

## National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. 46<sup>th</sup> Xinos and 36<sup>th</sup> Kudos Southwest Regional Youth Conference "Making A Change in the World"



**DELTA BETA XINOS**



**DELTA BETA KUDOS**

**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - The youth groups of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (NSPDK, Inc.), Delta Beta Chapter, Austin, Texas attended their annual Southwest Regional Youth Conference during February 22-24, 2019 in Lawton, Oklahoma. The **Xinos** are the girls and the **Kudos** are the boys; all in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The conference host chapter, Epsilon Delta, prepared an exciting weekend of activities that challenged the intellect, inspired the creativity and motivated the participation of nearly 400 high school students from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

According to Dr. Debra Y. Ward, Southwest Regional Kudos Chair, "As educators we strive to produce independent thinkers with endless ideas and strategies that will indeed change the world. Our continued support and dedication to our youth of the Southwest Region of the NSPDK, Inc. is a necessary contribution to the change we want to see in the world." Quoting the great Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Under the supervision of member sponsors

and parent chaperones the Xinos and Kudos participated in general sessions, developmental workshops, and competitions in oratorical speaking, art, dance, basketball, step show and scrapbooking.

Delta Beta Xinos recognitions included *Graduating Seniors*—**Za'Nyah Walker** and **Olivia Cairo**; *Academic Honors*—**Kennedi Carter** and **Kymorah Carter**; *Scrapbooking*—2<sup>nd</sup> place; *Basketball*—3<sup>rd</sup> place—**Kalyn Owens**; and *Step Show*—2<sup>nd</sup> place. Delta Beta Kudos recognitions included *Graduating Seniors*—**Geoffrey Agueze**; **Yanson Arline**; **Christian McCauley** and **Trevor White**; *Academic Honors*—**Sam Hill** and **Juanel Sippio**; the *Dorothy Scott Oratorical Award*—1<sup>st</sup> place—**Christian McCauley**; *Basketball*—2<sup>nd</sup> place—**Geoffrey Agueze** and 3<sup>rd</sup> place—**Jamal Hardin**; *Talent Dance*—3<sup>rd</sup> place—**Christian McCauley**; *Regional Youth Choir Participant*—**Sam Hill**; and **Artist Tyson** was elected and installed as the *Kudos Regional Chaplain*!!

With the guidance of Delta Beta members **Dorcas Seals**, *Xinos Sponsor*, and **Brenda Kay Fowler**, *Kudos Sponsor*; along with other chapter members, and the love and support of their par-

ents, the Xinos and Kudos were able to learn, serve, encourage, inspire and help one another through their sisterly and brotherly bonds which can produce a lifetime of memories and networking. Special recognition goes to those parents who were able to attend the conference and serve as chaperones—**Rico Fresch**, **David Porter**, **Lenyka Howard**, **Darlene McClintock**, **Debrah Cairo** and **Valerie Hill**.

In addition to the Xinos and Kudos receiving educational and developmental tools to prepare them for the future, the parents in attendance were able to attend a parents workshop designed to provide them with valuable information on preparing their child for college and understanding the importance of scholarships during the college years. Getting IN to college is not the real challenge. The real challenge is to actually GRADUATE with a degree.

The Delta Beta Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. continues to commit to the pursuit of excellence in education for our youth. For further information about NSPDK, Inc. please contact Delta Beta President Estelle Brooks at (512) 940-6741 or email esbrooks55@aol.com.

### Jamaican Dance-Hall Come To Austin

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Tango

**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - During the period of festivity, Central Texas become the center of the music and dance industry. Consequently, artist and musicians from all around make their way to Austin and showcase their talent. As a result, Pondi Beat is bringing another choreographer named Tango Leadaz who specializes in Jamaican Dance Hall steps. According to Tango, "I use dance-hall vocabulary and knowledge to spread joy and help bring awareness to the culture. According to

Tango, the participant will leave with knowing more about the culture and history of Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Finally, the coming of Tango will solidify the Central Texas area as a cultural and dance music hub. Moreover, he plans to perform and hold classes on March 17, 2019, at n'Caliente Fitness in Round Rock, Texas. In addition to learning new dance move and burning calories, participants will also further their knowledge of the Caribbean and Jamaica.

### Education Groups Mobilize

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Pictured left to right are: Charlie Torres and Augustus with education. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - Monday, March 11, 2019, numerous educational groups held a rally at the Texas State Capitol. It was an opportunity to inform the State Legislature about placing education as a center issue of the session. Recently, the Legislature approved a Bill, which would increase salaries for educators.

Since Texas is ranked 36 out of 50 on the educational standard there is a need for the Legislature to cover and pass numerous educational friendly bills. For instance, there is a proposal seeking to get rid of the Texas STAAR Test. House Bill 736 relates to eliminating the requirement to use public school assessment instruments as a criterion for promotion or graduation or to make certain accountability determinations. In other words, it seeks to eliminate the STAAR Test.

### Melanated Market 2019

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Kevin and Cresandra attend the Melanated Market Kick-off event. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - On March 9, 2019, the Melanated Market held its kick-off event of the year. For the past two years, the Melanated market has given African-Americans, Hispanics, and other people minorities a secure platform in which, they can promote their businesses and products. According to an organizer, "the Melanated Market offers a safe place for people to shop and showcase locally." Not only does it give them a platform to sell their product but also an opportunity to tell the story of their company.

Some of the products range from jewelry to food. One vendor present at the event was May My Day Italian Ice.

According to co-owner Cressanda, "the Italian Ice offers a deli-

cious but low calorie/ low sugar treat that come in various flavors, such as Peach, Blueberry, Cherry, Mango, Grapes, Green Apple, and Pina Cola. This business was started in memory of Sandra K. Day who is my mother and allows us to also speak out against Colon cancer.

Organizers of this market say, "The sole purpose of the monthly market is to gather like-minded entrepreneurs of the black and brown communities in the Austin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and Killeen, Texas areas. Space available to us by way of an established black-owned storefront. This is an opportunity for us to be seen, known, and appreciated for providing a service or product to our community."



**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - The Youth Brigade held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at Kirk Library and Mr. Wilton Harris, Jr. was the guest speaker. Mr. Harris (third from left side) is coordinator for the ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education) program at Dobie Middle School with AISD (Austin Independent School District). Photo taken by Youth Brigade parent Mrs. Sharron Hall.