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Austin Chapter Hosts 2018 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s South Central Region Undergraduate Roundup



Photo Caption: (l to r) Precious Coleman - Southwest Central Texas Cluster Coordinator Alpha Kappa Alpha, RoShana Adamson - Beta Psi Omega Vice President, Linda Zanders - Math Intervention Teacher (Delco Primary), Lizbeth Ruiz - Principal (Delco Primary), Ms. Katina M. Semien - South Central Regional Director Alpha Kappa Alpha, Welozette Duffin - 2018 South Central Region Undergraduate Roundup Chairman, Kizzy Lejay - Beta Psi Omega President. Photo Credit: Alonna Landry

(AUSTIN, TX) - On August 31st - September 1st 2018, the South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. held the 2018 Undergraduate Roundup in Austin, Texas at the Hilton Downtown Austin. The two-day conference was hosted by the Sorority's Beta Psi Omega Graduate Chapter, along with three local undergraduate chapters Beta Kappa (Huston - Tillotson University), Delta Xi (University of

Texas), and Upsilon Alpha (Southwestern University). Over 800 Undergraduate Members and their Graduate Advisors from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and New Mexico attended the conference led by Ms. Katina M. Semien, South Central Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. During the two-day conference, Undergraduate Members exemplified excellence by participating in various community service

projects, which included donating eyeglasses for the Lions Club International, packaging over 300 "blessing bags" to be delivered to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, making 150 cards for the caregivers at Heritage Park Nursing Home, and donating 550 backpacks and 10,000 school supplies for students at the Delco Primary School. Undergraduate Members also attended workshops, and competed in

a 90s themed "stroll off" competition. During the current administration under the leadership of International President, Dr. Glenda Glover, the Sorority's program theme is "Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service," which focuses on five program targets: HBCU for Life: A call to Action, Women's Healthcare and Wellness, Building Your Economic Legacy, The Arts, and Global Impact.

IndyAustin Launches Petition Drive to Put Soccer Stadium Deal on the May 2019 Ballot

Taxpayers Deserve a Vote on City Council Plan to Give Away \$250 Million in Corporate Subsidies and Property Tax Waivers to a Private, For-Profit Sports Team

(AUSTIN, TX) - IndyAustin, together with Austin citizens and local businesses, has begun gathering signatures for a petition that will trigger a public vote on \$250 million in taxpayer subsidies and property tax waivers the Mayor and City Council have earmarked for a soccer stadium for Anthony Precourt, owner of Precourt Sports Ventures (PSV).

Precourt, the California-based owner of a Major League Soccer team in Columbus, Ohio, has led a multi-year, and at times secretive, effort to move his team from Columbus to the more lucrative Austin market by leveraging taxpayer subsidies to finance the move. IndyAustin commits to gathering the 20,000 signatures necessary to secure a spot on the May 2019 ballot in order to overturn what could be the single biggest corporate giveaway in Austin history.

During a special called meeting on August 15, 2018, the Mayor and City Council voted 7-4 to authorize the city manager to sign an agreement that will allow Precourt to lease 24 acres of public land at McKalla Place for the stadium. The agreement sets Precourt's lease payments to the City at zero dollars for the first five years, and then at 75 percent below fair market value beginning in year six, while requiring the City to help him avoid paying all property taxes on the land and stadium that he would otherwise owe.

Without a petition to put the soccer subsidy deal before voters, **Precourt will pay zero dollars in property taxes**

for decades, meaning hundreds of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue for the City, AISD, Travis County, Central Health and ACC. At the same time, with FY 2018-19 budgets just passed by the City of Austin and Travis County, **the average homeowner in Austin will see their tax bill go up by \$110 over last year and pay \$5,180 in city and county taxes and fees.**

"It is outrageous that the Mayor has facilitated this special deal while homeowners are expected to carry the burden of increased property taxes in a city that's unaffordable as it is. And it's not just homeowners - locally owned iconic small businesses are struggling and closing due to out-of-control property taxes. Threadgill's is the latest example but won't be the last unless voters do something about it," said Francoise Luca, president of the Gracywoods Neighborhood Association, which encompasses the McKalla tract. "The stadium deal is the biggest corporate subsidy in Austin history, and voters should have a say if the Mayor and City Council shifts the tax burden away from a billionaire business owner and onto our local businesses, homeowners and renters."

Integral Care is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Security Services. RFPs may be sent electronically, by contacting Brody Ballard at brody.ballard@integralcare.org beginning September 26, 2018. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 4 p.m. CST on October 31, 2018. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.

Harvard Black Culture Awards to Honor Kaepernick, Chappelle

by The Associated Press

(The AP) - Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and comedian Dave Chappelle are among eight people being honored by Harvard University for their contributions to Black history and culture, the university announced Sept. 27.

All eight recipients of the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal will be honored Oct. 11 by the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard.

"The medal honors those who have made significant contributions to African and African-American history and culture, and more broadly, individuals who advocate for intercultural understanding and human rights in an increasingly global



Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick (l) and comedian Dave Chappelle (r) are being honored by Harvard University for their contributions to Black history and culture. (AP Photos)

and interconnected world," the Hutchins Center said.

Kaepernick, formerly of the San Francisco 49ers, created a firestorm when he began kneeling during the national anthem in 2016 to protest police brutality and social injustice. He has more recently been the centerpiece of an advertising campaign by Nike.

He has donated and helped raise millions of dollars for organizations fighting social injustice, and founded the Know Your Rights Camp.

Chappelle is a writer and producer who has appeared in several movies, hosted his own show on Comedy Central and earned a Grammy and two Emmys.

The other honor-

ees are Kenneth Chenault, chairman and a managing director of General Catalyst; Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Pamela Joyner, founder of Avid Partners, LLC; psychologist and author Florence Ladd; Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative; and artist Kehinde Wiley.

"Emerging from a variety of backgrounds and professions, each represents the quest for knowledge, freedom of expression, and pursuit of truth that are foundational to black history and culture, and that were foundational to Du Bois as a thinker and activist," said Henry Louis Gates Jr., director of the Hutchins Center.

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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