadership skills. , really liked working with his Kudos brothers, Terell C. and Christopher P. This summer, Carson is tutoring with an organization- TOP tutors and he is extremely excited about it!

**Carl Smith Jr. (Treasurer)**

Carl has applied to several schools in New York such as, St. John's University, John Jay College, Baruch College, StonyBrook University and Hunter College. As of date due to COVID-19 he is still awaiting to hear back from the colleges and universities. He would like to major in Business Administration or if attending John Jay College his major would be Criminal Justice.

Outstanding: Carl became an Eagle Scout as of Jan 2020. He was head Staff of the Senior YearBook Committee. Prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Carl was an After School Teacher Aide - Elementary Home work/ Sports. Honor Roll -Math is his highest honor.

*Congratulations!* 

## BETA OMICRON GRADUATES

### **Xinos President - Sade Charles**

Graduate of York Early College Academy High School - Jamaica, Queens NY

Accrued 50 College Credits

Honors - Principals List / Honor Society / Xinos of the Year

Attending - Buffalo State College in the Fall - Major: Business Administration

### **Xinos Vice President - Jada Smith**

Graduate of Saint Francis Preparatory School - Fresh Meadows, Queens NY

Honors - Principals List / Honor Society in Art / Xinos of the Year

Attending Long Island University in the Fall - Major: Film and Business

### **Xinos Resident Artist - Ashley Tedder**

Graduate of Queens High School of Teaching - Bellrose Queens, New York

Principals List / Honor Society / Art Scholar of the Year

Attending Queens College City University of New York - Kew Gardens Hills, NY

Major: Speech Pathology

**MAKENNA LANGSTON**  
Virginia State University



**ASHTON DUNNING**  
McDonald College



**D  
E  
L  
T  
A  
  
N  
U  
  
C  
H  
A  
P  
T  
E  
R**

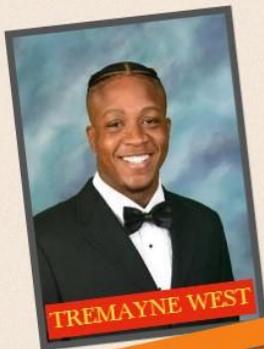
**CHRISTOPHER TOMISON**  
St. Peter's College



**EMMANUEL McGRIFF**  
Bergen Community College



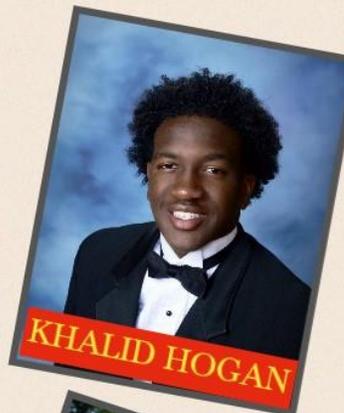
**DELTA PI CHAPTER**



**TREMAYNE WEST**

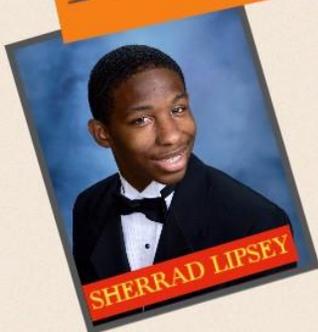


**KERVINS RACINE**



**KHALID HOGAN**

**KUDOS**



**SHERRAD LIPSEY**



**SIMON REDDICK, IV**



**RANDAL JOHNSON**



**KENJUAN HOWLAND**

PICCOLLAGE

**DELTA PI CHAPTER**

**XINOS**



**GERFRANE DORIELAN**



**DYANI MIDDLEBROOKS**



**LAUREN CULLARS**



**CHEENA ALSTON**



PICCOLLAGE

# Congratulations!

## DELTA PI GRADUATES

**Kervins Racine, Kudos President**  
East Orange HS \*\*\* *Salutatorian*  
Rutgers University  
Political Science  
Administration Management

**Lauren Cullars**  
Lincoln University  
Criminal Justice  
Forensic Science

**Khalid Hogan**  
Hillside HS  
NJ Institute of Technology  
Mechanical Engineering

**Randal Johnson**  
East Orange Campus  
Russel Sage University Albany, NY  
Nursing

**Dyani Middlebrooks**  
Hillside HS  
Essex County College  
Nursing

**Cheena Alston, Xinos President**  
Weequahic HS  
Essex County Comm. College  
Mathematics / Chemistry

**Gerfrane Dorielan**  
Hillside HS  
Union County Comm. College  
Business Management-AAS

**Kenjuan Howard**  
Newark Collegiate Academy  
Essex County Comm. College  
Computer Science

**Sherrad Lipsey**  
Hillside HS  
Union County College  
Undecided

**Simon Reddick, IV**  
North Star Academy  
St. Rose College, Albany, NY  
Computer Science

**Tremayne West**  
Newark Eagle Academy for Young Men of Newark  
Essex County College  
Business Administration



*Congratulations!*

## EPSILON ALPHA GRADUATES

**SIERRA COLVA**  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Nurse

**CIARA DUKES**  
Rutgers University  
Nursing

**AMOURA GARISON**  
Morgan State University  
Business/Entrepreneurship School

**ALLANI MENA-HERRERA**  
Rowan University  
Biochemistry

**HUNTER SAMUEL**  
Bowie State University  
**XINOS EASTERN REGION SCHOLAR  
OF THE YEAR**  
Full Scholarship to Bowie State

**VERA CRUZ**  
Morgan State University  
Psychology

**KYRA EASON**  
Bowie State University  
Nursing  
Guuliana Velona Memorial  
Scholarship  
The Elizabeth & Robert Carolan  
Endowed Scholarship

**ASIA JONES**  
Howard University  
Biology

**MAHIYAH SAMPSON**  
Kean University  
Political Science  
Business & Soc. Stud. Honor Society  
National Congressional Black Caucus  
Spouses Education Scholarship

**RAVEN WORLEY**  
Hampton University  
Broadcast Journalism

*Congratulations!*

## EPSILON ALPHA GRADUATES

**TAHJ BEAN**

Montclair State University  
Network Administrator (IT SYSTEMS)  
Academic Scholarships Recipient

**ASARE BAMPOE-PARRY**

Rutgers University  
Doctorate  
\$15,000 Academic Scholarship  
\$5,000 Track & Field New Jersey  
Rising Scholar

**JORDAN LEAKE**

Shippensburg University  
Structural Management Engineering  
Deacon Reginal J. Johnson Legacy Book Award

**STEPHEN MILLER**

Mercer County Community College  
Entertainment Technology

**MICHAEL MORRIS**

Rider University  
Business

## Michelle Obama to the Class of 2020: “Do Not Despair, You All Are Exactly What We Need”



Hey everybody. It is an honor to be here with you to help celebrate this amazing milestone in your lives. Graduation from college or high school is a culmination of years of hard work. So please enjoy this moment. You deserve this celebration. Congratulations. This is an important time of transition in light of the current state of our country. I struggled to find the right words of wisdom for you today. So I am here today to talk to you, not as the former first lady, but as a real life person, a mother, a mentor, a citizen concerned about your future and the future of our country. Because right now, all that superficial stuff of titles and positions, all of that has been stripped away.

A lot of us are reckoning with the most basic essence of who we are. Over these past couple of months, our foundation has been shaken, not just by a pandemic that stole too many of our loved

ones, up ended our daily lives and sent tens of millions into unemployment. But also by the rumbling of the age old fault lines that our country was built on the lines of race and power that are now once again. So nakedly exposed for all of us to grapple with.

So if any of you are scared or confused or angry or just plain overwhelmed by it all, if you feel you're searching for lifeline just to steady yourself, you are not alone. I am feeling all of that too. I think we all are. So I want you to know that it's okay to be confused. It's okay if you don't understand exactly what you're feeling, we're all sorting through this in real time. But here's the thing, while this period is certainly unprecedented, it is not a complete anomaly, simply some random coincidence to be dismissed. Now what's happening right now is the direct result of decades of unaddressed, prejudice, and inequality.

The truth is when it comes to all those tiny stories of hard work and self determination that we'd like to tell ourselves about America.

Well, the reality is a lot more complicated than that because for too many people in this country, no matter how hard they work, there are structural barriers working against them that just make the road longer and rockier. And sometimes it's almost impossible to move upward at all, because if you're required to work during a pandemic, but don't have enough protective equipment or health insurance from your employer or paid sick leave, what is more essential, your work or your life. If you don't feel safe driving your own car in your own neighborhood or going for a jog or buying some candy at 7-eleven or bird watching. If you can't even approach the police without fearing for your life. Well, then how do

you begin to chart your own course?

And as so often as the case, these questions compound upon themselves, see if you're struggling already just to keep your head above water. If you're living in a constant state of fear, how much farther behind will you be after months in quarantine and without a job. These are uncomfortable questions, questions that have dogged this country for generations, but are now staring us in the face. Every time we look at our phones or hear helicopters circling our neighborhoods. The tough part is nobody has all the answers. If my generation did trust me, we'd have fixed the whole of this long time ago, but that doesn't mean we should feel hopeless. Just the opposite, because what we finally do have is focus. We see what's happening in stark relief. We see how these inequalities are playing out on our streets, and it's not just the communities most affected by these challenges that see it now.

It's folks all across the country who for too long have had the luxury and privilege of looking away. We all have no choice, but to see what has been staring us in the face for years, for centuries. So the question is, how will we respond? Like I said before, I don't have any easy answers for you, but I do have some lessons I want to share about how to move forward in these tumultuous times. The first is this life will always be uncertain. It is a lesson that most of us get the chance to learn over the course of years and years, even decades, but one that you're learning right now. This is a time in your life when it feels like everything is turned upside down and perhaps you're wishing that things could just go back to the way they were. Look, I've been there many times in my life.

I felt it most profoundly when my father and my best friend died within a year of each other. I was in my late 20s. Oh and it felt like my whole world was collapsing in on itself. I would have given anything, anything to

bring them back. But that experience gave me a kind of clarity with everything and pieces around me, I had to forge a new path. A path, fortunately, more focused on meaning and service. So graduates, I hope that what you're going through right now can be your wake up call that it pushes you, not just to think about what kind of career you want to build. What kind of person do you want to be? Here's the thing, you have the opportunity to learn these valuable lessons faster than the generations before you. You can learn them together as a cohort of young people ready to take on the world, no matter how tumultuous it may be.

That leads me to my second lesson, in an uncertain world time tested values like honesty and integrity, empathy and compassion. That's the only real currency in life. Treating people right will never ever fail you. Now, I'm not naive. I know that you can climb a long way up the ladder selling falsehoods and blaming others for your own shortcomings, shunning those with less

privilege and advantage. But that is a heavy way to live. It deadens your spirit and it hardens your heart may seem like a winning strategy in the short run. But trust me, graduates that kind of life catches up to you. You rob yourself of the things that matter most. Deep and loving connections with others, honest work that leads to lasting contributions to your community. The vibrancy that comes from a diversity of ideas and perspectives, the chance to leave this world a little better than you found it.

Don't deprive yourselves of all that. There is no substitute for it. Instead, make a decision to use your privilege and your voice for the things that really matter, which is my third lesson today, to share that voice with the rest of the world. For those of you who feel invisible, please know that your story matters, your ideas matter, your experiences matter, your vision for what our world can and should be matters. So don't ever, ever let anyone tell you that you're too angry or that you should keep your mouth shut. There will always be those who

want to keep you silent. To have you be seen, but not heard. Maybe they don't even want to see you at all, but those people don't know your story. If you listen to them, then nothing will ever change. So it's up to you to speak up when you or someone, you know isn't being heard, it's up to you to speak out against cruelty, dishonesty, bigotry, all of it. It's up to you to march hand in hand with your allies to stand peacefully with dignity and purpose on the front lines, in the fight for justice.

Here's the last part. It's up to you to couple every protest with plans and policies, with organizing and mobilizing and voting and that's my final piece of advice. Graduates, anger is a powerful force. It can be a useful force, but left on its own it will only corrode and destroy and sow chaos on the inside and out. But when anger is focused, when it's channeled into something more, oh, that is the stuff that changes history. Dr. King was angry. Sojourner Truth was angry. Lucretia Mott, Cesar Chavez, the folks at Stonewall, they were all

angry, but those folks were also driven by compassion, by principle, by hope.

So they took advantage of whatever resources they had in their own time, thundering from the pulpit and the convention floor, penning letters from a jail cell, standing up for their rights in the face of police violence. They built coalitions with folks like them and different from them. They got fluent in the language of power. They sat down with leaders they disagreed with because they knew that if they wanted their vision to be made real, it needed to be made law. It needed to be voiced, not just on the streets, but in the halls of power. It needed to be carried, not just by the housekeeper and the shift worker, but by the senator and the congresswoman and yes the President of the United States.

So graduates, it is your time now and look, our democracy isn't perfect. But I have traveled the world and seeing the governments and people in so many other countries. I can tell you

that our democracy is sturdy and yes, it still works, but it doesn't work if you silence yourselves. It does not work if you disengage from the process. We're seeing the consequences of that right now. But if you hold strong with the same faith that carried all of those giants before you toward real measurable progress, you will change the course of history. So what does that mean for your time? It starts where change always starts in your own home, in your own social circles, in your own neighborhoods, at your own dinner tables. Sometimes it's easy to stand with strangers that are protests than it is to challenge someone in your own backyard.

So if you hear people expressing bigoted views or talking down to those people, it is up to you to call them out because we won't solve anything. If we're only willing to do what's easiest, we've got to make hard choices and sacrifices in our own lives. So if you're spending a lot of time, just hashtagging and posting right now that's useful, especially during a pandemic, but it's only

a beginning. Go further, send all your friends a link to register to vote, text everybody you know to join you in exercising, their constitutional right to protest. Ask yourself, do you know where your polling place is? Do you know when your primary elections are held? Do you know how to request a mail in ballot? Who are the incumbents and the candidates at every level of government, not just president, but state representative, city council, prosecutors, sheriff.

And don't just ask yourselves these questions. Ask your friends, your family, ask everyone you see in your neighborhood. And while we're reaching out, please let's give everyone who's working toward progress space to be themselves. Everybody has got to vote when the time comes, but the activism that leads up to that day comes in many forms. Some want to march right up in front, others prefer to stay back, some kneel in the pews, others on the street corner, some canvas their neighborhoods, others run for office. Some do an

honest day's work and raise good kids. Others choose to focus on their education and use that degree to address these issues and build a better life for themselves and those around them. Graduates, it's all important and we need every bit of it. So we cannot allow our hurt and our frustration to turn us against each other, to cancel somebody else's point of view. If we don't agree with every last bit of their approach.

That kind of thinking only divides us and distracts us from our higher calling, it is the gum in the wheel of progress. Graduates this is how you can finish the work that the generations before you have started, by staying open and hopeful, even in the tough times. By channeling that discomfort you feel into activism and a democracy that was designed to respond to those who vote. Here's the thing, I know you can do it because over these many years, I've seen exactly who you are. I've seen your creativity and your talent and your resourcefulness. I've seen

you speaking out in gun violence and fight climate change. I've seen you gathering donations for those in need during this pandemic.

I've seen you marching with peace and with purpose and that is why even in tough times like these, you continue to be

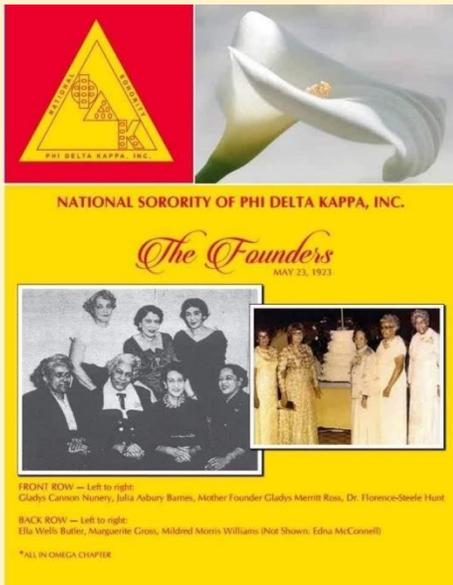
what gives me hope. Graduates, you all are exactly what we need right now and for the years and decades to come, you're learning so much so quickly. I know that not only can you do better than those who came before you, you will. So it's your time. I love you all. I believe in you all. I want you to be

safe and I can't wait to see you take the reins. Congratulations again on your graduation. God bless you.



**“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”**

—Langston Hughes



# FOUNDERS' DAY 2020 CELEBRATIONS

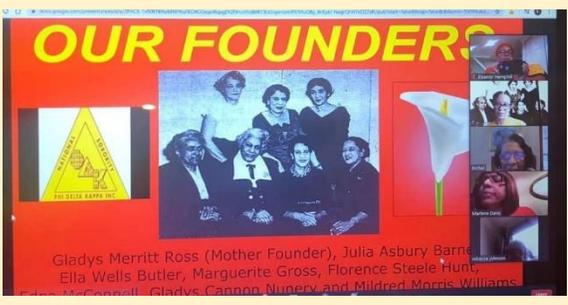
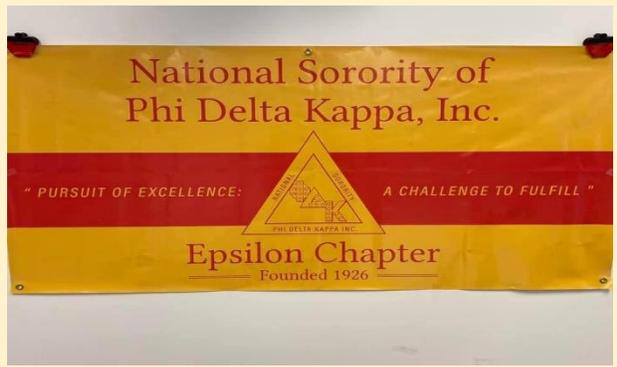


**Shemeka Brathwaite**

When I first joined the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated in Spring 2011 through the Beta Omicron chapter, it was a great moment of celebration and honor to join an esteemed sisterhood of educators. By this time, social media had grown to be a leading medium for sharing information and connecting with family and friends. I wanted to share my love and adoration for NSPDK, Inc. but couldn't find Greek graphic designs that were uniquely tailored for our beloved organization, so I started creating some and sharing it since then. This year, right before Founders' Day, my Beta Omicron chapter Soror Tatum Boothe asked for me to create a Facebook photo frame. Soror Tatum does an excellent job in our chapter of acknowledging and celebrating the anniversary of the Krinon groups and organizing other activities that foster a spirit of true sisterhood among our chapter members. I did not hesitate to assist with the request. It was a beautiful sight to see that many sorors beyond our chapter also utilized the photo frame. Everyone's timelines were painted red and gold, to open up the doors for the NSPDK, Inc. story to be told and shared with others!



# FOUNDERS' DAY 2020



W E L C O M E

NEW SORORS



BETA OMICRON CHAPTER



XI CHAPTER

W E L C O M E

NEW SORORS



THETA CHAPTER

National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.  
Beta Zeta Chapter  
Spring Krinon Line 2020

 Reba Gamble Dean of Pledges	 Wanda McClain-Daye Membership Chair	 Senoria Little President	 Malika Becton Vice President
 Sonja Colson Secretary	 Amanda Spreiell Treasurer	 Carlisia Dudley Directory	 Christine Amihere
 Shannon Bullock	 Jessica London	 Linda Mitchell	 Ryan Mitchell



BETA ZETA CHAPTER

W E L C O M E

NEW SORORS



DELTA PI CHAPTER



EPSILON SIGMA  
CHAPTER

*Sisterhood  
is Powerful*



**Eastern Region officers:  
Sorors Carolyn Gibson, Anona  
Huntley, Cassandra Holcomb,  
Donyele Wilkerson , hard-  
working CJ (grandson of  
Anona), and Alpha Mu  
Basileus Leslie Ridley  
distribute Conference  
materials.**



**Delta Nu Chapter observing Juneteenth**



**Soror Anissa  
Pinkney  
recognized by XI  
Chapter as she  
celebrates her  
first year as a  
member of  
NSPDK.**



**Congratulations to Soror Eboné  
Lawrence-Smith and husband Jai  
Smith(Delta Pi) on the birth of their  
daughter, Cadence.**

# First Annual

## “Dad Lights the Way With Reading for NSPDK!”

Congratulations to Soror Maria Allmond (Alpha Mu) and committee members: Vickie Pendleton (Alpha Pi), Tanisha Dorvil (Theta), Jocelyn Potts (Alpha Mu), and Angela Ringgold (Rho) for a successful Eastern Region *Call to Action* Project, “*Dad Lights the Way With Reading for NSPDK*”. The Region commends the men in our lives for supporting this reading initiative by typifying strong, proud, compassionate, strong role models and readers of quality children’s literature. Watching each day was exciting. Each reader demonstrated his own unique style of reading: voice creativity, questioning techniques, engagement with the children, humor, and the use of personal anecdotes to capture the listener.

Thank you sorors for inviting the men in your lives to participate in this great program. Those great men are: **Mr. Anthony Williams, Mr. Cleven McKinney, Dr. Raymond Perry-Moore, Mr. Lamar Holman, Mr. Sam Laury, Mr. Earl Wilkerson, Mr. Reginald A. Lawson, Mr. Christopher Grant, Mr. Jim Dorvil, Mr. Kenyatta Livingston, Mr. Damien Harris, Mr. George Butler, Mr. Howard Sharps, Mr. Donnell Potts, and Anthropos President, Mr. Charles Watts.**



# First Annual “Dad Lights the Way With Reading for NSPDK”





Men Dads

Anthropos



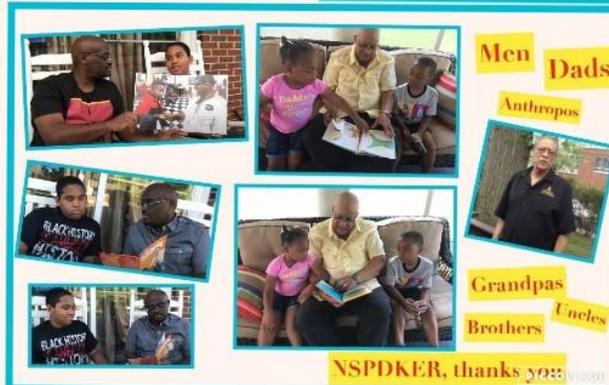
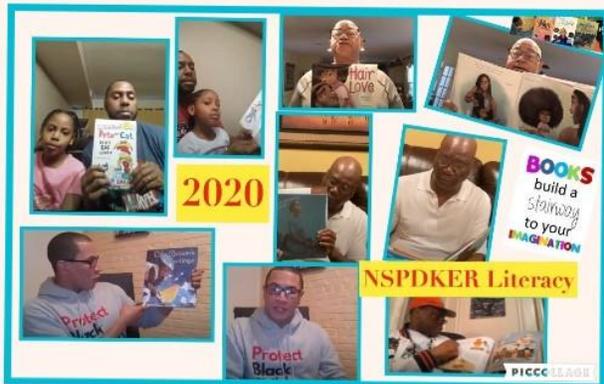
Grandpas

Uncles

Brothers



NSPDKER, thanks you! PICCOLLAGE



Dad Lights the Way  
With Reading for  
NSPDK

NSPDKER Literacy

PICCOLLAGE



# How to Be an Antiracist Educator

**Dena Simmons**

**As a social and emotional learning (SEL) practitioner-scholar, I am fortunate to get invitations to support schools and districts all over the United States. When schools and districts learn that I address SEL within the larger sociopolitical context, integrating culturally responsive and SEL practices to ensure equitable student outcomes, some are excited. Too many, however, insist that there is no need to discuss equity or culturally responsive practices; their school population is mostly white. The pushback at these schools reveals an underlying discomfort with talking about race, identity, and difference in our nation's classrooms. I worry about the marginalized students and educators in these schools who are either expected to do the brunt of the race and equity work or who are likely struggling silently.**

**We cannot afford to wallow in our discomfort regarding issues of race and equity. The Southern Poverty Law Center reported an overwhelming 3,265 incidents of hate or bias in schools throughout**

**the nation in the fall of 2018 alone. I, too, have experienced racial trauma at many of the education institutions where I've worked or studied. Educators have an obligation to confront the harm of racism. That is why we must commit to becoming antiracist educators and to preparing our young people to be antiracist, too. I recommend five actions for teaching for an antiracist future.**

## **1. Engage in Vigilant Self-Awareness**

**People who are white or perceived as white have more privilege and fewer barriers to resources than Black people and other people of color. If we do not know our power, we can abuse it unintentionally or fail to leverage it toward antiracism. Constant self-reflection enhances our ability to disrupt white privilege when we see or enact it. Some questions to ask yourself include**

**How does your identity provide or prevent access to necessary resources?**

**How does your power and privilege show up in your work with students, take up space, or silence others?**

**What single narratives are you telling yourself about students, and how does that affect grading, behavior management, and other interactions?**

**Do you and the academic materials you use uphold whiteness or lift up the voices and experiences of people of color?**

**Studies show that Eurocentric values and content dominate U.S. schooling, so these reflection questions are also relevant to educators of color who may have internalized negative messages about Black or Brown people.**

## **2. Acknowledge Racism and the Ideology of White Supremacy**

**When we let our discomfort or ignorance shield us from recognizing our country's racist history and present, we are part of the problem. Failing to acknowledge racism not only erases histories, cultures, and identities, but also ignores ongoing differential treatment based on race. For example, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos ignored three decades of research showing students of color are disciplined more harshly than white students when she decided to rescind Obama-era guidelines aimed at**

**discipline equity. In addition, schools and districts have spoon-fed lessons on grit to mostly students of color, suggesting that we must "fix" them by making them grittier so that they can adapt to—rather than disrupt—racism and inequality in schools.**

**Acknowledging the social construct of race and racism and the ideology of white supremacy recognizes the problem so that we are not harmful in our ignorance and so that, together, we can strive for solutions. For educators of color, the work means continuing to call out racism and recruiting white coconspirators to join in antiracist work.**

## **3. Study and Teach Representative History**

**No matter what subject you teach, history (including African American history, which is U.S. history) is important. Knowing our country's whole history helps us make sense of how our current education system perpetuates inequity.**

**For too long, we have taught U.S. history devoid of a true depiction of Black excellence and have focused on erasing the truth of racial oppression and uplifting whiteness. Our curriculum superficially talks about slavery and civil rights (notably, textbook provider McGraw-Hill called enslaved Africans "immigrants" and "workers"), and teaching practices**

risk traumatizing Black students by enacting mock slave auctions, slave games, and underground railroad games. Alternately, resources such as Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS documentary series on Reconstruction or The New York Times Magazine's 1619 Project provide a comprehensive opportunity to learn and discuss history and race with colleagues and students. The Zinn Education Project and Rethinking Schools also have teaching materials that explore topics like the Tulsa race riots and colonization.

#### **4. Talk About Race with Students**

The educators I work with are mostly white (which matches the lack of teacher diversity on a national level) and often share that they do not feel comfortable talking about race. But when we shy away from open conversations about race with young people, we sow the seeds of prejudice by inadvertently sending the message that something is wrong with people from another race.

To open up conversations with young people, use stories from history and literature as a starting point, and ask students to take on the perspective of a character about whom they are reading. Reading literature and role-playing enhance empathy and other social cognitive skills. Teaching Tolerance's resource, "Let's Talk:

Discussing Race, Racism, and Other Difficult Topics," includes suggestions for working through discomfort. The Educational Leadership article "Helping Students Discuss Race Openly" also has a great list of steps to begin the conversation. (And the September 2019 issue of this newsletter includes guidance from educator Liz Kleinrock on how to lead students through challenging topics like race.)

#### **5. When You See Racism, Do Something**

We have to fight against racism—and other isms and phobias. All students deserve to live and learn in the comfort of their own skin. To combat racism, consider how the academic resources, policies, admissions, hiring, grading, and behavior management practices at your school might be racist. Whom do the practices and policies benefit and whom do they disadvantage? Are Black people and other people of color disproportionately affected negatively by disciplinary, pedagogical, and administrative practices? For example, what hours are family-teacher conferences held? Which families are excluded from these hours? Which students are most disciplined based on dress code or physical appearance? In 2018, a high school wrestler was forced to cut his locks because the referee argued that his hair was not

**compliant with regulations. Ask yourself whether a particular "rule" is applied to all people or just to some. Engage in vigilant awareness of your implicit bias to ensure that you are not part of the problem, too.**

**Most important, when we see racism—whether at the individual or policy level—we must have the courage to act. White Fragility author Robin DiAngelo provides guidance for engaging in gentle but firm conversations with offenders that prevents the defensiveness that race conversations inspire. Share data on specific practices and use stories to humanize the data. Build partnerships with racial-justice organizations in your communities to integrate their work in teaching and learning. Form a taskforce to assess data, policies, and practices with an antiracist lens to disrupt systemic decisions that historically have disenfranchised people of color. Be mindful that these efforts should not**

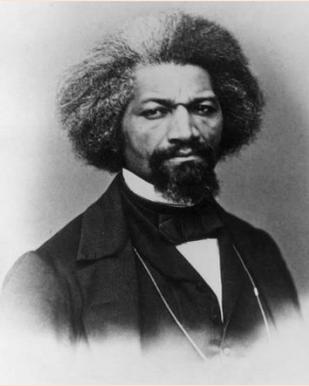
**be carried solely by the people of color in your school, who are living and struggling with racism on a daily basis.**

### **Shape an Antiracist Future**

**In his book *How to Be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi writes, "The opposite of racist isn't 'not racist.' It is 'anti-racist.' ... One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an anti-racist. There is no in-between safe space of 'not racist'" (p. 9). Teaching for an antiracist future starts with us, the educators. An antiracist educator actively works to dismantle the structures, policies, institutions, and systems that create barriers and perpetuate race-based inequities for people of color. Educating students to see and respect the humanity and dignity of all people should be a national imperative, especially if we want to heal—and have a future—as a nation. EU**



**Dena Simmons (@DenaSimmons) supports schools throughout the nation to build social and emotional learning, culturally responsive practices, and equity ([www.denasimmons.com](http://www.denasimmons.com)). She is the author of the forthcoming book *White Rules for Black People* (St. Martin's Press). Her views are her own.**



# “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?”

by Frederick Douglass

excerpt of speech

In the oration’s most famous passages, Douglass discussed what it felt like to see such festivities and to know independence was not a given for people like him: BY [OLIVIA B. WAXMAN](#) JULY 3, 2019

*What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? and am I, therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar, and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from your independence to us?...*

*I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn...*

*What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your*

*celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to Him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.*

Douglass' speech also foreshadowed the bloody reckoning to come: Civil War. *"For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder," he said. "We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake."*

Douglass continued to add to the speech in the years that followed. On July 4, 1862 — with the war underway — he addressed an audience of about 2,000 in Himrods Corner, N.Y.

President Lincoln did issue the Emancipation Proclamation six months later — but even after the war's end, Douglass continued to use the Fifth of July to draw attention to the nation's track record on the idea celebrated on the Fourth.

REMINDER



*National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.*  
*2020 Educator Mini-Grant Opportunity*

In light of current events it is imperative that we ensure that our youth and our educators are okay. The Gamma Chapter of the NSPDK, Inc. is providing mini-grants to support educators responding to educational needs and psychosocial concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. All applications submitted for these mini-grants should address how the applicant(s) would use funds to prepare themselves, their colleagues, their students or school community, to adapt to educational challenges, experienced or anticipated, due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information and to apply, click the link below.

NSPDK e-LEARNING ACADEMY

Brought to you by the  
National Sorority of Phi Delta  
Kappa, Inc.

ALL RESOURCES PDF



Welcome to the  
NSPDK e-Learning  
Academy!

NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INCORPORATED

80TH EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Pursuit  
OF EXCELLENCE  
A CHALLENGE TO FULFILL

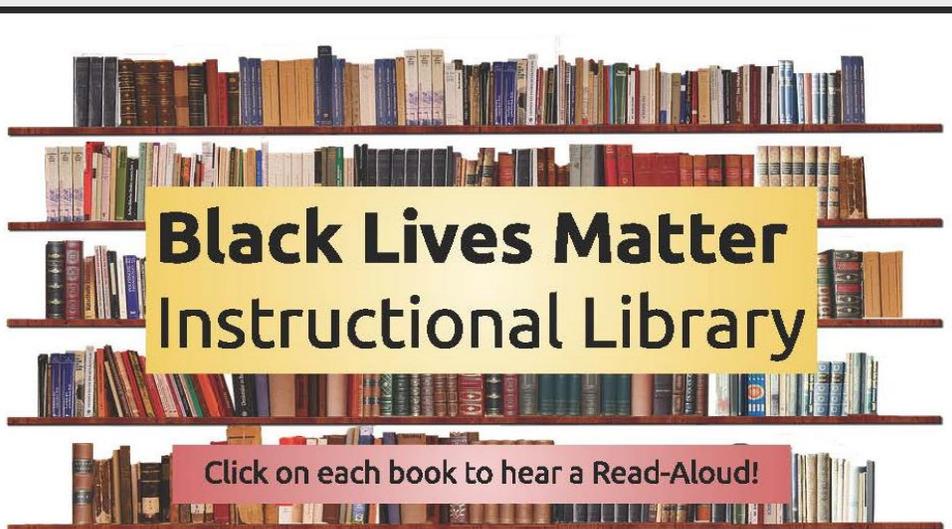
VIRTUAL  
JULY 24-25, 2020

Beta Tau Chapter, Host

e-learning

**“Putting the Pieces Together:  
Sisterhood, Education, and Cultural Relevancy”**

Dr. Etta Carter, Supreme Basileus  
Dr. Fatsy O. Squire, Eastern Regional Director  
Anona Huntley, Member-at-Large  
Glenda Sinclair, Beta Tau Chapter Basileus  
Karen Carroll, Co-Chair      Carla Hicks, Co-Chair  
Clara Harris, Registration Chair



Black Lives Matter  
Instructional Library

Click on each book to hear a Read-Aloud!

THE

NEW

NORMAL



PICCOLLAGE

